

**ELCA Region 9 Manager for Candidacy and Leadership
Annual Report
2020**

As the ELCA's Region 9 Manager for Candidacy and Leadership, I travel throughout the Southeastern section of the ELCA, working with colleagues and candidates in the Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Southeastern, Florida-Bahamas, and Caribbean Synods. I attend synods' Candidacy Committee meetings three times per year, where I offer best practices for candidacy interviews and committee work in addition to bringing updates about the state of candidacy in the ELCA. I also participate in the panels that mark the Entrance, Endorsement, and Approval stages of the Candidacy process, and I meet with students and teach candidacy workshops at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. Other areas in which I work include the Joint Ministries of Region 9 Council, the Region 9 Archives board, First Call Theological Education, Synod Assemblies, and discernment of vocation workshops. Wherever I go, I am looking for people who are listening for God's call and want help hearing that call and acting on it. Recently, I also have been named the ELCA Director for Ministries of Chaplaincy, Pastoral Counseling, and Clinical Education. In this position I facilitate the ELCA's Ecclesiastical Endorsement for chaplains who wish to become board certified.

One highlight of this year is that Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore, hosted two Candidacy Summits, one in July 2019 and one in January 2020. (A third one is scheduled for Fall 2020.) The purpose of these summits is to foster closer relationships and healthy partnerships among all those involved in Candidacy: the seminary, synods, field education and internship congregations, and the Domestic Mission unit of the churchwide organization, through the Region 9 Candidacy and Leadership Manager. Among the results of the summits have been increased communication among these partners and more cooperation. We are working to integrate better the various dimensions of candidacy so that each part reinforces and enhances the work of the others. We are looking to see what works well in the candidacy process and what could work better so that candidates receive the formation and education they need and so that the process is as seamless as possible.

Another highlight is that most of the synods in Region 9 are seeing increases in the number of candidates preparing for Word and Sacrament or Word and Service ministry. The Church needs all these faithful, creative, joyful leaders—and more. All of us have a vital role to play in raising up candidates for ministry. You and I can encourage others to explore what God is calling them to do now. Identify people in your congregation who have leadership gifts, those who can teach or who testify to their faith or who help others or who shine with the light of God. Tell them how much you appreciate what they are doing in your congregation or in the world. Then ask them, “Have you ever thought about going to seminary?” Or say, “I think you'd make a great deacon.” Help them connect with the synod and seminary. That's what people in my congregation and my workplace did for me—and you can do the same for others. In this way we help the church continue to spread the Gospel.

I continue to find joy in my vocation and in helping others prepare for the ministries to which God is calling them. Thank you for your partnership and support.

Ruth

The Rev. Dr. Ruth E. Hamilton
Candidacy and Leadership Manager for ELCA Region 9
Director for Ministries of Chaplaincy, Pastoral Care, and Clinical Education

James R. Crumley Jr. Archives South Carolina Synod Assembly 2020

Administration

Personnel

The Archives employs four part-time workers: Shannon Smith, director and archivist; Trudy Bouknight, office manager; Ellen Triplett, archivist aid; Ashley Ragland, junior archivist.

New and Ongoing Projects

“Lutheran Church Visitor”

The “Lutheran Church Visitor” has been digitized from microfilm. We are working with the University South Carolina’s (UofSC) “Historical Newspapers of South Carolina” project to index this material so that the newspaper can be placed online.¹

“Historic Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Exhibit”

The Crumley Archives is in the process of scanning seminary records to UofSC for a forthcoming online exhibit dedicated to seminary’s history.

Cataloging Old and Rare Books

This project, documented in last year’s report, has been completed. An inventory of this collection can be found at <https://www.crumleyarchives.org/finding-aids> with the rest of our finding aids.

Development

Grants

In February 2019, the ELCA awarded us a grant of \$3,000 to support the “Historic Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Exhibit”.

Annual Fundraiser/Banquet

This year’s banquet will be held on April 17th at Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory. Honorees include the Rev. Don and Brenta Poole, the NC Synod, and Lutheridge-Novus Way.

