

**Biographical Information Form  
South Carolina Synod, ELCA  
2024 Elections**

Please return this completed form via email to [charlene@scsynod.com](mailto:charlene@scsynod.com) by **10:45 AM June 8, 2024**

**Position Nominated For: 2025 Churchwide Assembly-youth/young adult  
Term Ending:**

**Full Name: Samuel Stone Dowd**

**Email Address: samuelsdowd8@gmail.com**

**Phone: 8647842917**

**Mailing Address: 3434 Forest Glen Drive**

**City, State, Zip Code: Charleston, South Carolina 29414**

**Congregation: Lutheran Church of Redeemer**

**Congregation City: Charleston, SC**

**Employment/Profession: Elementary Teacher / High School Football Coach**

**Age Range: Under 30 (I'm 25)**

**Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.**

- 1. Lutheridge: 2018 Counselor, 2019-2020 OAP Counselor, 2021 Senior Staff: Area Director for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> graders, 2022 served as a volunteer for OAP, 2023 Senior Staff: General Duty Area Director, 2024 Senior Staff: General Duty Area Director**
- 2. Program Service Intern at Lutheridge (Spring 2021)**
- 3. Newberry College Blue Key Honor Society Member (Premier honor society that recognizes upperclassmen at colleges for all around excellence in scholarship, leadership and service. These students are well known on campus for their achievements inside the classroom and outside of the classroom.)**
- 4. Highschool FCA Leader: 2014-2017, Newberry College FCA Member: (2017-2021)**
- 5. Volunteer for TriCounty Ministries now known as Neighbors Together: (2014-2018)**
- 6. Wonderful Wildcats Works Community Service Team: (2014 – 2017)**
- 7. Teacher Cadet (2015), Palmetto Boys State Member (2016), Special Olympics Volunteer (2014 – 2017)**
- 8. Newberry College Football Team Community Service Team (2017-2021)**
- 9. Selected as freshman peer mentor (2017), Student Ambassador (2017-2021) and Campus Ambassador (2017)**

**In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:**

- **What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?**
- **Tell about a time your church was there for you.**

- 1) My most joyous memory from being a part of my faith community is without a doubt being on summer staff at Lutheridge. The word joy means “a feeling of great pleasure and happiness”. That perfectly describes my whole time on staff at Lutheridge. Many things come to mind when I tell people about camp, I think about the time coaching a camper to climb 60 feet in the air and accomplishing a task that they thought was impossible. I think about reading bedtime stories to a whole cabin who was homesick until all of us fell asleep... even me in the chair I put in the middle of the cabin. I think about the time I only had two campers and combined the beds so my campers each had 3 mattresses combined. Then told by one of the campers that this was the first time he even had a bed to himself. Times like this will forever be a joyous time in my heart and why I keep going back every summer. I think about how I learned about my love for outdoor ministry and that serving others fills my cup more than anything else. I strive to impact the lives of these children because Pastor Tim said it best in Staff Orientation in 2018 “The impact you make on a child this summer could be their favorite part of this summer, that week, that month, this year or their life”. This statement has stuck with me since and something I live by today when serving others, teaching students and coaching players.
  
- 2) A time I felt my church was there for me was when my grandfather (Walter Shealy), who was a Lutheran pastor, passed away in October of 2018. To describe how they were there for me it starts at the foundation of “there for me” moment. My pastor Ryan Lyles showed up to the funeral which was two hours away. While that may seem simple, or the right thing to do, it displays the perfect description of always there no matter the time or day. People reaching out, people coming to see me, taking me out to eat, praying for me and with me helped me more than words can describe. Pastor Lyles would make it a priority from that point on to meet up with me anytime I was home. Those conversations were much needed, some days were quieter than others, some days there were lots of laughs, some days there was grief, but all days there were deep and much needed conversations. What it did the most was help me grow in a dark time. To know my church was not only there for me, but cared and loved me, that is all anyone can want from a church. That was confirmed to me by my church being there for me in a time of an unmeasurable amount of sadness. I am forever grateful for the support and love I have always received from my church community.