



The **RIPPLE**

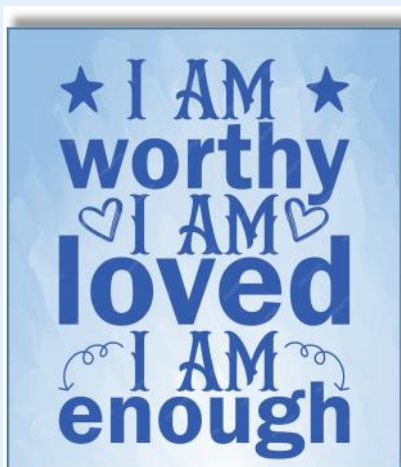


Expanding the Circle of SC Women of the ELCA

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

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

WINTER 2026



**LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE REDEEMER**
Redeemer Family Life Center
1515 Boundary St.
Newberry, SC 29108

FRIDAY, JUNE 19 - SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026



See pages 8 - 11 for Registration Forms.

WHAT'S INSIDE

| | |
|--|-------|
| Officers Reports | 2-3 |
| Mission Reports..... | 4-5 |
| 2026 Triennial information | 5 |
| 2026 Convention | 6-7 |
| Convention registration forms..... | 8-11 |
| Board Nomination Form | 12-13 |
| Isle of Palms Retreat Registration..... | 14-15 |
| Congregational Unit Corner | 16 |
| Six WELCA Unit Models | 16-17 |
| Camp Kinard Retreat..... | 17 |
| The <i>RIPPLE</i> subscription form..... | 18 |
| Board Members information | 19 |

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! Hope this *RIPPLE* finds everyone in good health and doing well! As we embark on a New Year, I have found myself wanting to set new goals. After some reflection, it wasn't actually new goals I was after, but just "fine tuning." Time to refocus. Then comes Lent! I was preparing for Lent without even realizing it! God will whisper and we have to listen. We have to take time to listen.

As we prepare for Lent, I hope you each take this time to refocus and reflect. Not just fast because we are told to but reflect with intention. The New Year is blending into Lent for me as I reflect and refocus on health, spirituality, and what matters the most. Hope you find reflection and refocus during this season!

Our summer convention planning is in the works! Our theme is "I am loved, I am Worthy, I enough." Whew! How about that for tying into Lent, reflection, and refocus! I hope you have plans to join us this summer as lots of workshops are being planned as well as time for fellowship with each other! This is a retreat to be with each other learning, laughing, and loving! Come be with old friends and meet new ones!!

The board has met several times to conduct business and planning. Conference meetings are coming up in which we plan to attend the best to our ability. I have also had several meetings with our Teen Suicide Task Force! We are excited with our planning . Look for more information at convention. This is a heart tugging topic that needs to be discussed!

I do look forward to seeing you all at convention! Please invite a neighbor or friend to come with you! It's not just for delegates, but all visitors are welcome to join us! We open our arms to all!

Blessings to each of you as we enter Lent. Reflect and refocus!

Christie Gardner

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello Ladies!

I'm so excited to let you know that the 2026 Convention planning is in full swing. You will find details in the following pages of *The RIPPLE*. I am so grateful to Joy Derrick who suggested that we choose a school in Japan as our Global Project. This is exciting as we have an ordained minister in South Carolina, Pastor Miho Yasuhawa, who grew up in this area and attended the school. She is also our keynote speaker for the convention.

Our Convention Host Conference this year is Heartland, led by Sarah Cheesman. They are diligently working on getting the logistics worked out. I can't wait to see the fun and exciting things they have planned for us.

Please read carefully though this issue of *The RIPPLE* to see how our convention is coming together. You will find the details on the convention and the Registration Form. Be sure to send in your registration before May 22 to take advantage of the early bird fee!

Congregational and Conference Leaders, we have changed how guidelines for nominating First Timers and Young Women Guests. The nomination forms should be sent directly to our Convention Registrar, Louann Weidman. The *first 15 nominated ladies* will be chosen. So get your nominations in asap!

We are working hard to make this a fun Convention for all of us. We look forward to the fellowship in Christ that always occurs during convention.

Your sister in Christ, Cindy McManus



SECRETARY'S REPORT



I checked the weather app earlier this morning and my heart skipped a beat when I saw that spring like weather will start creeping in next week. YEAH! I sometimes believe spring cleaning is highly overrated however I must admit I am looking forward to it this year. I especially look forward to opening the doors and windows and airing out the house to chase winter away.

