

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
2026 South Carolina Synod Assembly Elections

2026 South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee

The Rev. Jackie Utely, Chair
Mr. Dave Bowers
Deacon Ashlyn Cox
Mrs. Sheree Caughman
The Rev. Christina Johnson

The Rev. Kenneth Gillikin
Ms. Carrie Nicholson
The Rev. Wade Roof
Mr. Jeffrey Stringer

Positions open for election with description summaries of responsibilities:

SYNOD COUNCIL

Terms begin after Synod Assembly. Meetings are generally scheduled 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 (Eastern Area which includes Amelia, Coastal, and Epiphany Conferences)
2. Lay Woman (At Large)
3. Lay Woman (POC/LOE)
4. Lay Woman Unexpired Term (Northern Area which includes Foothills, Heartland, and Upstate Conferences)
5. Lay Man (At Large)
6. Lay Man (Northern Area which includes Foothills, Heartland, and Upstate Conferences)
7. Lay Man Unexpired Term (At Large)
8. Rostered Minister (At Large)
9. Rostered Minister (Central Area which includes Midlands, Saxe Gotha, and Western Conferences)

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.

1. Lay Woman
2. Lay Man
3. Rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament
4. Rostered Minister of Word and Service

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.

1. Lay Woman
2. Lay Man
3. Rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament
4. Rostered Minister of Word and Service

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 Grant 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 Woman
2. Lay Man

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. Lay Woman

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 – Eastern Area

Term Ending 2029 (Elect 1)

Sandra “Sandy” Derrick

Silkie Pyrlik

Full Name: Sandra “Sandy” Derrick

Email Address: sandyderrick1@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 1216 Rutledge Ave., Florence SC

Congregation: St Luke

Congregation City: Florence

Employment/Profession: Retired Teacher

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 nominating committee in the Synod-2025, Served on church council at St. Luke 2023-2025, member of Dorothea Wood Circle, teach children's church, attend adult Sunday school, attend Bible Studies offered at St. Luke, serve on Learning Committee, helped co-chair the welcome circle for 2 Guatemalan families that our congregation helped settle in Florence for Lutheran Family Services (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.

Being a member of St. Luke since 1958, I have many wonderful memories of times that my church was and still is here for me. I have 2 that stand out: When my father passed away, the congregation had a wonderful lunch for my family and friends even though he did not have his funeral at this church. When my husband had brain surgery, the congregation was so supportive with prayers, visits and meals. I have a wonderful church family.

Full Name: Silke Pyrlik

Email Address: silkepyrlik@clchhi.com

Mailing Address: 829 William Hilton Pkwy

Congregation: Christ Lutheran

Congregation City: Hilton Head Island

Employment/Profession: Director of Spiritual Formation at Christ Lutheran

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

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

Director of Spiritual Formation at Christ Lutheran Church 2009-ongoing,

LTSS Spiritual Direction (2017-2019)

Voting member ELCA Churchwide Assembly 2025

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 was born, baptized, confirmed, and married in the Lutheran faith in Germany—this is the tradition that has shaped me from the beginning. My deeper spiritual journey began around 2006, during a time of midlife reorientation when I first felt the Spirit gently but persistently calling my soul. By training, I am a chemist and spent many years working in the pharmaceutical industry. However, my permanent move to the United States in 2005 marked a turning point in my life's path. Beginning in 2009, I served in several ministry staff roles at Christ Lutheran Church in Hilton Head Island. In 2019, after receiving my certification as a Spiritual Director from LTSS, my role evolved into Director of Spiritual Formation. Since moving to the U.S., my spiritual journey has been both steep and deeply transformative—filled with ups and downs and significant challenges. I experienced the death of my husband in 2019, lived through widowhood during the isolation of COVID, supported my son through college, endured the loss of possessions, and, in time, found deep fulfillment in loving again and remarrying. Each of these seasons offered profound opportunities for spiritual growth. Through it all, my faith and my church sustained me. I held firmly to my trust in the Spirit's guidance, which has been a strong and steady presence in my life. Today, I find deep joy in walking alongside others as they seek greater meaning and depth in their faith and in their lives. In 2025, I had the privilege of attending the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona, as a voting member for the South Carolina Synod. It was a truly uplifting and inspiring experience. I felt so blessed to be part of a church body that earnestly strives to make the world a better place and lives out Jesus' call to love our neighbor.

Synod Council – Lay Woman – At Large
Term Ending 2029 (Elect 1)
Jenny Lord
Beth Trump

Full Name: Jenny Lord

Email Address: jennymom678@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 9 Meadow Lane

Congregation: St Michael

Congregation City: Greenville

Employment/Profession: Retired Health Educator

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 Retreat Centers Board of Directors, 2 terms, 2016-2024 Stephen Ministry Leader and Trainer 2023- present Chair of Mutual Ministry 2021- present Home Eucharist Minister 2024- present Care Team 2024- present Worship and Music Committee 2023- present Circle of Welcome, 2024- DOGE dismantling WELCA Leader 2019-24 Church Council 2013-2019 Choir 2013-2023 Communion Assistant, Lay Assistant 2019- present Board of Directors, SC Bach 2019-2024

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 most joyous memory happens every year at the beginning of Advent. Our congregation invites children to help decorate the Chrismon Trees. We serve hot chocolate and cookies and then proceed to the sanctuary to hang ornaments. It is pure pandemonium, and it is the Kingdom of God, in a single place, on a single evening. The children eventually go home, and the Worship and Music committee then happily re-decorates the trees. (I can't let this question go without mentioning the joy of seeing my grandchildren baptized.) It's difficult to name just one time when my church has been there for me, because I have always been a church member, and the church has been there for all of my life passages. Right now, as our family navigates a devastating terminal cancer diagnosis in a young member of our family, my congregation is walking beside us with prayers, listening ears, warm hugs, check ins, and such love. Truly the hands and feet of Christ.