Networking, Outreach, and Scholarship

Other Archives

The Crumley Archives continues to visit and consult with church and academic archives throughout Region-9.

Patronage

We continue to receive weekly requests regarding church histories, records, genealogies, and Lutheran heritage. Most requests are made *via* our website, though phone calls are not unusual.

Memberships

The Crumley Archives belongs to two archival organizations in South Carolina: PALMCOP (Palmetto Archives, Libraries, Museums, Council on Preservation) and SCAA (South Carolina Archival Association). We’ve also maintained our membership with the Lutheran Historical Conference.

Web Presence

We have uploaded a complete inventory to our website, which documents every collection we have in the Archives. This tool allows patrons to check if we have a collection on-site. Online collections are being added to our website.

“Archival Survey”

We thank Ellen Triplett for her stellar job editing and redesigning the “Archival Survey”. Our next issue will circulate mid-April 2020.

Fundraising campaigns

December 2020 marked our third annual direct mailing campaign.

In Memoriam

In January 2020, our long time treasurer, Karen Sumner, passed unexpectedly. Karen will be remembered for her devotion to the mission of the Crumley Archives, her fastidious care of our financial records, and her advocacy of Lutheran history.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon L. Smith

¹ <http://historicnewspapers.sc.edu/>

**Inclusiveness Network (INET)
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2020**

The mission of the Inclusiveness Network (INET) of the SC Synod is to actively invite and welcome all persons regardless of race or culture as God's children into the communion of sharing the grace and love of Jesus Christ in all congregations. Therefore, INET has continued the support of events regarding unity and diversity which have become a vital part of the Synod's outreach and reconciliation efforts.

Whereas in the past, INET has funded racial diversity workshops and movie showings, we are planning to implement other means of creating continued conversations and discussions on racial reconciliation. INET continues to serve as the task force for the *Selma* movie showings, which have and are still being conducted periodically throughout the state. In September 2019, INET sponsored a *Montgomery to Selma Pilgrimage*. This was an overnight bus trip of 52 persons of racial and gender diversity, both clergy and lay members from various faith traditions. It was an uplifting and worthwhile experience.

In 2019 INET contributed to a grant proposal requested by Christ the King Lutheran Church in Columbia. This grant would enable the congregation's partnership with neighboring congregations; to implement a community ministry of healing outreach events geared toward youth in a low-income neighborhood (i.e. picnics, Student Behavior Celebrations, End of Term Christmas Luncheon, musicals and other meals).

Contributions were made to Christ Mission Lutheran Church in Columbia, at its request for funds to support an after-school program provided by a newly formed 501c3, Sankofa Institute. Again, in a low-income neighborhood of Northpoint, this program would provide a safe place for youth to have a hot meal, homework assistance and tutoring.

In addition, INET contributed funds to a Latino Lutheran ministry, Nuestro Salvador in Greenville, toward its participation in a Pride March and Festival. INET has been supportive of the LGBTQ community in past events.

Toward the latter half of 2019, INET has added a newly formed group under its umbrella; the Indigenous Peoples Accompaniment Network (IPAN), as a means of establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples. This network was formed and is chaired by retired Lutheran pastor, Rev. Greg Moore, of Providence Lutheran Church in Lexington. This is a valid up and coming addition to INET, of which I have been in participation.

Over the past couple of years, INET has had no expenses for Synod Assembly events. Neither has there been a need for training expenses for INET members. Thus, in the future, our major goal will be the continuance of funding in the form of grants to congregations, in their efforts of crossing various barriers of diversity.

Humbly submitted by,
Jackie Utley, Chair
Inclusiveness Network (INET)

Founded in 1933, and beginning its work for unity and human justice in 1950, the South Carolina Christian Action Council Inc. is 13 Protestant and Catholic, Black and White, denominations, congregations, and individuals living with intentionality as a visible witness to the oneness for which our Lord Jesus Christ prayed. This is the summary report of 2019.

