

Report of Committee on Agenda and Program
(Proposed Assembly Agenda)
2024 SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD – ELCA ASSEMBLY
June 8, 2024
9AM-4PM



Like Good Stewards

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10

For our 2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly, we are excited to introduce our theme of "Like Good Stewards".

"Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen."

1 Peter 4:8-11

We will be sharing stories from across the Synod of how congregations, organizations, and individuals are being good stewards of their gifts and resources to care for creation, to give financially, and to work towards justice and peace. We believe there are many places where this stewardship overlaps – for instance a farmer in the lower part of the state that is farming in a method of caring for creation from the soil up, and then in turn uses 10% of their earnings to feed those in their community.

Synod Assembly will be Saturday, June 8th. This will be the Thirty-seventh Assembly of the South Carolina Synod – ELCA and the 199th meeting of the Lutheran Church in South Carolina! We anticipate our gathering lasting from 9am until 4:00pm.

It is important that all participants attend orientation on Friday, June 7th. While we're using the same system as in previous years, Lumi, there have been some changes in our procedures. Guests are welcome to watch the Assembly proceedings through a webcast on our SC Synod website.

Prior to this year's Assembly, we gathered online for 4 weeks of Bible study with Dr. Mark Allen Powell. To help us fully understand key votes on the proposed budget and compensation guidelines, we held two pre-assembly forums which allowed for questions

and answers specific to those votes. On June 8th, along with the general business of the synod, we will be worshipping together, and hearing from ministries from across the synod.

The Nominating Committee met on Wednesday, November 8 and have spent hours of faithful work in creating a slate of nominees for elections. We have 27 positions up for election in 2024. This team was careful in their selections, taking time to consider gifts, varied ages, roles within the church, experience, and locations across the state. We thank them for their work.

We are so excited to be able to gather with one another virtually and not only do the business of the Synod, but to hear the amazing stories of ministry going on across the Synod and learn from each other. “Like good stewards,” may we share our gifts with those around us in order to show God’s radical love and welcome to all, and may the 2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly be a time of sharing these stories, inspiring others, and getting people excited to say THIS is my church!

THE COMMITTEE ON AGENDA AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDS:

1. THAT NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR OF CANDIDATES FOR ANY ELECTIONS HELD AT THIS 2024 ASSEMBLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE REQUESTED BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON THE OFFICIAL FORM PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE;
2. THAT THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AND COUNSEL RECEIVE NO MOTIONS OR RESOLUTIONS AFTER THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024 at NOON;
3. THAT THE BAR OF THE SYNOD BE DESIGNATED AS THE REGISTERED VOTING MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN THIS ASSEMBLY;
4. THAT THE BISHOP, AS PRESIDING OFFICER, BE GIVEN AUTHORITY TO CALL FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA IN THE ORDER DEEMED APPROPRIATE, PRIMARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF TIME MANAGEMENT, AND SPECIFICALLY WITH REGARD TO BALLOTING, RESOLUTIONS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS DURING THE ASSEMBLY;
5. THAT THE PROPOSED AGENDA BE A GUIDE FOR THE 2024 ASSEMBLY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Davidson
Assembly Manager

Saturday, June 8, 2024

Session 1 – 9:00 AM-10:50 AM

Order for Opening of Assembly and Worship
Organization of Assembly
Reference and Counsel Introduction of Special Guests
Report of Synod Council (Part 1) Procedural Matters Affecting this Assembly and
Proposed Compensation Guidelines
***Nominating Committee Report**
Introduction of New Leaders of the SC Synod
Report: ELCA
Ministry Spotlights
Break

Session 2 – 10:50 AM-12:18 PM

Report of Registration
General Elections: Ballot 1 (Majority needed to elect)
Ministry Spotlights
Report of Synod Council (Part 2) Proposed Budget and Treasurer's Report
Reference and Counsel 1
Report of Synod Council (Part 3) Constitutional Matters
Report of Registration
General Elections: Ballot 2 (If needed, majority to elect)
Ministry Spotlights
200th Anniversary

Lunch Break

Session 3 – 1:05 -4:10 PM

50th Anniversary Recognition
Report: Bishop Aebischer
Reference and Counsel 2 (as needed)
Ministry Spotlights
Report: Vice President
Ministry Spotlights
Break
Installation of New Council
Closing Worship
Closing of Assembly

2024 SC Synod Assembly Committees & Volunteers

Agenda and Program Committee

Wendy Davidson, Assembly Manager
Deacon Sarah Bowers, Creative Assistant

Registration

Katherine Davidson

Worship & Music Leadership Team

The Rev. Jesse Canniff-Kuhn, Co-Chaplain

The Rev. Josh Kestner, Co-Chaplain
The Rev. Rebecca Wicker, Necrologist

Communications & A/V Technology

Neal Fischer, Director of Communications
Lumi Global

The Rev. Michele Fischer
Mrs. Celie Addy
The Rev. Lisa Isenhower

South Carolina Synod Council

Bishop Ginny Aebischer
Deacon Lexanne Graves
The Rev. Ozzie Herlong
Mr. Raymond Hendrix
Becky Koch
The Rev. Bobby Morris
Tex Davis
Virginia Herlong
Ben Bernstein
Deacon Katie Justice
Sheila Caughman
Daniel Crofts
William Newmyer

Kathy Riggin
LaVone Griffin
Mary Katherine King
The Rev. Josh Kestner
The Rev. Joanna Gragg
Hunter Prest
Jeffrey Stringer
The Rev. Rachel Hoffman
Cindy Davis
Randy Fellers
Beth Trump
Joyce Rose-Harris
The Rev. Carl Taylor

2024 New Leaders to the SC Synod

The Rev. Robb Harrell
The Rev. Ron Philabaum
The Rev. Jenny Pratt

The Rev. William Strand
Deacon Beth Barkhau
Deacon Chris St. Clair

Nominating Committee

Deacon Sandra Holland, Chair
The Rev. Carl Taylor
Elliott Cox
Linda Albert
Richard Delap
Robert Epting

Silke Pyrlik
Zach Lindler
Deacon Deborah Poole
Deacon Katie Holland
The Rev. Christopher Girardeau

Conduct of Elections Committee

The Rev. Rachel Hoffman, Co-chair
The Rev. Mike Watson, Co-chair
The Rev. Angela Jennings

Charlene Fink, Staff

Committee of Reference and Counsel

The Rev. Gregg Hoffman, Chair
The Rev. Hank Moody, Parliamentarian
The Rev. Christina Johnson
Randy Fellers

The Rev. Fred Klinker
Deacon Ashlyn Cox
The Rev. Emily Hartmann
The Rev. Ozzie Herlong

*We deeply appreciate everyone's assistance to make this Assembly possible.
Please forgive us for any names that were inadvertently left off this list.*

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly Elections

2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee

2023-2024 Terms

Deacon Sandra Holland, Chair
Deacon Katie Holland
Rev. Carl Taylor
Rev. Christopher Girardeau
Robert Epting

2024-2025 Terms

Elliott Cox
Linda Albert
Richard Delap
Robert Epting
Silke Pyrlik
Zach Lindler

Positions open for election with description summaries of responsibilities:

SYNOD COUNCIL

Terms begin after Synod Assembly. Meetings are generally schedule in June, September, December, February and April. Synod Council members have voice and vote at assemblies and are expected to attend. The Synod Council operates with internal committees. Most committees meet prior to the regular council meetings, but some may also meet at other times.

1. Lay Woman (Northern Area which includes Foothills, Heartland, and Upstate Conferences)
2. Lay Man (Central Area which includes Midlands, Saxe Gotha, and Western Conferences)
3. Lay Man (At Large)
4. Lay Woman (At Large)
5. Lay Women (POC/LOE)
6. Rostered Minister (Eastern Area which includes Amelia, Coastal, and Epiphany Conferences)
7. Rostered Minister (At Large)

COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE

The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons of whom six shall be rostered ministers and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee of Discipline for any unexpired term.

CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be rostered ministers and half shall be lay persons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection. The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and in Chapter 17 of this constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's bylaws. The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of 12 persons.

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT COMMITTEE

An Endowment Grant Committee for the South Carolina Synod Mission Endowment Fund shall consist of the Bishop of the South Carolina Synod or his/her appointee, the Treasurer of this Synod, and five members elected by the Synod Assembly. Two of the elected members shall be lay women, two shall be lay men, and one shall be an ordained minister on the roster of this Synod. The term of office for the five persons elected by the Synod Assembly to membership on this committee shall be three years; individuals so chosen may not serve more than two consecutive full terms. The members of the Endowment Grant Committee shall not receive compensation for their duties. The Endowment Grnd Committee shall be responsible to the South Carolina Synod through the Synod Council and shall provide annually a report of disbursements to the Synod Assembly.

The Endowment Grant Committee shall meet at least annually and provide the means, dates, and deadlines for grant requests, review such requests, and make recommendations for disbursements to the Synod Council through the synod's Finance Committee.

1. Lay Man
2. Lay Woman

SOUTH CAROLINA LUTHERAN RETREAT CENTERS, INC.

Members of the Board of Trustees elected by the Synod Assembly (9) and by the Board (6) may serve two consecutive three-year terms. The Board generally meets four times a year with one meeting being an overnight meeting. Members of the Board benefit the work of the ministry by being active members of committees. The Board promotes and coordinates the ministries at Kinard Conference Center and Coastal Retreat Center. It establishes goals and objectives; oversees policies; is accountable for fiscal affairs; and employs and supervises the Executive Director. Board members are to be active congregational members, skilled in interpersonal relationships, visionary, able to work cooperatively, and advocates for and financial supporters of this ministry.

