

**James R. Crumley Jr Archives
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2022**

Administration

Personnel and Hours of Operation

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

Spring and Summer Archives hours are: **Monday 10:00-3:00**
Tuesday 9:00-3:00
Wednesday by appointment only
Thursday 9:00-3:00
Friday Closed

New and Ongoing Projects

Accessions

New and reoccurring accessions from Region 9 synods, congregations, and individuals are continuously deposited in the Crumley Archives and are processed by staff.

“Lutheran Church Visitor”

Part of Ashley Ragland’s work is to “split” digital images of the Lutheran Church Visitor and send the bifurcated images to USC.¹

“Historic Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Collection”

Scott Reeves continues to work closely with John Quirk to upload new images. Currently, we have 157 images and records uploaded to the collection.²

Oral Histories

This Spring, please look for an interview with Mrs. Sue Setzer in the “Archival Survey” and on our “Our Lutheran Church Visitor” webpage.³

Frankie San Project

Scott Reeves completed his project, which included interviews with Frankie San and Mrs. Sue Setzer, with funding from the SC Synod Mission Endowment Fund. These interviews have been deposited in the Archives, and we have reported to the grant committee.⁴

Alumni Day Display

The Archives created a visual display to complement Dr Susan McArver’s lecture at Alumni Day. We had a presence at the luncheon, as well.

Development

Rev. Dr. Scott Hendrix Scholarship

Applications for this scholarship are due by April 15th.

Networking, Outreach, and Scholarship

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.

¹ Issues from 1869-1904 can be “browsed” at <https://historicnewspapers.sc.edu/lccn/sn93060372/>

² “Historic Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Collection”: <https://scmemory-search.org/?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=lutheran+theological+southern+seminary>

³ “Our Lutheran Church Visitor”: <https://www.crumleyarchives.com/copy-of-manuscripts>

⁴ Cf. Scott Reeves’s report for more details concerning this project.

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 to see if we have a collection on-site. Online collections are being added continuously. We are also adding to the number of congregational finding aids, thanks to the work of Ashley.

“Archival Survey”

The Spring 2022 edition of our newsletter will be published in May.

Technology**Storage and Sharing**

We continue to use Egnyte for our online storage needs and Zoom for our conference calling purposes. A.M.D.G. and respectfully submitted,

Shannon L. Smith

**Inclusiveness Network (INET)
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2022**

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.

In the past year of 2021, we were and are currently weathering the effects of operating during the COVID-19 pandemic. As this has caused a lack of activity by the Network, there has also been a lack of enthusiasm and participation by some of the network members. Whereas the membership of INET has previously consisted of 8 members, last year we welcomed 4 new members. Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Emily Edenfield was one of the four, and she has been instrumental in encouraging the on-going work of INET. However, there is a need for an increase of our membership.

As we were previously under restrictions of attending public gatherings in the earlier part of 2021, in addition to the virtual Book Study on the book Caste, INET's Race Reconciliation & Task Force planned and carried out a hybrid event in June, in remembrance of the anniversary of *Emmanuel Nine* (June 17th) and the acknowledgement and celebration of *Juneteenth* (June 19th). The in-person worship service was held at St. David's Lutheran Church on June 19th and was also attended via "Streaming." The funding for this event was minimal, as funds were used to cover honorariums and mileage for both a guest speaker and a guest musician.

Unfortunately, due to the still existing pandemic, no other in-person events were planned by any of our task forces, requiring the usage of funds in the remainder of 2021 and thus far here in 2022. In the latter half of January, a few INET members attended an online 14-week class, *Race Matters: A Multidisciplinary Exploration of Race in America*, offered by Lenoir-Rhyne free of charge to the public.

INET has met virtually a couple of times this year and have determined that this year, we will again plan a Remembrance of the Emmanuel Nine and a Celebration of Juneteenth worship service, in-person and virtually, if necessary. INET is hopeful that in the approaching year, this pandemic will be a thing of the past and we will continue the work of the Synod's outreach and reconciliation efforts (i.e., in-person workshops, movie showings, book studies, and various youth events).

We look forward to the ability for planning and funding in-person events sooner than later, in addition to the funding of various events planned by congregations within our Synod, as we work toward creating more inclusive communities.

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



ELCA Fund for Leaders

South Carolina Synod Fund for Leaders (9C)

2022 Annual Report

Thank you to the people of South Carolina for making an investment in the future of the church through the ELCA Fund for Leaders. We are grateful for your partnership!

In the 2021-22 academic year, the ELCA Fund for Leaders provided scholarship assistance of more than \$3.2 million in support of 317 future pastors and deacons. Thank you for your role in ensuring that these future leaders will be freed from the burden of student debt so that they can go and serve as the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads.

Students supported in 2021-2022

We are grateful that the South Carolina Synod Fund for Leaders (9C) has provided a total of \$46,335 in scholarship awards since its inception. During the 2021-2022 academic year, you provided a total of \$10,400 in scholarship support to:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------|--|
| • Joel Antley | \$5,200 | Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary |
| • Laura Henrickson | \$5,200 | Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary |

Additional information about your fund

New gifts given to your fund in 2021: **\$17,259.85**

Market value as of 12/31/2021: **\$304,973.38**

Total Amount available for you to Award for 2022-2023: \$11,300

This number is calculated with a 10% holdback to ensure that all promised scholarships can be paid during both semesters, even if the market fluctuates. Please issue your awards in whole dollar amounts.

Process and Timeline

1. **Please see the attached document** entitled “Guidelines for Synods – 2022” for eligibility criteria and notes on the selection process and timeline.
2. **Submit nominee information to us by May 10, 2022** using the attached Excel template.
3. **Please send to each nominee the attached instruction form** entitled “Synods- instructions for nominees.” This document will assist students in registering in our system and officially applying for this scholarship, which they must do by June 6, 2022.

For more information, please visit [ELCA.org/fundforleaders](https://www.elca.org/fundforleaders) or call our office at 800-638-3522, ext. 2936. Again, thank you to the people of South Carolina for your generous support – we thank God for you!

ELCA Fund for Leaders

for this church and for our future

Instructions for synod scholarship nominees

NOMINEES: Congratulations! You have been nominated by your synod to receive a seminary scholarship! In order to claim the synod scholarship that you have been nominated for, you must officially apply for the scholarship through ELCA GrantMaker (elca.fluxx.io). **Your window for applying is May 16 to June 6.** As long as you complete this application on time and meet the eligibility criteria below, the scholarship amount allocated by your synod will be awarded to you. You will receive half of the total amount for your Fall semester, and the remaining half for Spring semester. Fund for Leaders automatically sends payment to your seminary in your name.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for nomination for an ELCA Fund for Leaders (FFL) synod scholarship fund, students must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Enrolled at an ELCA seminary
- Enrolled in MDiv (deacon or pastor candidates), MA (deacon candidates) or TEEM program
- Pursuing rostered ministry (word and service or word and sacrament) in the ELCA
- Considered by the synod to be in good standing in the ELCA candidacy process
- Are taking seminary courses in the upcoming year or enrolled in an internship program

The following types of students ARE eligible:

- Studying full-time, part-time, or registered for internship
- Residential or non-residential students
- TEEM candidates
- Fund for Leaders full-tuition, Mission Developer or Federal Chaplaincy scholarship recipients
- Those fulfilling Lutheran learning and formation (“Lutheran year”) candidacy requirements at an ELCA seminary (funding for required courses only). Students must be affiliated and known to the ELCA seminary for verification purposes before scholarship funds can be sent.
- TEEM graduates who are returning to seminary and entering a MDiv or MA degree program.

