CAROLINAS CROSS CONNECTION

November 2026 Vol 81 Issue 4

LWML Carolinas District



Heritage Festival
February 6, 2027

Theme: Knowing yourself as God knows you.

I am so excited about the next annual Heritage Festival. It will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 1600 Old Trolley Rd., Summerville, SC 29485, on February 6th.

Registration will be from 9:30AM and the Festival will start at 10:00AM.

This year we will have a craft and some food demonstrations. We are asking each person to bring a food item that is from their family and or heritage. We will discuss what heritage is and why it is important to know what your's is.

Please register by contacting Denise Johnson at sddsjohnson@gmail.com or cell: 828-320-5370. Deadline is January 20th.

Nov. 6, 2026
Bd of Directors Meeting

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Nov. 7, 2026
Joy Event
St. John's, Conover, NC

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February 6, 2027
Heritage Festival
Grace Lutheran Summerville, SC

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April 23, 2027
Bd of Directors Meeting

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April 24, 2027
Joy Event
Greensboro, NC

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

If you would like to help with a craft, food demonstration or planning this event, please contact Denise Johnson at 828-320-5370 or sddsjohnson@gmail.com

President Mary Ann's Message



Do you have a favorite faith word? For many years my favorite faith word was JOY. But as I continued to read my Bible, studying and applying what I learned to my daily life, I realized there are many words that are my favorites! I am so grateful to our Almighty God for the words of grace, mercy and forgiveness, that He extends to us when we repent from our sins. For a while I was focused on the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Those are words that strongly guide our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

I once thought that I would take each of those words individually each week for specific focus. Then I realized that they all go together, that they are hard to separate because we need to focus on a blend of them every single day! Then I came across the word ABIDE, a word that I have read many times. I bet as you read ABIDE, your thoughts were like mine, that we are to ABIDE in the LORD every single day! John 15:1-5 Jesus says, "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ABIDE in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it ABIDES in the vine, neither can you, unless you ABIDE in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever ABIDES in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." We know that we cannot impress God or earn His approval. So, we do what the scriptures tell us to do, we live an abiding life focused on Jesus. Apostle Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Jesus is our perfect example of an abiding servant who lives a Spirit-filled life. I once read that fruit of the Spirit isn't produced through our striving for it, but it grows through our surrender to the Lord. We read, study and apply His Word to our lives daily. We pray to our Lord, and not just as we are about to eat a meal! We serve others through the love of Jesus Christ. We fully rely on our Lord and Savior and that's not a passive thing, but an active abiding life! When I think of our Lutheran Women in Mission, this is what we strive to do. We abide in Jesus love, therefore we want others to know Him and abide in Him also. We serve others through the love of Jesus, therefore we are actively abiding in our Lord.

Our Mission Grants are a display of abiding in Jesus' love as we give monetarily at the local, district and national levels to help others who are also serving others. Recently, we were able to present checks to our first two District Mission Grant recipients for $5000 each! Lutheran Women in Mission are actively abiding in a Jesus-led life here in the Carolinas District. May we continue our work to serve and honor our God, living a Jesus-led active abiding life.

REMINDERS!

1) The Carolinas Cross Connection newsletter will be going digital in January. Use the QR Code or email carolinasdist.ccceditor@gmail.com, so you will receive it via your email.

2) The Heritage Festival will be hosted by the Southern Zone in February. Please register and plan to attend.

3) The next Joy Event will be in April of 2027 hosted by the Central Zone. More information will be given in the next CCC.

4) The LWML 2027 National Convention will be held July 7-11 in Oklahoma City, OK. Soon registration information will be available at lwml.org, the National LWML website, and in the next Women's Quarterly Magazine. Registration will begin early in 2027 and we need to be ready. The sooner President Mary Ann can turn in all of our information, the better the seating will be for our delegates on the Convention floor! Delegates who will vote for the Carolinas District at the Convention will be the District President and our 7 Zone Presidents. If a Zone President cannot attend the Convention, they need to let President Mary Ann know, and together they will choose a replacement delegate from their zone.

5) Please make sure that your church group submits monetarily on time using the Calendar of Submission of Funds to support our administrative needs, our Mission Funds paid for by our Mighty Mites, etc.

Thank you! God bless each of you for your faith in our Lord and your faithfulness to our LWML.

Serving others through the love of Jesus Christ,

Mary Ann Boone
Carolinas District President

Welcome to Our Web Servants!

