

# CAROLINAS CROSS CONNECTION

May 2026



Vol 81

Issue 2

## LWML Carolinas District Retreat at Camp Linn Haven August 14 - 16, 2026

The Metrolina Zone invites you to join us for the annual District Retreat at Camp Linn Haven in the beautiful Carolina mountains.

Our theme is Ephesians 6 - **The Full Armor of God**. The Dean is Pastor Jeffery Ware of All Saints Lutheran in Charlotte.

It's a perfect time to relax, recharge and enjoy the fellowship of your Sisters in Christ. A time to worship a majestic God in a majestic setting.

There are two registration forms in this CCC. One form goes to the registrar and the other goes to Teirsa Lane, Camp Director, at Camp Linn Haven. Registration is \$10.00 and checks should be made payable to LWML Carolinas District and sent to the registrar. The registrar is Diane Russo at 7516 Castlebar Rd., Charlotte, NC 28270. The cost of camp is \$125.00 which includes room and board, payable to Camp Linn Haven and mailed with your registration form. You may also attend for Saturday only and pay the registration fee and Saturday meals.

Upon arrival at camp check in with Teirsa in the office, between 3:00 - 5:00pm, to pay and get your cabin assignment. Please then register with the Metrolina Zone in the Pavilion (across from the dining hall) to receive your packets and weekend agenda. Supper will be at 6:00pm.

Things you need to bring for the weekend: bedding (twin size bunk), pillow, towel/washcloth, toiletries, rain gear, comfy clothing, flashlight, and, of course, your Bible. You also will need cash for the LWML store and coins for Bingo for Mites.

A monetary collection will be taken for the Camp Dining Staff, Gifts from the Heart and Sunday offering. The Gifts from the Heart is for LERT, Lutheran Emergency Response Team. Checks for Lert should be made payable to LWML Carolinas District with LERT in the memo.

*Sara Hanson, President  
Metrolina Zone*

### Upcoming Events

**May 30, 2026**  
Board of Directors  
Transition Meeting  
at 9:30am -  
Ebenezer Lutheran  
Church,  
Greensboro, NC.  
\*\*\*

Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM  
Bd of Directors  
Meeting

**August 14-16, 2026**  
LWML Carolinas  
District Retreat -  
Camp Linn Haven  
\*\*\*

Nov. 6, 2026  
Bd of Directors  
Meeting

**November 7, 2026**  
Joy Event  
St. John's,  
Conover, NC  
\*\*\*

·2027 National  
LWML Convention  
**July 8-11, 2027**  
Oklahoma City,  
Oklahoma



## New Pastoral Counselor

Rev. Eric Hauss was elected to be the Carolinas LWML District Counselor for 2026-2030. He is the Assistant Pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Conover, NC. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Audrey, and spoiling his granddaughter in South Carolina.

Before following his call to be a Pastor, Eric worked as an auctioneer and could often be seen on stage performing in various theater productions in Catawba County.



**Lutheran  
Women  
in Mission**



**42ND BIENNIAL  
CONVENTION  
Oklahoma City,  
Oklahoma  
July 8-11, 2027**



Shirley Marquardt, Editor CCC  
email:  
carolinasdist.ccceditor@gmail.com

### **August Newsletter**

Deadline: August 1, 2026

Delivery Method:

Distribute at Retreat & Email

Need information from: President,  
Vice-Presidents, Zones & Societies,  
Joy Event information, Sr. Pastoral  
Counselor, Mission of the Qtr.

**WEBPAGE**

[www.lwmlcarolinas.org](http://www.lwmlcarolinas.org)

Please contact Lauren Olsen,  
Web Servant, email:  
deaclaurenolsen@gmail.com

If you have articles you would like on  
your zone page.

The site offers each Zone a page to  
display their Zone information  
and pictures.

# President's Message

"Grace and peace to you from God, our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 1:7) These were the Apostle Paul's words of greeting for the Believers in Rome. As we all know the Lord used Paul to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Mediterranean Sea area. And Paul excelled in doing just that. He did have many helpers to accomplish this huge task, but he knew that the Lord was the main drive behind what was accomplished. We praise our Lord today for this accomplishment so that we are a part of His Kingdom too.

