



Report of the Bishop

2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly

***For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100***

We gather in North Charleston for the 2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly to celebrate our heritage and our hope. During 2024 we have been reflecting on 200 years of deeply rooted history and ministry in this corner of the world, and as we enter into the Anniversary Celebration at Assembly, we are looking ahead with hope for the opportunities in front of us for living and walking together in Christ well into the future.

As we review the year since our last Assembly, we recognize there have been many opportunities to live into our **Synod Vision: “Every Person in South Carolina experiences God’s love and grace,”** and **our Mission: “Equipping church leaders to develop impactful faith communities and disciples of Jesus.”** This Synod Vision and Mission guide us in listening deeply to the leaders of congregations and organizations (Pastors, Deacons, Council Leaders, and Members) that we interact with daily. We are listening to the hopes and fears and joys and needs that get expressed, and we are praying over the ways we can offer resources to support one another across the Synod as the people of God in this Lutheran tradition in living out the baptismal call to serve and honor Jesus. Our hope is to walk together in honoring our Lord in all that we do. And our hope is that in sharing the good news of Jesus and serving our neighbors, we bear witness to the love and grace of God in Christ.

Our Synod Vision and Mission invite each of us into daily reflection on the questions: What resources are needed, and how do we share those resources broadly to strengthen our leaders and ministries as a blessing to community? In 2024, Assistant to the Bishop, Rick Carter and I have had the opportunity to step into and share the ministry of ELCA Directors for Evangelical Mission for this Synod. We have been learning the new processes the ELCA uses in this outreach mission work, and we have been collaborating with the ELCA, with one another and with the leaders of this Synod to offer support and encouragement to our Mission Developers and Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities, and also to provide events, speakers, resources and opportunities that help strengthen and equip all congregations and leaders for the work of ministry in these times. This work as Directors for Evangelical Mission aligns perfectly with our Vision and Mission, and fits within our current roles as bishop and assistant to the bishop. Sharing God’s love and grace with everyone, and equipping leaders to develop impactful communities and disciples of Jesus is exhilarating and an inspirational calling. We are able to do this because our whole staff has joined in with us in praying and thinking about the best ways to resource the Synod we serve.

As we look to the year ahead we are excited to work with our Synod Congregational Vitality Team for outreach and evangelism in sharing the concepts of FreshExpressions that any congregation can take part in. We have been blessed to have Jay Wittmyer, Director at Lombard Peace Center, lead a workshop and equip us in the work of Conflict Transformation. We look forward to an Evangelism Rally featuring renown Author, Tod Bolsinger, who will share from his leadership development series. We will be entering into listening sessions and exploring how best to support our small town and rural congregations in today’s world. And we continue to explore what might be needed next.

The mission and ministry of this Synod extends far beyond the borders of South Carolina through our partnership with the ELCA as well as with our three global companion synod relationships. At this Assembly we are delighted to welcome our siblings in Christ from the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church who are joining us to celebrate this historic 200th Anniversary. The JELC is our first, and historic global companionship that began when the first Lutheran missionary to Japan was commissioned at St. John Lutheran Church, Charleston. This year I have appointed new Co-Coordination for this Companionship.

We are grateful to Bonnie Bouknight who has been our Coordinator, but stepped down in 2024. She continues to graciously serve on the Task Force. This year Pastor Miho Yasakawa and Pastor Tom Cassem have joined forces to lead the Task Force in welcoming our guests and sharing the stories of this relationship with everyone across the Synod. They have done a wonderful job of organizing the schedule for our guests and preparing with the Task Force for a warm SC Welcome.

In 2024 we have also been blessed by Pastor Lisa Isenhower's openness to serve as Coordinator for our Synod relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. Last August, Pastor Lisa, Pastor Ginger Litman-Koon and I had the privilege to be with sisters (and some brothers) in Colombia for their Women's Convention. In April of 2024, the SC Synod joined together with the Lutheran Church in Colombia (IELCO) and partners in this ministry from the Lutheran Church in Alberta Canada and Southeastern Minnesota in producing an online worship service in English and Spanish, and in March 2025, Pastor Lisa represented the Office of the Bishop at the Annual Assembly where they elected Pastor John Rojas as their new Bishop. We hope that as the Task Force grows there will be opportunities for the Women of the SC Synod, and others to share in this story and that everyone has the opportunity to learn more about how the SC Synod and IELCO can walk together in Christ.

In 2024 the SC Women of the ELCA were actively working to raise funds for the women and families of the SW Diocese of Tanzania to purchase a tractor to assist the women in their work farming wheat to feed the villages. Over \$70,000 was raised in less than a year by the women of this Synod. Dr. Cathy Milejczak is our SC Synod Coordinator for this Companionship. She works tirelessly to raise funds and awareness of the mission and ministry of our siblings in Christ on the mountain in Tanzania. Cathy was able to go in January 2025 to help dedicate the tractor in the diocese and she looks forward to leading a team from SC to Tanzania in the summer of 2026.

The past year included several staff changes and the opportunity for all of us to re-evaluate what we are called to do and how we work together to follow our call. I am grateful to each staff member, past and present, for the roles they have had in serving the Synod and walking together faithfully. I give thanks for Pastor Emily Hartmann, Pastor James Henricks, Deacon Sarah Bowers, Jenny (Spearen) Ramos who left Synod Staff mid-year for new calls and experiences. We celebrate the new chapter each one is now experiencing in their current call, and pray for God to bless each of them richly. I also give thanks for Pastor Rick Carter, Assistant to the Bishop; Wendy Davidson, Assembly Manager/Administrative Assistant; Charlene Fink, Synod Accountant; Pastor Ozzie Herlong, Director for Stewardship; Neal Fischer, Director of Communications; Pastor Ruth Ann Sipe & Pastor Ray Sipe, SC & NC Synod Disaster Response Coordinators, and for those who joined our staff this year: Deacon Kimberly Heindl, Assistant to the Bishop; Deacon Deborah Poole, Director for Children, Youth and Family; Deborah Slice, Executive Administrative Assistant; and Kelli Fulmer, SC Synod Disaster Response Coordinator. I also want to thank the Synod Council, the Conference Deans, the Synod Bible Team and all those who have shared so generously of their time and talents across the SC Synod in this partnership we share in ministry.

As we look to the year in front of us, I invite you to keep an eye on opportunities and hope in our Lord. Consider the hallmarks of welcome in your home congregation as well as the ways you can engage new people in ministry. We each have a calling to help every person in South Carolina experience God's love and grace. It will take some intentionality from each of us to accomplish this big task, but we are people who can do this. Let no obstacle stand in the way of sharing God's Good News. Our heritage has proven that South Carolina Lutherans have a strong constitution and desire to live in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Very little deters those of strong will, strong mind and strong faith. May we continue to boldly share that gospel with everyone and may our faith grow as we live into this calling together.

In Christ, *+Bishop Ginny Aebischer*

Office of the Bishop Official Acts April 2024 – March 2025

Annual Assembly

April 14, 2024 – 50th Anniversary of Ordination Dinner

April 18, 2024 – Online LUMI Meeting, Charlene Fink, Synod Accountant

May 22, 2024 – Conduct of Elections Committee Meeting (Zoom), Charlene Fink, Synod Accountant

May 23, 2024 – Reference and Counsel Committee Meeting (Bishop Aebischer)

June 7, 2024 – Online LUMI Assembly run through, Charlene Fink, Synod Accountant

June 8, 2024 – Online Annual Assembly, Charlene Fink, Synod Accountant

Nominating Committee Meeting and Follow up, Wendy Davidson

Assembly Site Visits, Wendy Davidson, Neal Fischer

Reference and Counsel Committee Meetings, Bishop Aebischer, Pastor Carter, Pastor Herlong, Wendy Davidson

Orientation to Assembly, Bishop Aebischer

Calls Accepted

The Rev. Greg Van Dyke, Lutheran Church by the Lake

The Rev. Robb Harrell, St. John, Charleston, February 2024

Deacon Ashlyn Cox, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Charleston, June 2024

The Rev. Bobby Morris, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Pomaria, June 2024