TIPS FOR APPLYING FOR YOUR SCHOLARSHIP

1. **Applying is a multi-step process! Give yourself enough time! Complete your application on time!**
 - a. Using the Google Chrome browser, go to <https://elca.fluxx.io> to create a new account and register.
 - i. Select “Application Group 5: ELCA Fund for Leaders”
 - ii. Select the scholarship type “**Synod or Congregation Scholarship.**” There will be a drop-down menu – select the name of the specific synod scholarship for which you are nominated.
 - iii. Indicate that you are applying as an **individual.**
 - iv. Submit your registration.
 - b. When your registration is approved (generally within two days – please be patient!), you should receive an email from ELCA GrantMaker with the subject “New User Information.”
 - c. Set your password by clicking the URL in that email and following the instructions. *(Be sure to use the same email address – and check it regularly!).* You will receive a **password reset** email with a unique link to finalize your password.
 - d. After you set your password, you can log in to the portal using your username (found in the “New User Information” email) and new password. Using Google Chrome, **access the portal** at <https://elca.fluxx.io>.
2. **Now you can complete the application.**
 - a. Read the instructions first! Then in the menu at the left, click on “**Applications.**” Go to “Application Group 5: ELCA Fund for Leaders” and choose “Synod or Congregation Scholarship.” When you **complete the application, remember to save and submit!**

Please contact FundforLeaders@elca.org or 773-380-2936 with any questions.

We are happy to help!

ELCA Fund for Leaders *for* *this church and for our future*

Guidelines for synod scholarship funds - 2022

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be selected for an ELCA Fund for Leaders (FFL) synod scholarship students must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Enrolled at an ELCA seminary
- Enrolled in MDiv (deacon or pastor candidates) or MA (deacon candidates) degree program
- Pursuing rostered ministry (word and service or word and sacrament) in the ELCA
- Considered by the synod to be in good standing in the ELCA candidacy process
- Are taking seminary courses in the upcoming year or enrolled in an internship program

The following types of students ARE eligible:

- Studying full-time, part-time, or registered for internship
- Residential or non-residential
- TEEM candidates
- Fund for Leaders full-tuition, Mission Developer or Federal Chaplaincy scholarship recipients
- Those fulfilling Lutheran learning and formation (“Lutheran year”) candidacy requirements at an ELCA seminary (funding for required courses only). Students must be affiliated and known to the ELCA seminary for verification purposes before scholarship funds can be sent
- TEEM graduates who are returning to seminary and entering a MDiv or MA degree program.

SELECTION PROCESS

- Synods may make their selection decisions however they wish. Scholarships can be awarded to all nominees equally or in differing amounts. The synod may develop a competitive process to award funds to a select group, based on merit or need. **All awards are meant to be additive to other scholarships and tuition assistance a student may already be receiving and can be used for non-tuition expenses associated with their studies. Note that scholarship funds used to cover costs beyond tuition, books, and fees (such as room and board, insurance, etc.) will count as taxable income to students.** Synod scholarships are awarded for one year only. A synod may choose to award scholarship funds to previous recipients, but this does not happen automatically.
- The synod submits nominee information to Fund for Leaders. All eligible nominees will receive funding.
- If there are no qualified students from your synod, or if your synod chooses not to award a scholarship for a particular academic year, the ELCA Fund for Leaders may reallocate scholarship funds to ensure that ELCA candidates from across all synods are being provided with as much assistance as possible.

2022 TIMELINE

March 4	Synods receive their annual report from FFL, including total funding amount available for 2022-23.
April 16	FFL informs synods of Fund for Leaders full-tuition scholarship recipients
May 10	Deadline for synods to submit nominee names to FFL (using the attached Excel template) and advise nominees to go into ELCA GrantMaker to apply for scholarship. Please be in conversation with your nominees to determine whether they will be registering for the upcoming fall or spring semester and what their seminary plans are.
May 16	Application process opens in ELCA GrantMaker (elca.fluxx.io). All nominated students must apply!
June 6	Application process closes in ELCA GrantMaker (all applications must now be complete)
Sept. 2022	FFL makes fall payment to seminaries (1/2 of yearly award)
Jan. 2023	FFL makes spring payment to seminaries (1/2 of yearly award)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Instructions for students applying through ELCA GrantMaker can be found at [ELCA.org/fundforleaders](https://www.elca.org/fundforleaders)
- Any questions? Please contact us, or have students contact us, at fundforleaders@elca.org or 773-380-2936

**South Carolina Fund for Leaders
Synod scholarship recipients
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2022**

Laura Henrickson attending Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary pursuing an MDiv degree

Joel Antley attending Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary pursuing an MDiv degree

ELCA Fund for Leaders

for this church and for our future

NUMBERS FOR THE 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

ELCA Fund for Leaders Endowment (as of June 30, 2021)		\$81,764,456
FFL churchwide scholarships	152	
Full-tuition	134	
Mission Developer	15	
Federal Chaplaincy	3	
Total amount to be distributed		\$2,479,100
Synod and congregation partner scholarships	206	
Total amount to be distributed		\$792,120
Total number of scholarships awarded	358	
Students supported in 2021-2022	317	
Total amount to be awarded in 2021-2022		\$3,271,220



ELCA Fund for Leaders
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Benefit Stability in Uncertain Times

As the pandemic ebbed and flowed in 2021, Portico's benefits remained a reliable constant for ELCA congregations and organizations, affirming the importance of church together.

- ELCA-Primary health benefits helped to lower stress levels and provided virtual access to health care.
- The ELCA Retirement Plan continued to deliver strong investment returns while offering no- or low-cost access to financial planning and coaching services.

In recent years, we've brought added stability to our program by extending quality, cost-effective benefits to more of those who serve. As we include more ELCA-affiliated social ministry organizations, colleges, and universities, as well as full communion partner denominations, we grow the size of our pool, which, in turn, allows us to secure lower administrative fees and innovative benefits not typically available to smaller groups. In this way, we continue our mission to serve those who serve.



The Rev. Jeff Thiemann
President & CEO

Meeting the Need in 2021

869

Plays of New Portico Podcast

Hosted by an ELCA pastor on current issues impacting our faith community.

34%

Chose New Voluntary Benefit

Through our cost-saving vision care services provider.

643

Retired

In Portico's bundled benefits program — Well done, good and faithful servants!

7.3%

Annuity Payment Increase

Approved for ELCA annuitants in 2022.

2,564

Medical Visits via Text

Through 98point6[®], our virtual primary health care service.

8

Large Organizations Joined

In 2021 — 1 ELCA college, 6 ELCA-affiliated social ministries, and 1 full communion partner social ministry.

2,880

Classes Completed in 2021

On Burnalong, Portico's new online fitness and wellness benefit.

76%

More Accessed Financial Coaching

Through LSS of Minnesota in 2021 than during the same period in 2020.

87.8%

Very Satisfied

With our Customer Care Center service.