Unity actions included:

- SCCAC annual meeting: *“Justice: More than Just Talk.”* Preacher: Bishop Robert Guglielmo, Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston. McClain Lecture: Dr. Amenti Sujai, Allen University. Host: St. Peter’s AME Church, Walterboro, SC.
- Supporting Interfaith Partners of South Carolina (IPSC).
- Participating in worship services and events of member denominations and congregations. Serving on panels, preaching as invited, leading small group sessions on advocacy and social issue topics as invited by individuals, congregations, and other organizations.

Pursuing Racial Justice included:

- Publishing on webpage resources for worship leaders for SCCAC Racial Justice Sunday, June 16, 2019. Resources included a Commentary on the selected scriptures written by the Rev. Dr. James Thomas, Faculty, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir Rhyne; sermons by Presiding AME Elder, Rosalyn Coleman and former CBF Coordinator, the Rev. Dr. Marion Aldridge; and other items.
- A grant from Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation, Greenville, funded the following: 1) SCCAC Board read and discussed JUST MERCY by Bryan Stevenson. SCCAC Racial Justice Workgroup read discussed WHO LYNCHED WILLIE EARLE: PREACHING TO CONFRONT RACISM by Will Willimon. Discussions were hosted at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Columbia; and Shoney’s in Summerville. Mt. Herman Lutheran Church, West Columbia, hosted a seminar “Clergy and Congregations Confronting Racism featuring Dr. Will Willimon, hosted by. Also, the development of worship and study resources for SCCAC Racial Justice Sunday, June 14, 2020
- Continued support for the call for a full State investigation of the Orangeburg Massacre.

Public Policy Advocacy included:

- Reducing Gun Violence. Advocacy for closing the Charleston loophole by requiring completed background checks, banning assault-type weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines, and encouraging education on gun safety.
- A grant from the Center for Responsible Lending funded work on a national level for more strict rules and legislation regulating Pay Day and also predatory lending in South Carolina.
- Full and equitable funding of Public Education. Including increasing teacher pay.
- Additional issues: Death Penalty, Medicaid Work Requirement, Raising Minimum Wage, Johnson Amendment, Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Immigration, and more.

Member Bodies. African Methodist Episcopal, Alliance of Baptist, Baptist Educational and Missionary Baptist Convention SC, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Methodist Episcopal, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Religious Society of Friends, Roman Catholic Church, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church.

Administration. In addition to prayer support, hundreds of volunteer hours, and facility usage for Board and workgroup meetings, financial support for this year’s ministries was provided by Member Bodies (66%), Individuals (21%), Congregations (1%), Grantors (6%), and SCCAC events (5%). We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve our members and our state through your generous support.

Staff Trudy Bouknight, Administrative Assistant (September 2014), sccouncil@sccouncil.net
Rev. Brenda Lynn Kneece, Executive Minister (December 1999), bkneece@sccouncil.net.

So You Can Embrace Every Day

We are a church that takes care of each other. Portico Benefit Services is proud to continue a 200+ year Lutheran legacy of caring for those who serve, from pastors and their families to staff at social ministry organizations. As the ELCA's benefit ministry, seeing the diverse needs of our national church community drives us to innovate: to control health care costs and increase total well-being, to help plan members retire with confidence, to advocate on behalf of church organizations, and to serve more people well.

At Portico, we're inspired daily by those who commit to a life of service, and we're grateful to walk alongside our plan members — providing benefits designed to help you embrace every day.



The Rev. Jeff Thiemann
President & CEO

Church Benefits Making a Difference

65%

Members Preparing for the Future*

by making their own pretax retirement contributions during 2019 in addition to the contributions from their sponsoring organization.

10,648

Pounds Lost*

by ELCA-Primary health plan members since 2018, when we added a chronic condition management program by Omada® to help reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

1,728

New Members Welcomed

to Portico's benefit plans in 2019 when we added three ELCA social ministry organizations.

3

Pro-Church Bills

enacted into federal law in 2019 thanks to Portico working alongside other denominations to advocate for legislation favorable to church benefit plans.

