



The *RIPPLE*

Expanding the Circle of SC Women of the ELCA

Check out our **website** for up-to-date information and pictures.

Go to <http://www.scwelca.com>.



FALL 2025

WELCOME 2025-2026 SC WELCA BOARD



Shari Donley (Secretary), Sarah Cheesman, *Amanda Cruse, *Linda Roland, Sallie Folk, *Karen Grimm (Treasurer), Cristina Guillermo, Cindy McManus (Vice President), *Carolyn Watt, Lisa Petty, Brianna Harris, Christie Gardner (President). * *New members*

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OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greetings! What a fabulous group of ladies we had at the convention! I want to thank you for your vote of confidence in me! Thank you for electing me as YOUR president! We will all serve our mission TOGETHER! Please pray for me and our board as we navigate our new beginning!

The board met at Camp Kinard for a wonderful weekend! We had devotions written by our own Joy Derrick and made butterfly sun catchers. It was about the butterfly effect. *"A butterfly could flap its wings and set molecules of air in motion, which would move other molecules of air, in turn moving more molecules of air - eventually capable of starting a hurricane on the other side of the planet."*

Everything we do matters! We are created one of a kind to make a difference in the world! Our actions can make such a big difference in our lives and in the lives of others around us! Consider being that butterfly to go out and make a difference in our communities around us! Thanks Joy!

During our board meeting we made some updates to our Young Women Guest and First Timer Program. Be on the lookout for those changes. Also discussed our Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Scholarship - it was awarded this year!!! We are very proud to offer this opportunity to a female seminarian! We will forward more information about the recipient as we receive it. Lots of 2026 convention information approved and will be rolling out soon!



Excited for everything our board has planned for you!

Please welcome our new treasurer, Karen Grimm, as well as Amanda Cruse, Carolyn Watts, Linda Roland, and Sallie Folk to the board! Welcome! So glad you took the leap of faith!

Our mission statement: "Mobilizing women to act boldly in their faith in Jesus Christ." So what does that look like? Good news! It can look any way you want! WELCA sets the footprint for women to support their church and community. We offer resources, support, and a faith based community to serve others in need. This is huge in today's world. Please take this as your calling to help, serve, and support others in your community and invite them into our WELCA community! Start a bible study group, craft/sewing group, or a scrapbooking group! These are ways to start local women's ministries while making a difference in your life and others! Doesn't always have to be in a meeting setting. Create a group of service and fellowship! Be the butterfly to make the difference in the world!

We are all honored to be ladies of SC WELCA!

Christie Gardner



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Happy Fall Ladies!! I hope all of you that attended the convention in Aiken this past August had an inspiring time! In attendance were 73 voting members, 23 visitors, 3 Young Women Guests, 12 First Timers, and 11 other guests, including our wonderful volunteers, with a total of 122! Please refer to the Mission Action Report for the total contributions and the total amount of items donated during this past year and at the convention.

The 2026 convention staff is already busy planning your next WELCA Convention. We will assemble at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Newberry on June 19 and 20, 2026. I hope you are making plans to attend! The theme for the 2026 convention is "I am Worthy, I am Loved, I am Enough". Our Scripture verse is "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them." *Ephesians 2:10*. Our Convention Hymn is "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go".

We look forward to a time of fellowship, supporting our mission, and growing with each other in Christ. As the WELCA website proclaims, "Through various program areas, Women of the ELCA's community of women provide services in their churches, communities, and even the world. We engage in ministry; we take action through advocacy; we promote healing and wholeness, and we support one another in our callings." Not only should we remember that during Convention but within our daily lives.

Our host conference for next year's convention is Heartland! I know these ladies are already working hard to make this an unforgettable event for you! Please watch for updated information on the website and in future *RIPPLE*'s. The registration forms will be on the website, in the *RIPPLE*, and sent out by email soon.

Grace and Peace to you in Christ.
Cindy J McManus

SECRETARY'S REPORT



It is that time of the year when the humidity has finally left, the time changes, and we settle in for the winter to come. However, during these changes let's not forget to give God praise and thanks for the past year and the new memories that we have made.

The 2025-2026 Board met on Saturday, September 27, 2025 at Camp Kinard to do the annual planning for the next year.