First of all, we need to extend a big *THANK YOU* to Lauren Olsen, who helped to create our new webpage several years ago, along with managing our Carolinas District webpage since that time. **www.lwmlcarolinas.org**

But please join me in welcoming two women who aren't new to our Carolinas District LWML, who will take on the tasks associated with managing our webpage. Thank you and welcome to Carol Bostick and Sandy Groover for volunteering to be our new web servants. Be patient with them as they are learning how the website works and how to manage new information that we want posted there. We trust them and have great confidence in them to do this job well. Welcome Carol and Sandy!

To submit articles, pictures and information to Sandy Groover and Carol Bostick
email: **lwml.cd.webmaster@gmail.com**

Spring Joy Event

DATE: April 24, 2027

LOCATION: Ebenezer Lutheran Church – Greensboro, N.C.

The Central Zone invites you to join them at the Spring 2027 Joy Event. It will be a time of fellowship, Bible study, leadership presentations, and great fun! (Of course, great food, too!) We are currently planning the event and will have more details to share soon. President Mary Ann and her team attending the LWML National Assembly of Leaders in St. Louis will present.

Make your plans now to attend!

Lenora Campbell
Central Zone President

Lutheran Women in Mission

Transformed in CHRIST
Romans 12:2

42ND BIENNIAL CONVENTION
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
July 8–11, 2027



January 2027 Newsletter Deadline
Deadline: January 20, 2027
Delivery Method: email
Need information from: President, Vice-Presidents, Zones & Societies, Nat'l Conv. information, Pastoral Counselor, Mission of the Qtr.

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



*Please use the QR Code to subscribe to receive the **C**arolinas **C**ross **C**onnection via electronic mail.*

Involved in Mission Outreach in 2027?

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 or call 252-430-4353 for more information. You can find the MOQ form on our Carolinas District website: www.lwmlcarolinas.org.

We continue to support missions with our MOQ money. The 1st Qtr MOQ 2026, $1,170.00 went to **HOPE Missions of the Upstate**, Anderson, SC. The 2nd Qtr MOQ 2026,$1,002.00 went to **Patchwork Quilters**, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Norlina, NC. Amount for 3rd Qtr MOQ, **Conover School**, Conover, NC, not determined yet.

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

4th Mission of the Qtr 2026 (Oct/Nov/Dec)—Randolph County-LCMS Mission Church

Adam Cranford is a member of Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Greensboro, NC. He has been pursuing theological training and is working to be ordained by the end of the year through online studies at Concordia Theological Seminary - Fort Wayne. During the past few years, he accepted a leadership role to begin a LCMS Mission Church in Randolph County. There are no other Missouri Synod churches in Randolph County. At this time there are plans to set up a website for this new mission church in order to grow in membership and to share the Word of the Lord with others. The participants of this Mission Church want to eventually become a LCMS Church with an official new name. As this mission is less than two years old, there is great monetary need in order to accomplish their many goals, The main goal is to spread the love of Christ in the Randolph County area through the presence of a Missouri Synod church. Recently they had their first Baptism of a sixteen-year-old, who had been attending this mission church for several months. The money from the MOQ Grant would benefit this mission church to reach out into the community to invite others to attend their worship services and participate in other church activities. By setting up a church website, they will be able to share information with the community about other events and activities. Thank you for considering the giving of the Mission of the Quarter Grant to the Randolph County Missouri Lutheran Mission Church.

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 Whtie, Mission of Quarter Chairman

Catawba Zone News

Members of St. John's LWML and the GEMS made 296 flax seed filled neck warmers that will be given out to residents in Avery County by the Meals on Wheels program. We also got the youth at our Blast program involved with them helping to fill the bags.

On October 4th St. John's celebrated LWML Sunday. Pastor Lagoutine gave a bible study on the LWML in the adult Sunday School class. During the church service, we had members of LWML give the children's sermon, read the Old Testament and Epistle readings and usher. Members of the GEMS handed out bulletins, mite boxes and help collect the LWML door offering. During the service two LWML hymns were sung and the LWML pledge was recited by all.