Necrologist Report, May 1, 2022

Martha Barnhardt McCombs, 90, died April 22, 2020

Wife of The Rev. Earl McCombs Jr.



Martha Barnhardt McCombs, 90, wife of Rev. R. Earl McCombs, Jr., died Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at NHC Health Care Center.

Born on January 29, 1930, she was a daughter of the late Floyd R. and Ruth Frieze Barnhardt of Kannapolis, NC, where she attended local schools and Lenoir Rhyne College, receiving a business degree. She retired from Greenwood Vocational Rehabilitation Center in 2001. Martha was a lifelong Lutheran and was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, where her husband, Earl, served as pastor. For many years, she was a member of church choir, was a member of Evangelical Lutheran Church Women and taught Sunday Church School.

She is survived by her husband of 68 years; her children, Katherine Ruth Lingle of Savannah, GA, Robert E. McCombs, III (Laura) of Lexington and Mary Ann Cooper (John) of Greenwood; eight grandchildren, Lee Lingle, Benjamin Lingle (Laura), Anna Lingle Sanford (Tommy), Robert McCombs, Molly McCombs, Riley Raybon, Jack Cooper and Katie Cooper; three great grandchildren, Anna Marie, Thomas and Alex; and a brother, Ray Barnhardt of Newton, NC. She was preceded in death by a sister, Norma Matheny.

Once health restrictions have been lifted, a time will be announced for a memorial service at Immanuel Lutheran Church, where her cremated remains will be entombed in the church columbarium.

Memorials may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 501 E. Creswell Avenue, Greenwood, SC 29646 or to Hospice and Palliative Care of the Piedmont, 408 W. Alexander Avenue, Greenwood, SC 29646 (www.hospicepiedmont.org).

Cary Dowd Cruse, 92, died March 28, 2021

Wife of the late Rev. Guy Cruse

Mrs. Cary Dowd Cruse joined the Church Triumph on March 28, 2021. She was the daughter of the late Walter and Ida Harmon Dowd of Moore County, North Carolina. Mrs. Cruse obtained her Registered Nurse license from Cabarrus County Hospital. She served as a nurse in area hospitals and nursing homes until her retirement.

While working in Concord, NC, she met her future husband, The late Reverend Guy Cruse. In 1959, they located to White Rock, SC. Mrs. Cruse was the epitome of a pastor's wife, supportive of her husband while attending to her family. She was by his side for 62 years. Mrs. Cruse was a member of Saint Peters Lutheran Church in Batesburg, SC.

Mrs. Cruse is survived by her sons, The Reverend G. Reginald (Amanda) Cruse, and Keith Cruse; daughters, Karen (The Reverend Kent) Peterson, and Joy Cruse. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Joshua (Paulene) Cruse, Rebekah Cruse, and Keller Cruse. Kelsey Peterson, Calvin Lee, Cole Lee. Mrs. Cruse was blessed with a great-granddaughter, Paige Cruse, and a great-grandson arriving later this summer.

Private graveside services will be held in Bush River Memorial Gardens.

Memorials may be made to Saint Peters Lutheran Church, 1117 Marcellus Road, Batesburg-Leesville, SC 29070, or to a charity of one's choice.

The Reverend Timothy D. Bryson, 77, died April 29, 2021



Reverend Timothy D. Bryson, Sr., passed away on April 29, 2021, following a lengthy illness.

Reverend Bryson was born October 18, 1943, in Columbia, SC, a son of Walter B. Bryson, Jr. and Gretchen Daniels Bryson.

He graduated from Dreher High School in Columbia. He earned both B. A. and M. A. degrees from the University of South Carolina and attended Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri for post-graduate work. He was self-employed as a rehabilitation consultant for 25 years before hearing God's call and entering the ministry. At age 56 he entered into studies at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. He graduated in 2003 and was ordained in January 2004. He served Mt. Pleasant Lutheran and Ehrhardt Memorial Lutheran Churches in Ehrhardt, SC. for ten years before retiring to Myrtle Beach, SC.

Following his retirement, he served as interim pastor of St. Phillips Lutheran Church in Myrtle Beach and as visitation pastor at Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church in Garden City.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Walter Bates Bryson III and Charles Daniels Bryson.

Surviving are his wife of 36 years, Thelma Jacobs Bryson, two sons, Timothy D. Bryson, Jr. (Patty) of Surfside, SC and Stephen Todd Bryson (Alice) of Middleburg, FL, stepsons Brian Costner of Silver Spring, MD, and Robert Costner of Tyson's Corner, Virginia, two grandchildren, Sarah Bryson and Mira Costner and multiple nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A Celebration of Rev. Timothy's life will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church, 2637 US-17 BUS, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the church of your choice.

Sylvia Faye Pitts Cumbee, 85, died July 21, 2021

wife of the late Rev. Luria Erastus Cumbee



Sylvia Faye Pitts Cumbee, beloved wife of the late Rev. Luria Erastus Cumbee slipped from this earth into the arms of her Savior of Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at Aiken Regional Medical Center following an illness.

Born in Newberry, SC on September 6, 1935, she was the daughter of the late Madison & Sarah Duncan Pitts. She was retired from Westinghouse where she worked in administration. She was a member of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Johnston. Mrs. Cumbee was committed to Christ first and foremost, and then to the love of her life, Rev. Cumbee until his passing in 2015. She was a devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. In addition she was the former President of the WELCA.

Surviving are her daughter and son in law, Allison C. (John) Haskell of Ridge Spring, SC; two sons and daughters-in-law; Michael (Lisa) Cumbee of Ridge Spring and Stephen Craig Cumbee (Donna Mellott) of Pass Christian, MS.; Grandchildren, Jonathan, Richard, Marc, Laniah, Gabriel, Leah & Kala; Great-grandchildren, Tyler, AnnaLee, Ava Rae, Jayme, Zoey & Vance.

In addition to her parents and husband, Mrs. Cumbee was pre-deceased by a granddaughter, Laura and two brothers, Madison Pitts, Jr. & Fred Pitts

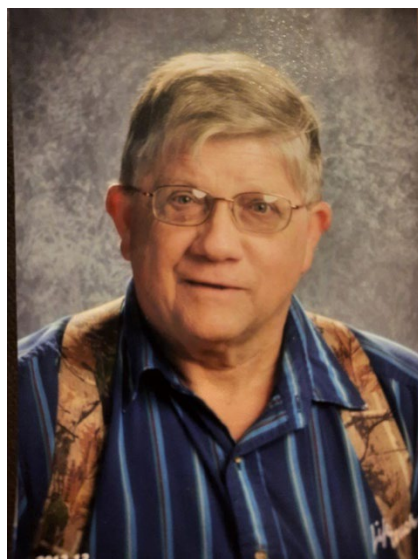
Funeral Services will be conducted on Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 11:00am at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church with Rev. Mark Smith officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service in the fellowship hall of the church.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church General Fund, 1186 Mt. Calvary Road, Johnston, SC 29832 or to Newberry College General Scholarship Fund, 2100 College Street, Newberry, SC 29108.

The Historic George Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 211 Park Ave SW, Aiken, SC 29801 (803) 649.6234 has charge of arrangements.

The Reverend James Wilson Campbell, Jr., 73, died August 22, 2021.