My LWML Sisters in Christ, I extend my sincere thanks to each of you for putting your trust in me, to vote for me at our 2026 Carolinas District Convention, to become your new District President. I am humbled and willing to serve to the best of my ability with our Lord's help. But I have so much to learn and ask for your continued support and prayers. I thank you now because I know that you will do this!

Our next Carolina District LWML Board Meeting will be Sat. – May 30, 2026 from 9:30am–12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall of Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Greensboro, NC. This will be our 'transitional' meeting where officers who have served the past four years will meet with the newly-elected officers for the same Board position. I ask that all officers who are concluding their tasks for the Board to bring all materials to be given to the newly-elected officer. There will be time set aside for this transition to occur. There will also be a time for Zone Presidents to gather and have conversations. You may have already transitioned into your new position, meeting with the previous president. Please come with ideas to share with other Zone Presidents regarding the way your group meets, does business, plans events, encourages our young women to be a part of our LWML groups, and any other beneficial information. Come with questions also, especially if you are new in your position.

The next gathering for all of our Sisters in Christ will be at Camp Linn Haven for our Retreat during the weekend of Aug. 14-16, 2026. More information is included in this issue of the Carolinas Cross Connection. Mark your calendars, get registered and you can look forward to a fabulous weekend of worshipping our Lord! There will also be a Carolinas District Board of Directors meeting at 4pm prior to our worship gathering on Friday evening.

The Joy Event will be on Sat. – Nov. 7, 2026. Note this change for the time of the year as we usually have this gathering in the spring. Please note that the Carolinas District Board of Directors will meet on Friday evening at 5:00pm on Nov. 6. Dinner will be provided.

Our ultimate goal as an LWML organization is to support others with the love of Jesus and one way that we do that is with our mites. We have new Mission Grants that were chosen at the 2026 Convention. Please share these with all the Lutheran Women in Mission at your church and encourage all church members to be supportive with their mites.

Once again, thank you for trusting me to lead our group for the next four years. Don't forget to include me in your prayers. If you need to talk with me or share information, please note the email address below, along with my other contact information. Reach out as I am your Servant in Christ and I will strive to help you, answer questions, etc. If I don't know, I will seek the answer from someone who will know.

God's peace, love and blessings to you,

Mary Ann Boone  
Carolinas District President  
336-451-4291  
carolinasdistrictpresident2026@gmail.com  
6606 Coltrane Mill Rd., Greensboro, NC 27406



# ***Mission of the Quarter***

## ***Involved in Mission Outreach in 2026?***

If you have a mission opportunity that takes place in the Carolinas District (NC & SC) that you would like to apply for a Mission of the Quarter, please contact Margaret White, Mission of the Quarter Chairman, at [mwhite15@embarqmail.com](mailto:mwhite15@embarqmail.com) or call 252-430-4353 for more information. You can find the MOQ form on our Carolinas District website:

[www.lwmlcarolinas.org](http://www.lwmlcarolinas.org).

We continue to support missions with our MOQ money. The 1st Qtr MOQ 2025, \$1,240.26 went to the Backpack Ministry at Camp Linn Haven. The 2nd Qtr MOQ 2025, \$785.00 went to Family Care Center of Catawba Valley, Inc. The 3rd Qtr MOQ 2025, \$465.00 went to the Life in Christ Lutheran Ministry, previously called Gastonia Chosen Mission, a church plant in the Gastonia area. The 4th Qtr MOQ 2025, \$1,082.00 (amount corrected) went to Shepherd's Heart Ministry in Claremont, NC.

The 1st Qtr MOQ 2026, \$1,170.00 went to HOPE Missions of the Upstate, Anderson, SC.

Please remember the new deadline for MOQ money to be sent into the financial secretary ... **15 Days after the end of the quarter!**

### **2nd Mission of the Qtr 2026 (Apr/May/June)—Patchwork Quilters, St. Paul's Lutheran, Norlina, NC**

Patchwork Quilters, made up of ladies of St. Paul's congregation and LWML, gather weekly to make quilts to donate to disaster victims, local homeless shelters, and needy families within the community. Most of the material and backing is donated. Batting and thread is expensive and the money will be used to cover the cost of these items. Thank you for helping us cover those in need of warmth with the love of Jesus as we give away these quilts.