Foothills Zone News

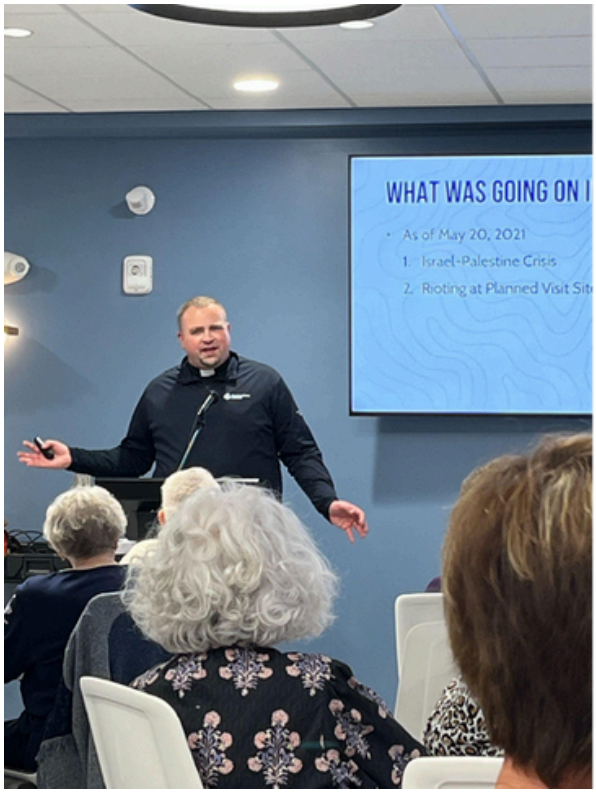
Christ Lutheran Hickory LWML

Some of the members of the LWML before their meeting in October toured the new neighboring Thompson Pregnancy Care Center down the block from their church. They are so blessed to have so many mission opportunities near them: Hickory Soup Kitchen , Safe Harbor, Greater Hickory CCM and now this center. They have projects with each of them.





St. Stephens Lutheran Church LWML hosted the Foothills Zone Rally on October 11. Pastor Peter Frank was the guest speaker, and he shared his experiences with traveling to Israel. We were blessed by a devotion read by Sandra McCrary. New officers were elected for the Foothills Zone: Deborah Moore and Thea Deal- co presidents, Jan Sigmon-vice president, and Vickie Fletcher- secretary. The attendees received an olive wood cross and a bookmark with the Lord's Prayer. Special centerpieces were cyclamen, a flower that is native to the Middle East. During the event, Betty Ikerd shared information about the flower and its ties to the Bible. Several lucky guests received the flowers as the door prize. A Mediterranean meal of shawarma chicken, lemon potatoes, salad, pitas with hummus, and dessert was served.





Augustana served a reception for new members.





Metrolina Zone News

On September 13th., **Center Grove Lutheran Church** in Kannapolis celebrated its 150th Anniversary. Center Grove was started in September, 1876. The original church was in a Grove of trees in what is now the Center Grove Lutheran Cemetery on what is now Dale Earnhardt Blvd. The church remained there until the 1950's when it was rebuilt on South Cannon Blvd.

The anniversary celebration started on Saturday evening with a concert by the Christian Gospel group "Promise". Sunday, a service, with special music, was held with many former members and several pastors in attendance. The service was followed by dinner in the Fellowship hall.











Prince of Peace











The Emilie Circle at Ascension Lutheran, Charlotte NC

MAY-JUNE FOOD DRIVE

Our Circle received a note of thanks by way of our Food Pantry from Nourish Up. [Nourish Up: Two long-standing non-profits with a rich history of fighting hunger, Loaves & Fishes and Friendship Trays, joined forces with a new name, **Nourish Up**. Lifting up our community through food, they provide groceries to our neighbors in need in Mecklenburg County through the largest network of food pantries in North Carolina.]

We engaged the congregation with a call for food to help fortify supplies for the summer months when children are home from school. The collection ran from Mother's Day thru Father's Day and resulted in 120 pounds of food donated. Praise the Lord for bounty shared!



LWML SUNDAY OCTOBER 4 AT ASCENSION

We celebrated and commemorated the 85 years of LWML as an organization on this special Sunday in worship with a hymn and prayers and a fun mite challenge that shared some of our Circle history. Our namesake is Emilie Walther, (saintly) wife of C.F.W. Walther, first President of the Synod and first President of Concordia Seminary. Emilie started a sewing Circle that supported the Seminary students with everything from linens to shirts! Our mite challenge was issued as Gals vs Guys. Guys are encouraged to collect mites and deposit them in the special container sporting C.F.W. Walther's image and the Gals are doing the same but depositing them in the Emilie container. We will run the challenge through, fittingly, Reformation Sunday. Outcomes unknown at this writing! However, the opportunity to share the story of mites and LWML and have a little fun makesthe effort already successful!





The Rachel and Ruth Circles hosted the Sept. 12 quarterly meeting at **St. Stephens Lutheran LCMS in Hickory, NC.** Melissa Mace, a member of St. Stephens spoke about "Women in the Military." Melissa joined the Army National Guard at the age of 18 and served for 10 years. During those years she was a photo and broadcast journalist. Her unit was deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during the Desert Shield and Desert Storm operations. She shared some amazing details about what life was like for a woman in that role. The ladies of LWML got to see many photos of Melissa's time in the military.