The 2025-2026 Board met via Zoom on Wednesday, February 4, 2026 to continue planning for the convention this year which will be held June 19th and 20th at The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Newberry.

Highlights include:

- Brianna Harris will continue to arrange for two food trucks for Friday lunch. She is concluding the negotiations for the banquet meal and Saturday lunch.
- Cindy McManus is arranging accommodations for the Board and convention staff, securing a block of rooms for attendees, making arrangement for printing the convention BOR, and securing the convention keynote speaker. The potential convention projects were discussed.
- The convention is planned to conclude most business on Friday and to have activities on Saturday which will allow the staff, Board members and the attendees to have more enjoyment for the event.
- Sallie Folk will work with Camp Kinard on the March retreat and to inquire about 2027 retreat dates. The March retreat will be promoted to increase attendance.
- Karen Grimm continues to transition the treasurer's duties from Rachel Quesada to herself.

The next Board meeting will be a Zoom meeting on March 12, 2026 at 7PM.

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 (and Brothers!) in Christ in your prayers and enjoy anticipation of the coming Spring.

Your Sister in Christ,
Shari Donley, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT



A budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal was presented by the Board for adoption and approved at our annual convention in August. Our fiscal year began on February 1, 2026. As of March 1, 2026, our current available bank balance is \$13,994.52. All Congregational Treasurers and Conference Treasurers received their FY 2024-2025 statement of offerings. If you have not received this statement or have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you to all who have supported and continue to support the work of the Women of the ELCA and SC WELCA through your offerings and donations of time and talents.

I am excited to begin my term of serving as your treasurer.

Karen Grimm
scwelcatreas@gmail.com



ACTION



Greetings from your 2026 Action Team!

Your WELCA action team is excited and happy to announce our service projects for our 2026 convention this June! Our theme (“I am loved, I am worthy, I am enough”) and our scripture verse remind us of how powerful we are when we work together. We cannot wait to greet you in Newberry!

We have selected to do two different local projects allowing your WELCA group to expand your work into significant areas in your home town and to help meet the needs of others in our state. The first project is one that supports a local food bank in Newberry. “GAAP” or God’s Abundance for All. Please see page 6 for details.

Our action committee is also excited to encourage a second local project in support of WELCA’s 2025 Birthday Cake Resolution which aligns with the ELCA initiative “Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls”. Please find the details on page 7.

Lutheran Global Project

Our global project will be to support the Kyshu Gakuin Lutheran school in Japan, one of our SC Synod companion churches. The school (originally a girl’s school) was established by Lutheran missionaries and is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The school has indicated a special need for library books and a security gate. We have set a goal of \$10,000. Monetary donations should be made out to SC WELCA with the note “Japan school.” Special note: Our SC synod’s Japan Task Force is partnering with this year’s celebration of the school.

As we work together in the above efforts to make a difference in the world, please continue to remember the following ongoing WELCA projects for monetary support:

Newberry College Student Food Bank and Newberry College Nursing Endowment Fund

Make all donation checks payable to SC WELCA and designate with project name. Your convention action committee has worked diligently to plan these projects for our focus this year. We are truly grateful for your faithful work in our state. Lutheran Women are powerful.... “created in Christ Jesus for good works....” See you at convention!

Committee members; Carolyn Watt, Cindy McManus, Brianna Harris, and Risse Snelgrove.

COMMUNITY



The Community Committee Teen Suicide Task Force is proud to announce the receipt of a \$5,000 grant from the Katie Fund. This is a meaningful investment in the mental health and well-being of our youth. These funds will be put to work in several impactful ways. First and foremost, the Task Force will use the grant to train one to two individuals from within SCWELCA to become certified instructors in Mental Health CPR - equipping our community with trained advocates who can recognize the warning signs of mental health crises and respond effectively.

Beyond training, the grant will support outreach and education efforts, including the promotion of upcoming Mental Health CPR classes and the presentation of an informational workshop at the convention. Funds will also be used to develop and distribute materials that raise awareness and encourage community members to participate.

Mental Health CPR is a vital skill — just as physical CPR can save a life in a medical emergency, knowing how to respond to a mental health crisis can make all the difference for a young person in need. We are deeply grateful to the Katie Fund for making this work possible and look forward to expanding our reach across the SCWELCA community.