The Reverend James Wilson Campbell, Jr., 73, died Sunday, August 22, 2021. Born in Hickory, North Carolina, Rev. Campbell was the son of the late James Wilson, Sr. and Jahaza Yoder Campbell and married for 41 years to Sylvia Nelson-Campbell. A graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbia, he was the pastor of several churches in North and South Carolina. He completed his ministry at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church in Prosperity, South Carolina.

Survivors include his wife, Sylvia Nelson-Campbell, and children, Zachary Nelson-Campbell (Cynthia), Collen Nelson-Campbell, Amber Nelson-Campbell and son-in-law, Carl Sesler; grandchildren, Kylie Campbell, Hunter Sesler, Nessie Deese, and Izzy Deese, his mother-in-law Ruby Nelson, and sister-in-law Debbie Nelson. Special friends include Jane and Will Wyatt. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother John Campbell, fathers-in-law Alvis (Al) Nelson and Charles Marthers.

A service will be held at 2 o'clock Sunday September 12, 2021, at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Prosperity, 2192 Bethel Church Road, Prosperity, SC 29127. The Rev Ozzie Herlong of the South Carolina Synod ELCA will officiate the service.

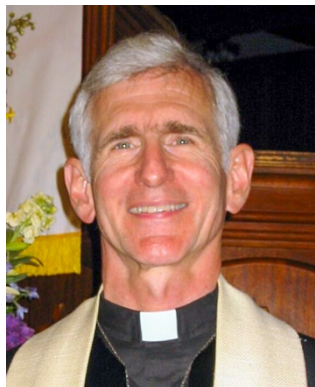
The family would like to thank his church family at Mt. Olivet for all the love shown to him, Drs. John Ferguson, Ben Pinner, Chaudhry Mushtaq and Edwina Hallman, NP and the staff at Pinner Clinic for their compassionate and loving care.

Memorials may be made to:

Lutheran Services Carolinas
1416 S. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave.,
Salisbury, N.C. 28145
PO Box 947

or at: <https://lscarolinas.net/donate/>

The Reverend Dr. Henry McKay, 84, died August 28, 2021



The Rev. Dr. Henry McKay, 84, died Saturday, August 28, surrounded by loving family at his home in Asheville, NC. Pastor McKay was born in Macon, GA to Henry Mann McKay, Sr. and Eleanor Schroder McKay, and spent his youth in both Savannah and Macon, GA. A lifelong learner, Pastor McKay earned a B.A. in Sociology from Lenoir-Rhyne College in 1960 and went on to complete an M.Div. from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in 1964. He later received an M.Ed. in Counseling from UNC Charlotte in 1973, and then earned a Dr. of Divinity from the Jesuit School of Theology in 1975.

Pastor McKay's ministry was as far reaching in service as it was in geography. He firmly believed that social justice is central to Christian ministry, and he was an advocate for civil rights and all of God's creation throughout his life. After being ordained at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Savannah, GA in 1964, he received his first call to Ascension Lutheran Church in Jackson, MS. While in Jackson he led the effort to integrate his congregation and worked with the Committee of Concern to help rebuild churches that had been damaged or destroyed in acts of racial violence. He then moved to Charlotte, NC where he started Advent Lutheran Church in 1967 and served as campus pastor at UNC Charlotte. From Charlotte, Pastor McKay moved to the mountains of southern California in 1973 to serve as Executive Director of Outdoor Ministry and Director of Camp Yoliijwa. In 1981 he became Pastor of Community Lutheran Church in Watsonville, CA, and in 1984 moved back to the East Coast to become Executive Director of Lutheran Social Services of Central South Carolina until he retired in 2000.

Pastor McKay is survived by his wife and best friend of 54 years, Dr. Judy McKay, as well as his daughter Elizabeth McKay-Altman (Dennis Altman), and his son Frank McKay (Sonja McKay), along with six beloved grandchildren Alexandria McKay, Iona McKay, AJ Altman, Aela Altman, Ari Altman, and Annika McKay. To family and friends, "Papa" McKay will be remembered as a loving and generous man who never met a stranger and who always buoyed those around him through stories, humor, and his playful spirit.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 4 starting with singing of favorite hymns at 10:30 a.m. For family and friends who are able to attend in person, the service will take place at the Lutheridge Camp & Conference Center in Arden, NC. For those who would like to attend virtually, Zoom streaming will be available. The service will be led by the Rev. Matt Smith of St. Mark's Lutheran Church Asheville, and will include remarks from Bishop Tim Smith of the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA. Please dress comfortably for an outdoor service. The family invites friends to bring their own picnic lunch and supplies to join in a socially distanced picnic after the service.

If you would like to attend online, please contact St. Mark's office at (828) 253-0043 or admin@stmarkslutheran.net for details. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that gifts be made to one of the following organizations: Lutheran World Relief, Four Seasons Hospice, St. Marks Lutheran Asheville, NC.

The Reverend Richard Conrad Davis Inman, 38, died September 6, 2021



Richard Conrad Davis Inman, 38, passed away on September 6, 2021 from complications of contracting the COVID-19 virus.

Rick is survived by his wife, Kristen Inman; parents, Richard and Mary (Neal) Inman; sister, Stephanie Seay (Chris); nieces, Ansley Seay and Greer Crow (Davis); nephews, Harrison Seay and Samuel Seay; and aunts, Deborah Polson and Cheryl Christian.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Robert A. and Alice Inman, Davis O. and Agnes Smith; and Uncles, Robert M. Inman and Howard Polson.

As a graduate of Clemson University with bachelor's degrees in communications and history, Rick continued his studies and earned a master's degree of divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. Rick was an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and was serving as pastor at Sandy Run Lutheran Church in Sandy Run, South Carolina.

As an avid fan and supporter of all Clemson athletic teams, particularly his beloved Clemson football Tigers, he could be counted on for loyalty to his alma mater. He loved to take walks with his wife Kristen and their dog Booker, who Rick always spoiled with treats and belly rubs. He was passionate about his ministry as a pastor and loved to talk with people about God and Jesus Christ – even sharing these conversations with people during his final days in the hospital.

The funeral service will be held Saturday, September 11th at 1:30 pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 3909 Forest Drive, Columbia SC 29204. Masks are required for those attending the funeral. There will also be a live streaming of the service at the link below.

There will also be a viewing on Friday, September 10th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, 7600 Trenholm Road Ext., Columbia SC 29223. Masks are required for those attending the viewing.

The family also wishes to thank the caring staff at Lexington Medical Center for their compassionate treatment and support. Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to: Pawmetto Lifeline, Oliver Gospel Mission and Lutheran Services Carolina.

Charlotte L. Diegel, "Chan", (nee Lesemann), 80, died September 13, 2021

Wife of The Rev. Ronald L. Diegel



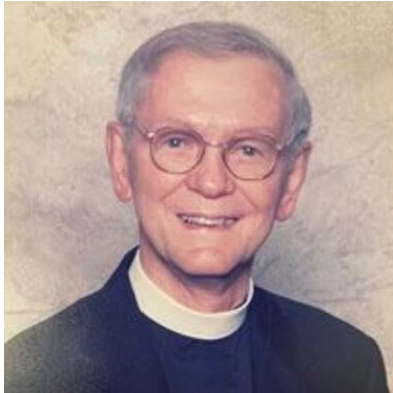
Charlotte L. Diegel, "Chan", (nee Lesemann) passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, September 13, 2021 and went to be with her Lord at the age of 80 years. Born on May 13, 1941, in Charleston, South Carolina, Chan was a Registered Nurse by training but spent her life serving as a homemaker, wife, and mother.