The Rev. Emily Hartmann, Zion, Lexington, August 2024

The Rev. Dave Adams, Grace, Prosperity, August 2024

The Rev. Joanna Gragg, Our Savior, West Columbia, August 2024

The Rev. Madison Chelberg, St. David, West Columbia, August 2024

The Rev. Luke Swanson, Grace, Gilbert, September 2024

Deacon Kimberly Heindl, SC Synod, September 2024

The Rev. Steven Curry Gallego, Reformation, Columbia, November 2024

The Rev. Emily Stolba, Mt. Calvary, Johnston, November 2024

Deacon Lexanne Graves, Pinnacle Leadership Associates, December 2024

The Rev. Tom Cassem, Springhill Parish, Chapin/Peak, February 2025

The Rev. Josh Kestner, University Lutheran, Clemson, February 2025

The Rev. Rich Johnston, The Heritage at Lowman, March 2025

The Rev. Rebekah Boatwright, Pisgah, Lexington, March 2025

Candidacy (Pastor Carter and Deborah Slice)

April 2024 – Committee Meetings

October 2024 – Committee Meetings

December 2024 – Committee Meetings

Individual Meetings with Candidacy and Senior Seminary Students

Closing of Congregation

St. John, Johnston, February 25, 2025

Restoration Chapel, Columbia, May 8, 2024

Christ the King, Greenville, May 19, 2024

Communications (Neal Fischer)

Facilitated Zoom Meetings, Neal Fischer, Director of Communications

April 2024 – 9 Meeting Sessions

May 2024 – 10 Meeting Sessions

June 2024 – 8 Meeting Sessions

July 2024 – 8 Meeting Sessions

August 2024 – 12 Meeting Sessions

September 2024 – 11 Meeting Sessions

October 2024 – 3 Meeting Sessions

November 2024 – 3 Meeting Sessions

December 2024 – 1 Meeting Session

January 2025 – 3 Meeting Sessions

February 2025 – 4 Meeting Sessions

March 2025 – 2 Meeting Sessions

Produced Online Worship Services, Neal Fischer, Director of Communications

April 2024 - 4 Worship Services

May 2024 - 4 Worship Services

June 2024 – 6 Worship Services

July 2024 – 4 Worship Services

August 2024 – 4 Worship Services

September 2024 – 4 Worship Services

October 2024 – 4 Worship Services

November 2024 – 4 Worship Services

December 2024 – 6 Worship Services

January 2025 – 5 Worship Services

February 2025 – 4 Worship Services

March 2025 – 5 Worship Services

Lutheran Living in South Carolina Video Magazine

April 2024 - Recorded, Produced, and Published

July 2024 - Recorded, Produced, and Published

eNews, Neal Fischer, Director of Communications

April 2024 – 4 Weekly Editions, 3 Assembly Editions, 1 Assembly Edition, 2 Special Editions

May 2024 – 5 Weekly Editions, 2 Assembly Editions, 1 Assembly Edition

June 2024 – 4 Weekly Editions, 1 Assembly Edition, 4 Special Editions

July 2024 – 5 Weekly Editions, 1 Assembly Edition

August 2024 – 4 Weekly Editions, 1 Assembly Edition, 3 Special Editions

September 2024 – 4 Weekly Editions, 1 Assembly Edition

October 2024 – 5 Weekly Editions, 1 Assembly Editions

November 2024 – 4 Weekly Editions, 1 Assembly Edition, 1 Special Edition

December 2024 – 4 Weekly Editions, 1 Assembly edition, 1 Assembly Edition, 2 Special Editions

January 2025 – 4 Weekly Editions, 1 Assembly Edition, 1 Special Edition

February 2025 – 4 Weekly Editions, 1 Assembly Edition

March 2025 – 4 Weekly Editions, 2 Assembly Editions, 1 Assembly Edition, 1 Special Edition

Videos, Neal Fischer, Director of Communications

April 2024 - Recorded, Produced, and Published 3 Anniversary videos

May 2024 - Recorded, Produced, and Published 4 PreAssembly Bible Studies
 June 2024 – Recorded, Produced, and Published Celebrating 200 Years of Mission & Ministry in South Carolina | Bishops of the South Carolina Synod
 June 2024 - Streamed and Produced Synod Assembly Live including 10 hours of video
 June 2024 - Recorded, Produced, and Published 17 Synod Assembly videos for eNews and posting
 July 2024 - Recorded, Produced, and Published 2 Anniversary videos
 July 2024 – Recorded, Produced, and Published ELCA Foundation video with Stephanie Burke
 August 2024 - Recorded, Produced, and Published 3 Anniversary videos
 August 2024 - Recorded, Produced, and Published Building Dynamic Ministry video
 August 2024 - Recorded, Produced, and Published Disaster Appeal video
 September 2024 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 1 CYFM video
 September 2024 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 4 Archives Banquet videos
 October 2024 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 2 CYFM videos
 October 2024 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 1 election prayer service video
 November 2024 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 1 CYFM video
 November 2024 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 2 Anniversary videos
 December 2024 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 1 CYFM video
 December 2024 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 1 Invitation to Communications Workshop video
 December 2024 - Recorded, Produced, and Published Bishop's Christmas Message
 January 2025 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 1 CYFM video
 January 2025 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 1 anniversary video
 February 2025 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 1 CYFM video
 February 2025 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 1 Lutheran Services Carolinas Call for Support video
 February 2025 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 2 Anniversary videos
 March 2025 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 1 CYFM video
 March 2025 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 1 Compensation Guidelines video
 March 2025 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 1 Role of the Vice President video
 March 2025 – Recorded, Produced, and Published 2 Anniversary videos

Communication Workshop, Neal Fischer, Director of Communications
 February 1, 2025 – Church Communications Roadshow Workshop with 68 people representing 28 congregations.

Community Outreach

IPAN – meetings/reboot and development
 INET – Book Studies and Meetings

Conference of Bishops (Bishop Aebischer)

COB Meetings, Bishop Aebischer: 8/28; 8/29; 8/30; 9/24-28, 2024; 2/25- 3/1.2025 & Zoom meetings
 COB Academy, Bishop Aebischer, January 4-8, 2025
 COB Forum, Civic Life Social Statement, Bishop Aebischer March 6, 2025
 COB Forum, Human Sexuality Updates, Bishop Aebischer, March 13, 2025
 COB/LWF Orthodox/Lutheran Dialogue Forum, Bishop Aebischer, March 18, 2025
 COB meeting CRLC Recommendations, Bishop Aebischer March 18, 2025
 ELCA Assembly Voting Member Orientation (Region 9) April 8, 2025

COB Roster Support Committee Meetings, Bishop Aebischer
COB Good Samaritan Committee Meetings, Bishop Aebischer

Conference Meetings (Synod)

(Bishop Aebischer, Assistant to the Bishop Carter, Assistant to the Bishop Heindl)

March 5, 2024, Midlands Conference Coffee and Conversations
March 21, 2024, Western Conference Coffee and Conversations
April 11, 2024, Heartland Conference Coffee and Conversations
May 16, 2024, Upstate Conference Coffee and Conversations
August 29, 2024, Foothills Conference Coffee and Conversations
September 19, 2024 Coastal Conference Coffee and Conversations
October 10, 2024 Epiphany Conference Coffee and Conversations
November 14, 2024 Saxe Gotha Conference Coffee and Conversations
December 3, 2024 Heartland Conference Meeting
January 16, 2025 Upstate Conference meeting
March 13, 2025, Western Spring Conference Gathering
March 17, 2025, Heartland Spring Conference Gathering
April 1, 2025, Amelia Spring Conference Gathering
April 7, 2025, Foothills Spring Conference Gathering
April 8, 2025, Saxe-Gotha Spring Conference Gathering

Congregations in Disaffiliation Process

December 17, 2024, Consultation, Macedonia, Prosperity
January 5, 2025, Vote to Dissolve, Silverstreet, Silverstreet
January 12, 2025, 1st Vote on Disaffiliation, Macedonia, Prosperity, Vote failed
January 26, 2025, 1st Vote on Disaffiliation, Mt. Tabor, Little Mountain, Vote passed
March 16, 2025, Vote to Dissolve, Mt. Tabor, Little Mountain, Vote passed

Congregational Partnership Visits (Visits with Pastors/Deacons/Council Presidents)

