

SC Women of the ELCA 2020 Annual Report

As South Carolina Women of the ELCA, we are a community of women called to discipleship in Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, and as a response to God's love and grace, we act boldly on our faith as we engage in ministry and action. We strive to be God's light for those who live in darkness.

Last year our convention was held at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Lexington. The theme was "Grace in Community." Grace is the foundation of our Lutheran heritage, and it is in community that we seek to live out our mission and purpose. We joined the fight against human trafficking through our support of Lighthouse for Life, a non-profit organization which provides assistance to female minors who are victims of this multi-billion dollar industry. SC WELCA supported this organization by assembling 428 "Freedom Bags" that were distributed throughout our state, and we received monetary donations that totaled \$9,801.00. Additionally, during convention, we honored and remembered our military personnel. A total of 2,500 "thank you for your service" cards were delivered to our men and women in service to our country that are stationed here in South Carolina.

All nine of our conferences met this past fall, gathering in fellowship and community, learning and responding to local needs. There were over 75 congregational units represented, with 275 ladies in attendance. Women donated over \$2,500 which was distributed to Lutheran organizations such as Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran Retreat Centers, Lutheran Services Carolinas, and Novus Way Scholarships as well as to other organizations which support women and children.

In 2019-2020, SC WELCA supported churchwide WELCA through regular offerings of \$16,697.53. Joy Offerings sent and designated by congregational units totaled \$10,362.52 for ELCA Good Gifts. Our Honorary Life and Memorial Recognition program supports the SC WELCA Scholarship Fund for female students who attend The Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University. Last year \$2,007.96 was sent to support this scholarship. From benevolence funds, we contributed \$2,500 to Lutheran Disaster Relief, \$500 to Katie's Fund, and \$500 to churchwide WELCA to be used where needed most.

This year our theme is "Just Love." For our local project, we will be supporting the SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, a non-profit organization committed to serving children who are victims of abuse, and their caregivers, through 17 centers across the state. "*Sometimes God has a Kid's Face.*" Sister Mary Rose McGeady. Congregational units will bring supplies and funds to our annual convention in June. Our global project will support Lutheran Disaster Response through monetary donations and funds we receive from a silent auction. Additionally at convention, SC WELCA will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Women's Ordination in the Lutheran Church in the United States.

SC Women of the ELCA are very active at the congregational level. Ladies use their time and gifts in service to others in numerous ways, such as preparing and serving meals, teaching Sunday school, assisting with worship, mentoring in schools, and making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We grow in faith through Bible study, retreats and conference meetings. Through God's grace, we will continue to use our gifts to make a difference in the church, the society, and the world. Thanks be to God!

"Let all you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14

Together in Christ,
Becky Koch, President, SC Women of the ELCA

Lutheran Men in Mission 2020 Annual Report

The theme for the year was based on Matthew 25:14-30: Being good Stewards of and using our gifts and talents according to God's Plan.

The years seem to pass by so much more quickly nowadays and this year was no exception. It has been such a rewarding year for me as I have had the opportunity to travel and meet so many new Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Coming from many varied and diverse walks of life one common factor has been the Love of Christ and the desire to see his Kingdom grow and prosper. I have been able to speak at many meetings, Conventions and other functions where I was always warmly greeted and made to feel welcome which is greatly appreciated.

My goal for the year was thoughtfully integrating current policies and procedures into the rapidly changing landscape of what our Mission looks like while staying true to our Mission Statement. While a good start to this has begun there is still a lot of work to be done. God willing, I intend to continue to work with the Executive Committee to see this process to completion. There is no doubt in my mind that this will be accomplished due to the expertise and willingness of the members of this committee.

There are many challenges still facing the SCLMM such as retention of members, attracting more and younger men to take on the work of the SCLMM and continuing to find ways to support Mission Congregations in whatever "new" shape they may appear. I can't thank the members of this Board enough for the time and effort they put forth in doing His work and the Prayerful way they do it. I will continue to be a servant of SCLMM as long as God sees fit. AMEN for Lutheran Men!