Highlights from the minutes include:

- Google Docs will be used for communications and for placing reports in addition to the goals.
- Rachel Quesada provided a Treasurers report. A motion carried to provide only registration and meals for up to 15 Young Women Guests and First Timers at the 2026 convention. The Mission Investment fund for both a savings/checking account has been transferred to Thrivent. The interest was transferred to the checking account. A new Thrivent account will be obtained for investment and interest revenue.
- Vice-President Cindy McManus provided on update on the 2026 Convention. The convention schedule is being created with the goals of increasing the workshops from 2 to 4 and to conclude all business on Friday.



- A Conference Coordinator schedule was reviewed.
- The Communication Committee Report included switching to sending physical newsletters only to subscribers and a few premium copies thus eliminating the bulk distribution to churches. The Board voted to increase the newsletter price from \$9 to \$10 which will cover the cost of a 20-page newsletter for 40 copies at a reduced rate of around \$200 an issue mailing. This is a savings of around \$600.
- The Mission Growth, Mission Community and Mission Action reports were given.
- Old Business included: LTSS Scholarship changes to the agreement to present to LTSS for covering any and all direct student costs, funds to cover tuition, food and housing costs and any other educational costs. If no student meets the scholarship requirements then the award may be given to any seminarian. The 2025 convention resolution on the flexibility of congregational officers is ready to go to the CWO for the 2026 Triennial Convention. Balloting changes for the next convention was discussed for President and Vice-President was discussed. A two-minute speech will be given after the first nominating ballot to allow the attendees to hear from the nominees. The nominating ballot will be part of an all-inclusive ballot to streamline voting.
- New Business included discussing two fundraising initiatives: Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls and Katies Fund. The Katie Funds can be used for leadership training and other purposes. Christie will follow up with ideas for using these funds. Also discussed were non-profit software programs with accounting packets and purchasing a SC WELCA computer for the Treasurer.

Our next Board meeting will be a Zoom meeting on March 12, 2026 at 7:00pm.

As a reminder, send me your respective conference agenda's and reports along with any changes to congregational units. Forms for this information can be found on the website.

Continue to keep ALL our Sisters in Christ in your prayers and enjoy this refreshing Fall weather.

Yours in Christ,

Shari Donley, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT



As of the end of October we are 3/4 through our fiscal year. We have received 59% of the budgeted regular offering and 73% of Joy Offerings. The 2025 convention income was \$11,600 compared to the convention expenses of \$12,600. Donations for the convention projects exceeded the budget of \$11,500 by 10%. The report of Mission Action details these donations.

After the end of our fiscal year (January 31, 2026), all Congregational Treasurers and Conference Treasurers will receive their FY 2025-2026 statement of offerings. If you do not receive this statement or have any questions, please let me know. Thank you to everyone for your support of the work of the SC WELCA and its projects,

Rachel Quesada
arachelq@gmail.com



ACTION



To our amazing SC WELCA members, guests, and visitors from convention:

Our Project Pack Up was a HUGE success! We had a Pack Up workshop and when we were finished, we had 23 boxes of fabric kits each under 40 pounds ready for Lutheran World Relief. Then Saturday morning we had enough fabric kits to add one more box for a total of 24 boxes, 455 fabric

kits!

On top of all the kits we had amazing monetary gifts for a total of \$2,527.60 that was sent to Lutheran World Relief.

Our other project was “wish list” items for Lighthouse for Life and we again amazed them with 61 items and then monetary gifts of \$2757.00. Jeffery Reece was the Lighthouse for Life spokesperson and he was so impressed at our generosity and gave a heartfelt speech to our convention.

Our members also remembered our other projects and gave \$2,220 to our Newberry SC WELCA Nursing Scholarship fund and \$125 to Camp Kinard Holy Spaces.

Our SC WELCA members continue to amaze us every year with their generosity and love towards our fellow Lutherans and beyond! Many thanks to all of you who helped make this years Action Team projects such a success.

With peace and love,

Sarah Cheesman, Action Chair 2024-2025

Merri Lewis and Christie Gardner

The SC WELCA board committee on Mission Action met on Saturday, September 27, 2025. The committee consists of Brianna Harris, Cindy McManus, Risse Snelgrove, and Carolyn Watt. We discussed possible local and global projects for our 2026 South Carolina WELCA Convention in June.