431

Union Congregation Plan of Agreement

November 2024—St. Barnabas Lutheran Church, Charleston, and Parkside Presbyterian Church, Charleston, formed Parkside Church at Historic St. Barnabas

Council Meetings, Call Committee Meetings & Congregational Events

April 10, 2024, Call Committee, St. Matthews, Pomaria
April 14, 2024, Council Meeting, Cedar Grove, Leesville
April 22, 2024, Call Committee, Grace, Prosperity
April 25, 2024, Council appointed Committee Meeting, Mt. Tabor, Little Mountain
April 28, 2024, Council, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Charleston
April 29, 2024, Call Committee, St. David, West Columbia
May 15, 2024, Call Committee, Grace, Gilbert
May 22, 2024, Call Committee, Zion, Lexington
July 29, 2024, Council, Cross and Crown, Florence
July 30, 2024, Council, St. Peter, Pawleys Island
July 31, 2024, Council, Trinity, Georgetown
August 4, 2024 – Congregational Event, Our Savior, West Columbia
August 12, 2024, Council & Congregation, Martin Luther, James Island
August 13, 2024, Council and Call Committee, Mt. Calvary, Johnston

September 16, 2024 – Council Meeting, Our Savior, West Columbia
 September 15, 2025 – Council Meeting, Joy, Moore
 October 18, 2024 – Council Meeting, University Lutheran, Clemson
 September 1, 2024 – Worship and Picnic, Cristo Rey, West Columbia
 October 11, 2024 – Octoberfest, Incarnation, Columbia
 October 20, 2024 – “installation” of Interim, St Mark, Isle of Palms
 December 17, 2024 – Disaffiliation Consultation, Macedonia, Prosperity
 January 21, 2025 – Council Meeting, Joy, Moore
 January 26, 2025 – Deaconess Laura Sharpe-Waites, Bethany, Newberry. Last Sunday serving.
 February 3, 2025 – Council Meeting, Faith, Johns Island
 February 3, 2025 – Council Meeting, Martin Luther, James Island
 March 16, 2025 – Congregational Event, Joy, Moore
 March 30, 2025 – Worship at Community, North Charleston and St. Michael, Moncks Corner, (Preached)
 March 31, 2025 – Council Leaders meeting, St. James, Graniteville

Deans

September 12, 2024 – Dean’s Meeting
 February 11, 2025 – Dean’s Meeting
 March 10, 2025 – Dean’s Meeting (Zoom)
 The Rev. Maria Miller – Foothills Conference Dean
 The Rev. Gregg Hoffman – Upstate Conference Dean
 The Rev. Michele Fischer – Heartland Conference Dean
 The Rev. Carl Taylor (resigned in February 2025)
 The Rev. Steven Gallego (elected April 2025)– Midlands Conference Dean
 The Rev. Wade Roof- Saxe-Gotha Conference Dean
 The Rev. Lisa Isenhower – Western Conferen Dean
 The Rev. Jeff Shealy – Coastal Conference Dean
 The Rev. Christina Johnson- Epiphany Conference Dean
 The Rev. Eric Little – Amelia Conference Dean

Dedications

None

Deaths

Mrs. Faith Connelly, (Rev. James Connelly), April 20, 2024
 The Rev. Clifford Alfred Riis, May 11, 2024
 The Rev. Jack D. Deal Sr., May 26, 2024
 The Rev. George Baylis Corley, June 2, 2024
 The Rev. Robert E. McCollum, June 3, 2024
 The Rev. Robert Brown Lineberger, July 17, 2024
 The Rev. Caldwell “Cobby” Day, funeral took place August 30, 2024
 The Rev. Russell Howard Anderson, October 22, 2024
 Mrs. Betty May Habenicht Park (Rev. Dr. Harold Park), December 19, 2024
 Mrs. Barbara H. Sides (Rev. Floyd Sides), December 20, 2024
 Mrs. Mabel Shealy Trexler (Rev. Leroy Trexler), March 1, 2025
 Mrs. Kristen Nicole Frizzell Antley (Rev. Jason Antley), April 22, 2025

Director for Evangelical Mission (Pastor Rick Carter, Bishop Ginny Aebischer)

May 2024 & November 2024 – Developer's Round Table/Enrichment Days

Regular Check in with Mission Developers and SAWCs

Meetings with supporting congregations

Monthly meetings with Congregational Vitality Team

February 2025 Fresh Expressions Gathering with Vitality Team Members

Grant Consultations

ELCA Training Events for DEMs

Individual Meetings with ELCA Leaders in Mission

Ecumenical

May 22, 2024, Fellowship of SC Bishops & SC Secretary of Education/Staff meeting

August 28, 2024, ELCA Full Communion Partnership Zoom Meeting

Finance

7/25/24 – Online DOL OT Laws meeting, Charlene Fink, Bishop Aebischer

8/27/24 – Region 9 Boundary Training, Charlene Fink, Synod Accountant

9/09/24 – Synod Organization Chart Meeting, Charlene Fink, Synod Accountant

9/18/24 – Mission Endowment Grant Meeting (Zoom) (Charlene Fink, Bishop Aebischer)

10/7/24 – Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)

12/9/24 – Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)

1/23/25 – Finance Committee Spending Plan Meeting (Zoom)

1/28/25 – Finance Committee Spending Plan Meeting (Zoom)

2/04/25 – Finance Committee Spending Plan Meeting (Zoom)

Global Network

Redevelopment of JELC Task Force, Appointment of new Co-Coordination, The Rev. Miho Yasakawa & the Rev. Tom Cassem

Redevelopment of IELCO Task Force, Appointment of new Coordinators, The Rev. Lisa Isenhowe

Host Pastor Adachi Hitoshi (JELC Missionary) and Pastor Miho Yasakawa, lunch with staff

August 5, 2024 – ELCA and SW Diocese of Tanzania Bishops Meeting

August 15-22, 2024 – IELCO Women's Gathering & Synod Visit, Bishop Aebischer, The Rev. Lisa Isenhowe, The Rev. Ginger Litman-Koon

January 2025, SW Diocese of Tanzania Dedication of Farm Equipment, Cathy Milejczak

March 19-25, 2025, IELCO Assembly with Election of Bishop, The Rev. Lisa Isenhowe

IELCO & North American Partner Synod Bishops Monthly Zoom Meeting (Bishop Aebischer)

Groundbreakings

None

Inclusiveness Network

December 5, 2024 – committee meeting

January 21, 2025 – ELCA National Day of Racial Healing

January 23, 2025 – committee meeting

January 26, 2025 – Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration, Ascension

Installations (Bishop Aebischer, Conference Deans)

March 10, 2024 – Installation of Pastor Robb Harrell, St. John, Charleston (Bishop Aebischer)

June 23, 2024, Pastor Greg Van Dyke, Lutheran Church by the Lake (Pastor Maria Miller)

September 15, 2024, Deacon Ashlyn Cox, The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Charleston (Bishop Aebischer)
September 15, 2024, Pastor Emily Hartmann, Zion, Lexington, (Pastor Wade Roof)
September 15, 2024, Pastor Madison Chelberg, St. David, West Columbia (Pastor Wade Roof)
October 27, 2024, Pastor Dave Adams, Grace, Prosperity (Pastor Michele Fischer)
November 2024, Pastor Steven Curry Gallego, Reformation Columbia (Pastor Carl Taylor)
November 10, 2024, Pastor Luke Swanson, Grace, Gilbert, (Pastor Lisa Isenhower)
December 15, 2024, Pastor Mark Buchan, Cristo Rey and Sagrada Familia, Columbia
February 23, 2025, Pastor Emily Stolba, Mt. Calvary, Johnston, (Pastor Lisa Isenhower)
March 16, 2025, Pastor Tom Cassem, Springhill Parish, Chapin/Peak, (Pastor Michele Fischer)