Full Name: Beth Trump

Email Address: btrump6659@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 525 Woodrow St, Columbia, 29205

Congregation: St. Andrew's Lutheran

Congregation City: Columbia

Employment/Profession: Retired from Dominion Energy in corporate real estate

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

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc.

Please include dates served.

1. Member of St. Andrew's since 1974 where my husband John is pastor. Have served as Social Ministry Team Chair since 2013. Currently am an adult Sunday School teacher, choir and ensemble member, and worship assistant. In the past have served as Synod Assembly representative, Vacation Bible School director, children's Sunday School teacher, confirmation mentor, youth group leader, SAL Vision Team member, book club leader, altar guild and bell choir member.
2. Currently serving on the SC Lutheran Synod Council (since 2023, Property Committee Chair and Property Manager), Family Promise of the Midlands Board of Directors (Secretary), Lutheran Homes of SC Board (Vice Chair), and Lutheran Homes of SC Foundation Board. Served on the Lowman Home Advisory Board 2016 to 2021. Have or are currently volunteering for many community outreach groups including Senior Resources Meals on Wheels program, Leukemia Lymphoma Society Team in Training, Transitions Homeless Facility, United Way Homeless Consortium, Harvest Hope, Homeless No More and Resurrections Ministries. I also serve as a Poll Clerk for the Richland County Elections Commission.
3. While our children were in school I served in various capacities including PTO, band boosters treasurer, School Improvement Council, and soccer and basketball coach.
4. I served in various leadership service capacities during my work tenure including Dominion's Good Neighbor Fund (Chair), Personal Leadership counselor, Meals on Wheels and Consolidated Clubs Board of Directors.

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?

As parents we have always placed a high value on mission and outreach in our twin sons' lives. In 2011 our son Samuel and I went on a church-sponsored mission trip to Haiti. We had been on mission trips before, but the extreme levels of poverty and need in that country were like none we have ever experienced. As we toured Port-au-Prince homeless encampments, food banks, earthquake victims' graveyards, and an orphan shelter I was overwhelmed with the level of commitment, bravery and grace shown by God's servants in that impoverished place. Samuel was too, and that experience was integral in motivating him toward a lifetime of service. In medical school he worked closely with doctors and fellow students serving Nashville's homeless community, providing field vaccinations and health screenings for that underserved population. Now as an internal medicine doctor at the University of Wisconsin he also serves as medical

director of UW's MEDIC Southside student-run free clinic. I am so proud and grateful that that Haitian experience – and others like it – were instrumental in Samuel's faith and personal journey toward serving others.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

My dad died in 2009. As an ordained Lutheran minister for 51 years, he developed many relationships in the church and beyond. I was devastated by his death, in part because I was not by his side at the end. The church was there for me and my family. The outpouring of love and support from those who had experienced dad's caring ministry over the years was overwhelming and comforting in our time of grief. But the most inspirational moments came during hymns at the funeral. Hundreds of booming voices rose up in songs of praise, resonating through the church, resounding reminders that God is with us even in our times of sorrow.

Synod Council – Lay Woman – POC/LOE
Term Ending 2029 (Elect 1)
Gwen Furcron
Joyce Rose-Harris

Full Name: Gwendolyn Furcron

Email Address: gfurcron1946@yahoo.com

Mailing Address: 149 Elkhorn Lane

Congregation: Living Springs

Congregation City: Columbia

Employment/Profession: 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.

Delegate to SC Synod Council 2024, SCWELCA Board, delegate to national WELCA Convention, serve on NEOH Synod, THRIVENT Coordinator, serving on Outreach Committer, Mutual Ministry Team, Quilting, call committee and actively participate in Sunday Morning worship service

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.

Church has been here for me throughout illness, death, just everyday living. The church is here in both good and challenging times, even get call LS during challenging weather. We have a church that focuses on growth and relationships with God.

Full Name: Joyce M. Rose-Harris

Email Address: joyceroseharris@gmail.com

Mailing Address: PO Box 7104, Columbia, SC 29202

Congregation: Ebenezer

Congregation City: Columbia

Employment/Profession: Housing Outreach Coordinator at SC Association of Community Action Partnerships, Inc.

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

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

1. SC Synod Council (Member) {Lay Woman POC/LOE} - June 2023 - Ending June 2026
2. Ebenezer Lutheran Communications Team (Social Media Manager): September 2018 - January 2023
3. Ebenezer Lutheran Communications Team (Member) - January 2025 - Current
4. Ebenezer Lutheran Worship Team (Member) - January 2024 - Current
5. Ebenezer Lutheran Choir - June 2025 - Current
6. Ebenezer Lutheran Church Council (Member): January 2019 - December 2021
7. The Watering Hole Poetry Organization Board (Member): December 2017 - 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.

There is so much I could share here, my church was a big part of my life when my husband of 28 years passed in March 2021. However, a more recent time is now in 2026. A recurrence of a cancer I battled in 2022 has returned. Previously, I was much more private about my illness. This time around I shared with my congregation and they fully embraced me. I get cards and gentle hugs and so much love that is helping toward my healing. The best part is the young people who check on me. I have to miss some Sundays immediately following my treatments but I get phone calls from members to say hello. My fellow church members are full of agape love.