Our committee has selected a local project that will support a soup kitchen (Feed Thy Neighbor) and/or their food pantry ministry (God’s Abundance for All People). It is operated by O’Neal Street United Methodist Church. This nonprofit is one that Lutheran Church of the Redeemer supports. Carolyn will make contact with the organization operated by Pastor Ed Stallworth and report back to the committee with further information.

We discussed our WELCA 2026 global project with consideration given to our Lutheran church in Colombia, South America. Cindy will contact Pastor Lisa Eisenhower for information on how we might develop this idea.

Our committee also plans to engage dialogue with the Crumley Archive to promote a presence (table) at our convention. We also hope they will participate as a workshop with a history of South Carolina Lutheran Women.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Watt, Chair 2025-2026

Brianna Harris

Cindy McManus

Risse Snelgrove



COMMUNITY



From the Mission Community Committee: The Mission Community Committee met during the fall board meeting and plans to continue last year's efforts with Faithful Friends, the S.A.L.T. Appeal, and Teen Suicide Prevention. Several SCWELCA members expressed interest in joining the Suicide Prevention Task Force during this year's convention, and the group held its first meeting in early October.

From the Teen Suicide Task Force: The Teen Suicide Prevention Task Force held its first meeting in early October, exploring training programs and educational resources, including *Mental Health First Aid*.

Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based program that equips individuals to recognize, understand, and respond to signs of mental health challenges or crises. Participants learn practical tools for offering initial support to someone who may be experiencing depression, anxiety, or suicidal thoughts, and how to connect them with appropriate professional help. This training is especially valuable for community members, educators, and anyone seeking to promote mental wellness within their circles.

The Task Force plans to offer a workshop on this topic of Teen Suicide Prevention at next year's convention. In the meantime, members have compiled a collection of helpful materials, now available on the SC WELCA website under **Resources:** [[RESOURCES](#) | [SC WELCA](#)].

The next Task Force meeting will be held on **November 11 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom**. If you feel a tug on your heart to join this important work, please contact **Lisa Petty** (lisaoffice@livingspringscolumbia.org) to be included in the Zoom call.

Blessings,

Lisa Petty- chair

Cristina Guillermo

Sarah Cheesman

Karen Grimm

Jennifer Miller

GROWTH



Greetings and salutations:

During the board retreat held in September at Camp Kinard, I met via zoom with the rest of the ladies currently serving on the SCWELCA Board. The members of the growth and discipleship committee broke off into a small group via telephone conference to discuss the committee's goals for the upcoming year. The goals settled on are:

1. Provide monthly e-mails introducing new board members.
2. Emphasize Churchwide publications: Gather, Daily Grace and Bold Cafe.
3. Provide Bible Study at the WELCA sponsored retreats. Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat Center.
4. Provide Leadership Training.

Goals 2 is available on the SCWELCA website: scwelca.com. They are maintained and updated regularly.

Upcoming retreat dates have been set:



Camp Kinard: March 6-7, 2026

Camp Kinard cost : Double: \$ 95, Single: \$135, Day timer: \$ 55

Pastor Mary Finklea will be our leader.

Isle of Palms: May 29-31, 2026

IOP retreat cost: Double or more: \$200, Single: \$250, Day timer: \$100. The price increase is due to increased rental fees and an additional cleaning fee. The committee is finalizing the leader and topic of this retreat.

Be on the lookout for more information about both of the retreats. Registration will be available on our website and through email soon.

Sallie Folk, Chair

Amanda Cruse (Board member)

Linda Roland (Board Member)

Ella Shumpert (Non Board)

Denise Warren (Non Board)

Women of the ELCA **2026 TRIENNIAL GATHERING**

START: July 16, 2026 @ 8:00 am

END: July 19, 2026 @ 5:00 pm

The 2026 Gathering will take place in the heart of downtown Des Moines.