### **3rd Mission of the Qtr 2026 (July/Aug/Sept) –Conover School of Conover, NC**

Classroom supplies/learning resources for the developmentally challenged students aged pre-school to 21. Students' parents typically cannot afford necessary personal and educational supplies. MOQ money would help save the purses of the teachers who buy supplies. Dorcas Society of Concordia, Conover, enjoys occasionally meeting with and providing support items (clothing, hygiene, markers, etc.) and snacks for students, staff, and Jet the therapy dog. Conover School faces loss of federal funding so contributions from the faith community will continue to grow in significance.

**We continue to pray for our MOQ projects. Thank you for supporting these mission activities as we seek to be Jesus' hands and feet to those in need of His love and care!**

*Margaret White, Mission of Quarter Chairman*

## Catawba Zone

The Dorcas Society of Concordia, Conover, enjoys helping the Conover School (for developmentally challenged students) with projects. Between cloudbursts during a spring thunderstorm we delivered brunch to faculty and staff. Jet the therapy dog enjoyed it too.



The Catawba Zone held their Zone Rally on April 26th at St. John's in Conover.

Thirty attending were as follows:

Bethel- 2  
Concordia- 3  
Immanuel - 0  
Mt. Olive - 0  
Redeemer - 4  
St. John's - 10  
St. Lukes - 0  
Trinity Hmong -3  
Guest - 6  
Clergy -2

Kimberly Garland with The Weaving Place, a local initiative for care of the autistic community was the speaker. This program is a spinoff of St. Peter's Autistic Ministry.

Rev. Daniels installed 2026-2028 officers as follows:

Rev. Anton Lagoutine, Pastoral Counselor; Kim Cater, President; Teresa Graudin, Vice President; Sylvia Shaw, secretary.

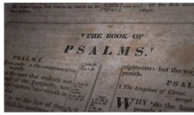
St. John's in Conover is highlighting different groups each month in 2026 and the first group to be highlighted was the LWML. LWML group President, Kim Cater was interviewed by Rev. Self and the video was put up on St. John's web page. Kim also gave a brief message at both services in March about the LWML. The group had a display set up in the parish hall with pictures, information and their monthly LWML schedule for the year.

*Kim Cater, President*

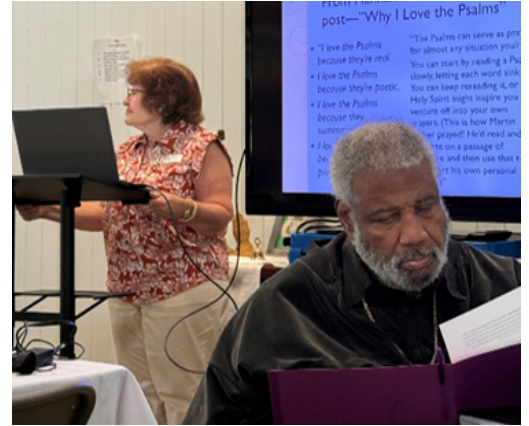
# Central Zone

Redeemer Lutheran LWML held its Spring Rally on Saturday, April 18th with 31 people attending. The theme was "Using the Psalms for Time with God". The group was led through the Book of Psalms, identifying themes and their favorite Psalms. During the Business meeting, Lenora Campell was elected and installed as the new Central Zone President by Pastor Tessman, fulfilling the remaining term of President Mary Ann Boone.

## Using the Psalms for Time with God



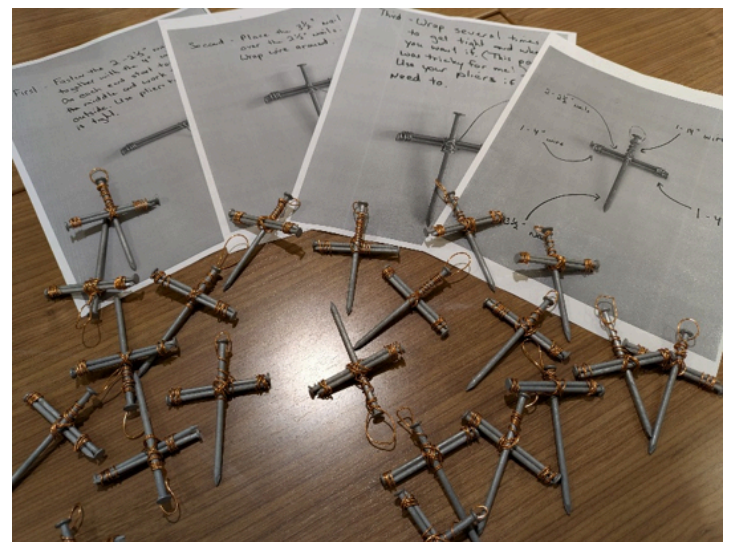
### LWML Spring Zone Rally at Redeemer Lutheran Church