Synod Council – Lay Woman – Northern Area
Unexpired Term Ending 2027 (Elect 1)
Jaime Fivecoat
Norma Price

Full Name: Norma Price

Email Address: ns|price@bellsouth.net

Mailing Address: 1019 Wallace Drive Newberry, SC 29108

Congregation: Summer Memorial Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Newberry

Employment/Profession: Retired school teacher – 42 years

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.

Synod – Served as Lay person from Summer Memorial Lutheran Church

Interchurch agencies – GAP, Manna House

Local congregation – Past President council, Adult Sunday School teacher, served on 3 call committees, Past Convener of WELCA, Hand bells, Kathryn Luther Circle, visitation team, VBS. Committees are Worship and Music, Evangelism, and Christian Education

Community – Help with our Blessing Box (putting food out for our local community), National Night Out, Oktoberfest

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?

I have many memories from my faith community. I met my husband at Newberry College. I was from Spartanburg and grew up in a little community Methodist church. When my husband and I started dating, he always asked me would I go to church with him. So it wasn't long before I moved my membership and joined Summer Memorial Lutheran Church. I have now been a part of Summer's congregation for 47 years. Since our children are married and moved away, I have tried to become as active in my congregation as possible. I was elected to church council president and put my whole heart into my new roll. We moved back into our church after having parking lot services and realized we had renovations that needed attention. We began painting, making a new conference room, renovating our small meeting room and Pastor's office and other improvements using donations from our church family.

I love my church and more importantly the people. But I think the joyous memories I have is when it is my week to visit our shut-ins. We have 6 teams that visit shut-ins weekly. We take bulletins, devotions books, and communion. How special it is to give communion to people that cannot be in the church and receive weekly communion.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

My church is always there for me. Sometimes I feel I can't be there enough for my church! Whether it was my marriage, births of my two girls, teaching my children Sunday school and confirmation, my circle, the weekly worship and music, deaths of family members, following the lives of my children; my church family has always been my largest support group and I thank God daily for allowing me to be a member of Summer Memorial Lutheran Church.

Synod Council – Lay Man – At Large
Term Ending 2029 (Elect 1)
Allen Rooks
Travis Spainhour

Synod Council – Lay Man – Northern Area
Term Ending 2029 (Elect 1)
Greg Cantrell
Verne “Ken” Heckel

Full Name: Gregory Lewis Cantrell

Email Address: gcantrell@spart6.org

Mailing Address: 8865 Augusta Road, Pelzer, SC 29669

Congregation: St. Michael Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Greenville

Employment/Profession: Retired Deputy Superintendent

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

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

Lector 1992 to present

Greeter 1992 to present

Altar Guile 1992 to present

Backpack Buddies 2019 to present

Personnel Committee 2023 to present

Chair, Personnel Committee Dec. 2025 to 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 was born and raised a Methodist and I joined a Baptist to be in sync with soon to be wife. We attended a Baptist for a while, but I never felt a true connection. When our daughters were born (they are just 16 months apart) I was in my career as a young principal. Sunday mornings became a part of my work routine. Church attendance was less important to me. Fast forward to Easter 1985, I was sitting at the kitchen table, working as I always did while my wife and daughters were getting ready to go to church. Our oldest daughter (a mere 3 years old) approached me in her Easter dress and said, “Daddy, why don't you go to church with us?” I don't really recall the excuse I made. I'm sure it was something about my workload. Geneal and the girls left, and I sat at the table and reflected on my daughter's innocent question. “Why don't you go to church with us?” It was that moment that I rededicated my life to Christ, and I vowed to never miss another Easter service with my family. I have kept that promise.

As a family we need to find a church home that we all felt was a connection. A teacher that Geneal taught with invited us to visit Holy Trinity Lutheran in Anderson, South Carolina. We visited, fell in love with the congregation, the Pastor and found comfort and stability in the

Liturgy. Holy Trinity was there for our family, welcoming us with love and support. Pastor Slice baptized our daughters and we were “home.”

But, as Abby and Amanda grew up, the distance from home to church was too long, and we needed a congregation that had a thriving youth program. This led us to pray for God’s guidance, and we decided to visit another Lutheran church. The first place we visited was St. Michael. No other visits were necessary. God led us to St. Michael which was genuinely welcoming and friendly. We loved the congregation, the music, Pastor Miles, and most of all a vibrant youth program. The church has been there through confirmations, weddings, and the Baptism of our four grandchildren.

So how does any of this begin to answer the question, “Tell about a time your church was there for you.” Simply put, the church has been there for the major events in our lives. Churches do that. But my church has been there for me every day. The small daily events that allow me to receive God’s Grace is truly multiplied by the love and support of God’s people. My church family.

My most joyous moments lie in the quiet and ordinary events of my day. Returning to my seat after communion and spending time in prayer. Packing 30 backpacks for children in need in our community. Helping with Altar Guild each Easter Sunday.

The grace and salvation that God gives us in our baptism is magnified in the relationships and blessings of a church family and the leadership of our Pastors. St. Michael's is a growing, loving congregation serving Christ. I thank God every day that I am blessed to be a part of it and it is a part of me.

Thanks be the God!