She is survived by her loving husband, Pastor Ronald L. Diegel, to whom she was married on September 11, 1965. She is lovingly remembered by her children, Ronald B. Diegel (Ronnie) and Charlotte Rebecca (Becky) Dezarn; she is also fondly remembered by her grandchildren, Sarah M. Gainey (Madison), Andrew B. Diegel, Jackson S. Jernigan, Ashton M. Jernigan, Ava Coleman Diegel; a step-grandchild, Shelby M. Dezarn; brother, Louis J. Lesemann; and nephew, Mikell L. Lesemann.

The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to the Lutheran Hospice nurses including Kathy Cooley, Christy Shepler, and Aimee Aline. Additionally, the family would like to thank Grace Caregivers and especially Ashley Kitts. Lastly, sincere gratitude is extended to caregiver Debbie Landis for her help and devotion to the family. The family is appreciative of the ministry of St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Lexington, South Carolina, and Pastor Jason Antley.

A graveside service will be held 3:00 p.m. Thursday, September 16, 2021, at St. Stephens Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends following the service in the fellowship hall at the church. Memorials may be made to St. Stephens Lutheran Church 119 North Church St. Lexington, SC 29072. Barr-Price Funeral Home and Crematorium, Lexington Chapel is assisting the family.

The Reverend Dr. Daniel Murray Shull Jr., 89, died September 16, 2021.



The Reverend Dr. Daniel Murray Shull Jr., age 89, of Spartanburg, passed away Thursday, September 16, 2021.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Christine Wessinger Shull, his children Lori Shull Crumpton (George) and Michael Murray Shull (Betty), his grandchildren Megan Shull Coleman (Blake), Andrew Murray Shull (Eliza), Elizabeth Christine Hurd (Grant), and Katherine Evelyn Sexton (Wil) and two great-grandchildren (Karris Jane Coleman and Jayden Shull Coleman). He is predeceased by his father The Reverend Dr. Daniel Murray Shull Sr., his mother Mary Langford Shull, his brother Cyril Langford Shull, and his sister Mary Sue Shull Bedenbaugh (Lester Lee).

Reverend Shull was born on October 14, 1931. He attended Elloree High School and then gained a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Newberry College in 1953. Following graduation from Newberry, he attended the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and was ordained in 1956, on the same day that he and Christine were married, June 10th, 1956. Once married, he continued his graduate studies at Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut for a year, before departing for Liberia, Africa where he preached in the native Kpelle language and baptized over 430 people. There, he and his wife served as missionaries for five years and had both of their children.

A devoted minister for forty years, he shepherded congregations at the following churches: Emmanuel Lutheran Church in West Columbia, St. James Lutheran Church in Sumter, SC and Holy Communion Lutheran Church in Spartanburg, SC. Even after his retirement, he continued to serve as interim pastor at numerous churches and served as the president of Greater Spartanburg Ministries.

Reverend Shull was also a known lover of reading and writing and served as the Editor of the South Carolina Lutheran for thirty years. He was on the Newberry College Board of Trustees for 16 years and received an honorary doctorate of divinity degree from Newberry College. His friends and family would describe him as a missionary, a wonderful listener, an advocate for social justice, a major sweet tooth and a role model for living a life for the cause of Christ.

A receiving of friends will be held Tuesday, September 21, at Joy Lutheran Church, 3980 Moore Duncan Hwy, Moore, SC 29369, from 9:45-10:45 am, followed by the funeral service at 11:00 am conducted by Pastor Lane Bembenek.

A graveside service will be held at 3:00 pm at St. David's Lutheran Church, 132 St. David Church Road, West Columbia, SC 29170. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Newberry College; Office of Advancement, 2100 College Street, Newberry, SC 2910

Loretta Herlong Haigler, 85, died September 18, 2021

Wife of The Rev. Alvin H. Haigler, Sr.

Loretta Herlong Haigler, 85, wife of Pastor Alvin H. Haigler, Sr., passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on September 18, 2021. Born January 22, 1936 in St. Matthews, SC, she graduated from St. Matthews High School as Valedictorian of her class in 1954. She earned a BA in Elementary Education from the University of South Carolina. She worked faithfully in the ministry beside her husband, Alvin, for 35 years as a Sunday School teacher and Altar Guild member at all six Lutheran churches that they served.

Her quiet devotion to family and friends, and gentle welcoming presence blessed our lives.

She is predeceased by her parents, Pou and Lucie Herlong; and brother Billy Herlong. She is survived by her husband Alvin; brother, Henry Herlong (Doris); children, Laura Ann Sorrell (Charles), Alvin Hayne Haigler Jr., (Nena), Lisa Ryba (Stuart), Lucie Bias (Alan); seven grandchildren, Elizabeth (Clint), Eric (Jordan), Brooke (Ryan), Kevin, Mitchell, Katharine, and Alexander; and one great granddaughter, Ember.

A graveside service will be held at Sandy Run Lutheran Church on September 23, 2021 at 11:00am. Visitation will be held before and after the service.

Memorials may be made to Sandy Run Lutheran Church, 1927 Old State Road, Swansea, SC 29160

Caroline Derrenbacher Swicegood, 83, died on October 13, 2021

Wife of The Rev. Dermont Luther Swicegood



Caroline Derrenbacher Swicegood of West Columbia, born 5/19/38 in Columbia, SC passed on 10/13/21 leaving all that knew her as a kindred spirit, whose love of life was only exceeded by her love and concern for family and friends. Her wisdom, confidence and loving personality established her as a unique individual that everyone she befriended were truly blessed with unwavering kindness. She was the Daughter of Jack and Elizabeth Derrenbacher of Cayce, SC where she inherited her tough resolve and her sincere compassion. At age 12 she would drive a jeep, shoot a shotgun hunting with her father on Saturday and play a piano sonata on Sunday at Church. She graduated from Brooklyn Cayce High School in 1956 where she was an accomplished clarinet player in the band and the pianist in many musical programs; she was voted best all around by her peers and well represented that title throughout her life.

Upon graduation she attended Columbia College in South Carolina majoring in the musical field of voice and piano. She married her high school sweetheart, D. Luther Swicegood in 1958 and with him answered the call to minister through the Lutheran Church and the communities where they resided. Her wisdom, confidence, personality and genuine concern for others were strong assets to the congregations that they served from Christ the King, Columbia, SC; Saint Michaels, Greenville, SC and King of Glory, North Myrtle Beach, SC where she spent many hours sailing with her husband, family and friends. She never sought attention or acclaim rather lead by example when called upon to share her many talents from Organist, Choir, Sunday School and Nursery Management to Community ministry taking the responsibility of providing clothing, food and transportation to families in need.