Institutional & Auxiliary Partnership Meetings and Events

April 11, 2024, SCLRC Board Meeting
April 16, 2024, SCLRC Donor Dinner
April 17, 2024, Retired Ministers Gathering
April 18, 2024, LTSS Alumni Day
May 8, 2024, LTSS Worship
May 9, 2024, LTSS Commencement
May 11, 2024, Newberry College Commencement
June 21, 2024, SC WELCA Convention
October 16, 2024, Retired Ministers Gathering
NovusWay Board Meetings
LTSS Advisory Council, Curriculum Committee Meetings & Round Table Discussions
June 21, 2024, SC Women of the ELCA Convention
August 2024, LTSS Worship Leader (Preacher)
October 16, 2024, Retired Ministers Gathering
November 20, 2024 LTSS Decommissioning Service
December 4, 2024 LTSS Retirement Lunch and Worship for Dr. McArver
December 9, 2024, ELCA Seminary Presidents and COB meet
November 10-11, 2024, Lutheran Services Carolinas Board Meeting
Lutheran Homes Board Meetings
South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers Board Meetings
SCLRC Donor Dinners
February 2025, SC Lutheran Men in Mission Board Meetings, President's Dinner and Convention

Interim Pastors

The Rev. Jane Mitcham, Grace, Prosperity
The Rev. Linda Anderson, Springhill Parish
The Rev. Kevin Ogilvie, Cedar Grove, Leesville; Mt. Pilgrim Prosperity
The Rev. Mary Anderson, Pilgrim, Lexington
The Rev. Karen Hawkins, Grace, Gilbert
The Rev. Christine Parham, Our Savior, West Columbia
The Rev. Arthur Turfa, Faith, West Columbia
The Rev. Mark Scott, St. John, Charleston; St. Peter, Pawleys Island
The Rev. Mike Shackelford, Joy, Moore
The Rev. Kathleen Miko, Zion, Lexington; Martin Luther, Charleston
The Rev. Wayne Young, Lord of Life, Bluffton
The Rev. Leroy Cannon, Reformation, Columbia

The Rev. Denise Seymour, St. Mark, Isle of Palms
The Rev. Gary Brandenburg, Mt. Calvary, Johnston
The Rev. Bruce Booher, Joy, Moore
The Rev. Jan Setzler, Colony, Newberry

Leadership Events

February – April 2024, Council Training, GSB, Redeemer, Columbia and Zoom
May 2024, Bible Study Series on Stewardship, (Dr. Mark Allen Powell)
May 2024, 50th Anniversary of Ordination Celebration Dinner
September 18, 2024, FCTE planning with Steven Gallego, Florence SC
October 15, 2024, Boundaries Workshop Region 9, online
October 21-23, 2024, Convocation, Lutheridge
December 6, 2024, Lombard Conflict Transformation Workshop, Zoom
December 17, 2024, Lombard Fractured Lives Workshop, Zoom
December 15, 2024, Inquirer's Day
January 13, 2025 FCTE gathering
January 21, 2025, ELCA Racial Healing Event/Education
January 23, 2025 FCTE Leadership debrief and planning
February 23, 2025, Region 9 Treasurers Workshop
March 2, 2025, Region 9 Treasurers Workshop
September, January, February, Mutual Ministry Committee Meetings
Monthly Bible Team Meetings through 2024
Compensation Guidelines Team Meetings
Lutheran Disaster Response Presentations and Preparations Workshops (Pastor Ray and Pastor Ruth Ann Sipe)

On Leave from Call

Deacon Sarah Bowers, June 2024
Deacon Mandi Whitley, July 2024
Deacon Shelley Allen, extension of leave, July 2024
Deacon Amy Brown, November 2024
The Rev. Sherry Teves, January 2025
The Rev. Sue Held Johnson, January 2025
The Rev. Kristoffer Cox, extension of leave, February 2025
The Rev. Rebecca Lord Phillips, extension of leave, February 2025
The Rev. Jamie Hastings, February 2025

Ordinations

September 29, 2024 – Service of Ordination for D'Etta Broam, at Pisgah, Lexington
November 23, 2024 – Service of Ordination for Emily Stolba at Good Shepherd, Columbia

Region 9

April 25, 2024, Region 9 Council Meeting
August 27, 2024, All Region 9 Staff Boundary Training Day
September 20, 2024, Archive Dinner
Archive Re-Location Task Force
October 25, 2024, Region 9 Bishops Round Table
November 25, 2024 Region 9 Council meeting – Zoom
Region 9 Bishops – monthly meeting

Removed from the Roster (by Synod Council vote in accord with bylaws 7.31.11 and 8.72.15.d of the Constitution Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, ELCA)

None

Removed from the Roster by their request

The Rev. Michael Sherman, May 2024

Deacon Mandi Whitley, November 2024

Resignations

June 2, 2024—Deacon Sarah Bowers, SC Synod, Columbia

July 15, 2024—The Rev. Emily Hartmann, SC Synod, Columbia

July 29, 2024—The Rev. James Henricks, SC Synod, Columbia

September 1, 2024—The Rev. Bobby Morris, Mt. Pilgrim, Prosperity

November 2024—The Rev. Leroy Cannon, Reformation, Columbia

January 17, 2025—The Rev. Sue Held Johnson, The Heritage at Lowman

January 2025—The Rev. Dr. Linda Anderson, Springhill Parish, Peak

January 2025—The Rev. Tom Cassem, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Charleston

January 2025—Deaconess Laura Sharpe Waites, Silverstreet, Silverstreet

February 2025—The Rev. Fred Klinker, St. James, Graniteville

March 2025—The Rev. Carl Taylor, Living Springs, Columbia

Retirement

June 2, 2024—The Rev. Phil Clark

September 1, 2024—The Rev. Karen Hawkins

October 1, 2024—The Rev. Stanley Whitten

January 31, 2025—The Rev. Tony Metze

February 1, 2025—The Rev. Jon Heiliger

Stated Supply

The Rev. Matt Lash, St. Paul, Gilbert, 2024

The Rev. Judy McGuire, Ehrhardt/Mt. Pleasant, Ehrhardt & Good Shepherd, Walterboro, 2024

The Rev. John Stoudemayer, Bethany, Newberry, 2024

Sister D'Etta Broam, Good Shepherd, Swansea and St. John, Clinton, 2024

The Rev. Jim Glander, St. James, Summit 2024

Mr. Jim Cobb, St. James, Graniteville 2025

The Rev. Reggie Cruse, St. Peter, Batesburg

The Rev. Rus Stilwell, St. Andrews, Blythewood

The Rev. Paul Williams, St. Timothy, Whitmire

The Rev. Greg Martin, Trinity, Georgetown

The Rev. Dr. Jann Boyd, Enon, Leesville

The Rev. Ozzie Herlong, Bethany, Lexington

The Rev. Arden Hallman, Bethlehem, Pomaria

The Rev. Floyd Sides, Bachman Chapel, Prosperity

The Rev. Pam Turfa, Sandy Run, Swansea

The Rev. Maria Miller, Augsburg, Union

Stewardship (Rev. Ozzie Herlong, Director for Stewardship)

June 2024 to March 2025, Mission Support Video Production,

May 2, 2024, LTSS/Region 9 Council for Stewardship Education

May 16, 2024, Stewardship for All Seasons Cohort Start Date

June 17, 2024, Stewardship for All Seasons Overview Cohort
 August 7, 2024 Lifeline Distribution Team (Pastor Ozzie, Bishop Aebischer)
 August 14, 2024, Steward Leader's Network
 August 22, 2024, Building a Culture of Generosity Start Date
 September 5, 2024, Stewardship For All Seasons Cohort
 September 19, 2024, Building a Culture of Generosity
 October 3, 2014, Stewardship For All Seasons Cohort
 November 7, 2024, Building a Culture of Generosity
 November 13, 2014, Steward Leader's Network
 November 14, 2024, Stewardship For All Seasons Cohort
 November 21, 2024, Building a Culture of Generosity
 January 13, 2025, First Call Theological Education
 January 15, 2025, Lifeline Distribution Team (Pastor Ozzie, Bishop Aebischer)
 January 22, 2025, Stewardship for All Seasons, Donorarc Storytelling
 February 17, 2025, Explore Stewardship Course, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
 February 23, 2025, Treasurer's Workshop, LTSS/Region 9 Council for Stewardship Education
 February 26, 2025, Steward Leader's Network
 February 26, 2025, Stewardship for All Seasons, Donorarc Storytelling
 March 3, 2025, Treasurer's Workshop, LTSS/Region 9 Council for Stewardship Education