♦ **Iowa Events Center**

730 3rd Street, Des Moines, IA 50309

♦ **Hilton Des Moines**

435 Park Street, Des Moines, IA 50309

♦ **Des Moines Marriott Downtown**

700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA, 50309

Do you like to have fun and fellowship with other Lutheran ladies? If you answered yes, then the WELCA Triennial Gathering in De Moines, Iowa is the place for you! The theme for the Triennial Gathering is “I

Am Worthy”. Please plan on attending this wonderful event. There will be more information coming in the next *RIPPLE*, on the website and through emails. The price is cheaper if you register early!

SCWELCA also has scholarships to help with expenses. You can register now! Go to: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>.

Want to learn more about Des Moines? Go to <https://www.catchdesmoines.com/>.

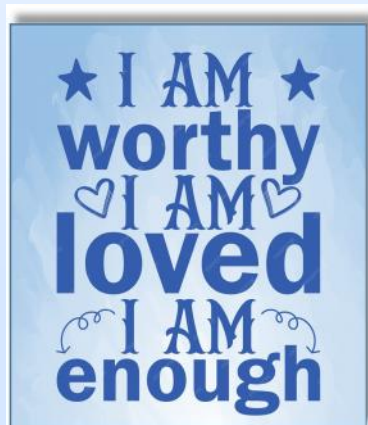
When you register, please reach out to our **SC WELCA Triennial Promoter, Pat George** at scpengin528@bellsouth.net or 864-201-1684 (call or text) to let her know you are going or if you have any questions.





2026 SC WELCA CONVENTION

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
Redeemer Family Life Center
1515 Boundary St.
Newberry, SC 29108
FRIDAY, JUNE 19 - SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026



SCRIPTURE: ¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them. *Ephesians 2:10*

HYMN: “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” LBW 324

WORKSHOPS: This year we plan to offer 4 workshops. The convention staff is still working on the workshops. We will be able to announce them soon. Keep your eye out for emails and the next issue of *The RIPPLE*.

Registration Forms will be available after the first of the year through email and on our website.





CONFERENCE LEADER CORNER

The following is the board's latest list of Conference Leaders. Please contact our Conference Coordinator, Cristina Guillermo, cristina.guillermo@gmail.com, with any changes.

The Board Liaison's are list on page 18.

TITLE	CONFERENCE/NAME	EMAIL
	Foothills	
Coordinator	Christina Fischer	christina.m.lewis31@gmail.com
Secretary	Lianne Smith	lsmith4238@aol.com
Tres/Fin Sec	Patricia George	scpenquin528@bellsouth.net
	UpState	
Coordinator	<i>Vacant</i>	
Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>	
Tres/Fin Sec	<i>Vacant</i>	
	Epiphany	
Coordinator	Elsie Angus	esangus@hotmail.com
Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>	
Tres/Fin Sec	<i>Vacant</i>	
	Amelia	
Coordinator	Joanne Perrin	joanneperrin57@gmail.com
Secretary	Cathy Deloach	deloachcj@centurylink.net
Tres/Fin Sec	Candance Fralix	candacefralix@hotmail.com
	Heartland	
Coordinator	Sarah Cheesman	sarah.cheesman@yahoo.com
Secretary	Janet Ballentine	janet.ballentine@gmail.com
Tres/Fin Sec	Cathy Meetze	cmeetzerhkaj@gmail.com
	Midlands	
Coordinator	Cindy McManus	cjm.welca@gmail.com
Secretary	Gaye Betcher	dolliegaye@gmail.com
Tres/Fin Sec	Bobbie Bell	bbell58617@aol.com
	Coastal	
Coordinator	Cheryl Peters	Cpeterscma@gmail.com
Secretary	Louann Weidman	Louweid56@gmail.com
Tres/Fin Sec	Kate Thon	Kthon@comcast.net
	Saxe Gotha	
Coordinator	Ella Shumpert	shumpert4ella@yahoo.com
Secretary	Kristie Marshall	kristiem@mailbox.sc.edu
Tres/Fin Sec	Betty B. Enlow	(no email)
	Western	
Coordinator	Amanda Cruse	acruse1958@gmail.com
Secretary	Deborah Rhoden	debprohrhoden62@yahoo.com
Tres/Fin Sec	Donna Fulmer	dhfulmer@aol.com

Do you have questions concerning being a Conference Leader? Please reach out to your Board Liaison or go to our website "Tools For Leaders" page at <https://www.scwelca.com/tools-for-leaders>.