She worked with Meals on Wheels in Greenville, SC and received Volunteer of the year Award from The City of Greenville in 1985 for placing Medical Alert Devices in the homes of the elderly and disabled. She was a devoted mother, grandmother and resource to many that would be in need of advice, assistance or just to listen. Her extended family was as large as her unselfish love to assist others. Her contribution, commitment and extension of her love for others was unsurpassed even as she battled cancer and numerous other health issues over 36 years. She will be remembered by the tremendous number of families and individuals touched by her unconditional love and care.

She is survived by her Husband, Dermont Luther Swicegood of West Columbia, SC and oldest son, Dermont Luther Swicegood, Jr. of Lexington, SC. A memorial service was held on 4:00 p.m. Sunday, October 17, 2021 at Mount Tabor Lutheran Church; 1000 B Avenue; West Columbia, SC. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mount Tabor Music Department, Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital, or Shriners Hospital for Children.

The Reverend Dr. Robert Ellis Snyder, 91, October 29, 2021.



The Reverend Dr. Robert Ellis Snyder, 91, died of natural causes on Friday, October 29th. He was the son of the late Reverend Dr. Ellis Emmanuel Snyder and the late Pauline Walker Snyder. Bob is survived by his beloved wife, Paula Schumacher Snyder, daughter, Carol Elizabeth Snyder (Dan Barham) and her three sons, Andrew, Matthew and Jonathan Wells, and son, Paul Robert Snyder (Melissa) and their two children, Daniel and Kaylee.

Bob earned a B.A. degree from Capital University in Columbus, OH, a M.M. from University of Colorado, Boulder, CA, a M.D. from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH and a Ph.D. in Choral Literature and Performance from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.

Bob was a pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Detroit, MI from 1956 to 1966. After completing his doctorate at Iowa, Dr. Snyder was a professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL from 1969 until he retired in 1995. He directed the EIU Concert Choir, which toured Europe two times and performed at the American Choral Directors Association National Convention in St. Louis, MO. Bob was president of IL ACDA and the Central Division of ACDA. He served as ACDA National Treasurer for four years.

Bob served as interim pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mattoon, IL, Trinity Lutheran Church in Shumway, IL, Trinity Lutheran in Olney, IL, St. Andrew Lutheran in Champaign, IL and at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Aiken, SC in 2004.

Bob loved to travel and visited all 50 states and 34 countries. He and Paula retired to Aiken, S.C. in 1999 where he was a member of Woodside Plantation Country Club. Bob enjoyed golf, tennis, bridge and traveling. He spent countless hours at the baseball field with Paul and on the tennis courts with Carol. "I remember when." was the start of many (detailed) stories. Bob would try to make you smile with a joke or tease the younger generation. When the nursing staff would take his blood pressure or need him to cooperate, "That will cost you a dollar" was his response. When his Buckeyes, his St. Louis Cardinals or the Detroit Lions didn't cooperate, he would let the TV and anyone in the room know! He was committed to his faith, family and any choral concert he could attend!

Bob and Paula moved back to Bloomington, IL in February of 2020 and resided at Luther Oaks. The family is grateful for the care and support of the Luther Oaks nursing staff. His jokes and sense of humor will be missed!

A celebration of life service will be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Bexley, OH on Saturday, November 6th at 10am. Internment will be at Reber Hill Cemetery in Ashville, OH. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Trinity Lutheran Seminary, with the Robert E. and Paula S. Snyder Church Music Scholarship in the memo line. Address: Trinity Lutheran Seminary; 2199 East Main St., Columbus OH 43209 or online at <https://www.capconnect.org/donate> with "in memory of Bob Snyder" in the comment line.

The Reverend Frank Edward Lyerly, 91, died December 6, 2021.



The Reverend Frank Edward Lyerly, 91, died Monday, December 6, 2021, at the Newberry County Memorial Hospital. Born on February 26, 1930, in Salisbury, NC, he was the son of the late Burley Franklin Lyerly and Mary Elizabeth Trexler Lyerly.

Pastor Lyerly graduated from Catawba College in Salisbury, NC and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. He had obtained his Master in Theology. He was ordained on May 25, 1955. He served Saint Martin Lutheran Church in Maiden, NC, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on Anna Maria Island, FL, Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church in Saluda, SC, The Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Columbia, SC, Saint Johannes Lutheran in Charleston, SC and Bland-Ceres-Burkes Garden Parish in the Ceres, Virginia area.

He is survived by a daughter, Barbara Elizabeth Boyd (Chris) of Cocoa, FL; a son, Richard William Lyerly of Prosperity; daughter-in-law, Barbara Sue Lyerly of Charleston, WV; four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; a sister, Billie Elizabeth Roth of Woodstock, GA. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 65 years, Barbara Alice Brown Lyerly, his son, Charles Franklin Lyerly and a grandson, Shawn Phillip.

A worship service was offered at Macedonia Lutheran Church on Friday, December 10, 2021. Memorials may be made to the church handbell choir, 49 Macedonia Church Road, Prosperity, SC 29127.

The Reverend Everett Ray Price, 86, died December 20, 2021.



Reverend Everett Ray Price, 86, of West Columbia, passed away Monday, December 20, 2021. He was born May 16, 1935 in Hickory, NC to the late Floyd and Ila Price.

Services will be held 11:00 a.m. December 27, 2021 at Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church officiated by Rev. Gina Metze, Bishop Emeritus David Donges, Rev. Arden Hallman and Bishop Ginny Aebischer. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., Sunday, December 26, 2021 at Barr-Price Funeral Home, Lexington Chapel. Memorials may be made to Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church, 3011 Leaphart Road, West Columbia, SC 29169.

Rev. Price graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne College (now University) in Hickory, NC in 1956 and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC in 1959. He was ordained as a Lutheran pastor in June of that same year. He accepted a call to develop a new Lutheran congregation in Lincolnton, NC which they named Holy Cross Lutheran Church. In 1968, he moved to Hartsville, SC to develop Our Shepherd Lutheran Church. In 1985, Rev. Price accepted the call to become Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in West Columbia, SC where he remained until his retirement at the end of 1999. After retirement, Pastor Price remained active by serving as an Interim Pastor (Orangeburg Lutheran – 3 times; St. Thomas, Chapin, SC; St. Luke, Columbia, SC; St. Timothy, Camden, SC) and Supply Pastor which he loved. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and gardener. He delighted in sharing what he grew with friends and family.

Rev. Price is survived by his daughter, Scottie (David) Marsh and cherished grandson, Jacob Mathias Marsh; sister, Wilma Austin of Hickory, NC; brother, Harold (Jean) Price of Conover, NC; sisters-in-law, Dot Mathias and Gloria Mathias of West Columbia, Sandra Price of Conover, NC; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Rev. Price was predeceased by his beloved wife, Bernice Mathias Price; sister, Dorothy Killian; brother, Darrell Price; as well as his parents. Special thanks for loving care to Dr. Frederic Smith, Dr. Keith Brightbill, Lutheran Hospice, Kindred at Home and Ms. Andreak Foster.

Merrilyn Rickert Sease, 70, died on December 27, 2021.

Wife of The Rev. Milas "Mike" Yoder Sease, III.



Merrilyn Rickert Sease was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, aunt, and friend. Most importantly, she was a child of God. She died on December 27, 2021 at age 70.

She was born to Willene Evans Rickert and Harold Russel Rickert on October 21, 1951 in Macon, GA. After graduating from Effingham County High School, she went on to attend Georgia Southwestern and obtain a degree from Armstrong College. She then went on to graduate from Midlands Tech Nursing School. She was a retired nurse.

