



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 2025

SCWELCA UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♦ **Camp Kinard - Friday, February 28 - Saturday, March 1, 2025**
Theme: What does it mean to be “Christ-Like”?
Guest Speaker: Pegi Roberts
- ♦ **Isle of Palms: Friday, May 16 - Sunday, May 18, 2025**
Theme: Café Chocolat
Guest Speaker: Jennifer Nuovo
- ♦ **2025 SCWELCA Annual Convention - Friday, August 16 - Saturday, August 17, 2025**

2025 SC WELCA BOARD

Risse Snelgrove (2025)
(*President*)
snelgroverisse@gmail.com

Christie Gardner (2025)
(*Vice President*)
christiekesler@hotmail.com

Shari Donley (2025)
(*Secretary*)
kipcorp07@aol.com

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(*Treasurer*)
arachelq@gmail.com

Sarah Cheesman (2026)
Sarah.cheesman@yahoo.com

Joy Derrick (2025)
joycemerrick@gmail.com

Sallie Folk (2026)
(*IOP Coordinator*)
salstitcher823@yahoo.com

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cristina.guillermo@gmail.com

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Lisa Petty
lisaoffice@livingspringscolumbia.org

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latyniamtaylor@gmail.com

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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



Can you believe 2025 is already here? I pray everyone had a wonderful, safe holiday season. As we start our new year for SC Women of the ELCA we devote time to our convention theme. Our theme, “Renew, Refresh, Remember” gives us so many opportunities to explore ways to reflect on ourselves and our work as a follower of Jesus. The word “Remember” has been at the forefront of my mind. Remembering my sense of belonging to Jesus and my faith journey has been quite healing for me. It also got me thinking of regrets of things I didn’t achieve or do as a Christian in my earlier life. For some reason, I began thinking about all this a few weeks ago while on a trip to New York City.

My husband and I along with my sister-in-law and brother-in-law take a yearly trip to NYC in January. We enjoy tours of the art museums, good food, and seeing Broadway plays. This year we had the pleasure of seeing three Broadway plays and of the three my favorite by far and one of the best plays I have ever seen was Suffs. This play was about the women’s suffrage movement that was a decades-long campaign to give women the right to vote in the United States. The movement included protests, parades, and lobbying efforts. The goal was to achieve a constitutional amendment that would guarantee women the right to vote.

As we took our seats in the balcony, I noticed there were women of all ages, sizes and colors excited and eagerly waiting for the show to start. We had no idea we were attending the final show for Suffs on Broadway. Women were wearing banners across their chest that said, “Now is the next time” or “Keep Marching”.

Before the play started, everyone stood up and started cheering and clapping as someone famous walked into the theater. We couldn’t see at first who it was but then someone close to us started chanting Hillary! Yes, it was Hillary Clinton. She walked in, greeted those around her and took her seat. The crowd was even more enthusiastic.

The show started and as we watched this all women cast portray the women who lead this movement it made my heart pound fast and lifted me from my seat frequently. If you don’t know the history of what these women achieved by using their voices, dedication, protest and hard work I encourage you to read the book Suffs by Shaina Taub. As the show continued, I couldn’t help but compare these women with Women of the ELCA. They stood up and fought for what they believed in, they became friends that were seeking a common cause. They took risk by using their voices. They were some of the boldest women in our time. Yes, they risked even going to jail while refusing to stop protesting in front of the White House.

Friends, Women in the ELCA are bold too. Women standup, battling sex trafficking and teen suicide. We champion inclusion, and yes, we make sure that women and children in poverty don’t go hungry. However, there is so much to be done in all these areas.

As we face an uncertain future, now is the time to keep marching. Now is the time to take risk. Now is the time to support others. As my Pastor Rachel Connelly stated not too long ago, “may God give us Grace to risk big for good things”.

Risse



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greetings all!

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! As we begin the new year with thoughts of goal setting for health, finances, and personal goals- it leads me into thinking what can we do to engage the Women of the ELCA?

Well, I hope our convention will be a refreshing event for you to recharge in your purpose! What does WELCA look like in your church? It can look very different as long as you are serving the Lord, your church, and our mission!