Synod Staff

Weekly Staff Meetings
 Bi-monthly Executive Staff meetings
 Annual Staff Individual Reviews December 2024
 Annual Staff Mid-Year Individual Check – ins July 2024
 Staff Enrichment Day – December 2024
 Celebration Lunches for Staff who were leaving
 Training Time for those who joined this Staff
 Lutheran Disaster Response Interview Process

Synod Council

August 6, 2024 Executive Council Meeting - Zoom
 August 24, 2024 Synod Council Meeting – Zion Lexington
 October 24, 2024 Executive Council Meeting - Zoom
 November 11, 2024 Synod Council Meeting - Zoom
 February 10, 2025 Executive Council Meeting - Zoom
 February 24, 2025 Synod Council Meeting – Zoom
 April 14, 2025 Executive Council Meeting - Zoom
 April 28, 2025 Synod Council Meeting – Office
 Meetings with Personnel Chair
 Various Meetings with Vice President Election Task Force

Transfers to other Synods

June 2024—The Rev. Stephen Nelson (retired), Transfer to Grand Canyon Synod
 August 2024—The Rev. James Henricks, Transfer to Virginia Synod
 January 2025—The Rev. Linda Hatcher (retired), Transfer to North Carolina Synod
 February 2025—The Rev. Fred Klinker, Transfer to Southwestern Texas Synod
 February 2025--The Rev. Stanley Whitten (retired), Transfer to Southwestern Texas Synod

Transfers Received from other Synods

May 2024—The Rev. William Neuman, Transfer from Central States Synod

June 2024—The Rev. Sidney Roden, Transfer from Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

August 2024—The Rev. Madison Chelberg, Transfer from Southeastern Minnesota Synod

September 2024—Deacon Kimberly Heindl, Transfer from Florida-Bahamas Synod

March 2025—The Rev. Laura Swanson, Transfer from Virginia Synod

Worship Celebrations and Special Events

March 3, 2024 – Funeral, The Rev. James Shealy, St. John, Pomaria

March 9, 2024 – Funeral, Larry Rathe, Shepherd of the Sea, Garden City

April 21, 2024 – IELCO Partners Online Worship Celebration

May 3, 2024 – College of Charleston Campus Ministry & Alumni Dinner, St. Matthews, Charleston

May 19, 2024 – Service of Holy Closure, Christ the King, Greenville (Preached & Presided)

June 8, 2024 – Synod Assembly (Preached)

June 19, 2024 – Juneteenth Concert, Ascension, Columbia

July 10, 2024 – Funeral, Thomas Carter, Hickory, NC

July 14, 2024 – Worship St. Phillip, Myrtle Beach (Preach and Preside)

July 28, 2024 – Retirement Drop in for Tex Davis, Mt. Tabor, West Columbia

August 11, 2024 – Worship Immanuel, Greenwood, (Preached and Presided)

August 31, 2024 – Funeral, The Rev. Bob Lineberger, St. Paul, Columbia

September 11, 2024 – 9/11 Commemoration, Providence, Lexington

September 22, 2024 – University Lutheran, Clemson (Preached and Presided)

October 6, 2024 – St. Matthias, Easley, 50th Anniversary (Preached)

October 20, 2024 – Bethlehem, Leesville, 195th Anniversary (Preached)

October 27, 2024 – Reformation Sunday, Redeemer LC, Columbia (preached)

November 23, 2024 – Funeral Service for Rev. Russell “Russ” Howard Anderson @ Ascension, Columbia

November 20, 2024 – LTSS Decommissioning Service, Columbia

November 24, 2024 – Nuestro Salvador, Greenville, Baptisms and First Holy Communion

December 19, 2024 – Blue Christmas Service, St. Matthews, Pomaria

January 11, 2025 – Funeral, Mrs. Betty Park, Ebenezer, Columbia

January 26, 2025 – MLK Jr. Memorial Service, Ascension, Columbia

January 31, 2025 – Funeral Service, Mrs. Bobbie Sides, Wiles Chapel, Newberry

February 2, 2025 – USC Campus Ministry (Preached)

February 9, 2025 – Elementary Youth Retreat (Preached and Presided)

February 22, 2025 – SC LMM Convention Closing Worship (Presided)

March 15, 2025 – Funeral, Mabel Trexler, Redeemer, Columbia

Children, Youth & Family Ministry (Deacon Deborah Poole)

GraceWorks June 10-13, 2024 (Pastor Emily Hartmann)

ELCA Youth Gathering, July 16-20, 2024 (Deacon Deborah Poole, Bishop Ginny Aebischer)

SC Synod Youth Gathering Leaders Debrief Conversations, August 2024 (Bishop Ginny Aebischer, Deacon Deborah Poole)

Conference Visits

Upstate (Zoom)

Saxe Gotha (2)

Midlands (2)

Heartland

Coastal

Zoom Visits

Rev. Michael Jannett – Southeastern
Rev. Dave Delaney – Virginia Synod
Rev. Melody Simpkins – NC Synod
Joy Hensel – Northeastern Minnesota
Stephanie Caro – Consultants in Youth Ministry

Retreats/Events Coordinated

Kid's Day
Middle School
Elementary School
Lutheran Youth Day at Newberry College

Conferences Attended

ReThing Youth Ministry (Online)
Family Faith (Online)
Extravaganza

Led

VBS Ideashare
New to Youth Ministry
CYFM Adult Training
CYFM Leaders Monthly Check-Ins
CYFM Team Meetings (8)

Other Attended

Affirm – Southeastern Synod
Kairos – Virginia Synod
Youth Gathering
Synod Assembly
Convocation
Synod Council
Marty Party
Kali Kadelbach's Reception

Deacon Lexanne Graves
Vice President
2025 South Carolina ELCA Synod Assembly

A Year of Celebration and Reflection: The 200th Anniversary

With great joy, we began our 2024 leadership year deeply aware of the 200th Anniversary of our Synod. Your synodical leaders creatively secured financial resources to ensure that throughout the past year and at this Assembly, every disciple could deepen their understanding of our identity and heritage within the South Carolina Synod's remarkable 200-year history. We extend our sincere gratitude to the diligent work of the Anniversary Committee and the prudent guidance of our Finance team, along with Wendy Davidson and Neal Fischer, for illuminating our rich history.

Living Our Mission, Vision, and Values

In August 2024, your South Carolina Synod Council convened with a clear focus: to embody our Synod Mission and Vision Statements and Core Biblical Values. Our aim was to align our synodical work with God's Way, serving alongside our congregations and leaders. I was particularly grateful for Deaconess D'Etta Broam's leadership in guiding us to a deeper understanding of our roles as synodical leaders and children of God. These valuable exercises highlighted our collective leadership gifts, strengthening our collaborative efforts in policy, procedure, and overall direction.

We continue to approach all synodical decisions and challenges through the guiding principles of our mission and vision:

- **Mission:** Equipping church leaders to develop impactful faith communities and disciples of Jesus.
- **Vision:** Every person in South Carolina experiences God's love and grace.

Our commitment to these statements is rooted in our core values, drawn from God's Word:

- Living Faith in Jesus as our Cornerstone (1 Peter 2:4-6)
- Fostering opportunities for partnership among leaders and communities of faith (Romans 15:5-7)
- Walking together in sacred trust as siblings in Christ (Luke 24:28-32)

A Time of Transition and Gratitude

Now with a humble heart, I step back from my role as Synod Vice President after faithfully serving two terms. I trust in God's wisdom regarding the selection of our next Vice President and am confident that this individual will be equipped with the necessary gifts and abilities for the work ahead. Thank YOU for the privilege of serving alongside you and for our meaningful ministry partnership.

Blessed to be a Blessing,



Report of the Secretary 2025

It is an honor to serve as secretary of the South Carolina (SC) Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). In this role, as the SC Synod celebrates the 200th anniversary of the founding of the synod in 2024-2025, I see how this synod is walking together in Christ with congregations, lay persons, rostered ministers, and the Churchwide Organization for the sake of the world. Being thankful for one another and for our relationship as church together is important.