605

Members Made the Leap

into retirement in 2019. Over 80% of ELCA retirees report feeling financially prepared for this next chapter of their lives. Well done!

65%

Members Being Proactive

with their health by using ELCA-Primary preventive services in 2019.

70%

Members With Diabetes See Improvement

in their ability to manage their condition due to participation in our Livongo® Diabetes Management program.

1,297

Additional Students

attending schools in low-income Midwestern communities thanks in part to a social purpose fund investment.

96%

Users Satisfied*

or very satisfied with their experience on Portico's member and employer websites.

*Data as of Dec. 31, 2019; sources available upon request.

The Reverend Ronald G. Smith, Sr., age 77, died on July 6, 2019.

He was preceded in death by his parents Estle and Ivory Smith; and his wife Helen Duncan Smith. He is survived by his sons Glenn, Mark, Stephen, and Eric Smith along with his sister Linda Profitt. Reverend Smith has eight surviving grandchildren: Skylar, Dallas, Ashton, Zacharey, Victoria, Alex, Derek, and Summer.

Reverend Smith was born on June 29, 1942. A Tennessee native, he graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne University (Hickory, North Carolina) and went on to earn a Masters of Divinity at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (Columbia, South Carolina).

Reverend Ronald Smith dedicated his life and ministry to his family and the places he served as pastor: St. Andrews Lutheran Church (Plains, Georgia), Christ Lutheran Church (Cullman, Alabama), Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (Knoxville, Tennessee), Christ The King Lutheran Church (Dalton, Georgia), Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Springfield, Georgia), Memorial Lutheran Church (Nashville, Tennessee), and Bethany Lutheran Church (Newberry, South Carolina).

A funeral was held in July, 2019 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.



The Reverend Dr. Eldridge Armand Shealy, age 91, died on September 5, 2019.

He was preceded in death by his parents Rev. Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Shealy, his wife Julia Ganell Shealy, and his brother Marvin Shealy. He is survived by his son Dr. Keith Douglas Shealy and daughter Diane Shealy Senn. Also surviving are grandchildren Preston and Mims Shealy, Bryan Senn, Lindsay Canniff-Kuhn, and great-grandchildren Witten and Landry. He is also survived by his brother Otho Shealy and sisters Miriam Logan and Rebecca Watson.

Reverend Shealy was born on June 8, 1928 in Virginia. He graduated from Newberry College (Newberry, South Carolina) and went on to get a Masters of Divinity at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (Columbia, South Carolina). He received a Doctorate of Divinity from Newberry College (Newberry, South Carolina).

Reverend Shealy served his community throughout his life through involvement in many leadership roles, including student body president at seminary, chair person of the construction of Lutheran Retreat Center at the Isle of Palms, conference dean, and Executive Council member of the South Carolina Synod of the ELCA.

Reverend Shealy served as pastor of St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (Camden, South Carolina), Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (North Augusta, South Carolina), Orangeburg Lutheran Church (Orangeburg, South Carolina), St. John's Lutheran Church (Charleston, South Carolina), and Mt. Horeb Lutheran Church (Chapin, South Carolina).

In his retirement years, he served as interim pastor of Mt. Hebron Lutheran Church (Leesville, South Carolina), Bethel Lutheran Church (White Rock, South Carolina), Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church (Johnston, South Carolina), Mt. Pilgrim Lutheran Church (Prosperity, South Carolina), and Augsburg Lutheran Church (Union, South Carolina)

A funeral was held on September 8, 2019 at Bethel Lutheran Church, White Rock, South Carolina.



The Reverend Carl Ritchie, age 87, died on October 23, 2019.

He was preceded in death by his parents Hubert E. Ritchie and Eloise McKenzie Ritchie, his son Luther Hubert Ritchie, and his two sisters and a brother.

Reverend Ritchie is survived by his wife of 64 years Mary Frances Brown Ritchie. Also surviving are his three daughters Mary Woods, Deborah Fox, and Martha Mountain. His legacy includes six grandchildren, Erin, Josh, Bryan, Shaun, Matthew, and Chelsea, a step-grandchild, Diana, and five great-grandchildren, Sean, Andrew, JB, Payton, and JR.