Blessings,

Lisa Petty- chair, Cristina Guillermo, Sarah Cheesman, Karen Grimm, & Jennifer Miller



GROWTH



Greetings and salutations:

I am excited about the two upcoming retreats. We are lucky to have Pastor Mary Finklea leading both retreats this year. She is not new to the retreat settings and I am sure she will bring a lot of information on her chosen topics. In the past, the IOP retreat has been lead by laypeople but this year, we will have a different view on the *Fruits of the Spirit*. I am looking forward to an exciting, fun filled time of food and fellowship as well as learning in May.

I am writing this article the week before the Camp Kinard Retreat which will focus on *St. Patrick and the Trinity*. I will give details about it in the next RIPPLE.

I would also like to remind you of the various resources that can be found on the SCWELCA website: scwelca.com. Publications such as Gather, Daily Grace and Bold Café are linked on the website. Be sure to check them out.

Upcoming retreats and dates are below:

- Camp Kinard: March 6-7, 2026: Registration is closed.
- IOP: May 29-31, 2026: Registration deadline is April 25, 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. Payment can be made online using the QR code or by check made payable to SCWELCA. If paying online, please print and complete the registration form. The registration form helps me plan meals so I can have some things for various diets although I cannot cover all of the the various types so I do ask that if you have a special dietary need that you bring some items to supplement the menu. I look forward to seeing you at the retreats and appreciate your support of them. Without you, there would be no retreats.

Sallie Folk, Chair, Amanda Cruse (Board member), Linda Roland (Board Member), Ella Shumpert (Non Board), & Denise Warren (Non Board)



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

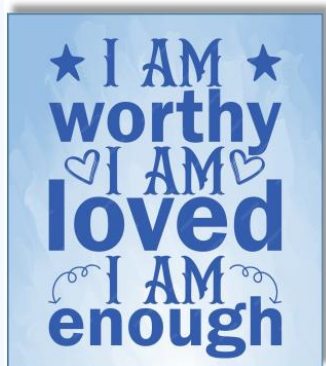
Do you like to have fun and fellowship with other Lutheran ladies? If you answered yes, then the WELCA Triennial Gathering in De Moines, Iowa is the place for you! The theme for the Triennial Gathering is “**I Am Worthy**”. Please plan on attending this wonderful event.

The price is cheaper if you register early! SCWELCA also has scholarships to help with expenses. Register now! Go to: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>.

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



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

Keynote speaker: Pastor Miho Yasuhawa

Workshops:

1. Bible Study: Led by our Convention Chaplain, Rev. Rebecca Wicker.
2. Teen Suicide Prevention Task Force, Jennifer Miller. *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.
3. Churchwide Rep. and SC WELCA board members: Q&A. Questions will be answered by our Churchwide Rep and members of the SCWELCA board.
4. Craft/Service Project: Crosses made from nails and wires. Limited to 50 ladies.
5. TOUR: Newberry Nursing School Tour: Tour this new facility on the Newberry College campus. The Darby Nursing and Health Science Center at Newberry College has opened its doors, providing state-of-the-art facilities for nursing and health science programs. It includes modern classrooms, simulation labs, and a partnership with Newberry County Memorial Hospital for an Urgent Care Center. The center represents a significant investment in the future of healthcare in South Carolina.
6. Life of a Lutheran Missionary: Learn what life is all about living as a missionary in Japan. Our leader, Joy Derrick spent her youth in Japan as the daughter of Lutheran Missionaries.
7. Chair yoga: Lead Susan Wessinger, co-owner of Newberry Yoga and member of Redeemer.
8. Women In Mission: Led by Michelle Gantt, SC WM provides resources for you and your church to help disciple the next generation of followers of Christ to live on mission.
9. Lutheran Disaster Relief Carolinas: Led by Rev. Ruth Ann Sipe and Kelli Fulmer. Learn how LDR assists individuals and congregations to prepare for disaster and build a network of resources across North and South Carolina in response to disasters.

Local Projects: (GAAP) God’s Abundance for All People is an ecumenical food bank that serves a wide area in and around Newberry. It works in cooperation with the “Feed Thy Neighbor” kitchen where volunteers serve meals to those in need. GAAP is supported by multiple churches, including The Lutheran Church of The Redeemer. The GAAP mission is to provide supplemental groceries to families in financial need by allowing them the dignity to shop freely for groceries directly from the





shelves. GAAP has offered the following specific shelf-stable items to be considered by our convention efforts. **Shelf-stable meat – cans or pouches, Pop-top cans of beanie weenies (or similar product for homeless), Meal-in-a-can or pouch (like SpaghettiOs), Cereal, grits, oatmeal, granola bars, etc., Packs of crackers / snacks, and Rice or potatoes (precooked or instant).** All donations should be packed in sturdy boxes weighing no more than 30 lbs. A convention donation form will be provided to record the number of items enclosed and/or your monetary gift. Monetary donations are accepted, especially for the purchase of important perishable items.