Melissa, through her volunteering with Faith, Comfort Dog, at our church, has been active in attending Veteran's Court, and along with several others started a Bible study group for veterans that meets weekly. We thank Melissa for her service, both then and now.





Western Zone News

Thanks to a bequest from a former member of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Anderson, SC, we have been able to send some of our ladies to camp for the last four years. The first year we had 8 attend, the second we had 11 the third we had 12 attending. This year we had 12 attending. They all enjoy the time away and the bible studies and can't wait until next year. Here is a picture of the 12 this year.

Betty Rytter, Western Zone President



V-P Mission Outreach

The Lutheran Woman in Mission of the Carolinas are proud to announce that the first grant of the 2026-2028 biennium of $5,000 has been paid to the **Shepherd's Heart Ministry**.

Grant #1 PAID



Shepherd's Heart Ministry is a non-profit disaster response chainsaw team that shares the love of Christ after natural disasters by offering free tree and debris removal. The short answer of "Who are we?" is that we are a Lutheran Chainsaw Team. The vision of the Shepherd's Heart Ministry is to train up and partner with Christ-centered volunteers who impact homeowners and communities that have been affected by storms with the Good News of Jesus. The ministry has been helping others in crisis for 20 years.

To accept the check is Rev. Eric Hollar, Director of Shepherd's Heart Ministry. Presenting the check is Glenda Drum, a member of Bethel Lutheran Church LWML and Paula Daniels, Vice President of Mission Outreach for the LWML Carolinas District.



Pictured L to R Paula Daniels, VP Mission Outreach; Janice Mathieu, All Saints LWML member, Kristi Pauling, an All Saints Teacher, Vicar Joshua Pauling, Headmaster; Rev. Jeffrey Ware, Pastor of All Saints Lutheran Church; Carol Shaneyfelt and Alvina Federwitz, both All Saints LWML members; and Joelle Brotemarkle, an All Saints Teacher.

Grant #2

By the end of October, we will have given $5,000 to All Saints Lutheran Church for the **All Saints Classical Academy.**

All Saints Classical Academy exists to partner with families in providing a classical Lutheran education rooted in the Church's liturgical life to form students into the image of Christ and cultivate faith toward God and love toward neighbor.

Through years of planning and preparation, the Academy opened in the Fall of 2026 with grades K-4 and is adding grades each year.

Lutheran World Relief.

LWR has made a flyer for Indiana listing churches that are collecting quilts and other items. I know LWR is no longer an RSO (Recognized Service Organization) because it is pan-Lutheran. This is what the LWR website says "We work with people based on need, regardless of race, religion or nationality and we do not evangelize." The LCMS works with RSO's that agree to ensure their programs are and remain in harmony with LCMS doctrine and practice.

Camp Linn Haven Uses Grant from LWML to Restore the Back Field

At the 41st LWML Biennial Convention in Omaha, Nebraska on June 26-29, 2025 the second convention offering was taken for Camp Linn Haven and Mountainside Lutheran Church to provide funds to help them with repairs to recover from the catastrophic damage inflicted by Hurricane Helene. Camp Linn Haven received $26,116,08. I knew that one of the big projects that needed to be done was the restoration of the back field. The flood waters had left the ground uneven and full of potholes which made it dangerous for our young people to use that area. It is a major recreational area for the camp and during the last two summers ankles have been sprained because of the condition of the field. The Camp Linn Haven Board of Directors actively sought bids on this project, but it took time to get responses. I'm happy to report that we did finally get a bid on the project and if you were at the retreat, you saw that the work had started. On behalf of Camp Linn Haven, I thank the LWML for contributing a vital part of the funding to make this restoration possible.













Mission Outreach
Mission Grant Goal
2026-2028



Mission Grants 2026–2028
On going Projects *
Professional Church Worker Assistance - $10,000
Camp Linn Haven Scholarship - $3,600
Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Week at Camp Linn Haven, NC - $5,000
*Half will be given in 2027 and the other half in 2028.

1. Shepherd's Heart Ministry – Extending Our Reach ($5,000) **PAID**
2. All Saints Classical Academy – Indian Land, SC ($5,000) **PAID**
3. CTSFW Food & Clothing Co-op ($5,000)
4. Forged by Fire Ministries – Mandeville, LA ($5,000)
5. Christ-Centered Counseling – Concordia Counseling Center ($5,000)
6. Primary Lutheran School – Amudat, Uganda ($950)

Pictures from Carolinas District LWML Retreat 2026 at Camp Linn Haven























The total Retreat Gifts from the Heart for LERT were $1,650.00. Thank you everyone who donated.

Sara Hanson
Metrolina Zone, President