Full Name: Verne Kennedy ("Ken") Heckel, III

Email Address: vkheckel@AOL.com

Mailing Address: 324 Holmes Drive, Greenville, SC 29609-5025

Congregation: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

Congregation City: Greenville

Employment/Profession: Retired from Federal Court

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

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

Church Council, Lutheran Church of the Incarnation (Columbia), 1999-2000 Church Council Lutheran Church of Our Saviour (Greenville), 2002-2004, 2013-2015, 2021-2023, 2025-present Secretary, South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission ("SCLMM"), 2007 Promotional Secretary, SCLMM, 2008 Vice-President, SCLMM, 2009 President, SCLMM, 2010 Committee on Discipline, SC Synod, 2010-2016 Foothills Conference Contact Person, SCLMM, 2010-present Executive Director, SCLMM, 2016-2020 Combined Federal Campaign Coordinator, U.S. District Court (Greenville), 2001-2016

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 most joyous memory was the launch of a mission church, Nuestro Salvador, at the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, in March of 2013, which was supported by the South Carolina Synod, the ELCA, and by South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission. My church, the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour (Greenville), Lutheran Hospice, and South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission were a great support to me and family during the last year of my wife's life and afterwards.

Synod Council – Lay Man – At Large
Unexpired Term Ending 2027 (Elect 1)
Steve Calcutt
Kevin Wicker

Full Name: Steven Michael Calcutt

Email Address: smcalcutt@sc.rr.com

Mailing Address: 1841 Brigadoone Lane

Congregation: Saint Luke
Congregation City: Florence

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 do not remember the some of the dates. 1984 - Graduate of Newberry College. 1984-1986 - Member, Redeemer Lutheran, Newberry; 1989- Present - Member, St. Luke Lutheran; taught middle school Sunday school for many years; multiple occasions— past member of St. Luke Congregational Council; multiple occasions— past chairman of Congregational council; 1994-1996: Chairman of the St. Luke Building Committee (the church built an entire new church campus across town); past member of the S.C.Synod church council (at least two terms); past member of the board for Lutheran Services in the Carolinas.

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 was being baptized at Wiles Chapel by Pastor Jan Setzler. I went to see Pastor Setzler over several weeks before my baptism to discuss my faith, my future, and my commitment to join the Church. He was such a Light and gave me direction that I still follow 45 years later.

Fortunately, the memories of the church being there for me did not end at Newberry College. In each stop along the way of my Faith journey, I have been fortunate to find many welcoming Lutheran congregations in the communities I have lived. Pastor Jan Setzler, Pastor Hugh Bumgarner, Pastor Jack Osheik, Pastor Wayne Howell, Pastor Hank Moody, and now Pastor Rusty Keil have all had significant impacts on me by their example of how they lead their lives — as true Servants of God for God's People. Thanks be to God, the church continues to be there for me.

Full Name: Kevin Shealy Wicker

Email Address: kwicker@lowcountry.com

Mailing Address: 977 Quail Drive, Walterboro, SC 29488

Congregation: Good Shepherd Lutheran

Congregation City: Walterboro, SC

Employment/Profession: 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.

SCLMM Committee of 100 Director/Treasurer - 2004 to present

SCLMM Board member – 2002 to present

Good Shepherd Lutheran Treasurer – 2016 to present

Good Shepherd Lutheran Men Treasurer – 2000 to present

Good Shepherd Council member – numerous terms

Good Shepherd Lutheran Food Pantry volunteer – 2023 to present

NovusWay Board member – 2012 to 2017

NovusWay Finance Committee member – 2013 to present

SC Synod delegate to churchwide assembly – 2007 and 2011

SC Synod Nominating Committee member – two terms

SC Synod Ministry Team for Rostered Leaders – two terms

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?

Our wedding, the Baptism and Confirmation of our children, and the ordination of our daughter, Pr. Rebecca Wicker.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

Following the death of my parents.

Synod Council – Rostered Minister – Central Area
Term Ending 2029 (Elect 1)
Deacon Harry Prim III
Deacon Dallas Shealy

Full Name: Harry S. Prim, III

Email Address: hprimiii@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 3209 Cannon Street; Columbia, SC 29205

Congregation: Mount Tabor

Congregation City: West Columbia

Employment/Profession: Retired Deacon and Retired State Employee

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

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

My ministerial career began in 1987 in the United Methodist Church (UMC). After appointment as a traditional associate minister in a congregation, I recognized my call focused more on faith formation activities, so I transitioned to the diaconal ministry track culminating in consecration as a diaconal minister certified in Christian education and then recognition as a deacon. In 1999, I was called to community work through the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (SC DAODAS), leading a series of faith-based initiatives for substance use prevention, treatment and recovery. Further, my work at SC DAODAS helped me gain valuable experience in needs assessment, program planning, program evaluation, project management, budgeting and other skills linked to planning. Around this time, I also moved from the UMC to the ELCA; I was consecrated as a diaconal minister in January 2007. While I have not formally served in an ELCA congregation, I have been active in Mt. Tabor, West Columbia since 2000, focusing on faith formation activities. I have taught Sunday School and VBS classes as well as Bible studies across the age span, including leading confirmation class for several years. A highlight was leading a group of 29 youth and adults to New Orleans for the 2013 National Youth Gathering. I have served on our congregational council and participated in numerous worship experiences as lector, communion preparer/assistant, coordinator and preacher.

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 so many joyous memories from being a part of my faith community whether locally, statewide or nationally. These communities have celebrated significant moments where my life and faith journey have intersected – marriage, birth and baptism of children, death of parents, health crises, consecrations and ordinations. These are bigger events, but my faith has also grown and is sustained by the smaller moments – leading a Bible study session, interacting with children during a children's sermon, participating in worship. Whether life-changing or routine, these moments provide opportunities where I see and experience God's Kingdom.