# Metrolina Zone

## Emilie Circle – Ascension Lutheran

Prior to our March gathering, our circle considered how we could, in a small way, share the message of Christ's passion and saving grace with our Food Pantry families. The result was this project found with the help of social media. To be included with a card, we constructed these beautiful and unique cross ornaments from nails and copper wire. Painfully simple and hard at the same time. When word got around that we were doing this, our Soup Kitchen team thought it would be a meaningful addition for their families, which would quadruple the necessary output! Our circle is now contemplating how we can work this project in on a regular basis to meet the request. From simple to grand, God is Good!



## Metrolina Zone continued...

Women's Retreat at Messiah Lutheran in Charlotte in April.

The women of Messiah Lutheran Church in Charlotte held a one day Retreat on April 19th. The theme was the 5 women in the genealogy of Jesus mentioned in the first chapter of Matthew. The women enjoyed singing, fellowship and a wonderful lunch. They also gathered hygiene supplies and packed for Bright Blessings, a nonprofit volunteer organization in the Charlotte area that holds birthday parties and other events for underprivileged children in the area.



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## Southern Zone

LWML Southern Zone Rally

June 27, 2026

10:00 AM

Grace Lutheran Church

1600 Old Trolley Rd,

Summerville, SC.

Registration begins at 9:30AM. Join us for coffee, juice and snacks. A lunch will be served. Jamee Thieme from Visual Faith Ministry will be our guest speaker. Deaconess Karen Suter will be our Bible Study Leader.

Email Shirley Marquardt to register:

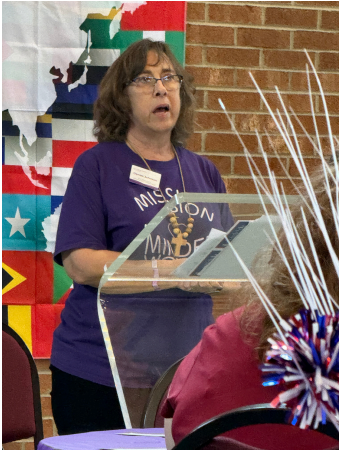
[shirleymarquardt@gmail.com](mailto:shirleymarquardt@gmail.com)



Jamee Thieme

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Heritage Festival February 21, 2026

Thank you to all who participated in this wonderful event.  
Denise Johnson, VP Special Focus Ministry



# 70th LWML District Convention May 1-2, 2026



# 70th LWML District Convention May 1-2, 2026 continued



# 70th LWML District Convention May 1-2, 2026 continued



## New Societies



## VP of Christian Life

As the outgoing VP of Christian Life, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that your new VP of Christian Life, Kecia Roseman, will be a great asset to you in helping you find Christian Life resources, bible studies, etc. for your groups and events. Please take advantage of her knowledge.

I would like to thank everyone for allowing me to serve as your VP of Christian Life the past four years. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve you in this position. Being your VP has brought me wonderful new relationships with my fellow LWML sisters and helped me greatly in my Christian Life journey.

My prayer is that God will bless and keep each of you and that when you are called to serve you will answer with yes I will serve with gladness.

Blessings,  
Kim Cater, Outgoing VP Of Christian Life  
Carolinas District LWML

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Staying Connected As summer approaches and the rhythms of normal routines shift, we may miss some of the regular connections we have with our sisters in Christ as meetings suspend for the season. How will you stay connected? As a leader, you could utilize resources from the Mailbox Members Program available on the LWML website. These are short devotions that could be sent via email or snail mail over the summer and could even continue to homebound members once you return to a fall schedule. As a member, call or text someone in your group to just check in or share an encouraging word. As a group, consider the LWML retreat in August at Camp Linn Haven. Not part of a group? Find an adventure-seeking sister or come on up individually to the mountains where you will find plenty of sisters to spend the weekend with. Most importantly, stay connected in Christ. So many resources are available from LWML – daily devotions, weekly emails, online Bible studies and so much more. Check them all out at LWML.ORG.