Reverend Ritchie was born in North Carolina on March 28, 1932. He attended Lenoir Rhyne University (Hickory, North Carolina) and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (Columbia, South Carolina).

Reverend Ritchie served as pastor of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church (Claremont North Carolina), Lutheran Church of Our Father (Greensboro, North Carolina), St. John's Lutheran Church (Jacksonville, Florida), Christ the King Lutheran Church (Temple Terrace, Florida), First Lutheran Church (Lexington, North Carolina), St. Michael Lutheran Church (High Point, North Carolina), and he served as interim pastor and mission developer at A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church (Summerville, South Carolina).

Reverend Ritchie was a diligent, witty, and faithful disciple of Christ.

A funeral was held on October 28, 2019 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Summerville, South Carolina



Diane Marie Aull, age 60, died on October 28, 2019
Daughter of the Reverend Dr. James and Mrs. Ginny Aull

Diane was preceded in death by her brother James and her sister Virginia Ruth. In addition to her parents, Diane is survived by her husband Paul Barton and son Daniel.

Diane was born in Columbia, South Carolina on July 10, 1959. She was a cum laude graduate from Newberry College (Newberry, South Carolina). Diane most recently worked as a Web Master for Acroprint Time Recorder Company in Raleigh, North Carolina.

A funeral was held on November 20, 2019 at the New Life Chapel at the Heritage at Lowman, White Rock, South Carolina.



**James Powers Blalock III, age 57, died on November 16, 2019.
Son of The Reverend James and Mrs. Ida Blalock.**

James was born on February 7, 1962 in Jamestown, Tennessee.

He is survived by his wife Connie, his daughters Jaime and Alicia, his brothers Robert, Timothy, and Christopher, and his parents.



The Reverend Jerry Lane Trantham, age 63, died on January 16, 2020.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Diane. He is survived by his parents Lane and Betty Trantham, his sons Jared and Joel Trantham, his granddaughter Violet Diane Trantham, and brothers Charles and Tommy Trantham. He is also survived by his fiancée Jeanette Hornsby along with many nieces and nephews.

Reverend Trantham was born July 10, 1956. In his younger years he was a Baptist pastor in Payneville, Kentucky. He served as vicar of Reformation Lutheran Church. Between leading congregations, he served as a forensic chemist and expert witness with the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division (SLED). He served as pastor of Colony Lutheran Church (Newberry, South Carolina). Reverend Trantham was a unique individual who lived a life shaped by science and faith in God.

A memorial service was held on February 1, 2020 at Colony Lutheran Church in Newberry, South Carolina.



The Reverend Dr. Dennis Lee Setzer Jr., age 75, died on February 4, 2020.

He was preceded in death by his parents Dennis Lee Setzer, Sr. and Mabel Robinson Setzer. He was also preceded in death by his brother Curtis Setzer. Reverend Setzer is survived by his wife Jean Miller Setzer, and four sons, Dennis III, Kirk, Trevor, and John Setzer. He is also survived by his sisters Kaye Bach and Freida Cooper. His legacy includes thirteen grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Reverend Setzer was born on August 23, 1944 in Lincolnton, North Carolina. Reverend Setzer earned the rank of Eagle Scout and was a member of Civitan.

Reverend Setzer served as pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church (Burlington, North Carolina), Grace Lutheran Church (Bessemer City, North Carolina), Zion Lutheran Church (Hickory, North Carolina), Cross of Christ Lutheran Church (Concord, North Carolina), The Church of the Resurrection-Lutheran (Rocky Mount, North Carolina) and St. Philip Lutheran Church (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina).

A memorial service was held on February 8, 2020 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hardin, North Carolina



Mary Worth Burton Robertson, age 79, of Columbia, died February 12, 2020.

She was preceded in death by her parents Mildred Hardin Burton and George Robert Burton Jr. and her husband Austin F. Robertson, Jr.