Full Name: Dallas J. Shealy

Email Address: dsnc80@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 185 Saluda Bluff Rd, Batesburg, SC 29006

Congregation: Summer Memorial

Congregation City: Newberry

Employment/Profession: 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.

Previously served on Synod Council, Synod Stewardship Committee, Voting member to Churchwide (3 times) Served on the ELCA Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church, served on Region 9 stewardship council. Have served on congregation council and stewardship committee. Sorry, I don't remember the dates, but a long time ago! Currently serving on Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Board of Trustees.

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?

There are so many, it is hard to choose. I am blessed to have retired from SCLRC after 21 years so most of my favorite memories are around retreats at Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat. My very first retreat at Camp Kinard was shortly after I got married, and I went on a WELCA retreat with a bunch of women from Summer Memorial Lutheran Church that I didn't know very well. By the end of the weekend, I knew I had found some friendships that would last forever.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

There are many stories I can tell about this as well, but most clearly were when my parents died. My mother died in 1986 and my father in 2004. Both were living in Mobile at the time and both times my congregation, Summer Memorial, enveloped me in loving care.

Synod Council – Rostered Minister – At Large
Term Ending 2029 (Elect 1)
Deacon Ashlyn Cox
Deacon Andrew More

Full Name: Ashlyn Cox

Email Address: ashlynscox@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 2105 Palm Blvd, Isle of Palms, SC 29451

Congregation: Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Congregation City: Charleston

Employment/Profession: Deacon of Faith Formation

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 Consultation Committee (2019-2025)

SC Synod Discipleship Table Chair for Youth/Young Adults/Children

SC Synod CYFM/LCY Leadership Team

Various Faith Formation/Youth/Children/Family Positions across congregations

Preschool Teacher/Program Director

Outdoor Ministries Volunteer and Support

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 been fortunate to serve and be a part of a wide range of churches in the SC Synod and my great joy is seeing how different each of them are! From large to small, very rural to downtown, family churches and those who have new folks cycling in and out every week...the call is the same, but there are so many expressions for so many different places. And that's just the Lutherans! I love the wideness of it and I love seeing God work in new ways.

When times have been hard, communal worship and service have kept me grounded and given me focus and a purpose for what was next. In worship and in service, we can put down worries, complaints, egos and join our voices, hands, and hearts to do God's good work in the world. We turn to God. It's a perspective shift that informs everything else. And the church gets to go out and live it. To step into God's ministry of abundant grace and to experience that same grace in the process. The church is 'there for me' when it(we) lives and leans into its purpose and call.

Full Name: Andrew More

Email Address: deaconandrew65@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 1500 Parklawn Drive, Apt. 1317, Charleston, SC, 29414

Congregation: St. Matthew's
Congregation City: Charleston

Employment/Profession: Deacon for Youth, Children, and Families

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

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

Director of Youth and Christian Education @ Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Columbia, SC (2002-2009); Deacon for Faith Formation @ St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Columbia, SC (2009-2019); Deacon for Faith Formation @ Peace Lutheran Church, New Braunfels, Texas (2019-2024); Children, Youth, and Family Lead @ NC Synod (2024-2025) Adult congregational leader for ELCA Youth Gatherings (2003 - 2018); ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - SC Synod (2016, 2019), ELCA Word & Service Retreat Facilitator (2023, 2025) SC Synod Adult Catechumenate Committee; SC Synod Ministry Team for Congregational Life; SC Synod Practice Discipleship Coach; SC Synod Candidacy Committee; LCM at USC Board

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 ongoing - it is seeing people grow in faith, learning what it means to live as disciples of Jesus in the world. This is a consistent thread throughout all of my years of rostered ministry, whether through teaching classes, leading Bible studies, facilitating retreats, serving our neighbors in the local community, going on mission trips, or worshipping as a faith community. Being a rostered leader in the ELCA, I've felt the care and support of congregations I've served throughout my ministry through prayer, words of encouragement, and affirmations. The congregations I've served have walked alongside me in moments of personal celebrations as well as times of grief. It is a humbling reminder that faith is something we live out in community together.

Committee on Discipline – Lay Woman
Term Ending 2032 (Elect 1)
Sheree Caughman
Marty Rawls

Full Name: Sheree Caughman

Email Address: sacaughman@yahoo.com

Mailing Address: 2246 Ridge Rd Leesville, SC 29070

Congregation: Faith Lutheran Church
Congregation City: Batesburg-Leesville

Employment/Profession: Retired school teacher

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

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

WELCA member, Choir member, served as a delegate to the SC Synod Convention on several occasions, as well as on the church council, with a brief service as the Chair of Council. I also taught many years of Sunday School for children and adults and Bible School, as well. Unfortunately, these things occurred over many years and I cannot recall the dates.

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 of being a part of my faith community is attending church with my family and being a regular participant in church activities for 60+ years. Unfortunately, my church decided to leave the ELCA and become a member of the NALC. I have recently joined a new faith community and was welcomed with open arms, as well as having Pastoral support in moving from our lifelong congregation. I have continued as a member of WELCA and a choir member and an active member in my new faith community!

Full Name: Marty Rawls

Email Address: mdr4usc@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 5120 Holmes Avenue, Columbia, SC 29203

Congregation: Transfiguration Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Cayce

Employment/Profession: Gray Collegiate Academy, CFO

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 Youth Gathering Coordinator (2012 & 2015), Church Council Member (2020-2024), SCLCY adult volunteer (2012 - 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.