God's Peace,
Robert Epting

**Youth Ministry Cabinet & South Carolina Lutheran Church Youth (SCLCY)
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2020**

Youth ministry in the South Carolina Synod is governed by our commitment to *Ministry by, with, and for youth* and consists of two organizations that function as one ministry.

This is a year of transition for Youth Ministry in the SC Synod. Rev. Eric Wolf resigned as Assistant to the Bishop for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Since Bishop Yoos is retiring at the end of his term, an interim position was created. Bill Newmyer is the Interim YM coordinator for the synod this year. The newly elected Bishop of the SC Synod will determine what structure is desired for Youth Ministry leadership in the synod going forward after 2019-2020.

The Youth Ministry Cabinet is made up of representatives (youth and adults) from throughout the synod and carries out the youth ministry activities for the synod.

SCLCY is an organization in the synod governed by its own constitution and led by the Executive Council. The officers for the 2019-2020 year are President Parker Welsh; Chaplain Anna Rush Shultz; two 11th and 12th Grade Representatives, Kenny Newmyer (SCLCY Vice President) & Ansley-Brooke Springer; two 9th and 10th Grade Representatives, Ava Shealy and Andrew Lindler; and two Middle School Representatives, Meaghan Springer and Ethan Miller.

The Executive Council and Cabinet are the reason why SCLCY is what it is. We come up with themes, we create new events, and we even help plan events. With the supervision of adults of course! On behalf of the South Carolina Lutheran Church Youth, we would like to thank the South Carolina Synod and all of you at this assembly for your support to help spread God's love!

Report of Events

This year for SCLCY has already been great, and we are just getting started! Our new year begins with an event called Hand in Hand, which is a service weekend during the fall. In 2019, Hand in Hand was held at Camp Kinard where we spend Saturday cleaning up the property and doing needed projects for the camp.

Our next events are our Winter Retreats, which are held at the beginning of the year. In January, we had our 9th and 10th Grade Winter Retreat. The weekend's theme was Establishing Our Foundations. We focused on where our Faith comes from and how to build upon it. Our next event was the 11th and 12th Grade Winter Retreat, which was in February. The theme for this retreat was Continuing Faith. We discussed our Baptismal promises confirmed at Confirmation and how they relate to life after high school. Our Middle School Retreat is in April and the theme is Creating Connections. Spring into Action, a service weekend that is held in March, will happen in March just north of Greenville and we'll be working at a local Girl Scout camp helping clean up and maintain their property. Finally, we'll close out the school year with our annual state Convention in May at Newberry College (the same weekend as our synod assembly!)

LCY Convention is our business event where we elect new officers and vote on any new business. This is our only event where 7th grade students to recently graduated students are welcome to attend. Every year we have a special guest, and this year we have invited Alatheia from East Tennessee. We have a weekend full of amazing material that helps us connect with God, make memories to remember forever, and tons of fun!

To wrap up the LCY calendar we have two Love Projects during the summer, Camp HUGG (2 weeks this summer) and Bridge Building Camp, which are week long camps. Camp HUGG is a day camp for special needs students. We spend time with them and have fun to make them feel loved, and they enjoy being with other high school students who care for them in a special way. The next camp is Bridge Building, where high school students hang out with older men and women and try to bridge the gap between generations. We really wish everyone could participate in these camps, because they are both life changing!

The events that have already occurred this year were amazing, and we are thrilled for what's in store for the events throughout the year! Thank you again for your support!

Finally, just a personal note to say thank you to everyone who has supported SCLCY and me throughout this year of transition. SCLCY and myself are super excited to begin working with the new bishop and continuing the awesome programs sponsored by the SC synod.

Prepared by the Interim Youth Ministry Coordinator, Bill Newmyer.

