

Report of South Carolina Women of the ELCA 2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly

As South Carolina Women of the ELCA, we are a community of women called to discipleship in Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, and as a response to God's love and grace, we act boldly on our faith, as we engage in ministry and action. We strive to grow our relationships with God and grow our relationships with each other so that we can be God's voice, hands, and feet here on earth.

Convention 2023

On June 23-23, 2023, we held our 35th annual convention at Zion Lutheran Church in Lexington, SC. The theme was "*Just Love One Another*". As John 15:12 says "*This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you*". As Christians we are called by God to love all people, take care of those who are in need and be His disciples to spread the "Good News" to those who need to know Christ.

We heard from our many partners within the SC Synod who shared their exciting news about their organizations. Pastor Emily Hartmann, Assistant to the Bishop brought greetings from the SC Synod. Keynote speakers were Ms. Dallas Shealy Executive Director of SC Lutheran Retreat Centers and Ms. Cathy Milejczak, SC Synod Coordinator for the SW Diocese of Tanzania. Both speakers gave us updates of their projects and news from their organization. Devotions and worship service were led by Vicar Emily Whitlow (St. John's Walhalla) and Rev. Dr. Rachel Connelly (St. John's Walhalla).

Elections were held resulting in President Risse Snelgrove being elected for a second term. Also, Rachel Quesada was elected as Treasurer and board members Christie Gardner, Joy Derrick, LaTynia Taylor, Merri Lewis were elected for 2 year terms and Sallie Folk for a one year term. After the convention, our Vice President resigned resulting in Christie Gardner being appointed by the Board as Vice President. Sallie Folk moved into the 2-year term and Sarah Cheesmen was appointed for a one-year term.

2023 SC WELCA Projects and Donations

- **Camp Kinard Improvement Project:** \$10,607.46 was raised for a new fence for the new pool at Camp Kinard Retreat Center.
- **Tanzania Hygiene Kits:** 1069 Hygiene Kits were created and delivered to the Convention from units in the SC SWO.
- **Tanzania Project:** \$1740.50 (\$585 from Convention and \$1157.50 from St. John's Spartanburg).
- **ELCA Good Gifts:** \$6882.92 (\$6571.92 Joy Offerings, Camp Kinard Retreat Offering \$210 and 3 Congregational Units \$311)
- **Newberry College Wolfe Food Pantry:** \$1000.00
- **Women on a Mission:** \$1000
- **National Woman of the ELCA:** \$13,204.50 (\$12,915.50 60% of our regular offerings and Thankoffering \$289)
- **SC Disaster Relief:** \$200
- **LTSS Scholarship Fund:** \$619.76
- **Conference Gatherings:** \$4223.90 (Offerings from Conference Gatherings/Meetings that were donated to many local projects in their communities. This includes Newberry College Nursing Scholarship, CASA Family System, Salt & Light, Lutheran World Relief, The Palmetto Place, LaVie Pregnancy Care, Falcon's Children's Home, Fresh Start Healing, Sunshine over Sorrow, SC Synod, Jasmine Road, LTSS, The Period Project, The Fifth Gospel, and Gamecock Lutheran)
- **Other Designated Gifts:** \$1920.75
- **Total Giving for SC WELCA:** \$41,399.79

Triennial Convention & Gathering: Five women were elected to attend and represent SC WELCA at the National WELCA Convention in Phoenix AR this past September. Voting Members were Christie Gardner, Cindy McManus, LaTynia Taylor, Sarah Cheesman, and Pat George.

Teen Suicide Prevention Resolution: SC Women of the ELCA presented a resolution to the National Triennial Convention for a vote. The resolution was regarding Advocating, Educating and Awareness on how to prevent Teenage Suicide. This resolution passed at our own convention in June and at the Triennial Convention.

The ELCA Lutheran Women in South Carolina are a blessing to our Synod and the SC Synodical Women's Organization. They are strong bold women who love Jesus Christ and give generously from their hearts to help those in need. We will continue to do God's work here on earth.

We thank Bishop Ginny and the SC ELCA Synod Council for the support they provide our organization.

Together in Christ.

Risse Snelgrove, President, SC Women of the ELCA