CONFERENCE NEWS

AMELIA Conference Fall meeting was held at Lord of Life in Bluffton on Sept. 25, 2025 with 19 in attendance. Five congregational units were represented and one visitor. Vivian Cunningham introduced and welcomed our guest speaker, Kathy Straughn with "Blessing Box Project Bluffton." Kathy and her organization supply neighborhood boxes with non-perishable food items to aid with food insecurities in the Bluffton community. Today's offering was designated to benefit "Blessing Box Project Bluffton" with a gift total of \$700.00.

Elections were held with Joanne Perrin, Coordinator, Candace Fralix, Treasurer, and Cathy Deloach, Secretary, serving a 2nd term.

HEARTLAND Conference met on Sunday, September 7 at The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Newberry. Heartland will be our Host Conference for the 2026 SC WELCA Convention. They hit the ground running discussing first steps in getting details organized for the convention.

The Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 12, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. the location will again be Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.

MIDLANDS Conference met on Sunday, Oct. 26 at St. Andrew's in Columbia. They had their election of leaders. Cindy McManus: Coordinator, Gaye Betcher: Secretary & Bobbie Bell; Treasurer.

They were blessed with a program given by Cathy Milejczak, showing photos of the dedication of the tractor donated to the villages of Southwestern Tanzania and a description of life there.

The next meeting will be October 18, 2026. The location has yet to be determined.

COASTAL Karen Grimm, our new Board Treasurer presented greetings on behalf of the Board.

The 30 women who attended the conference meeting donated \$700 and then voted to donate the money to Jean's Angels. Jean's Angels support individuals facing severe hardships. They uplift those who are homeless, a family in need, victims of domestic and gun violence, children with terminal illnesses, and anyone who has recently experienced a traumatic event. They offer an array of programs and services that aim to restore dignity and hope.

SAXE-GOTHA: The Sept. 26, 2025 Fall Conference meeting was held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in West Columbia. SC WELCA Vice President Cindy McManus brought greetings from the board.

We had a very insightful and informative presentation by Pastor Ruth Ann Syke with Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas. She showed slides of several bridge building projects in Western North Carolina. Although Hurricane Helene came through over a year ago, there is still quite a bit of devastation to much needed bridges that were completely destroyed. Some of these bridges are the only way across some of the rivers. Pastor Syke and her husband serve as the Coordinators of LDR Carolinas. They work together to promote disaster preparedness for households and congregations, coordinate a network of individuals and congregations, and respond to disasters both local and major here in the Carolinas.

WESTERN: The Western Conference Fall meeting was held on Sunday, October 19, 2025, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Leesville. Amanda Cruse, conference coordinator, gave the welcome and called the meeting to order at 3:00PM. The host, St. Mark's Lutheran Church had the fellowship hall decorated beautifully in a Fall theme with orange tablecloths and pumpkins. The first item on the agenda was an inspiring devotion given by Sebrina Matthews, from St. Mark's.

Lisa Petty, SCWELCA Board Liaison, updated the group with information about the SCWELCA Convention 2026, which will be held on June 19-20, 2026, at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Newberry, SC. Our speaker for the meeting was the Reverend Mary Finklea, Community and Congregation Engagement



Coordinator. She updated us on information about our SC Lutheran Retreat Centers, projects such as the “Chapel Project” at Camp Kinard, and spoke about being thankful. The Western Conference women donated \$500 to the Chapel Project at Camp Kinard.

A delicious feast of refreshments, provided by St. Mark’s WELCA group, were enjoyed by everyone. The meeting was closed with a hymn, the Doxology, and the Benediction.



CONGREGATIONAL UNIT NEWS

SCWELCA AND LUTHERAN MEN’S MISSION UNITS at THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

On Sunday, May 4, 2025, the LMM and WELCA units at The Lutheran Church of The Redeemer, Newberry, came together and hosted a free meal for the congregation. The event was held in the Redeemer Family Life Center following worship. 107 people enjoyed the meal and fellowship. Special guests were Ron Redd, president of SCLMM and Risse Snelgrove, president of SCWELCA. Risse's husband, Keith, also attended the event.