Ms. Robertson is survived by her children James Burton Chesnutt, Elizabeth Marshall Chesnutt, and Catherine Rogers Chesnutt. Also survived by her granddaughter Katharine Logan Chesnutt and her brother George Robert Burton III and his family.

Ms. Robertson was born in Talladega, Alabama on May 18, 1940. She received her Bachelors of Science in Chemistry from the University of Alabama and Masters of Science degree in Statistics from the University of Georgia. For 27 years she worked faithfully at Midlands Technical College as an instructor and then as an administrator.

A memorial service was held on February 19th, 2020 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Columbia, South Carolina.



The Reverend John L. Satterwhite, age 95, died on March 9, 2020.

He was preceded in death by his parents John and Thelma Satterwhite, his brother Reginald and his sister Barbara. He is survived by his wife Willette, sons David and Mark, and daughter Laura Hodge. Reverend Satterwhite is also survived by four grandchildren, Camden, Foster, Elizabeth, and Ann.

Reverend Satterwhite was born on June 10th, 1924 in Virginia. He went on to study at the University of South Carolina (Columbia, South Carolina), Newberry College (Newberry, South Carolina), and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (Columbia, South Carolina). He served in the European Theater in World War II and at the Nuremberg trials in Germany following the war.

Reverend Satterwhite served as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church (Beaufort, South Carolina), St. Johannes Lutheran Church (Charleston, South Carolina), St. Matthew's Lutheran Church (Columbus, Georgia), and Our Saviour Lutheran Church (West Columbia, South Carolina). Reverend Satterwhite had a love of gardening, a love of ministry, and a servant's heart for God's people.

A memorial service was held on March 14, 2020 at Bethel Lutheran Church White Rock, South Carolina.



Robert William Isenhower, Jr., 71, died on March 12, 2020
Husband of The Reverend Lisa Wells Isenhower

Robert is survived by his wife of 39 years the Reverend Lisa Wells Isenhower and his sons Dr. Robert Isenhower, III and Reverend Andrew Isenhower. He is also survived by his sister Carolyn I. Quackenboss, Aunt Doris Kaylor, Uncle Fred Isenhower, and numerous cousins. His legacy includes his grandchildren James and Amelia Isenhower.

Born in Conover, North Carolina on October 31, 1948, he was the son of the late Robert William Isenhower, Sr. and Maxine Kaylor Isenhower.

Robert graduated from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill with a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling. He spent most of his career in adult education, first at Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory, North Carolina and then at Spartanburg Community College, South Carolina. He began his career as a Student Activities Coordinator, but filled many roles during his years there. This included his role as the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Director of Transitional Studies, and Vice President of Planning and Development. After a brief time teaching math at Paul M. Dorman High School, he became Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Institutional Research at Spartanburg Methodist College.

Robert was a devoted member of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church (Batesburg-Leesville, South Carolina) where he sang in the choir and taught and attended Sunday School. He was also active in the South Carolina Synod history project. Robert loved and cared for his family and had a great mind for trivia.

A funeral was held on Monday, March 16, 2020 at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Batesburg-Leesville, South Carolina.



The Reverend Harold Gilbert Skinner, age 92, died on May 8, 2020.

He was preceded in death by his parents Edgar and Lillian Skinner, his sister Ellen Rogers, and two brothers, Edgar D. Skinner and Clarence G. Skinner.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Nancy Foil Skinner, his daughter, Elizabeth Skinner, and two sons: David and Mark Skinner. Also survived by a nephew and three nieces.

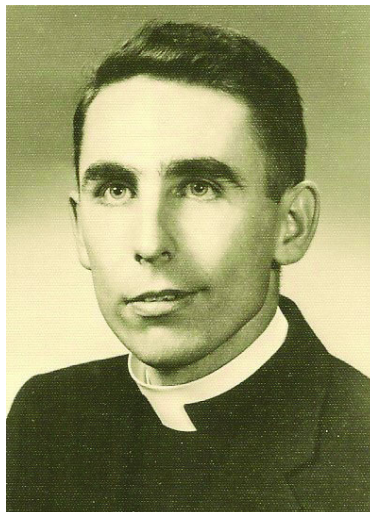
He was born on December 20, 1927. He earned his Eagle Scout award and his pilot's license before graduating as valedictorian of Rocky Mount High School in 1946. After serving in the U.S. Army Air Force, he attended and graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne College (Hickory, North Carolina).