The convention staff have been busy beavers planning your convention this year! Our theme is "Renew, Refresh, and Remember." We are excited that St. Paul in Aiken is hosting us and look forward to visiting Aiken!

I hope each of you consider attending your convention this year! We are planning some different events that we hope will renew and refresh your purpose! If you are looking to meet fellow Lutheran women and share ideas, please join us! What a better time to refresh ourselves and remember who we are!

While there will be some business to discuss, please consider joining us as a guest! We plan to have activities and workshops for you to attend! We will continue with the Young Women Guest and First Timer Programs! If you know someone who fits the qualifications, please ASK them! Sometimes all it takes is to ASK! I have found some women of the church aren't familiar with WELCA! Ask and inform!

I hope to see each one of you at your convention August 15-16, 2025, in Aiken! Renew, Refresh, and Remember!!!

Blessing to you all!

Christie Gardner

TREASURER'S REPORT



As of December 31, 2024 your offering to SC WELCA have supported our convention projects, provided donations for Hurricane Helene and supported the work of the Board.

Your support of the 2024 Convention projects far exceeded the budgeted amount of \$6,000. Thanks to your support we donated over \$8,000 to our local projects – Katie's Fund, Neighbors Together, Newberry Nursing Scholarship and the Fifth Gospel. And over \$41,000 to our global project – Tanzania Farm tractor.

In addition, through your support we sent over \$5,000 for Hurricane Helene relief, over \$700 for ELCA Good Gifts and 60% of your Regular Offering to support the work of our national organization.

After the end of our fiscal year (January 31, 2025), all Congregational Treasurers and Conference Treasurers will receive their FY 2024-2025 statement of offerings. If you do not receive this statement or have any questions, please let me know. (phone 561-866-3011 or email arachelq@gmail.com)

Thank you to everyone for your support of the work of the SC WELCA and its projects.

Rachel Quesada



SECRETARY'S REPORT



Brrrrr! It is still cold outside however the water pipes were not frozen this morning. That is a blessing! Winter is here, however hopefully only for a short duration. The preparations for our 2025 Convention are underway. Mark your calendars for August 15th and 16th at St. Paul Lutheran in Aiken. It's going to be great!

The 2024-2025 Board met on Saturday, August 24, 2024 at Camp Kinard to do the annual planning for the next year.

Highlights from the minutes include:

- ♦ Cindy McManus will continue to be our *RIPPLE* editor and will work with Lisa Petty to keep our website updated and to progress the use of social media.
- ♦ Rachel Quesada provided a Treasurers report. Discussed was what to do with a CD that is due to renew February, 2025. The Board credit card has a balance of 40,000 credit points. The Board voted to have the points converted to gift cards to be used for future events.
- ♦ Vice-President Christie Gardner provided an update on the 2024 Convention. The results of the convention evaluations were reviewed to help in planning for the 2025 event. The Board approved that the 2025 convention will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Aiken on August 15th and 16th.
- ♦ Merri Lewis presented the Conference Coordinator Report that included the current conference leaders and the next conference meetings.
- ♦ The Communication Committee Report included that Lisa Petty is adding a Google calendar to the website. The Board approved to use Zeffy as a means to pay online for event fees and fundraising. Zeffy has no cost and does not charge a fee to process fees and donations.
- ♦ The Mission Growth, Mission Community and Mission Action planning reports were given.
- ♦ Old Business included forming a Teen Suicide Prevention task force. Risse will issue a Call to Action for volunteers to serve. A task force will be created to do a five-year plan for Long-Range planning. LaTynia Taylor, Cristina Guillermo and Cindy McManus will serve as Anti-Racism coordinators with the anti-racism task force being named "Today's Dream – Tomorrow Reality". Pat George will continue the Truth in Healing initiative and Land Acknowledgement program.
- ♦ New Business included addressing the convention resolution for changes to the constitution and will be worked on by the Constitution/By-Laws committee who will convene soon to start the work. The Active Unit Assessment, required by the CWO, was reviewed.

Our next Board meeting will be at the annual Camp Kinard retreat on February 28, 2025.