1. Rostered Minister

Voting Members to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly (CWA), July 27 to August 2, 2025 in Phoenix, Arizona. Times and dates may shift for this event.

Allocation of (9) voting members using the formula, (6) of them must be lay- (5) women and (4) men. Vice president counts a lay woman. Bishop counts as rostered minister (Woman). A minimum of one of the (9) must be a person of color or person whose primary language is other than English.

A minimum of one the (9) must be a youth (a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election, June 8, 2024) or young adult (a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election, June 8, 2024).

Therefore, elect:

(3) lay men

(2) lay woman

(2) rostered ministers (pastors or deacons, one woman and one man)

In addition to the (9) persons allotted by the formula, one additional person of color or person whose language is other than English.

In addition to the (9) persons allotted by the formula, one additional youth or young adult would also be elected, for a total of (11) members.

SC SYNOD NOMINATING PROCESS

The Synod Council recommends and invites people from across the Synod to serve on the Nominating Committee. Representation is gender and clergy/lay person balanced. Committee members serve for two years. Half the committee rotates off each year. The Synod Council names the committee in September. The Nominating Committee meeting is set for mid-October/early November.

The committee members are asked to bring names of potential nominees for the specific open positions. They are encouraged to call the church leaders in their area to solicit names for nominees.

The positions open for nominations are announced in the Synod ENews which allows us to receive nominations from the general population of our Synod.

At the meeting, all names that have been received are listed for the various positions which are up for election. The Constitution is followed on how many nominees are presented for each election.

The committee considers gifts and any potential conflicts which might be present for each potential nominee. Example: Sometimes one person is brought for two different positions and the committee has to decide which position to nominate them for; we check that a person is not nominated for a position that their spouse or immediate relative is already serving in; we make sure we are not putting two people up against each other from the same congregation or nominating someone from a congregation that is already represented on that council, board or committee, etc. This conversation and discernment is surrounded in prayer.

The committee prioritizes the nominees into the order they wish to have them contacted. The committee members divide the list and call persons who have been nominated.

Nominees are sent biographical information forms with a deadline to return the completed form. The synod office tracks and follows up on nominees with the help of the committee and prepares the slate of nominees for publication in our registration materials. Biographical information is published with registration materials for voting members of Assembly.

The Nominating Committee Chair makes the report of the ballots at Assembly and we accept additional nominations from the floor.

Slate of Positions and Nominees

Biographical Information is included for those nominees who completed the form.

Synod Council – Lay Woman – Northern Area

Term Ending 2027 (Elect 1)

Norma Price

Ellen Girardeau

Position Nominated For: Synod Council – Lay Woman – Northern Area

Full Name: Norma Lavender Price

Email Address: nslprice@bellsouth.net

Mailing Address: 1019 Wallace Drive Newberry, SC 29108

Congregation: Summer Memorial

Congregation City: Newberry

Employment/Profession: Retired School Teacher and Adjunct Professor at Newberry College

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 46-60 **over 60**

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

Served on three call committees for SMLC, currently serving as President of church council for the second term, served as conveyor of Summer Memorial WELCA organization, very active in Kathryn Luther circle, taught and directed Bible School many years, currently serve on our visitation team, active on Mutual Ministry, Evangelism, and Christian Education.

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.

This is a hard question for me to answer because my church, I feel, has always been there for me. But what I feel is my most joyous memory was last May, as part of the call committee from my church, we extended a call to Pastor Rebecca Wicker. What a joy this has been as Pastor Wicker and I have worked so well together to make Summer Memorial Lutheran Church the best Lutheran church in Newberry County. We had two members of our congregation die

within two weeks of Pastor Wicker arriving, she immediately met with the families and performed one funeral and assisted family in the other funeral. We held a "Meet and Greet" and "Covered Dish Lucheon" and "wow" did my congregation make both of those festive, joyous, and heavily attended!

Summer Memorial Lutheran Church may be a small mill village church on Milligan Street, but we have a lot going on and I am so proud to be a part of this congregation.

I conclude by saying I feel I am a hard worker and would love to serve the Synod in any capacity that I am asked to serve.

Position Nominated For: Synod Council – Lay Woman – Northern Area

Full Name: Ellen Sharp Girardeau

Email Address: ellengirardeau1@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 1026 E Meadow Dr, Lancaster, SC 29720

Congregation: Reformation

Congregation City: Lancaster

Employment/Profession: Stay-at-home mom to Arthur (2.5 year-old boy)

Age Range:	Under 30	30-45	46-60	over 60
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Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

- Grace Lutheran Church School of St Petersburg FL, Spanish teacher, 2014
- University Lutheran Church of Clemson SC, ecumenical youth group leader, 2016
- Providence Lutheran Church of Lexington SC, secretary, 2017
- Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Columbia SC, mail clerk, 2018
- Living Springs Lutheran Church of Columbia SC, elementary school youth group leader and children's worship space coordinator, 2019
- Trinity Ecumenical Parish of Moneta VA, nursery worker, 2020
- Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Columbia SC, Spiritual Direction program administrative assistant, 2021

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.**

The women at my current congregation organized a baby shower for me, which took place in our fellowship hall as soon as my husband began preaching there part-time, almost three years ago. The event was especially meaningful because the planners put forth a lot of effort into creating a lovely gathering, despite the fact that they didn't know me at that point in time.

I love that I just recently had the chance to help plan a similar shower in the same space for another mom-to-be! Reformation has given me several opportunities to use my gifts as a wannabe party planner over the last three years, and I am overjoyed by the other ways they have made my son feel welcome.

Synod Council – Rostered Minister – At Large
Term Ending 2027 (Elect 1)
Bobby Morris
Megan Lineberger

Position Nominated For: Synod Council – Rostered Minister – At Large

Full Name: Megan Lineberger

Email Address: pastormegan17@gmail.com

Mailing Address: PO Box 367, White Rock, SC 29177

Congregation: Bethel Lutheran

Congregation City: White Rock

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range: Under 30 **30-45** 46-60 over 60

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

- SC Lutheran Church Youth Treasurer 2002-2003
- SC Lutheran Church Youth President 2003-2004

- SC Synod Council Youth Representative 2001-2004
- Lutheridge Counselor 2005, 2006; Lutheridge Senior Staff 2007
- Youth and Family Ministry- St. John's Lutheran, Cherryville, NC 2008-2013
- Trinity Lutheran Church Pastoral Internship 2015-2016
- Associate Pastor- Lutheran Church of Redeemer 2017-2021
- Charleston Area Justice Ministries 2018-2021
- SC Synod Deepening Discipleship Table Convener 2021-2023
- Lutheran Services Carolinas Foster Program 2023-current

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.***

One of my more recent joyous memories from my current faith community is when Bethel installed our Little Free Library. The project began as a small idea of a few, and grew into a project that included our Lutheran men (visioning and building), youth (painting), outreach team (facilitating and supporting), Girl Scouts (donating a bench to stop by and read), and so many others. We hosted an event with former USC authors reading stories and celebrating the important gifts of reading/literacy and community. I believe we are living into God's vision for the kingdom when church and community work together. The Little Library is a simple way we connect with our neighbors and an example of how meaningful it is when we all work together for a common goal.

Synod Council – Lay Man – Central Area
Term Ending 2027 (Elect 1)
Tex Davis
Russell Pye

Position Nominated For: Synod Council – Lay Man – Central Area

Full Name: Tex Davis

Email Address: gamecockpoppa@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 125 Heatherfield Drive, West Columbia S.C.

Congregation: Mt. Tabor

Congregation City: West Columbia

Employment/Profession: Attorney

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 **46-60** over 60

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

I initially served on Mt. Tabor's Church Council from 2014-2017. In 2017, I served as Council President. I was elected once again to Church Council in 2023. I currently serve as Treasurer. From 2019 to 2020, I served on the SC Synod Nominating Committee (2020 - Chair). In 2021, I was elected to SC Synod Council. I have also served on the Synod Council Executive Committee from 2022-2024.

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.***

My family and I joined the ELCA faith community in 2008. Each of my family members has been able to find his or her own niche. Be it music for my wife or youth activities for my children. My faith community at Mt. Tabor and through the SC Synod have walked with me through many highs and lows. I am grateful to the many wonderful people who I have gotten to know and who have helped me groom in my faith. I would be honored to continue to serve the SC Synod on Church Council.