VP of Christian Life, Kecia Roseman

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As Foothills Zone president

I attended a Tea at Salem Lutheran  
attended a Salad Luncheon at St Stephens  
attend a bible study at St. Johns  
attend a bible study at St Stephens  
attend LWML meetings at Augustana  
helped co host the LWML District Convention  
am newly elected **Treasurer for the Carolinas District.**

Thank You,  
Deborah Moore

# Reaching Out to All Nations



**Save the Date: November 7, 2026  
Joy Event at St. John's Conover, NC**

Join us for a day of bible study, speakers, servant events  
fellowship and food.

More information coming in future CCC

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## **MISSION GRANT'S 2026 – 2028**

A Mite Goal of \$81,000 was selected. This is divided as follows:

- 25% to LWML (National)
- 55% to Carolinas District Grants
- 20% to Administrative Funds (Carolinas Dist.)

### Ongoing Mission Projects:

Professional Church Work Student Assistance – SE District \$10,000  
Camp Linn Haven Scholarship Fund \$3,600  
Individuals with Developmental Disabilities \$7,000

### Mission Grants – \$44,550

1. Shepherd's Heart Ministries Extending our Reach Grant \$5,000
2. All Saints Classical Academy \$5,000
3. Concordia Seminary Food Co-op, Ft Wayne \$5,000
4. Forged by Fire Ministries \$5,000
5. Christ-entered Counseling \$5,000
6. Primary Lutheran School-Amudat-Life for Uganda \$5,000
7. Gospel Access for Aging Adults \$5,000
8. Castillo Fuerte Mercy House \$5,000
9. Mobilize Gen Z within the SE District \$4,550

# LWML CAROLINAS DISTRICT RETREAT REGISTRATION

**DATE:** August 14–16, 2026

**LOCATION:** Camp Linn Haven – Linville, N.C.



The **Metrolina Zone** invites you to join them at this year's Carolinas District LWML Retreat.

It's a perfect time to relax, recharge and enjoy the fellowship of your Sisters in Christ. A time to worship a majestic God in a majestic setting.

**Note: The TOP portion goes to the registrar. The BOTTOM section goes to camp.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration deadline is August 1, 2026.**

**Mail your \$10 registration fee and the form to:**

Diane Russo

7516 Castlebar Rd.,

Charlotte, NC 28270

Email: justdianenow@gmail.com

**Make checks payable to:**

**Carolinas District LWML.**

### GENERAL RELEASE

The undersigned acknowledges and agrees as follows: LWML Carolinas District assumes no, and disclaims all, liability for my safety and well-being while I am a Participant. In consideration of LWML Carolinas District permitting me to be a Participant, I (a) acknowledge and agree that LWML Carolinas District cannot and does not accept any (and expressly disclaims all) responsibility for my safety and well-being; and (b) waive all claims arising from my volunteering for LWML Carolinas District and participation in LWML Carolinas District-sponsored or LWML Carolinas District-related activities.

### PHOTO RELEASE

I grant to LWML Carolinas District and its assigns the right and permission to take photographs and audio and video recordings during my participation, and to retain, publish and distribute, without charge or fee, such photographs and audio and video recordings. Without limiting the foregoing, I agree that these images and recordings may be used in publications, including electronic publications and websites, and in audio-visual presentations, promotional literature, advertising, and in other similar ways.

Please Initial \_\_\_\_\_



Mail this to camp

**Registration deadline is August 1, 2026.**

**Camp Registration Form:** Reservation for room (2 nights) and meals (6) at Camp Linn Haven.

I will be attending the LWML Retreat at Camp Linn Haven August 14, 15, 16, 2026.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I need a handicapped accessible cabin. \_\_\_\_\_ I will sleep in a top bunk.

Allergies (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary needs (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mark what applies:**

Full Weekend with Meals \_\_\_\_\$125

Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner \_\_\_\_\$8

Saturday Breakfast \_\_\_\_\$6 Lunch \_\_\_\_\$7 Dinner \_\_\_\_\$8

Sunday Breakfast \_\_\_\_\$6 Lunch \_\_\_\_\$7

**Camp fees** are separate and payable by check (mailed with your registration) or credit card upon arrival at camp. You may attend for a day and pay for your meal(s), plus registration. Make checks payable to: *Camp Linn Haven.*

Mail camp form to: Teirsa Lane, Camp Linn Haven Registration

PO Box 385, Linville, NC 28646