Merrilyn was the wife to the late Rev. Milas "Mike" Yoder Sease, III. Together they had two children: Angela Sease Reid (Zeb) and Russel Franklin Sease (Jaclyn). She was also the proud Mimi of Zoe and Zarek Reid, Jackson, Elon, and Gordon Sease.

She was predeceased by her parents, husband, and aunt, Mary Wilma Wells.

A memorial service will be held at 2 pm on Thursday, December 30, 2021 at Wiles Chapel of Newberry College, Newberry, SC. Family will greet friends in Smeltzer Hall, following the service. Services will be conducted by Bishop Kevin L. Strickland of the Southeastern Synod ELCA and The Rev. Terry M. Amick of St. Philip's Lutheran Church of Newberry, SC.

Memorials may be given to The Living Hope Foundation in Newberry, SC and the Chapin We Care Center.

The Reverend Charles B. Dawkins, 91, died April 15, 2022



The Reverend Charles B. Dawkins, known by many as "PD" and by his grand and great grandchildren as "Papa," died on Good Friday, April 15th, 2022, at age 91. Pastor Dawkins was a resident of West Columbia, and he is survived by his wife Betty Frierson Dawkins, and their daughters Debra Louise (Walt) Steading and Donna Dawkins (Hank) Ray, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Son David Lee Dawkins predeceased him.

Pastor Dawkins graduated from Newberry College and then attended the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, accepting a call to serve in Japan in 1954. Over the 16 years as missionaries, Charles and Betty lived in Tokyo, and then in Kumamoto, and finally in Yokohama, Japan. While on the one-year expected furloughs, he served in parish ministry in various locations in South Carolina. The family relocated to the United States in 1970, where he served at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Little Mountain until 1976 and subsequently at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Lexington, engaging in interfaith community service organizing efforts and in prison ministry. Following certification in clinical pastoral education, he took a position with the Kiva program at the state hospital in the Department of Mental Health. After retirement he enjoyed many years of supply ministry within the SC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and with Kairos prison ministry.

A memorial service will be on Saturday, April 23rd at 4:00 pm at Saint Andrews Lutheran Church, 1416 Broad River Road in Columbia, South Carolina. The family will accept visitors at the church at 3:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Mission Lexington or the charity of your choice.

The Reverend J. Pierce Evans Jr., 84, died April 17, 2022



Rev. J. Pierce Evans, Jr., 84, of Little Mountain died Sunday, April 17, 2022, at the Heritage at Lowman Rehabilitation. Born in Augusta, GA on March 8, 1938, he was a son of the late Johnnie P. Evans, Sr., and Sarah Kilpatrick Evans.

A 1961 graduate of Newberry College, he then began the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and was ordained into the Lutheran ministry by the Florida Synod of the Lutheran Church of America on May 23, 1966. He served in the NC Synod at Ebenezer Lutheran, Catawba, NC and Trinity Lutheran, Concord, NC, and the South Carolina Synod at Summer Memorial, Newberry, SC, St. James Lutheran, Leesville, SC, and Faith Lutheran, Newberry, SC. He retired in 2001 after 36 years of active ministry. During retirement Rev. Evans served as a local pulpit supply pastor and from 2008-2016 as the visitation pastor at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Prosperity.

In 1966, Pierce married Clarice Shealy and they built a family together raising two daughters, Trudy, and Sarah Jo. The two loved traveling and camping, and over their 55+ years together, they were able to visit all the 48 continental states. Upon his retirement, they moved to Little Mountain and became members of Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church.

Always learning, he was an avid reader and an adopter of new technologies. Rev. Evans enjoyed hobbies such as drawing, painting, woodburning, photography and camping. He especially enjoyed sharing his hobbies with his daughters and granddaughters.

He will be remembered for his optimistic outlook on life, his gift of ministry through visitation, and his love of family. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his daughter, Trudy, and his brother, Edward Evans.

Graveside services will be conducted by Rev. Richard Johnston at 11:00 AM, Saturday, April 23, 2022, at Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church. The family suggests sending any memorials to Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church, 816 Mt. Tabor Church Road, Little Mountain, SC 29075 or the Little Mountain Rescue Squad 219 N Boundary Street, Little Mountain, SC 29075.

The Rev. James R. Connelly, Jr., 89, died on April 29, 2022



The Rev. James R. Connelly, Jr., 89, formerly of Lexington, SC died on April 29, 2022 in Birmingham, Alabama.

A Native of Sumter, SC, he was a graduate of Newberry College (1954) and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (1957). During his ministry, Pastor Connelly served as Mission Developer and first Called Pastor of Gethsemane Lutheran, Columbia, SC; Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran, Macon, GA; Shades Valley Lutheran, Birmingham, AL; and Mt Tabor Lutheran, West Columbia, SC. He served for over 10 years on the staff of Division of Parish Services of the Lutheran Church in America, working in Evangelism and Parish Leadership Development.

Following retirement, he also served five Interim Ministries in SC and AL and for four years served as Director of Church Relations of Newberry College. During his ministry, he served on numerous institutional boards and committees, including Newberry College Board, LTSS Board, serving as Secretary, Lutheridge Board, and many other Synodical committees. He was a delegate to two LCA National Conventions and served as Chair of the Board for National Academy of Evangelists. He was president of Ministerial Associations in Macon and Birmingham, and a life-long member of Sertoma Club. He loved spending time with his family, traveling with his wife and close friends, and a smooth glass of scotch.

Reverend Connelly is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Faith Bunger Connelly (a native of Savannah, GA) daughters, Kathy Anderson (Lee) and Karen Pierce (Mark) of Birmingham, AL, and the Reverend Dr. Rachel Connelly (Mike Goyne) of Walhalla, SC. sisters Mary Brueggemeier (Garry) and Ellen Hall (Ron) of Tampa, Florida. 8 grandchildren: Jessica Partin (Paul), Jason Pierce (Lauryn), James Pierce (Lindsay), Jared and John Anderson, Jacob Goyne (Lara), Jesse and Faith Goyne, 6 great-grandchildren (Halle and Ben Partin, Charlotte, Hayden, and Avett Pierce, Aribella Anderson, and a host of beloved niece and nephews.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Lexington, SC on Tuesday, May 3 at 2:00pm followed by burial in the St. Stephen's cemetery. Visitation will be on Monday, May 2 from 6:00-8:00pm at Barr-Price Funeral Home, Lexington.

In lieu of flowers: Memorials may be made to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 119 N Church Street, Lexington, SC, 29072 or Newberry College, James and Faith Connelly, Scholarship fund, Newberry, SC 29108.

The Rev. Dr. James Harold Milligan, 83 died March 9, 2022



The Rev. Dr. James Harold Milligan, age 83 of Sevierville, formerly of Chesnee, South Carolina, went into the arms of his Lord Jesus, March 9th.

Jim was an avid student of the bible and had a passion for history, especially the Civil War. He ministered to Lutheran churches for over 33 years - teaching, preaching, counseling and mentoring younger Pastors. Prior to ministry he worked for the IRS for 23 years, last serving as branch manager in Elkhart IN. He enjoyed traveling, camping and visiting the local zoo wherever he was. His hobbies included everything from genealogy to woodworking and more.