Pastor Matt Titus offered a meal blessing prior to the end of the worship service and a delicious meal of country fried steak, rice and gravy, green beans, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, rolls, banana pudding, and tea/water were enjoyed by those in attendance. (Wises BBQ catered the meal.) Ben Bowers, president of the Congregation Council at Redeemer, welcomed everyone. Risse and Ron extended greetings from SCWELCA and SCLMM and spoke about various projects that each group sponsors.

What a great event to celebrate the work of both SCWELCA and SCLMM and to share in a meal and fellowship!



Risse Snelgrove, Ron Reid
(SC LMM President), and
Sue Caughman





ST. MATTHIAS LUTHERAN CHURCH, EASLEY

Our WELCA group supported our St. Matthias Preschool's Fall Festival on Fri. October 17. It was a mix of old and young for sure! We decorated a table, handed out candy and had a "bucket of Jack-o-lantern prayers" with an invite to our church services & fellowship times.

We helped the staff serve hot dog plates by taking orders, serving up chili dogs & providing helpers to take donations. We had a wonderful time meeting up with the children & their families! We had about 100 kids!



CONGREGATIONAL UNIT CORNER



Are your meetings becoming "just routine? Sometimes we get into a routine just because "that's the way it's always been done". Has your unit reviewed the Congregational Unit Handbook lately? Take a look at it. It might give you some ideas on how to rejuvenate your unit! This is available on our website at <https://www.scwelca.com/tools-for-leaders>. Below is an excerpt that may help get you started:

WHEN A UNIT GETS TIRED

When women in a unit get tired it is important for them to take a caring, yet critical, look at what is making them tired. Tired feelings can be caused when what a unit does is no longer meeting the need of the women involved.

Women of the ELCA is really a flexible organization. Too often women are being tired out by operating with a model of organizing a unit that served it quite well at one time, but now, it only makes the women involved feel inadequate. Hopefully, this handbook might help units realize their ability to change before feelings of hopelessness begin to take root. In this way, women can retain the feelings that once had for being part of a community of women seeking to grow in faith and discipleship.

One woman called churchwide from a unit of 30 or so, and shared that they were tired of coming to monthly business meetings. At the same time, new women were coming to small group activities. When the caller realized that unit business meetings didn't have to be monthly and that





offerings could be gathered at the small group events, new life and energy was breathed into the unit. In this case, the unit's leaders were tired while being faced with growth.

KEEPING A UNIT ENERGIZED WITH EVALUATION

Energized units come in all sizes. If your unit cannot be described as energized or is unclear on what its goals are the Getting Started section may be helpful. A healthy, energized unit can do an *annual evaluation* as an important step to maintain its health! An annual evaluation of a unit is like a health "checkup."

The value of unit goals. Unit goals determine the direction of a unit's ministry. Without goals, how would a unit know what it is trying to achieve? In the Goal Setting exercise in the Getting Started section of this handbook, every woman in the community has the opportunity to develop goals that they can truly own. Once goals are established, they serve as witnesses to all that a unit does. A unit's goals can be re-established fresh every three to four years, but sooner if needed.

Annually evaluating your unit's goals. Evaluating the performance of a unit in meeting its unit's goals helps keep it on track. Both current leaders and regular participants can re-visit the unit's goals on an annual basis by rating the unit's success at meeting its goals. One way of doing this is to use a one to four rating with four (4) being "wonderfully done," three (3) being "mostly done," two (2) being "less than half done," and one (1) being "totally missed."

Evaluating participant experience. Evaluating the experience of regular and not-so-regular participants is also important. Mini surveys can be done while sharing a coffee and dessert reception, before a planned event, or even mailed out with a tea bag. Online survey applications are free and very easy to set up and send by email to your participants. Check out www.surveymonkey.com as a possible way to create a survey. To be of greatest use, these mini surveys should provide a place for women to sign their names if they desire. Whatever method is used doing such an evaluation, along with active follow-up, will help a unit remain energized.