Synod Council – Lay Woman – At Large
Term Ending 2027 (Elect 1)
Nancy Appel
Colleen Hilton

Synod Council – Lay Man – At Large
Term Ending 2027 (Elect 1)
Bernie Lee
David Bouknight

Position Nominated For: Synod Council – Lay Man – At Large

Full Name: Bernie Lee

Email Address: franandbernie@hotmail.com

Mailing Address: 169 Morgan Dr., Lexington SC 29072-3903

Congregation: St. David

Congregation City: West Columbia

Employment/Profession: Retired Major, USAF; Retired OSHA Officer II, SC Budget and Control Board

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 46-60 **over 60**

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

- High School Youth Sunday School Teacher (Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Warner Robins GA; 1990-1991)
- Member of St. David Lutheran Church (1994-present)
- Confirmation Teacher (1995-1996)
- Adult Sunday School Teacher (1999-2008)
- Sunday School Secretary (2008-2018)
- Worship Assistant (2010-2012)
- Lector
- Church Council, Secretary (2008-2009) and President (2009, 2010, 2018 & 2019)
 - Assisted Interim Pastor in Call Process and coordinated with Bishop Yoos and then Asst. to the Bishop, Ginny Aebischer, on our Ministry Site Profile (2018-2019) in calling current pastor
- Committee to Update the St. David Constitution (2016-2019)
- Editor of St. David E-Newsletter (2018-2021)
- Synod Communicator for St. David (2017-2020)
- Young-At-Heart (2010-Current)
- Lutheran Men & Committee of 100 (Current)
- Cemetery Committee, Chair (2014-Current)
 - Acknowledge Memorials (2016-2023)
- OTHER INFORMATION:
- Neighborhood Watch, Block Captain (2009-2018)
- Grandparents Camp at Lutheridge NC (2019-Current)
- American Red Cross:
 - Blood Donor since 2004 (10+ gallons)
 - Blood Drive Coordinator for St. David (2016-Current)
 - Volunteer Blood Transportation Specialist (2016-2023)
 - Volunteer Blood Ambassador, Regional Office (2024-Current)
- Hobby - Read Books
- 1975 Graduate of Newberry College

- Married to Fran Shull (June 5th, 1976, at St. David Lutheran Church, West Columbia SC)
- 2 Sons (one is Pastor Jason Lee, St. Philip, Myrtle Beach), 1 Daughter & 6 Grandchildren

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.***

Not having grown up in the church, when some high school friends shared what Jesus meant to them, I was baptized soon thereafter. Jesus walked beside me through several schools and led me to my wife and first and second careers. I learned how to serve others by living with my grandparents for three years, being a husband, a father and a grandfather, and educating and working with fellow employees, customers and church members. When my wife's cousin was killed in Iraq, I started donating blood in his memory and volunteered with the Red Cross; I still do. When my parents passed, I was so consoled by church members I now return that comfort the best I can as Chair of our Cemetery in assisting with final arrangements. Thanks to Him for the talents and life given to me.

Synod Council – Rostered Minister – Eastern Area
Term Ending 2027 (Elect 1)
Christina Johnson
Mary Finklea

Position Nominated For: Synod Council – Rostered Minister – Eastern Area

Full Name: Christina Johnson

Email Address: pastorchristina024@icloud.com

Mailing Address: 4486 Mandi Ave. Little River, SC 29566

Congregation: King of Glory

Congregation City: North Myrtle Beach

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 **46-60** over 60

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

- King of Glory Lutheran church 2021-Present
- ELCA – Churchwide offices 2008-2021
- St. Mark Lutheran church 2019-2021
- Prince of Peace Lutheran church 2017-2019
- Good Shepherd Lutheran church 2015-2017

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.***

Firstly, I must profess my love for Jesus Christ and feel the Holy Spirit led me to South Carolina, which is my home, and to King of Glory Lutheran Church. I have faith in the people of the church, a love for the fellowship of the people who enter the doors, and a commitment to share God's love through supporting others. My prayer is for the continued growth of the church and for the social ministries we provide to our community. Additionally, I pray for the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to provide me with the spiritual gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and faith according to God's will for my life (1 Corinthians).

I am a cradle Lutheran I have the unique experience of growing up in the Lutheran and Jewish faiths.

Amidst my earlier faith journey, I studied the bible for ten years, with 200 women at the local suburban ecumenical Community Church. The bible study consisted of weekly lectures, and homework questions that we discussed at length. I found it very interesting to hear the different perspectives of women from other faiths. Some were more open to being free in Christ than the other guilt ridden, have to pay the way to heaven thinkers. The faith community of CBS and St. Paul Lutheran church has supported me through my then nine-year-old son Jacob when he was hit by a car. They provided prayer, food, babysitting my other three children, and emotional support while Jacob went through physical therapy and healing. I would not have made it through that chapter of life without them in our lives.

This biblical study opened my heart to a passion of Experiential Worship; otherwise known as Post Modern Christianity. I was one of five on a team of experiential free-spirited people who, with our pastor, helped to start from scratch, to support and plan an inclusive Experiential/Post Modern worship service called "Kindred". We were creative in our outreach and included the community with door-to-door personal invitations. Among many other activities a Halloween Fall Festival and musical concerts were open and free to the community to help build relationships.

We did not discriminate, for many people of various ages, gender and religions attended our weekly Kindred services. Kindred included the sacrament, dancing, healing oil, prayer stations and contemporary music. With the focus of we're all connected and threaded together, I learned that in serving others I have to be open to the Spirit of God and free myself from my own inner agenda.

While working for the ELCA Churchwide offices I had an opportunity to take classes and events at the Lutheran Center, such as Mentoring, Inner Strength, and Leadership, mission developer training, grief coaching certification, coaching 1 and 2 certification, boundary training, behavioral interview training, innovation, and design thinking training, and much more accumulating to over 100+ hours of training outside of 7 ½ yrs. of seminary at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. I have been trained and educated in the 21 Century way of ministry which is relationship focused and theologically sound in the latest teachings. The inner community of the congregation and the surrounding community is my priority and desire to build relationships. Theological commentaries and books are my passion, along with people in community to share God's love for each other and the world are my passions.

In one event, on the 11th floor conference room, I met a woman at the well, really it was the coffee counter☺. She and I had a long conversation about my life journey, my ministry, and my involvement in preparation for experiential Kindred worships services. In the conversation she says to me "I think you have a call". To my amazement I couldn't figure out how she could hear my cell phone ringing in my purse halfway across the room. No, she says, "Not a call from your cell phone, but from Jesus". Thus started the search at my synod office with conversations with the bishop for what path could be right for me and my call.

I always want to be a pastor from a very young age and my faith community, Trinity Lutheran church provided the lifelong learnings and tool kit for me to attend seminary. I grew up as a cradle Lutheran in the Lutheran church with a very large youth group, Sunday school and Awana. My mother was Swedish Lutheran, and my dad was a German Jew. My five siblings and I grew up next door to my Jewish grandmother and learned very early on the ecumenical values of ethnicity, religious denominations and the importance of community acceptance and building trust.

My faith community supports me in my extroverted personality, I love to be around good people that love each other well and love Jesus the most. Mark 10:43 teaches me that "Let the one who would be great among you be your servant. The education I have received has prepared me for the role of pastor, but the call to serve comes from God. Again, thank you for your consideration as rostered minister for the South Carolina synod council.

Position Nominated For: Synod Council – Rostered Minister – Eastern Area

Full Name: Mary Mappus Finklea

Email Address: Pastorfinklea@bellsouth.net

Mailing Address: 1800 Bishop Drive, Florence, SC 29505

Congregation: Cross and Crown

Congregation City: Florence

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range: Under 30 **30-45** 46-60 over 60

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

- Lutheran Services Carolinas, Board Member, 2007- current
- Eastern Carolina Community Foundation, former Board Chair, 2021
- Women In Philanthropy, former President, 2019
- Lutheran Ecumenical and Interfaith Representative Network, various roles as member, board member, vice president, for approximate years 2008-2020
- Other community organization board service for Mercy Medicine, Lighthouse Ministries, and the Florence chapter of League of Women Voters

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.***

A joy filled moment for me occurred recently at Alumni Day at LTSS. To gather with friends and respected colleagues in the chapel and once again raise our voices in song and worship really feels like a foretaste of the feast to come. Having the assembly boldly sing songs of faith always boosts my spirit and warms my heart.

**Committee on Discipline – Rostered Minister - Man
Term Ending 2030 (Elect 1)
Christopher Shealy
Christopher Girardeau**

Position Nominated For: Committee on Discipline – Rostered Minister – Man

Full Name: Christopher D. Shealy

Email Address: cshealy88@gmail.com

Mailing Address: PO Box 1087, Prosperity SC 29127

Congregation: Mt. Hebron

Congregation City: Leesville

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range: Under 30 **30-45** 46-60 over 60

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

- *Newberry Community Choir (2001-5, 2009-17)
- *regular blood donor (2005-present)
- *adult Sunday School teacher (~2010-7)
- *Relay for Life volunteer / team member / captain (2010-7)
- *SC synod assembly delegate (2011-2, 2014-7, 2020-3)
- *church council (2011-3)
- *Care & Fellowship team member / chair (~2011-5)
- *VBS music leader, classroom teacher (~2012-6)
- *intern at Grace Lutheran, Boone NC (2019-2020)
- *pastor at Mt. Hebron, Leesville SC (2021-present)

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.***

I have two very joyous memories that I'll share. The first comes from December 2021, my first winter at Mt. Hebron. I was leading Christmas Eve worship, and as the service came to a close, we dimmed the lights in the sanctuary, everyone lit their candles, and we all joined in singing "Silent Night." It was beautiful. I walked away from the front of the church and joined my wife in the pew. We got to sing together, out of the same hymnal, for a few brief moments. For me, it was the best part of the service. My second memory comes from this past fall. Mt. Hebron celebrated 125 years of ministry! And, we had 125 people in attendance for our big worship

service - about three times the average for Sunday morning! Bishop Aebischer was in attendance and gave a wonderful message. Having a "packed house," seeing all the smiling faces, talking with everyone, serving communion to all those people - it was a very joyous occasion.