BIRTHDAY BOXES

At the 2025 Convention we approved the “Birthday Boxes Resolution” The birthday box will include all the ingredients (see below) for a family to celebrate a birthday and should be delivered directly to a local food bank charity of your choice! To record the impact of this statewide project, a convention form is provided so that your group can record the number of donated birthday boxes you have donated.



Instructions for Birthday Boxes: include the following: candles, cake mix, disposable pan, frosting, can of Sprite. Possible miscellaneous items like napkins, balloons, birthday banner, blank birthday card, & paper plates. A card with directions would be enclosed: “Happy Birthday! To make a cake without eggs oil, & water, mix 1 can of sprite with the cake mix. Bake according to the “directions on back of box.”

GLOBAL PROJECTS: KYUSHU GAKUIN (SCHOOL) JAPAN



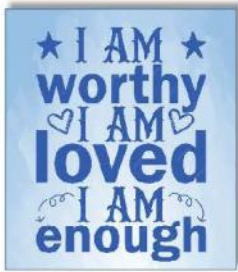
Kyushu Gakuin is a Christian school in the town of Kumamoto. This school was established 100 years ago by Lutheran missionaries and was originally a school for girls. They are an important voice for Christ and his church in a country that is still only 1% Christian. In fact, we have a Lutheran pastor, Pastor Miho Yasuhawa, right here in SC that attended the school. They are celebrating their 100th anniversary in October and our synod’s Japan Task Force would like to partner with them in their celebration.

They are currently in need of library books and a new gate for the newly established primary school. The pastor, Rev. Hitoshi Adachi, was so very excited about SCWELCA partnering with them. We are now collecting funds to help them with these important and necessary items for their school. Our goal is \$10,000. We can do this! You can give checks or pay online. Make checks payable to SCWELCA. Note on check “Japan Project”. The form will be mailed out soon.

FRIDAY BANQUET ENTERTAINMENT:



We are excited to welcome vocalist Paula Harris from Clemson. She spent 20 years in San Francisco before coming back to her home state five years ago. Her father was a roadie for several big names in the industry during Paula’s childhood which heavily influenced her developing taste in music. Paula’s grandfather, a barber in a Barbershop Quartet also influenced Paula through his records of the Great American Songbook, Swing, and Big Band as well as his involvement in the Gospel world. Paula gained confidence through thousands of performances and has gone on to perform with show choirs, musical theater, etc. This talented lady will bring joy in her music through a mix of standards of Christian songs like "He Keeps Me Singing As I Go" and "Timeless". We may even hear some classic soul/funk, Earth Wind and Fire, Al Green, Aretha, and beach music.



SC Women of the ELCA Annual Convention June 19 – 20, 2026

The Lutheran Church of The Redeemer
1515 Boundary Street, Newberry, SC 29108

REGISTRATION FOR VOTING MEMBER & VISITORS

| | |
|---|---|
| Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Voting Member <i>Two delegates are allowed from each Congregational Unit.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor <i>All visitors are welcome!</i> |
|---|---|

Please complete one form per person

NAME (required) _____ CHURCH _____
 ADDRESS (required) _____ CHURCH CITY _____
 CITY, ST, ZIP (required) _____ CONFERENCE _____
 (required) PHONE (home) _____ PHONE (cell) _____
 (required) EMAIL _____
 EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME _____ PHONE _____

Registration will be confirmed by email. If no email, confirmation will be made by phone.

REGISTRATION FEES: \$55.00/person. After Friday, May 22, 2026: \$65.00/person \$ _____
Fee includes a Bulletin of Reports. No refund after Friday, June 5, 2026.
 MEALS: Friday banquet and entertainment \$30.00 \$ _____
 Saturday lunch \$15.00 \$ _____
 TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

PAID ONLINE *PLEASE CHECK THIS IF YOU PAID ONLINE. Make sure you send in this Registration Form.

Please submit registration by Monday, June 1, 2026.

NO refunds after June 5, 2026

Pre-convention packets will be emailed.