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



COMMUNITY



Our committee met by Zoom on Monday, January 20, 2025. Goals for this year's committee include:

- ♦ Developing a job description for Board Members serving as Conference Liaisons
- ♦ Establishing a monthly giving program to help offset operations of the SC WELCA Board (similar to the "Faithful Friends" program for churchwide WELCA)

- ♦ Increasing awareness of available churchwide and SC WELCA projects and resources especially teen suicide awareness, through social media and direct contacts
- ♦ Finding more creative ways to engage young women and girls

We will have more details concerning these goals in the next *RIPPLE*.

Blessings,

Cristina Guillermo, Committee Chair, Board Member (Holy Spirit, Charleston)

Risse Snelgrove, SCWELCA President (St. John's, Walhalla)

Brianna Harris, Board member (St. Luke's, Prosperity),

Rachel Quesada, SCWELCA Treasurer (University Lutheran, Clemson)

Amy Rusnik (Good Shepherd, Walterboro)

Miho Yasukawa (Fairfax)

Cheryl Peters (Two Rivers, North Charleston)

Luanne Farish (St. John's, Summerville)

Ellen Girardeau (Reformation, Lancaster)

GROWTH



The Growth Committee deals with our relationship with God and how we relate to God. We hope to nurture spiritual growth through enabling and encouraging women to share the good news as disciples of Jesus Christ in their daily lives. We also provide resources for each woman to identify her own gifts and leadership skills, for Bible study, and personal faith development through the SCWELCA website. We have begun sending out an email introduction to board members with a devotion from that board member.

We hope to begin a Zoom Bible Study soon. Spending time in God's Word is critical to knowing God more and growing in your faith.

If you are interested in joining an online Bible Study Group, we would love to hear from you! If you are interested, please email Joy Derrick at joycenderrick@gmail.com.

- ♦ Tell us what day and time works best for you. This would be a one hour Bible study, once a month.
- ♦ Also, what topics would you like to study?
- ♦ The only cost would be for the materials.
- ♦ As we hear from you, we will keep you posted on the responses.

Joy Derrick, Chair

Sallie Folk

Cindy McManus

Lisa Petty



ACTION



Greetings and Happy New Year from your Action Team!!

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and the opportunities for giving in 2025 continue with our convention projects. Our projects support our mission, purpose and also our convention theme of “Refresh, Renew, Remember”!

Our theme reminds us of our past relationship with Lighthouse for Life ([link to their website](#)). This organization supports women and men who have been abused through human trafficking and are looking for help. We can assist with their “wish list” that will help Kares House (their rescue house) become a safe, loving haven while they recover and become strong and independent! Click on the Wish List link (<https://a.co/2wLE5et>) and pick what you would like to provide. You can have it shipped to your home and then bring to convention to be blessed by our chaplain on Saturday! This works just like a bridal registry, so once the item needed has been purchased, it will fall off the wish list. If you would like to make a monetary gift instead, you can bring a check to convention made payable to SC WELCA and in the memo line denote that the gift is for Lighthouse for Life.

Our other opportunity is providing the “Fabric Kits” for Lutheran World Relief ([link to their website](#)). These kits will help women and men all over the world (attached several photos from their website?). The instructions are here and you can bring the kits to convention wrapped with ribbon or even a rubber band. Our goal is to send Lutheran World Relief 1,000 fabric kits from SC WELCA! If you would also like to help with the cost of shipping you can also denote that on a check to SC WELCA.

You can also continue to give to the SC WELCA Newberry College Nursing Endowment Fund and again make checks payable to SC WELCA and denote in the memo line that it is for this fund.

SC WELCA is always an amazing group of Lutheran women who strive to make a difference in this world. Your gifts to these projects will do just that!

If you have questions regarding these projects, please send to Sarah Cheesman, sarah.cheesman@yahoo.com

Your very grateful Action Team;

Sarah Cheesman-Chair, Christie Gardner-Vice President, Merri Lewis-Board member

CONFERENCE SPRING SCHEDULES

1. Foothills Conference: Early April 2025. Immanuel Lutheran, Greenwood
2. Upstate Conference: No information
3. Epiphany Conference: March 22, 11:00 a.m. Crown and Cross, Florence,
4. Amelia Conference: Spring, TBA
5. Heartland Conference: April 27, 3:00 p.m. St James Lutheran Church, Newberry
6. Midlands Conference: Spring TBA
7. Coastal Conference: Spring TBA, St. Luke's, Summerville
8. Saxe-Gotha Conference: Spring TBA
9. Western Conference: March 16, 2025, 3:00 p.m. St. James, Leesville



CAMP KINARD RETREAT

Theme: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “CHRIST-LIKE”?