There have been many times when the church was there for me - how do I pick just one? I'll briefly mention 2008, when both grandparents on my Dad's side died five months apart. In each case, the church was there for me and my family: lifting us up in prayer, calling us, visiting us, sending us cards, providing us food (so many casseroles!), and in general getting us through such a tough time.

Position Nominated For: Committee on Discipline – Rostered Minister – Man

Full Name: Christopher Daniel Girardeau

Email Address: christopher.girardeau@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 1026 E Meadow Dr, Lancaster SC 29720

Congregation: Reformation

Congregation City: Lancaster

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range:	Under 30	30-45	46-60	over 60
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Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

MORE Justice Member, Columbia SC (2017—2021); 315th Airlift Wing First Sergeant Council Member, JB Charleston SC (2019—Present); SC Synod Inclusiveness Network (2021—Present); SC Synod Gender and Sexuality Justice Task Force Founder and Chair (2022—Present); SC Synod Nominating Committee (2022—Present); Co-Instructor of "Debunking the Clobber Passages: An Ecumenical Seminar" (2023); Worship Leader: Region 9 First Call Stewardship Retreat (2023); Worship Leader: House Band, 2023 SC Synod Assembly (2023); Worship Leader: Kairos Confirmation Camp (2023); Lutheridge 75th Birthday Capital Appeal, Alumni Gifts Team Member (2024); ELCA Youth Gathering, Community Life Team (2024); Lancaster Rotary Club Chaplain (2024—Present)

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.***

One of my most joyous memories from my faith community is also one of the most profoundly difficult times as well. In November of 2022, my dad passed away suddenly. I was just on the cusp of my first year anniversary as an ordained pastor and his death felt like the earth disappeared underneath my feet. I was not only at a loss for words and at a loss for what to do. Thankfully, this is where the Body of Christ shows up best.

Instead of feeling frazzled and strained to fulfill my role as a pastor, my congregation immediately jumped into action to cover for me so that I could concentrate on grieving and being with my family.

That, of course, would've been more than enough kindness, but they went above and beyond to care for me and my family—they prayed for us, cooked us meals, offered to do errands, and sent flowers to the funeral; multiple congregation members even drove almost 4 hours, round-trip, to be there at my dad's funeral, offering love and support. I cannot overstate how much I needed and appreciate their kindness and love during that time.

Furthermore, the Body of Christ is not just confined to one congregation; it is truly more ever-present than we can actually realise. The amount of outpoured love that I experienced during that time from family, friends, synodical colleagues, and ecumenical siblings was an integral part of me making it through that time in a healthy way.

It seems that in profound vulnerability, we are able to experience profound love. It seems to me that God is loving relationship itself; and our relationships, necessarily, are where we experience love at its fullest.

Relationships matter. Relationships are everything. Relationships are where we fully experience God.

Committee on Discipline – Rostered Minister - Woman
Term Ending 2030 (Elect 1)
Rebecca Lord Phillips
Mary Anderson

Position Nominated For: Committee on Discipline – Rostered Minister – Woman

Full Name: Rebecca Lord-Phillips

Email Address: Pastorlordphillips@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 103 Randy Drive Taylors SC 29687

Congregation: St. Michael

Congregation City: Greenville

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range: Under 30 **30-45** 46-60 over 60

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

Associate pastor at Grace Lutheran Rock Hill SC June 2015-April 2018, Pastor for Christ the King Lutheran March 2021-February 2024

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.***

One of the things that brings me joy about St. Micheal is how naturally intergenerational relationships are formed. It's normal to see a fussy baby passed to another pew to be cooed and calmed. Teens and adults alike are happy to stop and listen to a child talk about their toy, and make them feel heard. Each Sunday is a joyous memory of a demonstration of how faith is shared and modeled in a loving family of faith.

Position Nominated For: Committee on Discipline – Rostered Minister – Woman

Full Name: Mary W. Anderson

Email Address: mwanderson140@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 140 Shuler Rd. Columbia, SC 29212

Congregation: St. Michael's

Congregation City: Columbia

Employment/Profession: SC Synod Interim Pastor at Pilgrim, Lexington

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 46-60 **over 60**

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

I serve the SC Synod as a called interim pastor and am now serving my second year at Pilgrim Lutheran in Lexington. In Region 9 of the ELCA, I serve as a consultant and teacher in the ministry areas of preaching and church administration. My on-line ministry provides weekly Bible studies, the Ponder Anew blog, and the You're On Mute podcast. In the Columbia community, I serve as an elementary school reading tutor and as the chaplain at Transitions, the Homeless Recovery Center. I have been a pastor in rural and urban settings in South Carolina and Metro Chicago Synods for the past 41 years.

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.***

As a lifelong Lutheran and a long-time pastor, I have been involved in the life of eleven different congregations at this point in my life. For me, my faith community consists of Lutherans around the globe. I treasure the church we share for the sake of the world. Visiting Bethlehem in Palestine a few years ago, I was overjoyed to see how the passionate efforts of some of my parishioners to support Lutheran Palestinians had borne much fruit in the beautiful new Lutheran university there. I was brought to tears at seeing the signs outside of classrooms thanking the generous stewards who made them possible. There I saw the names of congregations I knew well, friends here in South Carolina, and seminary classmates. Once I retire, my hope is to return to serve as a volunteer at the University.

Committee on Discipline – Lay Man
Term Ending 2030 (Elect 1)
Ashley Leaphart
Fred Baus

Position Nominated For: Committee on Discipline – Lay Man

Full Name: Ashley R. Leaphart

Email Address: arleaphart@icloud.com

Mailing Address: 411 Bernard St, Leesville, SC 29070-7858

Congregation: Grace

Congregation City: Gilbert

Employment/Profession: Pharmacist

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 **46-60** over 60

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

- Call Committee
 - Church Council (President, Vice President, and Secretary)
 - Stewardship Committee (Chairperson)
 - South Carolina Synod Communicator
 - Worship and Music Committee (Chairperson)
-
- American Red Cross – Volunteer Blood Donor (1994 – Present)
 - Arts on the Ridge - Volunteer (2017 – Present)
 - Batesburg-Leesville Chamber of Commerce – Board Member (2023 – Present)
 - Batesburg-Leesville Summer Literacy Program – Volunteer Reader (2023 – Present)
 - South Carolina Poultry Festival - Volunteer (1987 – Present)

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.***

In 2007, an older member of our congregation knew that I liked to attend concerts. She called me one evening to see if I was planning to attend the concert of a world-renowned artist who was coming to The Colonial Center (currently known as Colonial Life Arena). Although I had no previous intention to attend the concert, I politely told her that I had not yet purchased tickets while simultaneously asking her if she and her husband would like to go to the concert. She immediately gave an affirmative response to my offer to take them to the concert.

I picked them up at their home and we enjoyed supper at a local restaurant prior to the concert. She was eagerly anticipating seeing and hearing the artist in person that she had only previously seen on SCETV. Although she was in her eighties her enthusiasm was comparable to a teenager at their first official concert. You can only imagine the smile on her face when the artist finally appeared on stage. She and her husband (who was also in his eighties) even danced together in the aisle that night.

She thanked me multiple times afterwards for taking them to the concert. However, I should have honestly been thanking them for the blessing they shared with me that night. It was indeed a blessing to witness their personification of God's love in a simple waltz in the aisle!

Position Nominated For: Committee on Discipline – Lay Man

Full Name: Frederick Baus (Fred)

Email Address: fbaus@bellsouth.net

Mailing Address: 302 River Walk Drive, Simpsonville SC 29681

Congregation: St. Michael

Congregation City: Greenville

Employment/Profession: Higher Education Association CEO - retired

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 46-60 over 60

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

Numerous committees and councils at the congregational level, e.g.,
Congregation Council - Trinity Lutheran Worcester MA, 2004-2006; St Michael Lutheran Greenville SC, current
Stewardship - Trinity LC Worcester MA 2002-2004; St. Michael Greenville SC, current
Strategic Planning Committee - Trinity Lutheran MA 2004-2006
Pastoral Call Committee - Trinity Lutheran MA 2004

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.***

Perhaps "joyous" is not the right term. During my time at Trinity Lutheran Church in Massachusetts we had gone through an ELCA education program regarding the LGBTQIA issue. When I served on the Call Committee, the Bishop of the New England Synod sent us a candidate who was gay. I had the opportunity to host him in our home for a meal to get to know him and his faith journey and the challenges he faced. Throughout the call process I got to understand the complex issues, both pro and con, that represented congregation members' positions and the call possibility. The committee recommended extending the call unanimously. Approval required a 2/3 majority vote by the congregation. The result was 62 percent for and 38 percent against. It was a divisive issue with many congregants on both sides of the issue leaving the church. While it may not have been a "joyous" experience, it taught me patience and respect for the many ways our faith confronts real issues in a complex world. I would say the experience "energized" my faith journey.

Committee on Discipline – Lay Woman
Term Ending 2030 (Elect 1)
Karen Kasting
Shanna Cisson

Position Nominated For: Committee on Discipline – Lay Woman

Full Name: Karen Kasting

Email Address: kkasting@ymail.com

Mailing Address: 2026 Harvest Lane #89 Charlotte NC 28210

Congregation: Crossroads

Congregation City: Fort Mill

Employment/Profession: Logistics

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 **46-60** over 60

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

Council VP, Sunday School Leader, Retreat Leader

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.**

Since my mother's death in 2021, I have been surrounded with a loving faith community that feels like family.