The church is the foundation for my and my family's lives. From losing family members to welcoming babies and all the moments in between, the church is where everything centers. I look for God's fingerprints daily. While sometimes my sight is blinded by obstacles, the search still continues. I was raised with an importance on church as my step-father was a minister/Army chaplain. My husband and I placed an importance on church, and a former Pastor (Russell Anderson - Ascension Lutheran-Columbia) reminded us that "We Promised" when we stood at the font with our babies to raise them with the tools needed for success - THE BIBLE! God has always and will always be our ROCK that we lean on to make it through the good days and the sad days.

Committee on Discipline – Lay Man
Term Ending 2032 (Elect 1)
Walter “Steve” Shumpert
Elliott Williams

Full Name: Walter Steven Shumpert

Email Address: wsshumpert@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 753 Oak Drive Lexington SC 29073

Congregation: Zion

Congregation City: Lexington

Employment/Profession: 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.

Congregational Facilities Manager (2005 - 2021)

Men's Bible Study Leader (25+ years)

Adult Sunday School Leader (40+ 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.

When I joined Zion it was very much a family based congregation. I married a lady that grew up there so it meant a lot to me to be accepted into the family. That was almost 50 years ago and there have been many joyous memories. Our children and grandchildren are members there too so being able to see them grow in their faith is one of my most special joys. One of my grandchildren was born with a number of medical challenges and died shortly before his first birthday. During that year there were times when our congregation helped support us with those difficult times.

Committee on Discipline – Rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament

Term Ending 2032 (Elect 1)

Reverend David Coffman

Reverend Michael Price

Full Name: David W. Coffman

Email Address: david.coffman@newberry.edu

Mailing Address: 2100 College St.

Congregation: Pilgrim

Congregation City: Lexington

Employment/Profession: Campus 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.

Campus Pastor, Newberry College - 2021- current

Doctor of Ministry, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, '27

SC Synod Candidacy - 2022 - curr.

LTSS Worship Table Chair - 2024-25.

LTSS Alumni Board - 2023 - curr., Chair - '25-curr.

SCLRC Board 2024 - curr., Chair - '24, previously served on Board many years

Supply preacher around the SE Region - 2011 - curr.

Stated Supply and Holy Closure for Resurrection, Columbia, 2017-2018

Former Healthcare Chaplain, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, Director, Bereavement Lead,

Chaplain, Patient Care Coordinator - 2011 -2021

Former Pastor, St. Johns, Walhalla 2001-2011

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 love the college community because it is a powerful community for when people find themselves lost or down and out. It is in these times that I find myself lifted up and able to support those in need. Whether it is the Wolves Pantry as it feeds hungry students, a conversation with a student over relationships or finding time to support each other.

Committee on Discipline – Rostered Minister of Word and Service

Term Ending 2032 (Elect 1)

Deacon Shelley Allen

Deacon Kathleen Cartledge

Full Name: Shelley Allen

Email Address: smw7800@yahoo.com

Mailing Address: 312 Selden Way, Fountain Inn, SC 29644

Congregation: St. Michael Lutheran

Congregation City: Greenville

Employment/Profession: Deacon, On Family Leave

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

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

South Carolina Candidacy Committee member & chair (2015-present), ELCA Committee on Discipline (2020-2026), The Dwelling Steering Team-Executive Committee (2024-present), Lutheridge Kairos Planning Team (2025-present), Parent volunteer for local soccer club & high school soccer (2019-present), Parent volunteer at local middle & high school (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.

There are 2 joyous memories that come to mind at St. Michael! One was the campaign for the Lutheridge 75th Birthday Celebration. The whole church was involved and invested! The stories that were shared and the gifts given were Spirit filled and Spirit led. The second was taking 5 youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering. My cup was overflowing being able to watch the youth experience every facet of the gathering. The church has always been there for me! The church has given in all three expressions; congregationally, synodically, and churchwide. And that is why I continue to serve whenever and however I can.

Full Name: Beverly Kathleen O'Neal Cartledge

Email Address: kathleencartledge@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 2228 Norman St., Augusta, GA 30904

Congregation: St. Paul

Congregation City: Aiken

Employment/Profession: Deacon & Director of Music

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

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc.

Please include dates served.

Local Arts Organizations, Children's Choirs, Music Series, Choral Groups 1982 – Present
ACTS of Aiken Saturday Food Distribution Concert Fundraisers & volunteer 1997 – Present
Introducing people to each other and the needs of others through local church, service, and arts organizations - helping people find connections 1997 – Present.
SC Synod Assembly Worship Team/Musician – various years
Campus Ministry, USC Aiken 2011 – 2015/2021 – 2025. USCA Music Partners 2015 - 2020
First Call Theological Education Team 2015 – 2017
Local Conversations: Selma/Remember the Titans 2017
SC Synod Council 2017 – 2020
SC Synod Public Education Advocacy 2018 – 2019
SC Synod Convo Planning Team 2018 - Present
Synod Candidacy Committee – 2022 – Present
Walk to End Alzheimer's, Out of Darkness Walk, Events at Trinity Lutheran Home, Aiken

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 my current church, St Paul of Aiken, is realizing I found a church community that really cares about others – loving and serving all. They find new ways to raise money to feed and care for people, walk together to prevent suicide, Alzheimer's and follow up on the relationships – building a larger, caring community. Showing this by being a home base for recovery groups and an arts organization. Participating in ACTS - Area Churches Together Serving who assist and feed those in need of compassion and aid.

My church was there for me in October of 2023 when my father was declining. Reaching out to ask what was needed, giving support – emotional, practical, and anything else that helped me be truly present with my family as we walked Dad home. I felt held by God in their words, their prayers and their actions.

