

## Death Penalty Resources

The Criminal Justice Task Force of the SC Synod encourages Lutherans to learn more about the death penalty. Here are some resources to start your research.

The video report of the Criminal Justice Task Force, prepared for the 2023 South Carolina Synod Assembly, is available on the ELCA South Carolina Synod YouTube channel and at:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZapPS4bCOJBp9hiux0iLTgnAT94L62o8>

The ELCA Social Statement on the Death Penalty was adopted in 1991. Social statements are teaching documents of the ELCA, ratified by Churchwide Assemblies, and not binding to any particular congregation or believer. There's also a study guide, written before the statement was adopted, giving theological and practical arguments for and against the death penalty. It's available at <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Death-Penalty>

South Carolinians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty offers a more local and up to date perspective on capital punishment in our synod. Their website, SCADP.org, has facts and ways to engage with the issue on a personal or political level. <https://www.scadp.org/resources> has books, movies, and links to partner organizations.

The Death Penalty Information Center, a non-profit based in Washington, DC, provides fact sheets, research, and educational curriculum about the death penalty. It has up to date information about scheduled executions, the population of death row in various states, and perspectives from leaders of world religions. Their website is <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/>.

The Journal of Lutheran Ethics has a selection of articles and book reviews on criminal justice. <https://learn.elca.org/jle/category/criminal-justice/>

Lutherans who are interested in how our faith leads us into public witness can participate in the current social writing project, a Social Statement on Civics and Faith. Information is available at <https://elca.org/civicsandfaith>.