Position Nominated For: Committee on Discipline – Lay Woman

Full Name: Shanna Cisson

Email Address: shanna.cisson@outlook.com

Mailing Address: 414 2nd Avenue South, Trl 43, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Congregation: St. Philip

Congregation City: Myrtle Beach

Employment/Profession: Community Manager, HOA Properties

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 46-60 over 60

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

Member of St. Philip congregation since 2/2012; Sunday School teacher, VBS coordinator and Group Leader; Council Member (5 years); Mission and Outreach Committee member; Feeding the Homeless Committee Leader and member; WELCA Leader and participant; Lector; and Sabbatical Committee Leader.

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.**

The first time I walked into St. Philip's, it was Christmas, 2011, with my husband. As we lined up to leave the service, a member of the church turned to me and asked, 'how does it feel to be the youngest person here?'. I honestly had not noticed this because everyone was so friendly and gave us such a warm welcome as we entered. My husband and I both felt at home immediately. Unfortunately, about 2 months later, my husband passed away. I had no hesitation in walking into St. Philip alone because I knew I was welcomed there. It truly is a church family. I have made suggestions in Council meetings and in other church meetings that may have raised some eyebrows, but I was given the "green light" to try them. One suggestion, which has turned out to be quite successful, is Feeding the Homeless once a month in our Fellowship Hall. This program gets the whole church family involved and Pastor Jason Lee has been very instrumental in keeping the program going with online sign-up sheets and preaching from the pulpit the importance of the program. I've been helping to plan Pastor Lee's upcoming sabbatical and am working with the SC Synod on promoting events during his time away. I am currently part owner of a community property management company in Myrtle Beach where we help manage HOA's and their members. Following recorded rules and regulations are key to managing HOA's as well as communicating with the homeowners. I've been doing this type of work for over 10 years, and I feel communicating with others is one of my strongest attributes.

Consultation Committee – Rostered Minister - Man

Term Ending 2030 (Elect 1)
Nathan Rice
William Strand

Position Nominated For: Consultation Committee – Rostered Minister - Man

Full Name: Nathan Joseph Rice

Email Address: pastor.nathan@slc.org

Mailing Address: 312 Upshur Ct. Summerville SC 29485

Congregation: St. Luke's

Congregation City: Summerville

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range: Under 30 **30-45** 46-60 over 60

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

- Coastal Conference Dean: 2020-2023
- SC Synod Assembly Chaplain: 2022
- Summerville Area Churches Thanksgiving Basket Project: 2014-Present
- Home of Hope Board Member (Men's Homeless Shelter - Summerville): 2015-2018
- SC Synod Community Outreach Network: 2013-2020
- SC Synod Public Education Task Force: 2013-2020
- Pastor - St. Luke's Lutheran Church: 2014 - Present
- Pastor - St. Jame's Lutheran Church: 2008-2013
- Pastor - NVSV Lutheran Parish: 2005-2008

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.***

One of my most joyous memories from serving at St. Luke's happened on Palm Sunday during the pandemic. Following our outdoor worship the congregation voted unanimously to move forward with building our Family Life Center. As a pastor, it was a joy to see the congregation embrace our mission of "Building Disciples Together With God" in the midst of uncertain times. What a faith filled moments by the entire congregation.

Their certainty and faith in the mission we share together has given me strength on numerous occasions when difficult decisions had to be made. I am thankful for their witness.

Position Nominated For: Consultation Committee – Rostered Minister - Man

Full Name: William Strand

Email Address: wstrand001@luthersem.edu

Mailing Address: 9560 Denny Hwy

Congregation: St. Mark's and Corinth Lutheran Churches **Congregation City:** Prosperity

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range: **Under 30** 30-45 46-60 over 60

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

Intern, Bethlehem and Trinity Lutheran Churches July 2021- June 2022; On-Call Chaplain, St. Mary's Medical Center June 2022- April 2023; Christian Education Coordinator April 2023- July 2023; Pastor, St. Mark's and Corinth July 2023-current

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.***

My faith community as a whole has been there for me all my life, but in particular, Messiah Lutheran Church (my first church and sending parish) during my candidacy was a constant place of support. They helped me and others pay for seminary, and when I needed to transfer seminaries and go to school online, they gave me a desk in the church library for a quiet place to work. Offering me access to the resources there and, of course, from the other ministers at work in the church. They also supported me as a location to complete my Contextual Education in preparation for the Internship. After a significant life event, I had to leave my post as an on-call chaplain; they gave me a job to help coordinate their youth and prepare them to call a

rostered minister for families. I am blessed to have them and the greater community there for me.

Consultation Committee – Rostered Minister - Woman

Term Ending 2030 (Elect 1)

Rachel Connelly

Elise Stringer

Consultation Committee – Lay Man

Term Ending 2030 (Elect 1)

Craig Wheatley

Calvin Harmon

Position Nominated For: Consultation Committee – Lay Man

Full Name: Calvin C Harmon

Email Address: charmon@charmonlaw.com

Mailing Address: 2496 Poole Rd., Greer, SC 29651

Congregation: Trinity

Congregation City: Greenville

Employment/Profession: Attorney/Mediator

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 46-60 over 60

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

Grew up at St. Peter's Lutheran Church (when still ELCA) - confirmed by Pastor Dermon Sox in 1969 - Youth Leader; Later served in various roles in the Episcopal and Methodist Churches; Attended Christ the King Lutheran Church Greenville from approximately 2002 - 2017 — served as Youth SS Teacher several years; served as Lay Leader and Communion Assistant; Served as Habitat for Humanity Leader for approximately 12 years ; served on Church Council; Attended Trinity Lutheran Church from from approximately 2017 - present.

Served on stewardship and outreach Committees, currently serving on Church Council for third year - also serving as Usher and Lay reader (greeter before). Leader of men's Reflection Group for third year - also involved with Habitat for Humanity.

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.***

I take extreme joy every week when I welcome members and visitors to our Church. I am proud to be a church that welcomes everyone (without exception) with a handshake or hug (or kind words). I know that everyone leaves with love for our Lord in their hearts and joy on their faces.

My church is always there for my family and me! I remember attending an ally program one evening not long after I began attending Trinity (when I may not have really understood what loving everyone without exception really meant). An older couple told their story of how their son had been displaying gay tendencies over the past years. They did everything in their power to change their child (spending much money on counselors and doctors to try to “change” their son. Tears rolled down my face as they told their story that ended with their child committing suicide because of his non acceptance by society. They also expressed how it was necessary for them, as parents “to come out” as well! From that night forward, I have felt love for everyone without exception (because you just never know where some one has been, especially those on the margins). I acknowledge that I am a privileged white male (but I also accept all of God’s children as equals).

Consultation Committee – Lay Woman
Term Ending 2030 (Elect 1)
Mary Ann Shealy
Silke Pyrlik

Position Nominated For: Consultation Committee – Lay Woman

Full Name: Mary Ann Shealy

Email Address: Mashealy58@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 2346 Shull’s Fork Road, Gilbert, SC 29054

Congregation: Wittenburg

Congregation City: Batesville-Leesville

Employment/Profession: Organist/pianist, otherwise retired

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 46-60 over 60

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

President of Lutheran Church Women of SC (1984-86), Churchwide LCW executive board (1990s), Chairperson of LCA Division for Higher Education and Schools (1990s) first Vice-President of SC ELCA Synod, SC delegate to churchwide assemblies through the years, served as musician for ten Global Mission Events throughout the years, musician for Wittenberg early church service (currently), chairperson of Wittenberg PreSchool Committee (currently), substitute organist (currently).

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.***

One of my greatest blessings in my entire life is having been born into a pastor's family. I saw first hand what it meant to serve others joyfully, to experience the love and care of congregations that my dad served, to live and grow in a Christ-filled home. It has been my privilege to have been a member of six congregations in my growing up years. Since marrying, I have been a member of that many more congregations. I thank God for these experiences that have nurtured my growth in Him!

Position Nominated For: Consultation Committee – Lay Woman

Full Name: Silke Pyrlík

Email Address: silkepyrlik@clchhi.com

Mailing Address: 96 Mathews Dr., Apt 96, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926

Congregation: Christ Lutheran

Congregation City: Hilton Head Island

Employment/Profession: Director of Spiritual Formation/ Spiritual Director

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 **46-60** over 60

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

- 2007-2009 Christ Lutheran Church Council President
- 2009- ongoing Christ Lutheran Church, Director of Spiritual Formation
- 2017-2019 LTSS Spiritual Direction Certification Program

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.***

In 2007 I found a home away from home (I am German) when I joined Christ Lutheran Church. Being a part of a church that was so very similar to my home church in Germany was very comforting at a time where I had difficulties adjusting to the (for me) very strange life in the USA. The following years, especially being employed by my church, provided ample opportunity for spiritual growth through good times and bad times.

In 2019 my husband was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and passed away 7 months after the diagnosis, our son was still in high school.

My church has been very supportive, understanding and loving throughout the whole process. I had the whole congregation, and especially our then interim pastor Mary Anderson, standing behind me, lifting me up and giving me the time I needed to cope with the tremendous loss. My very strong, never wavering faith and my church carried me through this transformative time and I will be forever grateful.

In the meantime I am remarried and I give God all the glory for the wonderful, caring supportive and loving husband by my side to journey with me through the second half of life.

Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee – Lay Man
Term Ending 2027 (Elect 1)
Danny Koon
David Potts

Position Nominated For: Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee – Lay Man

Full Name: Daniel H. (Dan) Koon

Email Address: Dhkoon100@yahoo.com

Mailing Address: 2272 North Lake Dr. Columbia, SC 29212

Congregation: Bethlehem

Congregation City: Irmo

Employment/Profession: Retired Deputy Commissioner of the SC Human Affairs Commission

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 46-60 **over 60**

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

- SC Synod Mission Endowment Fund 2021-2023
- SC Synod Inclusive Network -2024
- SC Lutheran Retreat Centers Board Member 2003-2008
- Newberry College Alumni Association President and Board of Trustees 2002-2004
- Coordinator of the Midlands Crop Walk Against Hunger 1995-2000
- Midlands Conference of Lutheran Churches Coordinator for Building of 2 Lutheran Habitat for Humanity Homes
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Vice Chair 2023-24
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Worship Assistant, Lay Communion Assistant and member of the Social Ministry, Education and Stewardship Teams- Present

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.***

While I have many joyous memories of being a part of a faith community, I think the most impactful was attending a Lutheran School, Newberry College. Having the opportunity to study the Bible in a scholarly manner led me to a greater understanding of God's work for social justice and love for all people. The opportunity to look at Old and New Testament teachings through the eyes of wonderful professors who lived their lives of faith, led me to my life long career of promoting social justice at the SC Human Affairs Commission, whose mission is to prevent and eliminate discrimination and to foster good will among all people. The SC Synod supports many wonderful institutions that provide various ministries, and one of those institutions, Newberry College, was there for me.

Position Nominated For: Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee – Lay Man

Full Name: David W. Potts

Email Address: davepotts311@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 311 Cicle Drive, Townville, SC 29689

Congregation: Trinity

Congregation City: Greenville

Employment/Profession: Retired, HIV physician

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 46-60 over 60

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

- Synod, Lutheran Family services in 70s
- Church Council twice 90s and 2010
- Multiple Church committees
- Leader Afghan family support team 2022 current
- Active in AID Upstate since its inception in 1988 to current

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.***

Trinity has been an important part of my life and faith story since the early 80s. Married there, children baptized there, supported by faith family in all aspect of our lives. During time of great stress and depression over issues involving one of our children Trinity with the help of the Lord allowed us to give the issues to the Lord and free ourselves of the day to day anxiety. Both our child and we have done much better.

**Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee – Lay Woman
Term Ending 2027 (Elect 1)
Katrina Bernsdorff
Lura Godfrey**

Position Nominated For: Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee – Lay Woman

Full Name: Lura DiAntonio Godfrey

Email Address: luradg@charter.net

Mailing Address: 313 W Stone Ave Greenville, SC 29609

Congregation: Trinity **Congregation City:** Greenville

Employment/Profession: Architect/Owner- LMG Architects

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 **46-60** over 60

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

2016 SC Synod Gathering Attendee

Service at Trinity Lutheran Church:

Current- Property Committee, Love Wins Group, GOAL Participant

Past: Church Council 2015-2017; Outreach Committee 2015-2018; Education Committee 2019-2020; Backpack Buddies 2013-2019; Creation Care Team 2016-2019; Interfaith Hospitality Network Volunteer; Women's Bible Study & Fellowship Group; Leader of installation of new church playground 2012

Community Service:

Current- Board Member Rebuild Upstate; Architect for Pickens County Habitat for Humanity; Architect for Homes of Hope; Member of Historic Review Board for City of Greenville; PTA President Greenville Middle Academy; American Institute of Architects

Past- PTA President for Stone Academy; Stone Academy PTA VP of Health and Safety; Coordinator for Safe Routes to School; Health Fair Chair; Book Fair Chair

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.***

Pre-Covid, my family was actively involved in a ministry called Backpack Buddies at Trinity Lutheran, providing weekend food for kids at our nearby public schools. Pastor Susan Crowell at Trinity new my love of hands on serving, especially in this way, because as a child, my family would pack Christmas bags of food for families through Goodfellows. It didn't feel like Christmas to me until we had packed those bags! As a parent, I was so grateful and excited to assist with the Backpack Buddies program at Trinity. Our family would pack bags once a month with our closest family friends at church. Later that week, some of those bags would be delivered to kids at our boys' school to be taken home over the weekend. Talk about full circle! I am so grateful to have been a part of this IMPORTANT ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church!

**South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers – Rostered Minister
Term Ending 2027 (Elect 1)**

**Rebecca Wicker
David Coffman**

Position Nominated For: South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers – Rostered Minister

Full Name: Rebecca Wicker

Email Address: pastor@summerlutheran.org

Mailing Address: 1609 Milligan Street, Newberry, SC 29108

Congregation: Summer Memorial

Congregation City: Newberry

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range: Under 30 **30-45** 46-60 over 60

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

Current board member for SCLRC, 2021-present; adjunct professor of Religion at Newberry College, fall 2023 - present; volunteer for Interfaith Community Services, Newberry 2024; former Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) liaison for SC Synod Global Mission Table, spring 2017 - fall 2018

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.***

This past year, I moved to a new call at Summer Memorial. It's been a joy to get to know the people of Summer and see their willingness to try new things and welcome new ideas. But most importantly, I've seen how the congregation shows up for each other for newcomers and long-time members alike. We may encounter tough times, but there is a trust that we won't go through those times alone. Summer truly embraces that we carry God's presence when we show up for each other.

Position Nominated For: South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers – Rostered Minister

Full Name: David Coffman

Email Address: david.coffman@newberry.edu

Mailing Address: 769 Cold Springs Lane Irmo, SC 29063

Congregation: Pilgrim

Congregation City: Lexington

Employment/Profession: Campus Pastor, Newberry College

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 **46-60** over 60

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

- Newberry College Campus Pastor, 12/22 - present
- Care Coordinator, SC House Calls, 8/22 - 2/23
- Chaplain, AgapeCare/ Agape Hospice 4/12 - 8/22
- Chaplain Resident, 8/11 - 8/12
- Pastor, St. John's Walhalla 11/01 - 1/11

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.***

Each day is a new day of opportunity to share the grace, mercy, love and peace of God on a rustling, bustling campus. I love to hear students make the connections to other parts of their lives. I love to hear the story of faith shine through them as they serve in the Wolves Pantry or around the community. I love to sit with students, faculty and staff and have regular check-ins about life matters beyond the classroom and see where God is at work in their lives.

I continue to be supported by the imperfect people in the church when other people say I don't belong. I'm shaped by God's unconditional love for me and the whole world as we go about our daily life figuring it out. I've learned to share that immeasurable grace with others and keep moving forward.

**NovusWay
Board Elected, Assembly Ratified
Term Ending 2027**

2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly – Lay Man
(Elect 3)

Neal Fischer
Calvin Harmon
Ron Walrath
Michael Kuhrau
Hunter Prest
Nicholas Caughman

Position Nominated For: 2025 Churchwide Assembly – Lay Man

Full Name: Neal F. Fischer

Email Address: nealfischer@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 2104 Newberry Landing Circle Newberry SC 29108

Congregation: Pomaria

Congregation City: Pomaria

Employment/Profession: Director of Communications, SC Synod

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 **46-60** over 60

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

As Director of Communications for the South Carolina Synod, I support the Office of the Bishop, Assistants, Auxiliaries, and congregations with communicating news, information, and stories throughout the synod. I've served the Church since I was fourteen as a musician or communicator. My experience includes:

- * Serving the churchwide communications teams for four Churchwide Assemblies.
- * Three ELCA Youth Gatherings.
- * Presenting at numerous ELCA Synod Communicator gatherings.

In my 15 years as a communicator between the Upstate New York and South Carolina Synods, I have taken calls or assisted 52 of the 65 synods.

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.***

One inspiring memory from my time serving in the Church has to be the feeling of accomplishment following the 2020 Synod Assembly. Our team was terrific, and we pulled off a solid first assembly online. Accomplishing the technical side of things competently and successfully made me feel proud of our team.

Position Nominated For: 2025 Churchwide Assembly – Lay Man

Full Name: Hunter L. Prest

Email Address: hunteralyssa07@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 108 Hanlon Dr. Elgin SC 29045

Congregation: Living Springs

Congregation City: Columbia

Employment/Profession: Student

Age Range: **Under 30** 30-45 46-60 over 60

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

Synod Council 2023-present, Youth Ministry Task Force (LCY) 2023-present, GraceWorks Planning team 2020-present, Church Council 2022-present.

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.***

My most joyous memory from being a part of my faith committee is when I went to the National Youth Leadership summit last fall. I was able to interact with and learn from a myriad of diverse peoples and truly understand what it looks like to live in God's love! Never before

have I experienced such a welcoming, inclusive, and uplifting community of believers! I made friends that will last a lifetime, and grew in my faith so much!

My church has been there for me so much through youth group! Weekly youth meetings are a sturdy rock in the desert of life's struggles. Anytime I'm going through something tough, I know I can lean on my youth group to support me and lift me up!