****To request a mailed copy email Shari Donley at kipcorp07@gmail.com.****

Make check payable to SC WELCA

Make checks payable to "SC WELCA". Online payments are accepted through QR code below.
 Mail this form along with payment to: Louann Weidman, 915 N Palmetto St, Summerville, SC 29483
 FOR QUESTIONS call Louann at 843 367 6512 or email: louweid56@gmail.com.

Office use only

Date Received _____ Check Date _____ Check _____
 Date Deposited _____



Registration QR CODE



Use the above QR code or link below to pay online.

URL: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-sc-welca-convention>

NEW THIS YEAR! Food trucks will be available to purchase lunch on Friday from 11 am – 1 pm.

The Lutheran Church of The Redeemer, 1515 Boundary Street, Newberry, SC 29108

- **East on I-26**, take exit 72 (SC Hwy 121) toward Newberry. Travel approximately 4.1 miles, (SC Hwy 121 becomes College St.). Turn left on Boundary Street. The church will be two blocks on your left.
- **West on I-26**, take exit 76 (SC Hwy 219) toward Newberry. Travel approximately 3.1 miles, (SC Hwy 219 becomes Main St.). Turn left onto US Hwy 76. At the next light take a right onto Johnstone Street. The church will be approximately 1.2 miles on your left.

Go through the church parking lot to unload off Boundary Street.

LODGING AVAILABLE NEAR THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF REDEEMER, NEWBERRY

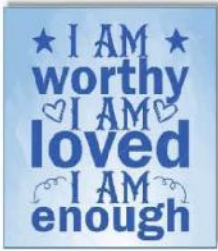
We have secured blocks of room for attendees. Be sure to mention you are with the SC WELCA organization. Free hot breakfast, free Wi-Fi, microwave, refrigerator, TV, 2 queen or 1 king bed.

Home2Suites (5 miles from the church)
 \$135.20 plus tax for Queen double
 \$125.00 plus tax for King
 111 Landworks Avenue
 Newberry, South Carolina, 29108
 803-795-4839

Hampton Inn (1/2 mile from church)
 \$ 135.00 plus tax for Queen double
 \$ 125.00 plus tax for King
 1201 Nance St.
 Newberry, SC 29108
 803-372-3365

DEFINITIONS OF and FEES DUE FOR DELEGATES AND VISITORS

- **Voting member(delegate):** Two from each congregational unit. Members pay for meals, lodging, and registration.
- **Visitor (non-voting):** Those attending the convention either not on the agenda or assigned a specific responsibility. Visitors pay for meals, lodging, and registration.
- **Young Women guest:** Any women between ages of 18 and 35 who have never attended a SC WELCA Convention.
- **First Timer Guest:** Any woman who has never attended a SC WELCA convention
- **Volunteer:** Any women assisting the convention staff with the production of the convention.
- **Other:** Any vendors, speakers, or guests.



SC Women of the ELCA Annual Convention June 19 – 20, 2026

The Lutheran Church of The Redeemer, Newberry, SC
1515 Boundary Street, Newberry, SC 29108

NOMINATION FOR FIRST TIME and YOUNG WOMAN GUEST *(The first 15 women will be chosen)*

MAIL OR EMAIL THIS FORM , BY MAY 1, 2026

First Time Guest Young Woman Guest

Nominee Information

NAME *(required)* _____

ADDRESS *(required)* _____

CITY, ST, ZIP *(required)* _____

(required) PHONE (h) _____ PHONE (cell) _____

(required) EMAIL _____

CHURCH _____ CHURCH CITY _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME _____ PHONE _____

Age *(Young Women only)* _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Please give a brief summary of why this person would be a good choice (use back if needed).

Submitted by _____

Telephone _____ Email _____



RESPONSIBILITIES/GUIDELINES (*new this year*)

Please complete this Nomination Form and send in no later than May 1, 2026. The order in which nominations are received will be factor in the selection decision. The Synodical Board will sponsor (pay for) the first 15 women to be nominated. The Conference may sponsor additional persons as their funds permit. Congregational Units may also sponsor additional FTG and YWG.

Convention Registrar;

Notify the FTG and YWG Coordinator, Synodical President, Secretary, and Convention Chair of all sponsored nominees by May 5, 2026 so that they can provide the necessary follow-up preparations for the convention.

NOTE: It is understood that the alternate nominee will be sponsored if the first nominee is unable to attend the convention.