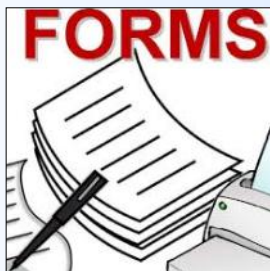
Example mini survey

- ♦ The most enjoyable thing our unit did in the past year was _____
- ♦ What made it so good for me was _____
- ♦ Something we could do to make things work better in the area of _____ is _____
- ♦ Something that could be done to improve our business meetings is _____
- ♦ What I think would be fun to try differently next year is _____
- ♦ The one thing we didn't do this year that I would want to help us do next year is _____

Compiling your findings. An ad hoc committee can complete the results of both evaluations. A report can be written and presented to the elected leaders of the unit. The leaders use these findings to plan the unit's ministry identify new leaders, and as a tool to identify possible new small groups. Remember, an evaluation is only as good as the plan of action that results from the information gathered.



Looking for a particular form? Go to our website at <https://www.scwelca.com/forms>. You will find the following:



- Congregational Unit Update Form
- Conference Meeting/Event Report
- Conference Leaders Update Form
- Life Membership/Memorial Form
- Model Congregational Unit Constitution
- The *RIPPLE* Subscription Form

For Leaders go to: <https://www.scwelca.com/tools-for-leaders>. You will find our Handbook, WELCA constitution, SCWELCA constitution, SC WELCA standing Rules, & other important information.

The *RIPPLE* SUBSCRIPTION



We have increased the subscription rate to \$10.00/year to help cover the cost of printing and postage.

Receiving it by email is free. Online subscriptions may be sent to Cindy McManus at cjm.welca@gmail.com. Questions? Call Cindy at 336-918-4353 or email.



Payment options:

- ♦ Use the QR code to the left OR
- ♦ Send a check payable to SCWELCA, Mail form below and payment to: *Cindy J McManus, 662 W. Church St., Batesburg-Leesville SC 29006.*

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Complete the information below. Make check payable to SCWELCA for \$10.00
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SC WELCA USE ONLY

Check Number: _____ Name on Check: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Date Received: _____ Date: Check Mailed to SWO Treasurer: _____

SWO Treasurer: Date Received _____ Date Deposited: _____



South Carolina Women of the ELCA Board 2025-2026

Christie Gardner (President), 2027
803-924-6221
christiekesler@hotmail.com

Cindy McManus (Vice President), 2026
Midlands Liaison
336-918-4353
cjm.welca@gmail.com

Shari Donley (Secretary), 2026
843-409-5592
kipcorp07@aol.com

Rachel Quesada (Treasurer), Jan 31, 2026
561-866-3011
arachelq@gmail.com

Karen Grimm (Treasurer), Feb. 1, 2028
864-590-8779
kgrimm76@gmail.com

Sarah Cheesman, 2026
Heartland Liaison
803-528-0797
sarah.cheesman@yahoo.com

Amanda Cruse, 2027
Amelia Liaison
803-917-7625
acruse1958@gmail.com

Sallie Folk, 2027
Coastal Liaison
843-307-1417
salstitcher823@yahoo.com

Cristina Guillermo, 2026
Epiphany Liaison
843-730-4394
cristina.guillermo@gmail.com

Brianna Harris, 2026
Saxe Gotha Liaison
803-924-1658
bkinard14@gmail.com

Lisa Petty, 2026
Western Liaison
(847) 224-4886
lisaooffice@livingspringscolumbia.org

Linda Roland, 2027
Upstate Liaison
304-382-2895
lindajroland@gmail.com

Carolyn Watt, 2027
Foothills Liaison
964-982-4459
clwatt1950@gmail.com

Non-Board Positions

**Honorary Life/Memorial
Recognition Coordinator**
Risse Snelgrove
snelgroverisse@gmail.com

Parliamentarian
Diane Wicker
thewickers@lowcountry.com

Triennial Promoter
Pat George
scpenguin528@bellsouth.net



South Carolina Women of the ELCA
Cindy J McManus
662 W. Church St.
Batesburg SC 29006

Return Service Requested

Expanding the Circle of SC Women of the ELCA

Check out the SCWELCA.COM AND WELCA.ORG websites for Devotional Resources

Lutheran women have a long history of Bible study, discipleship, and desire to deepen their spiritual life and learn about issues. Women of the ELCA (WELCA.ORG) offers free, downloadable program resources - all in English and many in Spanish—to help you grow in faith and engage in ministry and action.

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**All of these publications may be accessed from our SC WELCA website,
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