Registration Form

2023 SC WELCA Retreat at Camp Kinard

6053 Two Notch Road

Batesburg-Leesville, SC 29070

Dates: Friday, February 28 – Saturday, March 1

Times: Check-in is 4:00 pm Friday and Check-out is 12:30 pm Saturday (after lunch)

Cost for day: \$55 (includes meals, retreat leader, and materials)

2-day Cost: \$95.00 Double occupancy (lodging and all of the above)

2-day Cost: \$135.00 /Single occupancy (lodging and all of the above)

Please bring your favorite snack to share.

Complete the information below.

First Name _____ Last _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Email: _____

Church _____ City _____

Check which applies:

_____ I have a roommate - Roommate's Name _____

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

_____ I would like to room alone

_____ \$95 (Double Room) _____ \$135 (Single Room) _____ \$55 (Day Attendance)

Use the QR code to the left or pay by mail or

MAKE CHECK OUT TO “SC WELCA”

Mail check and registration form to: Rachel Quesada, 520 Timber Ln., Anderson SC 29621

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MONDAY, JANUARY 28.



No reservations will be taken after this date!

Questions? Contact Cindy McManus at 336-918-435 or email cjm.welca@gmail.com.

Office use only

Date paid _____

Total Amount paid \$ _____

Pay by: _____ check _____ cash _____ credit card



Bible Study with Pegi Roberts

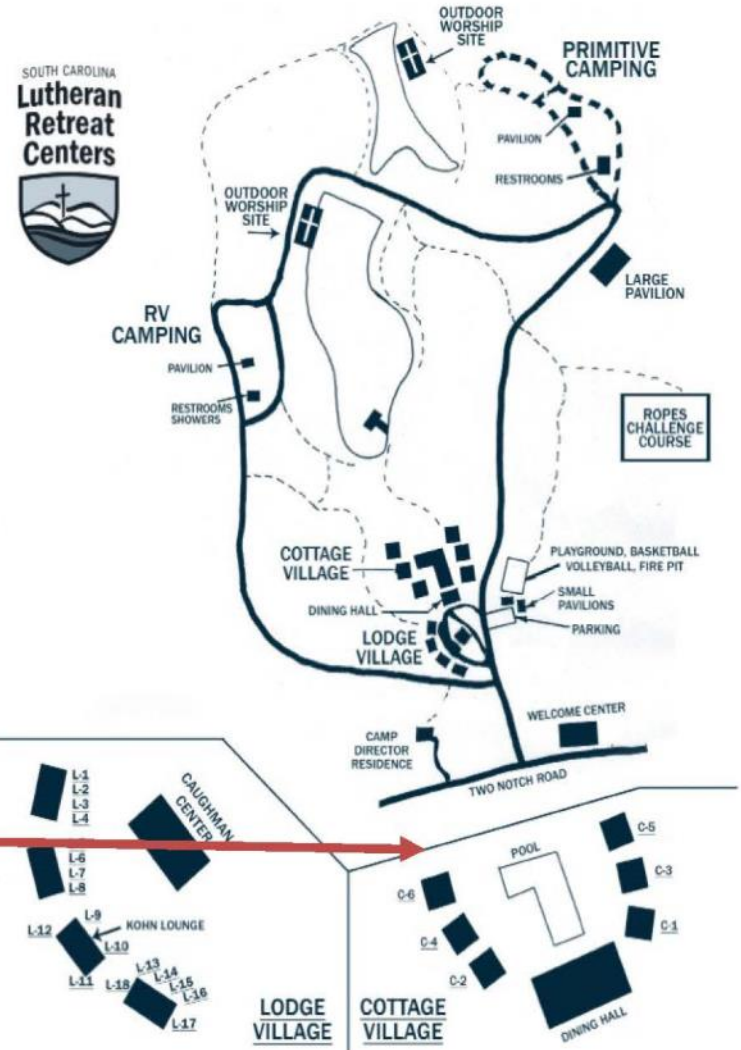


Coordinator of Adult Programs

SCLRC program participants know Pegi for her bright personality and enthusiasm for life-long learning. Her primary focus is facilitating year-round programs hosted by Camp Kinard & Coastal Retreat.