Instruction for Submission:

1. Above nominee will be: Primary Nominee Alternate Nominee
2. Above nominee will be sponsored by: Synodical Board Conference
 Congregational Unit

MAIL OR EMAIL TO REGISTRER:

Louann Weidman, 915 N Palmetto St, Summerville, SC 29483
louweid56@gmail.com.

First Timer Guest: Any woman who has never attended a SC WELCA convention and not a delegate.

Young Women Guest: Any women from the age of 18 to 35 years old.

The first 15 women (either first Timers or Young Women) will be given registration and meals free on charge. This is first come – first served.



**South Carolina Women of the ELCA Annual Convention 2026
June 19 & 20, 2026
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Newberry SC**

NOMINATION FOR ELECTION

Complete both sides of this form; include a "headshot" photo of nominee (Please send a picture in a jpg format) and return by April 20, 2026 to: Cindy J McManus, 662 W. Church St, Batesburg, SC 29006 or cjm.welca@gmail.com.

Check all that apply:

Secretary Board Member

PLEASE PRINT or TYPE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____ (cell or work) _____

Email _____

Occupation _____

Age Category 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60 and over

Ethnic/Racial

Heritage Asian African American Hispanic White

Other Primary Language _____

Home Congregation _____ Conference _____

Church Address _____

1. Qualifications which would help this person in performing the duties of the position for which she is being nominated.



2. **Experiences that would help this person to serve in this position.** (Beginning with the most recent, list significant experiences in each area.)

3. **Women of the ELCA Congregational Unit** (may include experience in previous church bodies)

4. **SC Women of the ELCA, Conference, SWO, Churchwide** (may include experience in previous church bodies)

5. **ELCA Congregation, Conference, Synod, and Churchwide** (may include experience in previous church bodies)

6. **Ecumenical** (include local, state, and national/international organizations/affiliations)

7. **Other comments** (Why do you think this person would be effective in this position?)

.Submitter Information

Name (print) _____ Signature _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____ (cell or work) _____

Email _____

Congregational Unit/City _____



**2026 SCWELCA Retreat at Isle of Palms
2101 Palm Blvd.
Isle of Palms, SC 29451**

Dates: Friday, May 29- Sunday May 31, 2026

“Fruits of the Spirit” with Pastor Mary Finklea

Times: Check- in: 4:00 pm Friday and Check- out: 11:00 am Sunday

Cost for day: \$100.00 (includes meals, breaks, retreat leader and materials)

3 – day cost: \$200.00 Double or more occupancy (lodging, linens and all of the above)

3 – day cost : \$250.00 / Single occupancy (lodging, linens and all of the above)

***Bring a favorite snack to share ***

Bring your own towel because only sheets are provided

Complete the information below. **(PLEASE PRINT)**

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City/ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Church _____

Church City _____

Check all that apply::

_____ I have a roommate- Roommate’s Name _____

_____ I do not have a roommate, please assign me one.

_____ I would like to room alone.

_____ \$ 200 (Double or more) _____ \$250 (Single Room) _____ \$100 (Day Attendance)

_____ I have special dietary needs. *(please state). Bring supplementary food)*



MAKE CHECK OUT TO SCWELCA. Mail check and registration form to: Sallie Folk, 422 West Pine Street, Florence, SC 29501.

You can now pay online! Just use the QR Code to pay.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2025

THE FINAL ATTENDANCE COUNT IS DUE TO SC LUTHERAN RETREAT CENTERS ON APRIL 29. No reservations can be taken after this date!

