

**South Carolina Women of the ELCA
2026 South Carolina ELCA Synod Assembly**



Greetings from the Women of the ELCA! Thank you for giving us this opportunity to share what the SC Lutheran Women have been up to. We are currently planning our annual convention- June 19-20, 2026, at Redeemer Lutheran in Newberry. Our theme is “I am Worthy, I am Loved, I am Enough.” Please join us for a weekend of fellowship, workshops, and refreshment!

Our current action projects include gathering non-perishable items for a local food bank in Newberry- God's Abundance for All People (GAAP). Volunteers serve meals in the kitchen and provide supplemental groceries to families in financial need. We plan to collect non-perishable items and monetary donations to present to them at our convention.

As our global project this year we are asking for monetary donations to support Kyushu Gakuin school in Japan. They need a new gate for the newly established primary school and also need to refurbish their 100-year-old benches. Our goal is to collect \$10,000 for them! If you feel moved to contribute, please let me know.

Our ongoing projects are giving to our nursing endowment at Newberry College and always supporting our Lutheran Retreat Centers! I am very proud to be a part of this organization that gives back so much to others!

One of our newest programs is a College Ambassador Program where we are wanting to connect young adult women with seasoned ELCA members and provide mentorship to young girls aged 7-12 in local congregations. We want to focus on mentorship and building relationships! Just another way to give back and reach out a loving hand to our neighbors.

Also, the recent creation of our Teenage Prevention Task Force has plans to certify two Mental Health First Aid instructors so we can provide classes and provide support for anyone in this crisis. If you are interested in more information on any of our programs, please reach out.

Thank you again for giving me this opportunity to share a little about the heart of our Lutheran Women!

Blessings,

Christie Gardner, President of SC WELCA

South Carolina Lutheran Men In Mission 2026 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 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 2026 is mental health based on John 1:5 "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We accomplish this by being the light in someone else's darkness (mental health awareness).

Our focus this year, in addition to our other established ministries, is to make our congregations and Men's units aware of the need for shining light on the ongoing ministries and mental health. We are currently looking for a man to fill the positions of Secretary and Vice President. We are looking at the possibility of setting up another Loan Fund with a focus on established church sustainability.

2025 Activities

- Annual Board retreat at Coastal Retreat Center September 19-21, 2025
- Attended various LMM conference and unit meetings
- Cooked at On Year to Live Retreat September 26-28, 2025
- Cooked for Deer Hunt December 6, 2025

2026 Activities

- SCLMM Past President dinner Friday, February 2026 at Living Springs Lutheran Church, Columbia
- SCLMM Convention Saturday, February 21, 2026 @ LSLC
- Attended North Carolina LMM Convention at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Dallas, NC March 14th, 2026
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes @ Presbyterian College March 22, 2026, cooked Hot Dogs
- Cooked at family fishing May 6th, 2026

2026 Upcoming Activities

- Will attend various SCLMM conference and unit meetings
- Tubing down the Congaree River on a Saturday in August 2026
- Annual Board retreat at Coastal Retreat Center October 2026 (Any excess not taken up SCLMM board or Conference members will be open others)

Respectfully submitted,

Marshall C. Hurlbert

2026 President, South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission