

**South Carolina Women of the ELCA
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2021**

The mission of South Carolina Women of the ELCA (SC WELCA) is to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. As a community of women, and in response to God's love and grace, we are called to put our faith in action and to proclaim the Gospel and the goodness of God.

The global coronavirus pandemic brought many changes to our world in 2020-2021. Keeping ourselves grounded in our Lord, Jesus Christ, SCWELCA adjusted to the circumstances. Many of the normal activities were canceled or put on hold: conference meetings, retreats, women's in-person Bible studies and meetings, and our 2020 annual convention.

But the pandemic did not keep Lutheran women down long. Our ladies answered the call to serve and fellowship in many other ways. Zoom or on-line Bible studies and events replaced in-person meetings. One conference held a virtual conference meeting in Spring 2021. We sewed and/or donated over 1,000 masks to SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers and sent quilts to Lutheran World Relief. We worked in food pantries and soup kitchens (following CDC guidelines), and we continued to promote causes dear to us.

In 2020-2021, SC WELCA supported churchwide WELCA through regular offerings of \$11,559.12. Designated Joy Offerings from congregational units totaled \$3,909.82 for ELCA Good Gifts and \$100 to Tanzania. The Thankoffering of \$539.41 was sent to churchwide WELCA.

Our Honorary Life and Memorial Recognition program supports the SC WELCA Scholarship Fund for female students of The Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University. We sent \$1,337.36 in their support.

From benevolence funds, we contributed \$100 to St. James Lutheran Church in Leesville, SC for fire damage suffered, \$1,450 to Lutheran Disaster Response and \$1,450 to churchwide WELCA.

We don't know when life in the pandemic lane will return to "normal" and our number one priority is the safety of our ladies. Therefore, the SCWELCA Board voted to have a virtual convention in 2021. Our theme will remain the same – "Just Love", the churchwide WELCA Triennial theme. We will do our best to make this a spiritually uplifting and enjoyable experience.

As our local project, we are supporting the 17 SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, a non-profit organization committed to serving children who are victims of abuse. Our global project is Lutheran Disaster Response. We support both of these organizations through monetary donations. As of January 31, 2021, donations totaled \$2,578.10 for the Children's Advocacy Centers and \$1,413.65 for Lutheran Disaster Response.

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Women's Ordination in the Lutheran Church in the United States, we expressed our appreciation for female pastors with medallions and soaps.

The Lord has been with us through this journey. May we continue to use our gifts to shine God's Light in a dark world and to show God's grace in our communities. We look forward to the time when we can gather in-person again as sisters and disciples of Christ.

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." Isaiah 43:2 Thanks be to God!

Becky Koch, President, South Carolina Women of the ELCA

**Lutheran Men in Mission
2020 Annual Report**

The theme for the year was based on **1 Peter 4:10**, **“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”**

This year started out great! Our Past President’s dinner was held in February at the Old Mill Brew Pub with the best attendance in years. We had a wonderful convention with about 125 people in attendance. It’s been quite a while since we had a “full” house like that. We brought in speaker Robert Johnson from Louisiana. His message, “What’s in your closet?” spoke to a lot of people in a lot of different ways.

My goal was to work with the low country part of SC. I started out visiting Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran the first weekend in March. Then COVID-19 hit and my travel was halted. I tried to stay up to date the best way I know how this past year. Another goal was to restructure the constitution. After meeting with a constitution committee over several months, we managed to finish it. It will be presented at the 2021 Convention.

COVID-19 did not keep us down from doing the Lord’s work though in 2020. Land was cleared at Camp Kinard to add on to the camp. We had a great turn out that day with men and women who showed up to help. Also, our One Year To Live program was still held in the fall at Tracy’s Camp. Seminary students were also fed at Ascension Lutheran. I look forward to seeing how the Lord guides us in the coming year to do His work.

Your Brother in Christ,
Jimmy Smith, 2020 SCLMM President



Youth Ministry Cabinet & South Carolina Lutheran Church Youth (SCLCY) 2021

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.

As I'm sure all organizations experienced, 2021 became a year of TBD (To Be Determined). We welcomed new synod leadership with Bishop Aebischer who invited Bill Newmyer to remain for another year as Interim Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator. Then later in the year, we welcomed Assistant to the Bishop, Emily Edenfield, to our team. Pastor Emily and Bill have worked with a fine group of youth and adults to plan, reschedule, cancel and plan again events and activities during the year for our SC synod youth.

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 2020-2021 year are President Ansely-Brooke Springer; Chaplain Mattison Scott; two 11th and 12th Grade Representatives, Tori May (SCLCY Vice President) & Noah Meyer; two 9th and 10th Grade Representatives, Jenna Pilkenton and Andrew Lindler; and two Middle School Representatives, Maddie Bostick and Bella Rockow.

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

As stated before, this has been a year of TBD. In fact, that became our theme in 2021 for our events! We were able to hold our fall service event, Hand-in-Hand, as a one-night, in-person event in November 2020. We cleaned up the camp property, enjoyed an outdoor cookout, and slept in boxes outside. We were grateful to gather in a COVID-safe way before the weather got too cold.

Unfortunately, the spike in COVID numbers made it necessary to move our next 2021 event on-line. The 11th/12th grade LCY event was held on-line in March 2021. We welcomed guests from throughout the ELCA, spent some time discussing Paul's ministry and painted a picture together with the help of Bob Ross!

With COVID case numbers declining, we were able to schedule two in-person events for May and one for June. May 15 will be a one-day event at Camp Kinard for Middle School Youth (6th - 8th grades) and May 22 will be a "High School Day of Service" also at Camp Kinard. Both of these events will be held outside to allow for compliance with COVID safety protocols. June 19 will be our annual SCLCY Convention at St. David's Lutheran in West Columbia. LCY Convention is our business event where we elect new officers and vote on any new business. Everyone is eager to see each other face-to-face and spend some time together in fun and fellowship.

We are planning on having Camp HUGG this summer (Camp HUGG is a day camp for special needs students). We were so sad to cancel the camp last summer due to COVID but keeping everyone safe was our number 1 priority. Bridge Building camp (working with the residents of the Heritage at Lowman) is still being discussed. If Bridge Building camp

does occur it will most likely be via virtual, on-line visits with the residents. You can bet that once the COVID issues clear up we'll be ready to spend plenty of time with our elderly friends and family!

Finally, just a personal note to say thank you to everyone who has supported SCLCY and me throughout this year of TBD. Pastor Emily and I are working on plans for how synod youth ministry will operate next year as my term will end in June 2021. If you have any suggestions or would like to become involved, email us at sclutheranyouth@gmail.com.

Prepared by the Interim Youth Ministry Coordinator, Bill Newmyer.