Reverend Skinner received his Masters of Divinity degree from Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary and was ordained as a Lutheran pastor in 1956 by the North Carolina Synod. He served his Internship in Albuquerque, New Mexico and then served as a Mission Developer in Cheyenne, Wyoming at Christ Lutheran Church. He was pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Cañon City, Colorado and was the first manager of Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Hillside, Colorado.

Reverend Skinner served as pastor of St. Michael Lutheran Church (Greenville, South Carolina), Wittenberg Lutheran Church and Director of Karl W. Kinard Conference Center (Leesville, South Carolina), and St. John's Lutheran Church (Cherryville, North Carolina). He served two terms on the South Carolina Synod Executive Committee and two terms on the North Carolina Synod Council. He was a delegate to two National Church Conventions and served as District Dean in the South Carolina Synod and Conference Dean in the North Carolina Synod.

He retired in Hickory, North Carolina near Lenoir-Rhyne College. Reverend Skinner and his wife Nancy were national co-chairs of Lenoir-Rhyne University's Alumni Association and also showed their beloved alma mater support in attending countless football and basketball games, music concerts and plays.

A celebration of life will take place at a future date.



The Reverend George W. Fisher, age 88, died on May 11th, 2020.

He was preceded in death by his parents George and Meta Thralow Fisher and his brother Stanley Fisher.

Reverend Fisher is survived by his wife Mary Fisher and their children Martha, Rebecca, Peter, and Jonathan Fisher. He is also survived by his four grandchildren, Steven, David, Jacob, and Luke.

Reverend Fisher was born on April 3rd, 1932 in Minnesota. He graduated from high school in Morris, Minnesota and from Augsburg College (Minneapolis, Minnesota) where he earned his Masters of Divinity.

Reverend Fisher served parishes in the Midwest, Texas, Tennessee, and Georgia, and was called to special services to teach at Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis, Minnesota. After he retired in South Carolina, he served as stated supply at St. Peter's Lutheran Church and interim at Faith Lutheran Church in Batesburg, South Carolina. He also continued to supply at other Lutheran churches in the South Carolina Synod. Reverend Fisher was a member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church (Lexington, South Carolina).



The Reverend George Marion Rushe, age 87, died on May 12, 2020.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years Daphne Shepherd Rushe, three sons Randall, Russell, and Todd Rushe; and seven grandchildren, Alexander, Laura, George Marion II, Laurence, Aubrey, Eric, and Shelby. He is also survived by his sister Joy Rushe Mann.

Reverend Rushe was born on September 20, 1932, the son of Jesse George and Marian Williams Rushe. He attended high school at Sumter's Edmunds High School and Brookland-Cayce High School. At the age of 16 he entered the University of South Carolina on a partial basketball scholarship. He transferred to Newberry College where he lettered in basketball, served as student body president.

Following graduation he attended the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. He served as pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (Columbia, South Carolina) and then he was commissioned in the United States Air Force Reserve as a Chaplain. While in the Air Force he earned his Master of Sacred Theology degree from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, graduated from the Air Command and Staff College, the Air War College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He also received the Master of Arts degree in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma.

Reverend Rushe retired from the Air Force and served as pastor of Nativity Lutheran Church (Shreveport, Louisiana) which merged with Trinity Lutheran Church (Shreveport, Louisiana). He also served as an Adjunct Professor of English at the Georgia Military College campus at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana.

Reverend Rushe retired from the active ministry at and moved to Chapin, South Carolina where he served as interim pastor at nine Lutheran congregations in the South Carolina Synod.

A memorial service will be held at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Chapin, South Carolina.