Bishop Virginia Aebischer; The Rev. Richard Carter and Deacon Kim Heindl, Assistants to the Bishop; Deacon Lexanne Graves, Vice-President; and Raymond Hendrix, Treasurer; give us able and faithful leadership as the South Carolina Synod moves forward in God's mission. This office is assisted by a dedicated support staff that carries out many details and other ministries: Neal Fischer, Charlene Fink, Wendy Davidson, Deborah Slice and Deacon Deborah Poole. Wendy Davidson, Administrative Assistant, and Kelley Mintz have ably prepared the *Directory and Minutes of the South Carolina Synod 2024* and the *Bulletin of Reports* for voting members of this assembly, respectively. I extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to these persons for all their good work. The duties of this office include the recording of the minutes of the Synod Council meetings and the Synod Assemblies. Other duties of this office include correspondence on Synod Council actions, providing for the archives and communication with the Churchwide organization. I am also serving as Chair of the Constitution Committee.

In order to better preserve the history and heritage of the SC Synod, congregations are encouraged to use the James R. Crumley Jr., Archives, a Region 9 Southeast and Caribbean ELCA Ministry dedicated to the preservation of Lutheran History, located in the Lineberger Memorial Library at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia. Congregations are encouraged to collect records and publish historical information. As secretary, assisted by synod staff and volunteers, I am responsible for the continuing assessment, retention and transfer of archival materials. The archive is a good site for older and original parish registers; micro-film copies of current parish registers or older parish registers; copies of congregational histories and anniversary booklets (especially in 25-year increments); and photographs of church buildings. Preserving historic records is about preserving stories of God's people. Go to <https://www.crumleyarchives.com/> for more information.

Each year, the statistics of the congregations of this synod are collected and compiled by the Office of the Secretary, ELCA. This data provides a detailed picture of statistical trends for each congregation and for this synod. There were 97 congregations out of 142 congregations that filed reports at the end of December 31, 2023 which was the latest year that statistics were available at the time this report was written. The baptized membership decreased by 437 persons from 37,092 to 36,655 at the end of 2023. The average size of a congregation in this synod is 260 baptized members. Regular giving by members in congregations increased by \$1,030,520 from \$33,435,844 to \$34,466,364. Average giving per confirmed member increased in 2023 by \$4.90 from \$1,316.09 to \$1,320.99. The average weekly worship attendance per congregation was 78 persons (on-site) and the average weekly worship attendance per congregation was 66 persons (on-line). The *Summary of Congregational Statistics* are available on the documents page of the assembly website under additional information in Minutes of the 2024 Assembly beginning at p. 228.

In accordance with S7.32.A20.f. of the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the South Carolina Synod, ELCA, I recommend that two copies of the *Minutes of the 2024 South Carolina Synod Assembly*, which have been certified by the bishop and the secretary as the official protocol of that assembly, be approved and deposited in the archives.

Rev. W. Osborne Herlong Jr., Secretary
ELCA Synod of South Carolina

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Year Ended January 31, 2025

Referred to as 2024-25

It is truly an honor and privilege to serve as treasurer of the SC Synod. I would like to thank Charlene Fink, Synod Accountant, and the other staff members for making my job easier and enjoyable.

Mission Support

Below is a summary of mission support from our congregations for the year 2024-25 as compared to 2023-24:

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
Mission Support Budgeted	\$2,360,000	\$2,380,000
Mission Support Received	\$2,246,269	\$2,260,405

We received less mission support in 2024-25 than the prior year. We are hopeful giving will increase in 2025-26. Thanks to all of you for your contributions. They are greatly appreciated. In addition to mission support, the Synod received \$434,580 in 2024-25 for other funds (ministries) such as World Hunger, World Relief, Domestic and International Disaster Relief, Missionary Support, various institutions, etc. Mission support from the 146 congregations is presented in the schedule on the following pages.

Expenditures

Below is a summary of expenditures for the year 2024-25 as compared to 2023-24:

	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
Mission Benevolence	\$ 746,295	\$ 819,894
Institutions	\$ 182,200	\$ 182,200
Rostered Ministry	\$ 64,174	\$ 65,645
Congregations & Lay Leaders	\$ 96,055	\$ 94,834
New Leader Development	\$ 188,582	\$ 174,481
Connections/Resources for Synod Ministries	\$ 121,917	\$ 264,839
Operating Expenses	\$ 881,263	\$ 895,548
Total Expenditures	<u>\$2,280,486</u>	<u>\$2,497,441</u>

The ELCA support for 2024-25 was 30% of unrestricted mission support. For a comparison of expenditures with the budget, see the following financial statements.

Mission Funding/Spending Plan

The Mission Funding/Spending Plan (The Plan) approved by the Synod Assembly for 2025-26 is \$2,458,500 with support for the ELCA at 22%. The Plan approved by the Synod Council to be recommended to the 2025 Synod Assembly for 2026-27 is \$2,471,956 with support for the ELCA at 22%.

To fund these Plans, the Synod is asking each congregation to give a minimum of 10% of their offering annually towards mission support. As congregations depend on some members to give more than others, the Synod also depends on some congregations to give more than other congregations. Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

Investment Income

Investment income for the operating fund for the year ending January 31, 2025 was \$186,123 in comparison to the investment income of \$110,379 for the year prior year.

Other Items

The SC Synod acquired the property of St. John (Johnston) following the closing of that congregation. The upkeep of this property is under the property committee.

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS."

We are all members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America and as members we worship in our individual congregations, support local ministries, and support joint ministries through the SC Synod and the ELCA. I believe that the work we do together is a great benefit to God's people.

Raymond L. Hendrix, Jr., Treasurer

South Carolina Synod, ELCA					
Mission Support, SC Synod Support & Other Funds					
February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025					
	Organization	Mission Support	SC Synod Support	Other Funds	Total
1	All Saints 07396, Mt. Pleasant	\$42,082.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$42,082.65
2	Ascension 05596, Columbia	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
3	# Atonement 05658, Laurens	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,813.62	\$8,813.62
4	Augsburg 05648, Union	\$935.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$935.00
5	Bachman Chapel 05640, Prosperity	\$6,550.00	\$0.00	\$1,267.25	\$7,817.25
6	Beth Eden 05628, Newberry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7	Bethany 05627, Newberry	\$8,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,800.00
8	Bethany 05721, Lexington	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$125.00	\$4,125.00
9	Bethel 05620, White Rock	\$18,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.00
10	Bethlehem 05608, Irmo	\$17,200.34	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$17,600.34
11	Bethlehem 05637, Pomaria	\$10,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,400.00
12	Bethlehem 05703, Leesville	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
13	# Cedar Grove 05705, Leesville	\$8,812.82	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$8,832.82
14	Christ 07329, Hilton Head	\$8,377.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,377.00
15	Christ Community 31261, N. Charleston	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$30,291.71	\$35,091.71
16	# Christ the King 16415, Greenville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$115.00	\$115.00
17	Christus Victor 07571, Columbia	\$23,241.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,241.94
18	Colony 05630, Newberry	\$6,365.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,365.00
19	Corinth 05724, Saluda	\$0.00	\$5,625.00	\$10,250.00	\$15,875.00
20	Cristo Rey 30851, Lexington	\$2,366.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,366.23
21	Cross and Crown 07503, Florence	\$1,333.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,333.00
22	Crossroads 30706, Fort Mill	\$15,408.00	\$0.00	\$1,260.00	\$16,668.00
23	Ebenezer 05598, Columbia	\$44,286.25	\$0.00	\$2,375.55	\$46,661.80
24	Ehrhardt Memorial 05677, Ehrhardt	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00	\$4,600.00
25	Emmanuel 05614, West Columbia	\$25,062.63	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$25,092.63
26	Enon 05704, Leesville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
27	Epiphany 30081, Rock Hill	\$12,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$13,200.00
28	Faith 05615, West Columbia	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$16,200.00
29	Faith 05631, Newberry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
30	Faith 05683, Johns Island	\$5,700.00	\$0.00	\$840.00	\$6,540.00
31	Faith 05696, Batesburg-Leesville	\$3,543.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,543.00
32	# Faith Lutheran Chapel 30683, Pickens	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,996.25	\$30,996.25
33	Good Hope 05727, Ward	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
34	Good Shepherd 05600, Columbia	\$44,830.00	\$0.00	\$3,190.00	\$48,020.00
35	Good Shepherd 05612, Swansea	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
36	Good Shepherd 05692, Walterboro	\$10,505.00	\$0.00	\$3,888.12	\$14,393.12
37	Grace 05611, Rock Hill	\$57,567.47	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57,567.47
38	Grace 05643, Prosperity	\$12,757.16	\$0.00	\$5,600.35	\$18,357.51
39	Grace 05698, Gilbert	\$13,008.00	\$0.00	\$1,970.00	\$14,978.00
40	Holy Communion 05659, Spartanburg	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
41	Holy Spirit 30725, Charleston	\$18,486.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,486.08
42	Holy Trinity 05651, Anderson	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,034.93	\$20,034.93
43	Holy Trinity 05722, Pelion	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,640.00	\$5,140.00
44	Hope 30080, Vance	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$2,850.00
45	Immanuel 05657, Greenwood	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
46	Incarnation 05601, Columbia	\$10,250.04	\$0.00	\$36.00	\$10,286.04
47	Joy 30418, Moore	\$54,699.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$54,699.96
48	King of Glory 07449, North Myrtle Beach	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
49	Living Springs 07829, Columbia	\$51,086.15	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$54,086.15
50	Lord of Life 30351, Bluffton	\$36,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$36,000.00