Consultation Committee – Lay Woman
Term Ending 2032 (Elect 1)
Courtney Childers
Kimi Dail

Consultation Committee – Lay Man
Term Ending 2032 (Elect 1)
Richard Delap
Michael Moyer

Full Name: Richard Charles Delap

Email Address: rdelap@bellsouth.net

Mailing Address: 103 Silver Creek Ct, Greer SC 29650

Congregation: Trinity Lutheran
Congregation City: Greenville SC

Employment/Profession: 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.

- Synod Nominating Committee 2022-2024
- Lutheran Campus Ministry, Synod Committee, SC 2011-2015
- Church Outreach (Back Pack Buddies, GAIHN, Habitat Builds),
- Service as part of congregations: teller committee, ushering (regular and special services), property projects,
- President, Church Men, St. Philips Lutheran, Myrtle Beach, SC 1984-1985
- Church Treasurer, Gethsemane Lutheran, Lexington, KY, 1979-1982

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 cannot pick out a single joyous memory that stands out, but a single joyous *result* that means the most to me in my faith journey. Where the church community has spoken to our family.

The result, that one joyous memory, I was speaking of is what happened after the children left the nest to start their own lives and families. They all have found a church family to become a part of. With their families they are active in their respective congregations; serving on councils, as officers, on committees, even becoming a rostered member of the synod, along with their other family members.

My wife and I tried to be deliberate to show our four children how the church is an integral part of our family life. We made it a point to attend church services even if it was not convenient; insisted education was important, confirmation and Sunday School; attending and participating in church activities, worship, recreational as well as outreach; and supporting church with our talents (however meager). In essence we were trying to fulfill our promises to them at their baptisms as best as we could. They each found something wonderful on their own in the church.

Full Name: Michael Boatwright Moyer

Email Address: andrewfirstson@yahoo.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 306 Ridge Spring, SC 29129

Congregation: Faith Lutheran

Congregation City: Batesburg-Leesville

Employment/Profession: Health Physicist

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

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

Congregational Council member (several occasions from 1995-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.

Watching my children grow up in a wonderful and supportive church. Also, being a member of our Lutheran Men in Mission. It is very gratifying to see the people's reaction to our service projects.

Consultation Committee – Rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament
Term Ending 2032 (Elect 1)
Reverend Wade Apel
Reverend Kris Litman-Koon

Full Name: Wade Apel

Email Address: pastorwade@sjlc.church

Mailing Address: 415 S Pine Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302

Congregation: St. John's Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Spartanburg, SC

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.

I am currently service as a Co-Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Spartanburg, SC and have for the past 3 years. Before that, I served in various congregations in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. I have been ordained for 20 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.

The most meaningful memory of being part of a faith community was helping to establish a laundry ministry that cleaned clothes, fed those in need, and connected them with other social service agencies to bring hope to a community.

Full Name: Kris Litman-Koon

Email Address: pastor.klk@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 2107 N Hwy 17; Mt Pleasant, SC 29466

Congregation: All Saints Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Mt Pleasant

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.

All Saints Lutheran Church, Lead Pastor -- 2017 to present

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Columbia, SC), Associate Pastor -- 2012 to 2017

East Cooper Faith Community, Founder and Lenten Worship Coordinator -- 2018 to present

SC Synod's Creation Care Task Force, Chair -- 2018 to present

SC Synod's First Call Theological Education Committee, Chair -- 2015 to 2018

Lutheridge's Kairos Program, Core Team Leader -- 2019 to 2022

Gamecock Lutheran, Board Member -- 2013 to 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.

My most joyous memory from All Saints took place during a frightening time. When the pandemic struck in 2020, no one anywhere knew how things would play out or how to navigate that new reality. At All Saints, the pastors and lay leadership faithfully worked together to develop plans to maintain our community in a time when being "in community" was a danger. Working together, we were able to maintain those connections, to find creative ways to worship together safely, to bring in folks who wanted to hear the gospel in a safe environment, and to expand our outreach. That outreach involved upgrading an outdoor shelter with electricity and plumbing to host multiple AA groups from the area that were no longer allowed to meet in their former spaces. Amazingly, this era allowed us to focus and launch a successful campaign for a building renovation. Though that time was frightening and unprecedented, we leaned on one another (safely and figuratively) to do the work of the gospel in ways that ultimately fostered joy.

One way that the church has been there for me was in the aftermath of my mother's rather sudden death from cancer in 2021. I had never navigated grief like that previously in my life, and it took time for me to navigate that journey. During that journey, there was a tremendous outpouring of support from members of the church; past and present, and from across this great synod (and beyond). With that help and permission to take my time, I was able to accept this new reality, always giving thanks to my mother for leading me to such a community that is filled with God's grace.

Consultation Committee – Rostered Minister of Word and Service

Term Ending 2032 (Elect 1)

Deacon David Rhyne

Deacon Katie Justice

Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee – Lay Woman
Term Ending 2029 (Elect 1)
Sarah Cheesman
Susan McArver

Full Name: Sarah Derrick Cheesman

Email Address: sarah.cheesman@yahoo.com

Mailing Address: 122 Spinnaker Pointe, Leesville, SC 29070

Congregation: Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Congregation City: White Rock , SC