Questions? Contact Sallie Folk at 843-307-1417 or email salstitcher823@yahoo.com

Office use only

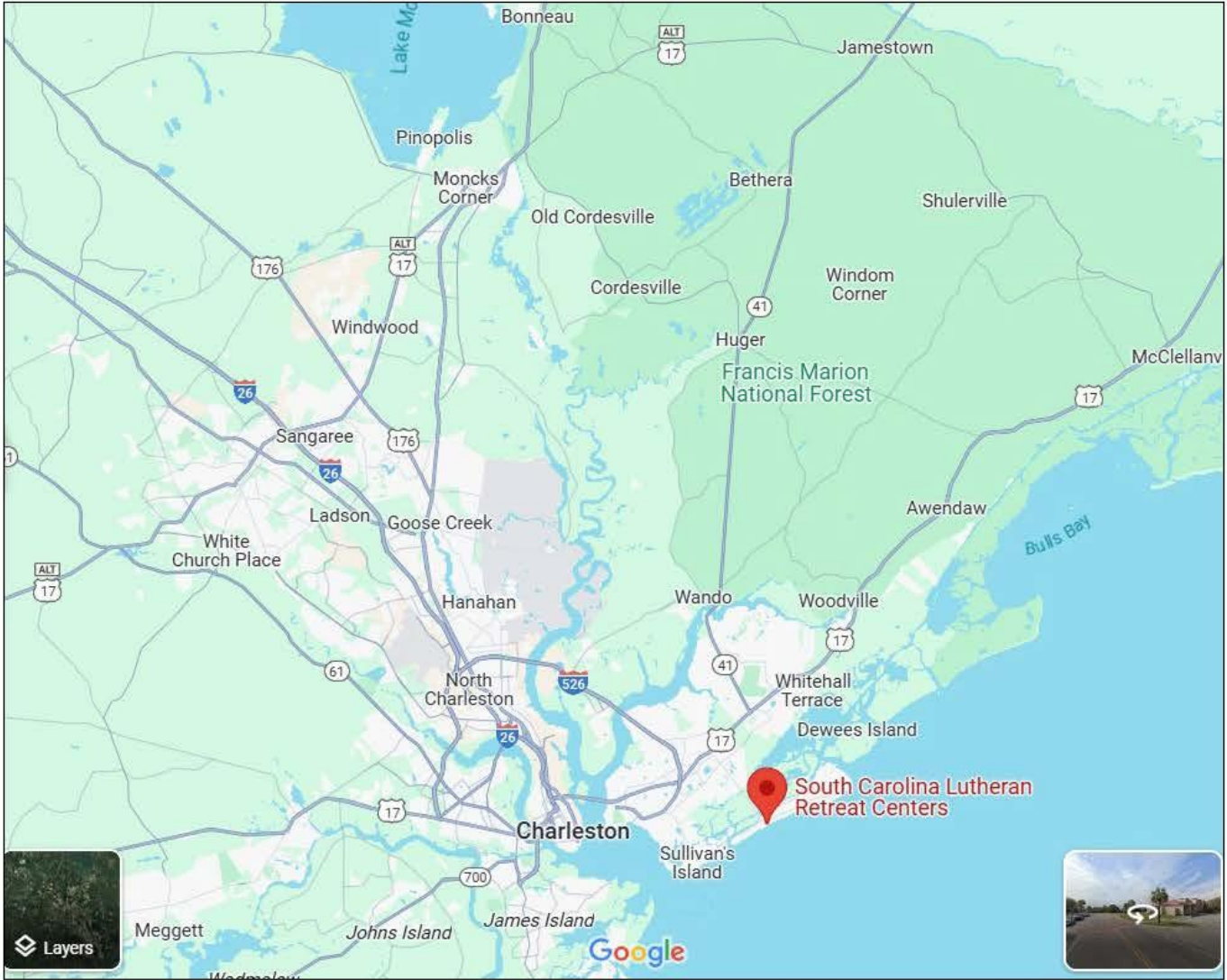
Date paid _____

Total Amount paid \$ _____

Pay by: _____ check _____ cash _____ credit card



SC Lutheran Retreat Centers
Isle of Palms, SC 29451





CONGREGATIONAL UNIT CORNER

KINDS OF UNITS



Most of our units are “congregational units” within single congregations.

There are also “inter-congregational units” with participants from two or more congregations that have no units. And there are “special units” composed of women in special settings without congregational affiliation.

Some examples of units have small groups that reflect the generations of the women. Women have cross- generational small groups. Some units have both. Some units are large with as many as 13 small groups (sometimes referred to as circles). Some units have five women. In every size unit there is a core group of women who develop the ministry plan and provide the opportunities of this organization to all women with their setting and beyond! Finding women in your congregation and communities with a common need or passion is an excellent way to start a new Circle or Group.

Sample types of circles/groups:

- ◆ Bible study
- ◆ Book clubs
- ◆ Quilting groups
- ◆ Lunch or dinner groups
- ◆ Project groups
- ◆ Mom’s day out groups
- ◆ Knitting and crocheting groups
- ◆ Crafting groups



Questions? Contact your Conference Board Liaison! They are listed on page 19.

SIX MODELS FOR UNITS

Women of the ELCA offers six different models for organizing your unit for mission. You can adjust them all or even create other models to get just the right fit for your unit. Remember, there is room for flexibility, creativity and a place for everyone to participate. Whether you are updating, reorganizing, or starting a new unit, below are the six models.