He was preceded in death by his parents Clifford and Mary Milligan, his brother Lyle Milligan and his son Russ Milligan.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Margaret (Peggy) Milligan; his sons and daughters-in-love, Jim and Katrina Milligan of Sevierville, Scott and Michelle Milligan of Belfast, ME and Alisha Milligan of Greenwood, IN; grandchildren JB Milligan, Jessica Milligan Duncan, Rob Duncan, Joshua Milligan, Jake Milligan, Alex Milligan, Kelsey Milligan, Megan Milligan; great grandchildren Reilly, Patrick, and Sierra Duncan.

A Memorial Service will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Spartanburg, SC on April 2nd at 2:00PM. Inurnment will be held at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock, Michigan at a later date.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to St. John's Lutheran Church, Spartanburg SC or to the U.S. National Park Service.

The Rev. Dr. Robert N. Bacher, 87, died on May 23,



The Rev. Dr. Robert N. Bacher, 87, of Bluffton, S.C., died on May 23, 2022, at his home in the arms of his loving wife Shirley, following a hard-fought battle with leukemia.

Born in Houston, TX, Bacher spent his formative years in multiple cities in the U.S. and Germany as his father was in the U.S. Army. He completed his undergraduate studies in English and Industrial Engineering at Texas A&M University, followed by the Master of Divinity degree from Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary, a predecessor institution to the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, which awarded him a distinguished alumnus award in 2002. He went on to receive a Master of Education degree from Temple University, Philadelphia, and Master and Doctor of Public Administration degrees from the University of Southern California.

Ordained a Lutheran minister in 1961, Bacher was mission developer and pastor of St. Mark Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO, from 1961 to 1966. He then began serving as a national church executive for the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) in parish services, rising to head a large department and serve on the President's Cabinet of Executives. When the LCA merged with two other national churches to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 1988, Bacher was named Executive for Administration in the Office of the Presiding Bishop. Many compare the scope of that role to chief of staff at the White House. He served as the large churchwide organization's chief operating officer throughout the terms of the first two presiding bishops, Herbert Chilstrom and H. George Anderson. The Bachers retired to North Carolina in 2001 and later moved to Bluffton, South Carolina in 2011.

Over the course of his career, Bacher became widely known as a consultant to organizations, including internationally through his service as a board member of the Lutheran World Federation-supported Augusta Victoria Hospital on the famed Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem. Author of numerous articles in church and administration publications, he co-wrote two books, *Chasing Down a Rumor: The Death of Denominations*, with Kenneth Inskeep, and *Church Administration: Programs, Process, Purpose*, with Michael Cooper-White. A third book, featuring stories of hope, survival, and accomplishment from seven "Good Troublemakers" was in the proofreading stage at the time of his death. Bacher organized a national ecumenical cohort of ecclesiastical chief administrators and served as an executive coach and mentor to many denominational leaders.

In Chilstrom's autobiography, *A Journey of Grace*, the ELCA's first churchwide bishop described Bacher as "a sterling leader and committed churchman . . . the one who would become my alter ego." Chilstrom concluded his praise for Bacher writing, "Because he served so well for me and my successor, I can only wish that I might have been able to clone him."

Reflecting on Bacher, Anderson said, "I came to depend on Bob so much. His vision and creativity were vital in shaping the mission of the ELCA. There are many of us who cherished him and have thanked God for him."

On a personal note, Bobé, as he was known to his loved ones, dearly loved his wife, his three "girls," his sons-in-law, and grandchildren. He loved Shirley's paintings and was exceedingly proud of his daughters. He was blessed to have been the presiding minister at each of his daughter's and his grandson's

weddings. He was always interested in his grandchildren's activities—baseball, swimming, acting, art, costume design, show choir, volleyball, horseback riding—all of which he traveled to see and support. He was also an avid reader and Duke (crazy, over-the-top, out-of-control) basketball supporter.

Bob was grateful that the Lutheran Church took him—a lapsed Methodist—in and called him to do the work he was best at—starting a church, leadership training, and administration. He was dedicated to actively promoting and supporting fairness, justice, and equality, marching with Martin Luther King, Jr. when he was younger, and even going “viral” on social media in 2020 for an inspiring photo with Shirley in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. He made 17 trips to the Holy Land in support of better health care for Palestinians.

Bob died just three days shy of his 65th wedding anniversary with Shirley. He is survived by her and their three daughters and their spouses, Carol and Kevin March of Dallas, TX, Laurie and Charlie Tucker of Bluffton, SC, and Joy and Ivan Cropper of Indianapolis, IN; and five grandchildren, Sean (spouse Carolina), Shannon, Christina, Ella, Olivia; and great-granddaughter Hollynd.

A celebration of Bob Bacher's life will be held on Friday, June 3 at 11:00 am at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Bluffton, SC.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Disaster Response, or Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem.

The Reverend Charles Ward Easley, DD, 91, died on May 27, 2022.



The Reverend Charles Ward Easley, DD (Pastor Easley) of West Columbia died on May 27, 2022. He celebrated his 91st birthday on Wednesday, May 25.

Charles was born to the late Laura Louise Colbert Easley and Lefflette Teed Easley on May 25, 1931 in Georgetown, SC. Pastor Easley graduated from Winyah High School, Newberry College and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. He was ordained in June, 1956 and gave his life in Christian service. In 1984, Newberry College bestowed upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

He served Lutheran congregations in Albany, GA, Lexington, SC, Kannapolis, Kings Mountain and Albemarle, NC, West Columbia, SC, and Roanoke, VA. Prior to retiring he served 5 years as chaplain of Brandon Oaks Life Plan Community in Roanoke, VA. Easley continued his ministry in the Columbia area as

a supply and interim pastor for many years following his retirement. He enjoyed being called Pastor Easley because he felt the title best reflected his calling to shepherd God's flock. Pastor Easley served on the board of trustees for Newberry College and the South Carolina Synod Candidacy Committee. Throughout his years, he was actively involved in community service, functioning in leadership capacities on various boards.

Pastor Easley is survived by Emma Lou Bossart Easley, his loving and devoted wife of 71 years, and children Charles Ward Easley Jr (Wendy) of Belfast, ME, Irene Louise Moye (Richie) of Lexington, William Teed Easley (Cheryl) of Cayce and Penelope Easley Summer (Jay) of Trenton. He is also survived by grandchildren; Laura Moye (Stephen), Anna Maria Hutchins (Chris), David Moye (Lisa Li), Jenny Kronner (Shawn), Ashley Owens, Charles Moye, Benjamin Easley, and Shannon Bolick (Nick), and six great grandchildren.

He is predeceased by his son, David Harry Easley and brother, Lefflette Teed Easley Jr (Jerry).

His family extends their gratitude to his caregivers at Laurel Crest, All Seasons Healthcare and Lexington Medical Center. In lieu of flowers, he requested that donations be made to the Corpus of the Charles and Emma Lou Easley Scholarship funds at either Newberry College or Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

The funeral service will be held at 2:00 PM on Monday, May 30th at Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church, 1000 B Avenue in West Columbia. Visitation will be held following the service in the sanctuary. Barr-Price Funeral Home and Crematorium, Lexington Chapel, is assisting the family.