South Carolina Synod, ELCA					
Mission Support, SC Synod Support & Other Funds					
February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025					
	Organization	Mission Support	SC Synod Support	Other Funds	Total
51	Lutheran Church by the Lake 30369, McCormick	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$353.00	\$12,353.00
52	Macedonia 05644, Prosperity	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$970.00	\$970.00
53	Martin Luther 05668, Charleston	\$10,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,900.00
54	Messiah 05663, Mauldin	\$24,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,185.00	\$25,185.00
55	Messiah 05687, Hanahan	\$12,090.04	\$0.00	\$3,480.00	\$15,570.04
56	Mt. Calvary 05701, Johnston	\$3,208.33	\$0.00	\$275.00	\$3,483.33
57	Mt. Hebron 05706, Leesville	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00
58	Mt. Hermon 05616, West Columbia	\$14,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,400.00
59	Mt. Hermon 05636, Peak	\$10,265.00	\$0.00	\$2,360.00	\$12,625.00
60	Mt. Horeb 05589, Chapin	\$48,310.13	\$0.00	\$8,082.00	\$56,392.13
61	Mt. Olivet 05650, Chapin	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
62	Mt. Pilgrim 05625, Prosperity	\$952.00	\$0.00	\$420.00	\$1,372.00
63	Mt. Pleasant 05678, Ehrhardt	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,050.00	\$7,050.00
64	Mt. Pleasant 05729, Saluda	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
65	Mt. Tabor 05617, West Columbia	\$56,995.54	\$0.00	\$1,975.25	\$58,970.79
66	Mt. Tabor 05626, Little Mountain	\$18,674.61	\$0.00	\$2,205.00	\$20,879.61
67	Nazareth 05710, Lexington	\$840.00	\$0.00	\$495.44	\$1,335.44
68	Nuestro Salvador 31098, Greenville	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$3,600.00
69	Orangeburg 05688, Orangeburg	\$5,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,300.00
70	Our Saviour 05618, West Columbia	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$10,000.00
71	Our Saviour 05654, Greenville	\$23,314.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,314.00
72	Parroquia el Mesias, 31362, Mauldin	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
73	Pilgrim 05712, Lexington	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
74	Pine Grove 05684, Lone Star	\$5,200.00	\$0.00	\$490.00	\$5,690.00
75	Pisgah 05713, Lexington	\$42,752.00	\$0.00	\$49,053.12	\$91,805.12
76	Pomaria 05638, Pomaria	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,368.00	\$9,368.00
77	Providence 05711, Lexington	\$21,007.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,007.25
78	Redeemer 05623, Columbia	\$55,815.74	\$0.00	\$4,206.47	\$60,022.21
79	Redeemer 05633, Newberry	\$6,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$8,500.00
80	Redeemer 05669, Charleston	\$43,779.66	\$0.00	\$6,838.00	\$50,617.66
81	Redeemer 05730, Greer	\$5,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,250.00
82	Reformation 05602, Columbia	\$22,100.00	\$0.00	\$1,558.83	\$23,658.83
83	Reformation 05610, Lancaster	\$13,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,800.00
84	Restoration Chapel 31394, Greenwood	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
85	Resurrection 05665, Cameron	\$24,335.70	\$0.00	\$5,296.47	\$29,632.17
86	Sagrada Familia 31073, Columbia	\$740.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$740.35
87	Sandy Run 05613, Swansea	\$7,800.00	\$0.00	\$7,100.00	\$14,900.00
88	Shepherd of the Sea 07420, Garden City	\$16,944.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,944.00
89	Silverstreet 05647, Silverstreet	\$590.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$690.00
90	Springs of Grace 30443, Inman	\$1,050.00	\$0.00	\$1,050.00	\$2,100.00
91	St. Andrew 05585, Blythewood	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
92	St. Andrew's 05604, Columbia	\$45,339.00	\$0.00	\$5,362.82	\$50,701.82
93	St. Barnabas 05671, Charleston	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
94	St. David 05619, West Columbia	\$57,070.09	\$0.00	\$7,525.00	\$64,595.09
95	St. James 05590, Sumter	\$2,740.50	\$3,064.90	\$774.00	\$6,579.40
96	St. James 05629, Newberry	\$2,315.00	\$0.00	\$1,545.00	\$3,860.00
97	St. James 05700, Graniteville	\$19,490.36	\$0.00	\$11,920.04	\$31,410.40
98	St. James 05708, Summit	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
99	St. James 05715, Lexington	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$12,600.00
100	St. Johannes 05672, Charleston	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

South Carolina Synod, ELCA					
Mission Support, SC Synod Support & Other Funds					
February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025					
	Organization	Mission Support	SC Synod Support	Other Funds	Total
101	St. John 05609, Irmo	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
102	St. John 05642, Pomaria	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
103	St. John 05653, Clinton	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
104	St. John 05661, Spartanburg	\$76,066.00	\$0.00	\$1,025.00	\$77,091.00
105	St. John 05662, Walhalla	\$37,200.00	\$0.00	\$5,651.25	\$42,851.25
106	# St. John 05702, Johnston	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$47,006.31	\$47,006.31
107	St. John 05714, Lexington	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
108	St. John's 05664, Beaufort	\$41,066.63	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$41,076.63
109	St. John's 05673, Charleston	\$9,000.00	\$20.00	\$5,146.00	\$14,166.00
110	St. Luke 05605, Columbia	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
111	St. Luke 05622, Florence	\$41,600.00	\$0.00	\$10,263.00	\$51,863.00
112	St. Luke 05646, Prosperity	\$21,505.00	\$4,301.00	\$21,421.00	\$47,227.00
113	St. Luke 05691, Summerville	\$25,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,500.00
114	St. Mark 05725, Batesburg-Leesville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,463.00	\$12,463.00
115	St. Mark's 05690, Isle of Palms	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$550.00
116	St. Matthew 05639, Pomaria	\$8,900.00	\$0.00	\$302.00	\$9,202.00
117	St. Matthew 05666, Cameron	\$2,060.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$2,160.00
118	St. Matthew 05716, Lexington	\$1,751.00	\$0.00	\$8,490.00	\$10,241.00
119	St. Matthew's 05674, Charleston	\$65,835.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$65,835.40
120	St. Matthias 07330, Easley	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
121	St. Michael 05606, Columbia	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
122	St. Michael 05655, Greenville	\$41,140.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41,140.00
123	St. Michael 05694, Moncks Corner	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$15,949.12	\$17,349.12
124	St. Nicholas 05680, Fairfax	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
125	St. Paul 05695, Aiken	\$57,339.24	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$58,039.24
126	St. Paul 05699, Gilbert	\$7,700.00	\$0.00	\$2,615.00	\$10,315.00
127	St. Paul's 05607, Columbia	\$39,235.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39,235.00
128	St. Paul's 05685, Mt. Pleasant	\$1,916.00	\$0.00	\$3,540.00	\$5,456.00
129	St. Peter 05697, Batesburg-Leesville	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$4,000.00
130	St. Peter's 07693, Pawleys Island	\$3,647.25	\$0.00	\$2,148.50	\$5,795.75
131	St. Philip 05634, Newberry	\$0.00	\$14,750.00	\$0.00	\$14,750.00
132	St. Philip 05686, Myrtle Beach	\$9,438.00	\$0.00	\$1,470.00	\$10,908.00
133	St. Stephen's 05718, Lexington	\$63,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,447.59	\$66,447.59
134	St. Thomas 05593, Chapin	\$11,004.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,004.00
135	St. Timothy 05587, Camden	\$13,395.00	\$0.00	\$4,400.00	\$17,795.00
136	St. Timothy 05649, Whitmire	\$1,510.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,510.00
137	Summer Memorial 05635, Newberry	\$16,800.00	\$0.00	\$8,744.99	\$25,544.99
138	Transfiguration 05588, Cayce	\$29,037.00	\$0.00	\$2,315.00	\$31,352.00
139	Trinity 05656, Greenville	\$71,041.67	\$0.00	\$14,612.57	\$85,654.24
140	Trinity 05679, Elloree	\$330.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$330.00
141	Trinity 05681, Fairfax	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
142	Trinity 05682, Georgetown	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
143	Union 05707, Leesville	\$19,495.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,495.65
144	University 05652, Clemson	\$47,837.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$47,837.50
145	Wittenberg 05709, Leesville	\$26,499.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26,499.96
146	Zion 05719, Lexington	\$38,285.10	\$0.00	\$527.81	\$38,812.91
	Grand Total:	\$2,217,008.42	\$29,260.90	\$434,580.36	\$2,680,849.68
Note: The Synod and congregational figures may differ due to the closing of the Synod year and the congregational year.					
	# Deactivated Contributors at FYE				



South Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The South Carolina Synod Treasurer's Letter

March 26, 2025

To the Synod Council
South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America
Columbia, South Carolina

The accompanying unaudited financial statements of the South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the Synod) have been prepared by the Treasurer's office of the Synod for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2025. These statements are being distributed for your information.

The Synod is in the process of having an audit on the financial statements, and the Auditor's letter will be issued at a later date. We do not expect any material differences in these unaudited financial statements and the audited financial statements.

Raymond L. Hendrix, Jr., Treasurer

**SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

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FOR SYNOD COUNCIL DESIGNATED AND FOR DONOR RESTRICTED

**SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
January 31, 2025**

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,249,558.16
Investments	3,725,844.15
Prepaid Expenses	26,375.00
Property Available For Sale	1,932,602.50
Land, Building & Equipment, Net of Depreciation	0.00 2,460,553.97

Total Assets	9,394,933.78
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Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable	161,938.50
Deferred Income	3,100.00
Notes Payable, Secured by Property	376,850.00
Discount on Notes Payable	(25,987.00)

Total Liabilities	515,901.50
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Net Assets

Donor Restricted	1,581,554.23
Undesignated	
Council Designated	1,796,752.30
Unrestricted - Operating	5,500,725.75

Total Net Assets	8,879,032.28
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets	9,394,933.78
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Unaudited - See Synod Treasurer's Letter

**SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN OPERATING NET ASSETS - BUDGET VS ACTUAL
January 31, 2025**

	Budget	Actual
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Congregational Mission Support	2,300,000	2,217,008
Congregational SC Synod Support	60,000	29,261
Assembly Fees	13,000	22,050
Youth Ministry Fees		2,844
Rental Revenue		15,226
Investment Income	50,000	186,123
Trust Fees	12,000	10,712
Miscellaneous Income	10,000	4,777
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2,445,000	2,488,001
EXPENSES		
Support Programs		
ELCA Support	690,000	665,103
Joint Ministries Region 9 Support	11,000	11,000
Archives Support	6,000	5,920
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	5,000	950
Synod Ministry Support	115,000	53,322
Regional Gift Planner - ELCA	10,000	10,000
Institutions	182,200	182,200
Total Support Programs	1,019,200	928,495
Synod Programs		
Category One	101,250	64,174
Category Two	109,000	96,055
Category Three	195,441	188,582
Category Four	122,474	121,917
Total Synod Programs	528,165	470,728
Administration and Operating Expenses	897,635	881,263
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,445,000	2,280,486
Increase in Net Assets Before Transfers and Other Changes		207,515
Transfers and Other Changes in Net Assets		
Non Cash Donation		777,185
Transfers to Council Designated		(33,333)
Discount on Notes Payable		3,446
Investment in Equipment		2,556
Increase (Decrease) in Transfers and Other Changes		749,854
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets		957,369
Net Assets Beginning Balance		4,543,357
Net Assets Ending Balance		5,500,726

Unaudited - See Synod Treasurer's Letter

**SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN SYNOD COUNCIL DESIGNATED NET ASSETS
YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2025**

Accounts	Net Asset Balance 2/1/24	Offerings/ Receipts/ Transfers	Net Assets Released from Restrictions Transfers/ Expenditures	Net Asset Balance 1/31/25
Campus Ministry - Principal	160,000.00			160,000.00
Capital Improvements Reserve	128,207.42	13,934.01		142,141.43
Synod Endowment Fund	406,381.96	53,743.88	25,373.53	434,752.31
Computers Upgrade	1,867.57			1,867.57
Synod Vitality Endowment	738,452.57	68,958.18	3,833.62	803,577.13
DEM Work		33,333.33		33,333.33
SC Synod Ministries Support	50,000.00			50,000.00
Synod Staff Salaries	25,000.00			25,000.00
Discipleship/Stewardship	22,741.38		22,741.38	0.00
Other Properties' Maintenance	83,330.57	104,706.69	41,956.73	146,080.53
Total Council Designated Net Assets	1,615,981.47	274,676.09	93,905.26	1,796,752.30

Unaudited - See Synod Treasurer's Letter

**SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN DONOR RESTRICTED NET ASSETS
YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2025**

Funds	Net Asset Balance 2/1/24	Offerings/ Receipts/ Transfers	Net Assets Released from Restrictions Transfers/ Expenditures	Net Asset Balance 1/31/25
Trust Accounts	214,407.52	3,943.97		218,351.49
Growing in God's Mission Appeal	43,913.96		7,340.63	36,573.33
Water/Agricultural Project-Tanzania	142,675.19	7,592.00	56,621.00	93,646.19
Mission Congregations Accounts	347,569.69	415,738.32	497,989.36	265,318.65
Special Contributions - Received & Remitted				
Hunger, Disaster, Institutions, etc.	0.00	247,779.79	247,779.79	0.00
Synod Lifeline Fund	37,553.80	14,279.20	20,375.20	31,457.80
Youth Ministry Accounts	35,864.61	14,305.65	11,819.17	38,351.09
Stewardship	6,328.06	16,800.00	22,525.00	603.06
Mission Director	32,020.00	16,326.00	17,251.63	31,094.37
Rami Moody Holy Land Fund	16,109.00	2,834.00		18,943.00
SC LDR Staff	0.00	145,000.00		145,000.00
ELCA Dem Grant	0.00	33,333.33	33,333.33	0.00
Global Missions Accounts	22,269.03	50,377.84	67,303.80	5,343.07
SC Disaster Response	11,620.74	41,294.95	6,900.00	46,015.69
Trust Income Accounts	310,076.93	95,413.61	10,558.96	394,931.58
Campus Ministry	24,042.81	8,310.20	1,675.00	30,678.01
Candidacy Scholarship Support	66,531.38	621.76	371.76	66,781.38
Resurrection Youth Fund	84,867.14	9,205.43	873.30	93,199.27
Resurrection Seminarian Debt Reduction	7,000.00			7,000.00
Discounted Notes Payable	29,433.00		3,446.00	25,987.00
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	12,646.70	225.00	823.33	12,048.37
Fall Convocation	5,480.09	21,409.02	21,966.02	4,923.09
Others Funds (9 Funds)	12,079.40	10,378.93	7,150.48	15,307.85
Total Donor Restricted Net Assets	1,462,489.05	1,155,169.00	1,036,103.76	1,581,554.29

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