Model A: Board The board model has two to four officers and two to six committee chairs who are board members. The board plans the programs, handles communications and selects the materials to be used.

Model B: Coordinating Committee The coordinating committee model has four to seven committee members: two or three elected to specific positions and the others at-large. None of the sub-groupings have specific representation on the coordinating committee.

Model C: Coordinating Council The coordinating council model has four to nine council members, each representing a subgroup of women (for example, a Bible study group, quilters, a service group and so forth). Two or three leaders may be elected.

Model D: Co-leaders The co-leaders model has two elected or appointed leaders to coordinate ministries and unit programs.

Model E: Covenant The covenant model has two elected or appointed leaders with limited responsibility.



The participants agree to meet together for a specific purpose and for a specific length of time, disbanding or evaluating their commitment at the end of the time frame. This is the least structured model.

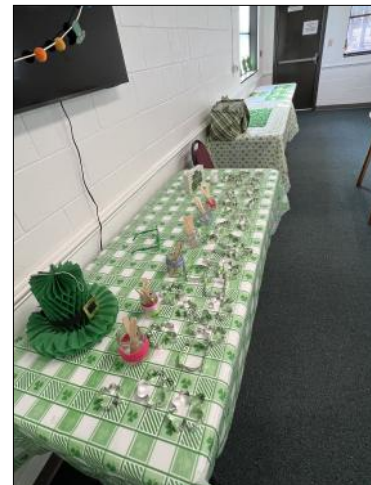
Model F: Team Model A team approach to organizational structure is fluid and easily altered as needs, interests and skills change. While it is necessary to have leaders designated to do things like convene the group, gather and disseminate information and act as treasurer, authority is shared and decisions are generally made by consensus. Leadership is developed based on the skills and gifts of individual women (and through mentoring). Ministry choices are based on the current interests of the group and the needs of the community.

Now that you have organized or revitalized your model for mission, review the approved Model Constitution and Bylaws for Congregational or Intercongregational Unit, Article VI—Leadership. Model constitutions are located at www.welca.org/leadertools.

Complete it or make the necessary changes. Submit a copy to Christie Gardner, our SC WELCA president, and keep a copy for your unit. Taking time to evaluate and refocus at least yearly will help to revitalize and strengthen your unit.

Now, be prepared for the excitement of what we can do together!

WHAT A BLAST! Photos from the Camp Kinard Retreat





Help Wanted

SEEKING NEWSLETTER EDITOR/CIRCULATION MANAGER

Do you like creating and writing? So you know someone who does? We are currently looking for a new **RIPPLE** editor/circulation manager. Please email Cindy McManus (cjm.welca@gmail.com) if you are interested.

- You will collect necessary articles from assigned board members.

- Send reminder emails as needed.
- Submit draft of newsletter to officers for review.
- Submit completed newsletter to the printing.
- Attend board meetings, if possible.
- Attend SC Women of the ELCA conventions, with fees covered by convention fund.
- Attend conference meetings, if possible.
- Take or collect pictures of interest for inclusion in the newsletter.

As the circulation manager you will:

- Maintain a current active mailing list of all those who are to receive The **RIPPLE** by email or regular mail.
- Print, place mailing label, & stamp on printed copies going out in the mail.
- Send expiration reminder to paid subscribers.

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.*

Subscribe to The **RIPPLE**

Complete the information below. Make check payable to SCWELCA for \$10.00 **OR** use the QR Code to pay with a debit or credit card. The **RIPPLE** is FREE if e-mailed.

PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION BELOW

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

New _____ Renewal _____

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

Karen Grimm (Treasurer), Jan 31, 2028
864-590-8779
scwelcatreas@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

Triennial Promoter
Pat George
scpenguin528@bellsouth.net

Parliamentarian
Diane Wicker
thewickers@lowcountry.com

**Teen Suicide Task Force
Coordinator**
Jennifer Miller
jennifershroyer@gmail.com



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

*Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Columbia, SC
 Permit #241*

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.

STAY CONNECTED

**All of these publications may be accessed from our SC WELCA website,
www.scwelca.com.**



Instagram: [@scwelca24](https://www.instagram.com/scwelca24) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)



Threads: <https://www.threads.net/@scwelca24>



X: [@scwelca](https://twitter.com/scwelca) / X



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/288335026618063>