

**South Carolina Women of the ELCA
2025 South Carolina ELCA 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 one another so that we can be God's voice, hands and feet here on earth.

The South Carolina Women of the ELCA held there 36th Annual Convention June 21 & 22, 2024 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Summerville, SC. Our theme followed the National Churchwide Women of the ELCA which was Just Love One Another. The convention was centered on 1 John 4:19, "*We love because He first loved us.*"

Highlights of our convention were as follows.

- Bishop Virginia S Aebischer brought greetings to us from the SC ELCA Synod. Bishop Ginny thanked us for our work and for the important part our organization plays in the life of the SC Synod. She updated us on many areas of work within our Synod and asked us to continue to be a part of the success within our synod's work.
- We began our convention with an opening worship service led by our Chaplin Rev. Rebecca Wicker. More than a hundred women and guest gathered for worship, prayer, business, elections, workshops and fellowship.
- Our Keynote Speaker was Rev. Greg Van Dyke from the Lutheran Church by the Lake in McCormik, SC. Pastor Greg shared his work with those who suffer from mental illnesses and led a training on how to recognize signs of depression in adults and teens.
- Christie Gardner from Newberry, SC was elected Vice President
- Shari Donley from Florence was elected Secretary for a second term.
- The following board members were elected for two-year terms: Sarah Cheesman (Western Conference), Cristina Guillermo (Coastal Conference), Lisa Petty (Midlands Conference) and Brianna Harris (Heartland Conference).
- Entertainment was provided by storyteller Tim Lowery.
- Our WELCA Churchwide Representative Myrna Wells-Ulland from Phoenix Arizona gave a presentation on the state of the Churchwide Organization
- Dr. Cathy Milejczack, Companion Synod Coordinator for the ELC of Tanzania and SW Diocese provided updates on Tanzania.
- Our convention projects for 2024 are as follows:
 - The Fifth Gospel \$8,107 was given
 - The She Shed Project \$41,434 was given to our synod in order to purchase a tracker along with farming equipment and a shed to store all of the farming equipment for the women in the SW Diocese of Tanzania.
- Our time together ended with a closing worship service led by Rev. Rebecca Wicker and installation of new board members.

Other donations given during 2024 were:

- Women of the ELCA CWO \$12,424
- Lutheran Theological Seminary of the Carolinas \$1440
- ELCA Good Gifts \$1500
- Lutheran Disaster Relief of the Carolinas \$4685

- Other special designated offerings \$6518 which included the Newberry College Nursing Scholarship Endowment.

We held our two annual women's retreats

- Camp Kinard and
- Isle of Palms

The She Shed Project was completed by purchasing the tractor, farming equipment and erecting a shed to store and protect the tractor and equipment from inclement weather. A dedication in Tanzania for the tractor was held in February 2025 where Dr. Cathy Milejczack represented the SC Women of the ELCA

All women in the SC ELCA are invited to join us at our 37th Annual Convention to be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Aiken, SC August 15 and 16, 2025 where we will celebrate women across South Carolina and their work within our organization. Registration for this event can be located on our website at www.scwelca.com.

The ELCA Lutheran Women in South Carolina are a blessing to our synod and the SC Synodical Women's Organization Board. They are strong, bold women who love Jesus Christ, and they give generously from their hearts to help those in need. This is clearly shown by their total contributions of over \$76,000 given during 2024 at the state level. We will continue to do God's work through our organization.

We thank Bishop Ginny and the SC ELCA Synod Council for their hard work and all the support they provide SC Women of the ELCA.

Respectfully submitted,

Risse Snelgrove

President of the SC Women of the ELCA

South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission 2025 South Carolina ELCA Synod Assembly

As South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission, we are a community of men called to discipleship in Jesus Christ. Our mission is to make disciples of men that have a deep and meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. We do this by financial support of the Lutheran mission churches in South Carolina along with the Master Builders Bible Program, One Year to Live Retreats, Building Men Through Christ Seminars, and Men In Action events. Our vision is for every man to have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective men's ministry in every congregation. Our Objectives are to provide financial support for the development of mission congregations in the SC Synod To provide opportunities to make disciples of men by sponsoring gatherings, local congregational unit meetings, conference meetings and Bible Studies To support Lutheran Men in Mission by the giving of time, talents, and money to support a strong church-wide men's ministry.

The Theme for South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission for 2025 is based on John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

Our focus this year, in addition to our other ministries, is to make our congregations and Men's units aware of the need to feed, conduct food drives and/or make cash donations to our college student food pantries at campuses throughout the state. SCLMM has fed the students at Newberry College, the former Lutheran Seminary in Columbia, USC Columbia and also Clemson. Our purpose in feeding the Seminary students over the years was to fill in the gap during semester breaks when the dining hall was closed. We used the opportunity to make the future pastors aware of the importance of Lutheran Men in every congregation and to encourage them to support Lutheran Men when they become pastors. We will encourage our congregations to collect food items to take to the various campuses statewide and also to volunteer to feed the College Students in their respective communities.

2024 Activities

- Skeet Shoot at Palmetto State Armory Swansea in May
- Attended the WELCA Convention at St. Lukes Summerville in June
- Fed the kids participating in Grace works in July
- Fishing day at Camp Kinard in August
- Dove Shoot in Lamar on Labor Day and dove shoots over Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Several deer hunts. The Wounded Warrior deer hunt netted 8 deer
- Annual Board retreat at the Coastal Retreat Center on the Isle of Palms
- Fed the Youth at Newberry College November 16th.

2025 Activities

- 2-21-25 82nd annual SCLMM Convention held at St. Stephen's Lexington
- 3-8-9-25 attended North Carolina LMM Convention at Daniels Lutheran Church Lincolnton NC
- Lenten Prayer Journey with Mark Tidsworth 3-10-17, 24, 31 and April 07 on line.
- Skeet Shoot May 17, 2025

2025 Upcoming Events

- Tubing down the Congaree Saturday August 02, 2025
- Will attend various LMM conference and unit meetings
- Fishing Trips
- Dove and deer Hunts
- Annual Board retreat at Coastal Retreat Center September 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald L.(Ron) Redd
President, South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission