

The South Carolina Synod: WHO ARE WE?

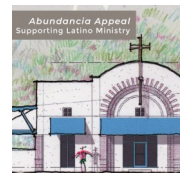
153 Congregations; 54,000 baptized Christians

9 Conferences; 3 Geographical Areas

JOINING NEIGHBORS
SERVING BOLDLY
LOVING ALL
THROUGH CHRIST

MISSIONAL PRIORITY: DEEPENING DISCIPLESHIP

- ◆ WE lead Spirit-led worship and faith formation in many creative ways and places— in church buildings, on street corners, in local parks, on beach fronts, at apartment complexes, at restaurants & so many more places.
- ◆ Through our amazing Candidacy Committee, WE discern God’s call for future deacons and pastors. Our pastors and deacons attend continuing education events to prayerfully seek God’s direction AND our members engage in various faith formation learning opportunities.
- ◆ WE are dedicated to raising youth and young adults in their faith journeys and have called an Assistant to the Bishop specifically for this ministry.
- ◆ WE support ministries with Women, Men, Youth and Young Adults in congregations and all across the globe through mission trips, building Latino ministries, campus ministries, conventions, retreats, habitat building projects, bible studies, quilting projects, and more.



MISSIONAL PRIORITY: EQUIPPING PEOPLE & CONGREGATIONS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- ◆ WE host “SELMA” & “Remember the Titans” viewing events to address Racial Reconciliation, along with the Christian Action Council’s efforts with Rostered Leaders and Congregations Combating Racism.
- ◆ WE help our communities through projects such as Operation InAsMuch and God’s Work, Our Hands.
- ◆ WE attend Nehemiah Action Assembly Justice events in the Low Country and the Midlands (M.O.R.E. Justice) that addresses community needs that keep all of us up at night.
- ◆ WE are good stewards of God’s gifts of creation, financial resources, time, & gifts. WE equip small congregations to promote God’s gifts through Farming Church and Congregational Vitality resources.
- ◆ WE actively share our God Stories through our Synod Communicators and Conference Deans so they can be shared with other congregations.
- ◆ WE presently have FIVE active Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) impacting countless lives.



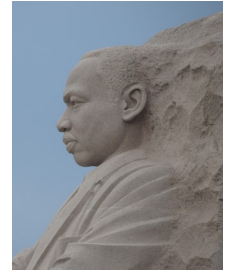
MISSIONAL PRIORITY: ADDRESS PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL NEEDS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

- ◆ WE address this through reading and mentoring programs, after school tutoring programs, school supply kits, RICH Learning Summer Arts Camp, and adopting classes at local elementary schools. Also we actively participate in the SC Bishops Public Education Initiative.
- ◆ WE support education in our institutions such as Newberry College, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, SC Lutheran Retreat Ctrs, & Novus Way.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



MISSIONAL PRIORITY: TACKLING POVERTY IN OUR COMMUNITIES

- ◆ WE feed the hungry and impoverished through Backpack Ministry, JV Football Ministry, GRACEWORKS, ELCA World Hunger, SC Synod Gifts of Hope, ELCA Good Gifts, Rush Hour Ministry, and congregational food drives.
- ◆ WE support active Campus Ministries that build homes for less fortunate and Operation InAs-Much that helps countless persons who are hungry and homeless.
- ◆ Through M.O.R.E. (Midlands Organized Response for Equity and) Justice WE connect with varied religious groups in an area to discuss social justice issues which directly impact our communities!



SC SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT DATA

Our SC congregations:

- ◆ Give 7.3% to Mission Support
- ◆ Have higher than ELCA average regular giving per attendee
- ◆ Have higher than average percent in Mission Support share from congregations

Our SC Synod:

- ◆ Received grants from the ELCA for new start ministries and congregational vitality that totaled approximately 16%
- ◆ Plans to increase its percent share in 2019 from 42.5% to 43% to the ELCA Ministries

As you can see, as a member of your congregation, synod, and the Churchwide expression, we are accompanying one another in our ministries through our mutual Mission Support.