Position Nominated For: 2025 Churchwide Assembly – Lay Man

Full Name: Calvin C Harmon

Email Address: charmon@charmonlaw.com

Mailing Address: 2496 Poole Rd., Greer, SC 29651

Congregation: Trinity

Congregation City: Greenville

Employment/Profession: Attorney/Mediator

Age Range:	Under 30	30-45	46-60	over 60
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Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

Grew up at St. Peter's Lutheran Church (when still ELCA) - confirmed by Pastor Dermon Sox in 1969 - Youth Leader; Later served in various roles in the Episcopal and Methodist Churches; Attended Christ the King Lutheran Church Greenville from approximately 2002 - 2017 — served as Youth SS Teacher several years; served as Lay Leader and Communion Assistant; Served as Habitat for Humanity Leader for approximately 12 years ; served on Church Council; Attended Trinity Lutheran Church from from approximately 2017 - present.
Served on stewardship and outreach Committees, currently serving on Church Council for third year - also serving as Usher and Lay reader (greeter before). Leader of men's Reflection Group for third year - also involved with Habitat for Humanity.

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.***

I take extreme joy every week when I welcome members and visitors to our Church. I am proud to be a church that welcomes everyone (without exception) with a handshake or hug (or kind words). I know that everyone leaves with love for our Lord in their hearts and joy on their faces.

My church is always there for my family and me! I remember attending an ally program one evening not long after I began attending Trinity (when I may not have really understood what loving everyone without exception really meant). An older couple told their story of how their son had been displaying gay tendencies over the past years. They did everything in their power to change their child (spending much money on counselors and doctors to try to “change” their son. Tears rolled down my face as they told their story that ended with their child committing suicide because of his non acceptance by society. They also expressed how it was necessary for them, as parents “to come out” as well! From that night forward, I have felt love for everyone without exception (because you just never know where some one has been, especially those on the margins). I acknowledge that I am a privileged white male (but I also accept all of God’s children as equals).

Position Nominated For: 2025 Churchwide Assembly – Lay Man

Full Name: Ron Walrath

Email Address: ronwalrath@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 117 Hunters Blind Drive, Columbia, SC 29212

Congregation: St. Andrew's

Congregation City: Columbia

Employment/Profession: Retired Financial Planner and Retired Officer of Marines

Age Range:	Under 30	30-45	46-60	over 60
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Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

Stewardship of Life Institute 2009 - 2023, Synod Audit Committee 2020 - 2023, Synod Finance Committee 2023 - current, VP for Development, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary 2007 - 2012, Fundraising Co-leader of St. Andrew's 2022 Capital Campaign.

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.

A favorite memory is when St. Andrew's decided to fund an entire Tanzania Safe Water Project. The project injected new life into our congregation as we poured ourselves into service on behalf of people we didn't know and would most likely never meet. The effort was truly spirit inspired!

When I was deployed to Iraq in 2003 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During that deployment I received a flood of letters from church friends. My family was embraced with care from the St. Andrew's community. I hope folks know how important and appreciated was their service to me and my family.

2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly – Lay Woman

(Elect 2)

Bethany Boyd

Marie Tidwell

Silke Pyrlik

Susan McArver

Position Nominated For: 2025 Churchwide Assembly – Lay Woman

Full Name: Regina Marie Tidwell

Email Address: reginamarietidwell@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 112 Crown Point Road

Congregation: Emmanuel

Congregation City: West Columbia

Employment/Profession: Fulltime Student

Age Range: **Under 30** 30-45 46-60 over 60

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

Youth ministry cabinet member 2021 – 2022

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.***

I have many dear memories from my time in SCLCY, but one that stands out the most for me is my first time as a counselor for Camp HUGG. During that week, I learned a tremendous amount about loving my neighbors despite our differences, and I gained self-confidence in my own abilities as a leader. I often look back on that week when I need a reminder of what I am able to be.

My church has been my rock for years. Every moment of trouble and every moment of joy, my church has been right there with me, uplifting and encouraging me. I remember my Graduation Sunday and my family and friends wrapping me in a hand-made quilt built from childhood T-shirts. I remember the smiles and kind words. I have never felt so supported as I did in that moment.

Position Nominated For: 2025 Churchwide Assembly – Lay Woman

Full Name: Silke Pyrlík

Email Address: silkepyrlik@clchhi.com

Mailing Address: 96 Mathews Dr., Apt 96, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926

Congregation: Christ Lutheran

Congregation City: Hilton Head Island

Employment/Profession: Director of Spiritual Formation/ Spiritual Director

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 **46-60** over 60

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

- 2007-2009 Christ Lutheran Church Council President
- 2009- ongoing Christ Lutheran Church, Director of Spiritual Formation
- 2017-2019 LTSS Spiritual Direction Certification Program

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.***

In 2007 I found a home away from home (I am German) when I joined Christ Lutheran Church. Being a part of a church that was so very similar to my home church in Germany was very comforting at a time where I had difficulties adjusting to the (for me) very strange life in the USA. The following years, especially being employed by my church, provided ample opportunity for spiritual growth through good times and bad times.

In 2019 my husband was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and passed away 7 months after the diagnosis, our son was still in high school.

My church has been very supportive, understanding and loving throughout the whole process. I had the whole congregation, and especially our then interim pastor Mary Anderson, standing behind me, lifting me up and giving me the time I needed to cope with the tremendous loss. My very strong, never wavering faith and my church carried me through this transformative time and I will be forever grateful.

In the meantime I am remarried and I give God all the glory for the wonderful, caring supportive and loving husband by my side to journey with me through the second half of life.

Position Nominated For: 2025 Churchwide Assembly – Lay Woman

Full Name: Susan Wilds McArver

Email Address: susan.mcarver@lr.edu

Mailing Address: 620 Hampton Trace Lane Columbia, SC 29209

Congregation: Incarnation

Congregation City: Columbia

Employment/Profession: Church History Professor - Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Age Range:	Under 30	30-45	46-60	over 60
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Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

ELCA

Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC) (2022 - present)

ELCA Church Council (2009-2015)

ELCA Word and Service Task Force (2013-2017)

ELCA Social Statement, "Our Calling in Education" (2003-2007)

Synod

200th Anniversary of South Carolina Synod Committee (2023-present)
Chair, Board of Trustees, James R. Crumley Jr Region 9 Archives (2021-present)
SC Synod Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee (2023-present)
Florida-Bahamas Candidacy Committee (2005-present)

Regional

Lutheridge CARE leader (1989-2019) and former counselor
Many historical presentations to congregations and synods (1998-present)

Incarnation Lutheran Church, Columbia:

Adult and handbell choirs (all my adult life)
Member WELCA (all my adult life)
Chair of Worship and Music (2020 - present)
Chair 100th Anniversary Committee (2019-2021)
Church Council (2017-2019)
Oktoberfest baker and worker (2012 - present)

Community and Other

President, Lutheran Historical Conference (for historians in ELCA, LCMS and WELS) (2006-2012)
South Carolina State Department of Education Bias Review Assessment Team (2016 - present)
Presenter to various genealogical societies (2015-2017)
Presenter in various settings for the United Methodists and Moravians (2000 - 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.***

A joyous memory:

While I have been fortunate to experience a lifetime of joyous memories within my faith community, my participation in the vocal and handbell choirs of my congregation runs as a constant thread in many of those memories, from my childhood to the present.

We may not have always been the greatest musicians in the world, but we have always given it our all, whether it is a festival observance such as Easter or Christmas, or a more contemplative service during Lent or at the close of the day. Singing or playing in a choir is a communal event, which adds to its depth of meaning, as each person's contribution is necessary to create the whole. When the scripture texts of the day, the anthem text, and the music are all beautifully aligned, there is nothing more joyous.

A time when my church was there for me:

My church has ALWAYS been there for me. I grew up in a congregation that took its youth seriously, mentored us conscientiously, and allowed us to ask questions endlessly. Those long-departed, infinitely patient (and long-suffering) Sunday School teachers, confirmation pastors, youth advisors, and campus pastors formed my faith in ways that endured.

“My church” was also present through Lutheridge, which shaped my life and set me on a path to ministry that lasts to this day in my calling as a seminary professor. Decades ago, the South Carolina Synod took a chance and provided the scholarship support that enabled me to go to seminary as a very young student, which might not have been possible otherwise. The larger church itself (back then, the LCA) gave me a vision of what “my church” could do beyond our own little congregation, through synodical and national youth events and through the ministry it conducted through world hunger appeals, refugee resettlement, disaster response, and more. In doing so, the larger church connected me to something far greater than my own local community. I am truly grateful that Christ’s church has always been present for ministry in the world, and even more grateful that it has always “been there” for me.

2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly – Rostered Minister - Man

(Elect 1)

Josh Knutson

Christopher Girardeau

Position Nominated For: 2025 Churchwide Assembly – Rostered Minister - Man

Full Name: Joshua Knutson

Email Address: pastor@christcommunityLNC.org

Mailing Address: 221 Baxter Lane, Summerville, SC 29486

Congregation: Christ Community Lutheran

Congregation City: North Charleston

Employment/Profession: Pastor, Mission Developer

Age Range: Under 30 **30-45** 46-60 over 60

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

As a mission developer, one of my primary responsibilities is to be present in our community. Since 2022, I have served on a committee lead by Neighbors Together in Charleston that is

seeking to address homelessness in the Tri-county area. I also began serving on the board of Restoration Chapel Greenwood, a program that offers Christian learning, guidance, and support to those recovering from substance abuse disorder, in 2024. In 2023, I was asked to serve on the SC Synod's Bible Team to address the resolution on unity passed at the 2023 Assembly. I am a strong believer that we cannot understand where Jesus is calling us to serve if we do not know and love the people beyond our walls.