Employment/Profession: Retired RN

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 grew up at Bethel, baptized, confirmed and married! Greatly influenced by the Rev. Guy Cruse and multiple Sunday School teachers and choir directors. I've been a Bold woman of the ELCA most of my adult life. Leadership roles at Ascension Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ohio for almost 20 year, 1985 to 2004. Received their honor award , the Rose of Concern , for my leadership as President of their WELCA. During this time I received my masters in Allied Medicine at the Ohio State University and worked as a nursing leader at Riverside Methodist Hospital. I retired in 2004 and moved back to SC! While in Columbus I also served on the board of the Mid Ohio Nurses Association and then was vice president, president 2000-2004. I also was a surveyor of continuing education for nursing organizations and schools of nursing for the American Nurses Credentialing Center on Accreditation for over 6 years traveling all over the country. Was the one of the first to be certified in Nursing Staff Development by the American Nurses Association and a founding member of the National Nursing Staff Development Organization . After moving back to SC we did manage to return to Columbia where I continued my nursing career and retired in 2015. Upon returning to Columbia we rejoined Bethel where I have been chair of several teams and on church council several terms and president. I have also been treasurer of our circle, leader of my circle and became active with SC WELCA these past 19 years and have been chair of the Action Committee 2 times while on the board and I'm currently on the board and my second term as coordinator of the Heartland Conference. I also was a delegate to the SC Synod 2018, and a delegate to the WELCA Triennial Convention in 2022. I have a strong commitment to the growth of nursing and I have established a nursing scholarship at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus Ohio , at the University of SC School of Nursing and also at Columbia High School. I met my husband at USC and after 43 years of marriage he passed away in 2019 and I have also established an engineering scholarship in his name for a nontraditional student from SC. I believe strongly in giving of my time, my talents and my resources as a loving child of God. I have also given my love of this country by serving as a nurse in the US Navy from 1971 - 1976 where I received the Medal of Defense for serving during a time of war and recently received 50% disability from the US Veterans Department. I have 2 wonderful sons and 2 wonderful grandchildren that I travel to visit several times a year in Ohio and Arizona.

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 moving memory is Pastor Cruse coming every week to pray for me while I was 10 years old suffering from a kidney disease and was on complete bed rest for 7 months. I fully recovered and have no residual damage to my kidneys. I know that his prayers helped me immensely! My most joyous memory is Pastor Cruse marrying Jim and I on July 3, 1976 at Bethel with my favorite organist, choir director playing for the service. Mrs Cruse directed the wedding even suffering from a broken leg only a few days before the wedding! Bethel had also been there for me with the passing of both my parents and my husband and the great celebration of sharing communion with everyone at all 3 of the funerals.

Mission Endowment Grant Fund Committee – Lay Man
Term Ending 2029 (Elect 1)
Robert Martin
Jack Williams

Full Name: Robert Martin (Bobby)

Email Address: rmartin0321@me.com

Mailing Address: 217 Catawba Trl Lexington, SC 29072

Congregation: St. Stephen's

Congregation City: Lexington

Employment/Profession:

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 am serving on my church's Finance Committee for 5 years, and am currently serving 1st year on the church Council. I am active in Sunday School class, Lutheran Men, and Crossroads group.

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.

When my mother passed away in 2024, I was amazed at the number of people that reached out to me, prayed for me, and provided food for my family, it was a very important part of my grief journey.

Full Name: Jack Edward Williams

Email Address: jewilliams@roanoke.edu

Mailing Address: 102 Woodcross Way

Congregation: St. Michael

Congregation City: Greenville, SC

Employment/Profession: 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, Lutheran Men in Mission (2024- 2027)

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.

Upon arriving in Greenville from Roanoke, VA to start our retirement, St. Michael was such a welcoming environment to my wife and I. We have gotten involved in Bible Study, Handbells, Stewardship Committee, and our monthly retirement luncheons.

South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers – Lay Woman

No names given

NovusWay
Board Elected, Assembly Ratified
Reverend Jason Lee

Full Name: Jason Lee

Email Address: prjlee@aol.com

Mailing Address: 6200 N. Kings Hwy, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Congregation: St. Philip

Congregation City: 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.

Dean of the Epiphany Conference (2017-2023); Vitality Team (2019-2023), Synod Assembly Chaplain (2017, 2021), NovusWay Board (2023-2026), many local and regional ministries through the congregation: Lutheran Services Carolinas, Helping Hand, Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, etc.

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.

Like many pastors, working at camp was where I first felt a sense of calling to be a pastor. It was a place where I could be myself. At camp, I learned I enjoyed leadership, hands-on ministry, and working with others in an intentionally Christian community. I discovered gifts and was able to put them to use. Particularly influential moments at camp include the staff worship services: gathering with close friends around bread and wine, singing praises, and supporting each other. Those worshipful moments had a significant impact on me.

More recently, our congregation has just undergone a nearly year-long renovation of our worship space. In a relatively short time, this congregation has accomplished a lot: a capital campaign, a building renovation, and a new strategic plan to guide our next chapter. These accomplishments aren't just about a few people having good ideas. They happen because God's people chose to move forward together.

The congregation consistently showed up with generosity, patience, and determination. People gave selflessly, yes, but they also prayed, asked thoughtful questions, had tough conversations with kindness, and kept returning to the same deeper "why": so we can worship well, welcome everyone, and serve our neighbors with joy.

During construction and disruption, people adjusted. When decisions needed to be made, people got involved. When it was time to set a direction, people participated and helped shape it. During those times, I felt supported and encouraged, not just as the pastor, but as someone who loves seeing a congregation grow in faith and purpose, mission and ministry.

Through our “wilderness in the Fellowship Hall,” I’ve been reminded that the church is not the building but the people, and I’ve seen that clearly here. St. Philip has risen to the occasion with steady faith and shared ownership of our mission. That is a gift, and it’s a joy to be part of it.