After the retreat:

Take advantage of exploring our great little town of Batesburg-Leesville after the retreat. Visit our quaint locally owned shops such as The Attic Gift Shop, Rush Clothing Store (women's clothes), Palmetto Crest Sundry, Chinaberry Dreams Soapworks and Artisan Marketplace, iCrave Café, Sweet Simplicity Home Goods (gift shop), The Wooden Nickel Variety Store, Homeland Beer & Wine, and others.



DIRECTIONS TO CAMP KINARD

- Follow I-20 to Exit #44 Pond Branch Rd/State Rd. 34/Batesburg-Leesville.
- Merge right onto Pond Branch once you are off the highway.
- Continue on Pond Branch Rd to Two Notch Rd. (2.9 miles)
- Turn left on Two Notch Rd. and drive .9 mile.
- Entrance to Camp Kinard is on the left.



ISLE OF PALMS RETREAT



2025 SCWELCA Retreat at Isle of Palms

2101 Palm Blvd.

Isle of Palms, SC 29451

RETREAT TITLE: Cafe Chocolat

Dates: Friday, May 16 – Sunday, May 18, 2025

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

Cost for day: \$87.50 (includes meals, breaks, retreat leader and materials)

3 – day cost: \$ 175.00/ Double or more occupancy (lodging, linens and all of the above)

3 – day cost : \$225.00 / 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.

_____ \$ 175 (Double or more) _____ \$225 (Single Room) _____ \$87.50 (Day Attendance)

**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 register and pay for this Isle of Palms Retreat.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2025

**THE FINAL ATTENDANCE COUNT IS DUE TO SC LUTHERAN RETREAT CENTERS
ON APRIL 16. *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



Cafe Chocolat

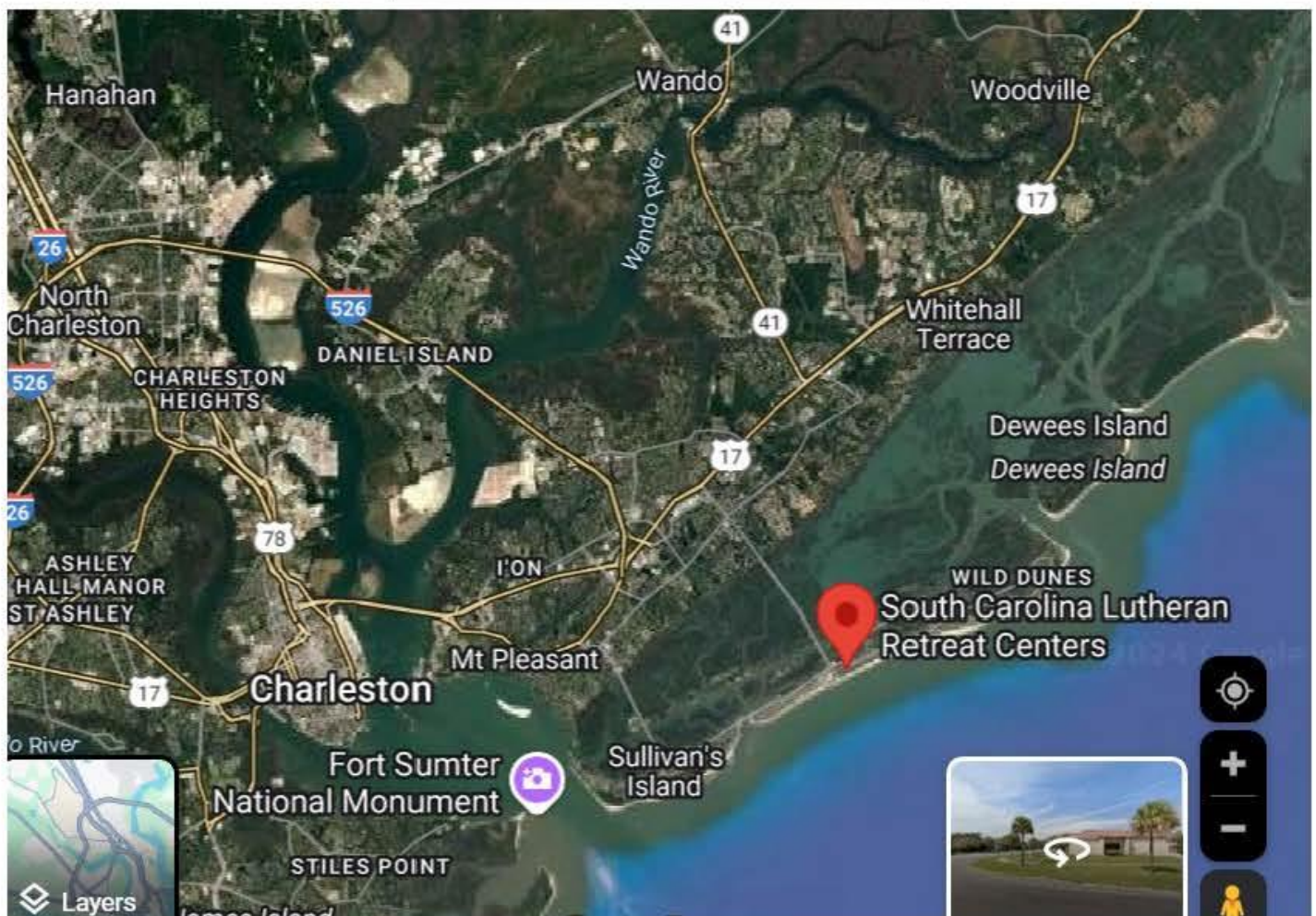
Looking for time away from the business of life?

Time to relax with friends, share laughs, stories, and a few bites of chocolate?

Well, you've come to the right place! Here at Cafe Chocolat, we'll enjoy time with each other as we delight in God's grace.

Cafe Chocolat is a retreat where women slow down and enjoy time with other women and with God. It's an in-depth Bible study, and unforgettable worship experience, and an open invitation for women to delight in God's goodness and grace.

SC Lutheran Retreat Centers
Isle of Palms, SC 29451





Honorary Life & Memorial Recognition

South Carolina Women of the ELCA



Honorary Life

Honorary recognition may be made for a minimum donation of \$25 and is a way to pay tribute to a woman, man or young person in your area who is always there when needed and never finds an excuse to not help anyone in need, regardless of the situation. The application for Honorary Life Memberships has space for a citation (reason for recognition). This will be printed on the Honorary Certificate. The certificate and pin will be sent to the requestor for presentation.

Memorial

Memorial recognition may be made for a minimum donation of \$25 and is given in memory of a woman, man or young person who has passed on to the church triumphant and who had a positive impact on you or your community during their lifetime. The Memorial application has a space for a citation (reason for the memorial) if desired and printed on the certificate. The certificate will be mailed to the requestor for presentation.

All proceeds from the Honorary Life and Memorial Program go to our
SC Women of the ELCA Scholarship Fund at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary/LRU.

_____ Honorary Life _____ Memorial

RECIPIENT INFORMATION (please print)

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Presentation Date _____

PRESENTED BY _____

Church Name _____ City _____

CITATION ON CERTIFICATE _____

_____ Ready to Frame _____ Presentation Folder

SUBMITTED BY _____ Phone _____

Send Certificate/Pin to: _____

Address _____

Special Instructions _____

DONATION (minimum donation of \$25; make check payable to SC Women of the ELCA) Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____

Honorary Life members will receive a Certificate and Honorary Pin. Memorials will receive a Certificate.

Send completed form with your check to Dee Bostick, 2624 Six and Twenty Rd, Pendleton, SC 29670

Phone: 864-650-3956, Email: deebostick1@gmail.com



South Carolina Women of the ELCA

Cindy J McManus

662 W. Church St.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Columbia, SC

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



RIPPLE SUBSCRIPTION

payment of \$9.00 via US Mail OR FREE if emailed.

Mail to: Cindy McManus, 662 W. Church St., Batesburg SC 29006.

PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION BELOW.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Church & City _____

Email _____ Phone _____

New _____ Renewal _____