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.***

I am extremely thankful that the two congregations I serve have supported and encouraged me throughout our time together. The event that stands out most in my mind is when my father-in-law passed away. Both congregations cared for my family in ways that were beyond my wildest expectations, especially since we had only been together a few months. That, however, is not my most joyous memory. In North Charleston, there is an old hotel that was converted into transitional housing for veterans emerging from homelessness. We take up year-round collections of food and supplies for that program to ease the residents transitions. Last year, members of SC Lutheran Men in Mission from across the state joined with both congregations to provide a fried chicken dinner to the residents on a Sunday afternoon. They did not just serve a meal--they carried the love of Christ to each person they saw. They ate with the residents, talked with them, laughed with them, and prayed with them. They made sure that everyone got enough to eat and that they had all the supplies they needed. And they did this gladly. They demonstrated what it looked like to serve the forgotten and I was thankful to be a part of that. I continue to find joy in both communities because their hearts are too big to contain inside a church building.

Position Nominated For: 2025 Churchwide Assembly – Rostered Minister - Man

Full Name: Christopher Daniel Girardeau

Email Address: christopher.girardeau@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 1026 E Meadow Dr, Lancaster SC 29720

Congregation: Reformation

Congregation City: Lancaster

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range: Under 30 **30-45** 46-60 over 60

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

MORE Justice Member, Columbia SC (2017—2021); 315th Airlift Wing First Sergeant Council Member, JB Charleston SC (2019—Present); SC Synod Inclusiveness Network (2021—Present); SC Synod Gender and Sexuality Justice Task Force Founder and Chair (2022—Present); SC Synod Nominating Committee (2022—Present); Co-Instructor of "Debunking the Clobber Passages: An Ecumenical Seminar" (2023); Worship Leader: Region 9 First Call Stewardship Retreat (2023); Worship Leader: House Band, 2023 SC Synod Assembly (2023); Worship Leader: Kairos Confirmation Camp (2023); Lutheridge 75th Birthday Capital Appeal, Alumni Gifts Team Member (2024); ELCA Youth Gathering, Community Life Team (2024); Lancaster Rotary Club Chaplain (2024—Present)

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.***

One of my most joyous memories from my faith community is also one of the most profoundly difficult times as well. In November of 2022, my dad passed away suddenly. I was just on the cusp of my first year anniversary as an ordained pastor and his death felt like the earth disappeared underneath my feet. I was not only at a loss for words and at a loss for what to do. Thankfully, this is where the Body of Christ shows up best.

Instead of feeling frazzled and strained to fulfill my role as a pastor, my congregation immediately jumped into action to cover for me so that I could concentrate on grieving and being with my family.

That, of course, would've been more than enough kindness, but they went above and beyond to care for me and my family—they prayed for us, cooked us meals, offered to do errands, and sent flowers to the funeral; multiple congregation members even drove almost 4 hours, round-trip, to be there at my dad's funeral, offering love and support. I cannot overstate how much I needed and appreciate their kindness and love during that time.

Furthermore, the Body of Christ is not just confined to one congregation; it is truly more ever-present than we can actually realise. The amount of outpoured love that I experienced during that time from family, friends, synodical colleagues, and ecumenical siblings was an integral part of me making it through that time in a healthy way.

It seems that in profound vulnerability, we are able to experience profound love. It seems to me that God is loving relationship itself; and our relationships, necessarily, are where we experience love at its fullest.

Relationships matter. Relationships are everything. Relationships are where we fully experience God.

2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly – Rostered Minister - Woman

(Elect 1)

Sarah Bowers

Maria Miller-Perez

Position Nominated For: 2025 Churchwide Assembly – Rostered Minister - Woman

Full Name: Sarah Delap Bowers

Email Address: SKDBowers@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 279 Ringer Rd. Pomaria, SC 29126

Congregation: Bethlehem

Congregation City: Pomaria

Employment/Profession: Deacon & Land Steward

Age Range: Under 30 **30-45** 46-60 over 60

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

Served on the ELCA's Always Being Made New Campaign, Young Adult in Global Mission (2011-2012), Director of Youth and Family Ministries at Redeemer Lutheran Columbia, SC (2012-20128), Served on Gamecock Lutheran's Board for 3 years, Creative Director for South Carolina Synod (2021 - present)

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.

Wow! While I would say my lifetime has been relatively short thus far, it has had no shortage of incredible ways the church has shown up for me. I think we often look for these massive ways that the church shows up, and those are amazing of course, but sometimes it's in the smallest moments where they show up that really make the difference in our lives.

This Spring I was supposed to officiate my first wedding. It was the wedding of a young woman who was in youth when I worked as a Director of Youth and Family Ministry. I had been looking forward to this for months, the meetings with the bride and groom, the creating of the service, I loved all of it. This couple was not as connected to the church as they once were, so I was finding a way to walk with them, while still being that church presence and respecting where they were now.

Fast forward to the weekend of the wedding, and I was soooooo sick. It was awful and I couldn't get out of bed. I didn't know what to do, except call the pastor of my home church, that was located just down the road from where the ceremony would take place the next day. My pastor walked with me through the process, helped me find someone to step in, and the ceremony went on seamlessly. Did I mention this was Palm Sunday weekend? The start of Holy Week?! For me, this was a mentor and friend walking me through one of the biggest disappointments of my ministry, but even bigger than that, this was a larger church coming around to love and support a couple who maybe doesn't see the point of church anymore, but I wonder what the long term impact of that will be and if they'll ever realize the team effort it took to have the "show go on."

I was thankful on so many levels for the church community that day, and especially the community of rostered leaders, who even during one of the craziest seasons of the church year, was willing to walk with me and show not only myself, but an entire family, the gift the church family really is and how wide it really reaches.

Position Nominated For: 2025 Churchwide Assembly – Rostered Minister - Woman

Full Name: Maria Elena Miller-Perez

Email Address: Pastormem@yahoo.com

Mailing Address: 419 Adams Mill Road Mauldin, SC 29662

Congregation: St. Matthias

Congregation City: Easley

Employment/Profession: Chaplain of Lutheran Hospice-Upstate/Stated Supply Pastor
Augsburg Lutheran Church 2015-Present

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 **46-60** over 60

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

Chaplain for SC WELCA Convention 2003 and 2016, Synod Council 2017-2020, Chaplain for SC Synod Assembly 2020, Foothills Conference Dean 2017-Present, Mauldin High School Band Boosters 2019-2024, Walk to End Alzheimer's Champion's Club 2023-Present.

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.***

I have had the pleasure of serving as Stated Supply Pastor for Augsburg Lutheran Church for over 8 years. Augsburg is small (we average 12-16 on a Sunday) but incredibly faithful. We have a 2 year old who attends every week with his grandmother. The congregation wholly embraces him and lives out the promises they made to him at his baptism. Each week he "assists" the member who lights and extinguishes the candles for worship and the usher who collects the offering. It brings joy to my heart every week to see this little one holding the hand of the 80 something year old man as they serve the church together. In moments like these I recognize how faith is passed from one generation to the next and it gives me hope for the future.

2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly – Youth/Young Adult
(Elect 1)
Tatyanna Chapman
Jason Costlow

Position Nominated For: 2025 Churchwide Assembly – Youth/Young Adult

Full Name: Tatyanna Nicole Chapman

Email Address: Tatyanna.Chapman@Newberry.edu

Mailing Address: 1003 Weslin Creek Dr

Congregation: Shepherd of the Sea

Congregation City: Myrtle Beach

Employment/Profession: Student

Age Range: **Under 30** 30-45 46-60 over 60

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

At Shepherd of the Sea, I regularly helped with children's church and acolyting throughout 2015-2022. At Newberry College, I am currently a student leader in the Campus Ministry and help make meals and set up for our weekly meeting.

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.***

My most joyous memory is sitting with other people at my school who are part of Campus Ministry as well as a nearby church, doing a bonfire and looking at the stars and seeing a shooting star. It was like a sign from God that I was where I was supposed to be.

My school's Pastor is always there for me. Anytime I have a problem or need to rant, he is there to listen. When I need to stop by the Weber Ministry house because I've missed a meal, I can just stop in to make myself something or if I need to do a load of laundry and my dormitory's laundry room is full, I am able to get laundry done at the ministry house.

Position Nominated For: 2025 Churchwide Assembly – Youth/Young Adult

Full Name: Jason Andrew Costlow

Email Address: jacost347@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 18 Double Branch Trail, Mauldin SC 29662

Congregation: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

Congregation City: Greenville

Employment/Profession: Student

Age Range: **Under 30** 30-45 46-60 over 60

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

- Voting member of SC synod assembly: 2021-2023
- Congregation Council: 2020-2023
- VBS volunteer: 2017-2019

- Fellowship committee: 2020-2023
- Assisting Minister: 2020
- Communion assistant: As needed
- Acolyte: As needed
- Newberry College campus ministries: current
- Foothills Conference, SC Synod Young Lutheran Man of the Year for my Eagle Scout Project: 2023

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.***

As a pastors' (both parents are pastors) kid I have never lived close to my extended family and my congregation has given me the support of the extended family. They have celebrated my milestones with me, most recently--*=-98765e3 my high school graduation and Eagle Scout ceremony last year. During my time at Newberry College, Campus Ministries helped me find a friend group at school.

**2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly – Person of Color/Language Other Than English
(Elect 1)
Thulie Beresford
Carl Taylor**