

CAROLINAS CROSS CONNECTION

August 2026



Vol 81

Issue 3

REACHING OUT TO ALL NATIONS



Carolinas District Joy Event
St. John's Lutheran Church
2126 St. John's Church Road
Conover, NC 28613



Date: Saturday, November 7, 2026

Time: 9 am till 3 pm

Event Check In: 8-8:50 am

Guest Speakers: Alyssa Petty, Lutheran Bible Translators

Krista Young, Mission Advocate LCMS

Your day will consist of bible study, speakers, servant projects, food and fellowship with your sisters in **Purple** hosted by the Catawba Zone.

Registration Dates

Aug 17 thru Oct 1, 2026

Cost: \$35.00 per person

Mail Registration Form to:
Kim Cater
306 2nd Ave. NE
Conover, NC 28613

Hotel Information

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
104 10th ST NW
Conover, NC 28613
Reservations must be made by
October 7, 2026

Cost \$145.77 inc. tax (2 queen beds)
Call front desk to book room
(828)465-7070
Ask for Joy Event Group Block

Upcoming Events

Aug. 14th 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

President's Message



Pensive Thoughts from President Mary Ann

Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.” In what ways do we trust our Almighty God fully? There are many ways that we trust Him on a daily basis. Do I dare say that we often take things for granted? Maybe so. But we trust that He will provide the sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars to give us light during the night. We trust Him to provide for our basic needs of food and water. We trust Him to provide shelter and safety. As Christians, we trust His Word, as we know and believe that God sent His Son to earth, to teach, to do miraculous healings, to be a suffering servant for all, to die on a Roman cross, to be buried in a tomb. And then on the third day, He rose from the grave, defeating death and the devil for all and forever. We know and believe this; therefore we trust our God and we also trust His Word. His Word is our Guidebook for Life so we can fully surrender all to Him. If we can fully surrender to Him, we can fully trust Him.

But what happens to our trust in God when the imperfect world infringes upon our lives? We know that sin exists, that sin causes heartache, pain, sickness and destruction each and every day. We know this is a tool of the devil that is used to challenge our trust in God. It causes us to question, to doubt, to sometimes lose the trust in God that we thought was so strong, so indestructible.

We are human and we are sinners who will do wrong, sometimes unintentional and sometimes intentional. God knows our hearts and He knows our flaws. Nothing surprises Him. But nothing makes Him happier than when we repent of our sins and admit we were wrong. He loves it when we confess our sins and when we ask Him for forgiveness. God loves those lost sheep who seek Him and strive to do better in following Him.

When bad things happen to us, who or what do we blame? Is that the first thing that we do? Sometimes we cause our problems, but sometimes other people cause them. Many times we have no idea why bad things happen to us. So what do we do or how do we react? How do we best handle the challenges? In hindsight, we all know that the first step is to not seek blame, but to seek God first for His love,

President's Message continued-

support and guidance. We need to trust Him, our Maker, our Provider and know that no matter the challenge we face, He will go through it with us, guiding us, supporting us, giving us His love, peace and strength. He may not give us all the answers to our questions, but eventually His guidance will lead to His will and His way in His plan for us. We know that we cannot do this on our own, as we need His greater power and we know that His plan for us is always the best plan. Reread Proverbs 3:5-6 at the beginning of this article. Apply it to your life daily and grow in your trust in our amazing God. That is what I have done for years, but I am doing it even more so at this time in my life. In recent months, I have had to face an unexpected health challenge, the biggest challenge of my life. Many of you have been praying for me and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. God is hearing this constant, powerful, loud roar as beautiful music! He hears His saints on earth reaching out and He will always respond. I am so humbled and so grateful as I know that I am not the only one who needs God's help. So I have kept my prayers for others flowing to Him also. I have some favorite scriptures from God's Word that I pray over others and over myself. Psalm 40:1 and Romans 15:13 are two of those. My daily verse is Isaiah 41:10, a verse that my best female friend prays over me every day, inserting my name. "So do not fear, Mary Ann, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, Mary Ann, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you, Mary Ann; I will uphold you, Mary Ann, with my righteous right hand." Praying God's Word has been so beneficial in growing my trust in Him. I do not know what my tomorrow will be like, but I love and trust the One who does, my Almighty God. I am so grateful for Him! So I shall end with 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – "Rejoice in the Lord, always pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

God's peace, grace and blessings be with you!

President Mary Ann



LWML Sunday

Mark your calendars, because LWML Sunday is the first Sunday in October, October 4th. Traditionally celebrated the first Sunday in October, Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday can be celebrated any time.

This year's theme continues a four-year cycle focusing on the LWML Mission Statement. As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. For Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday 2026, we focus on Supporting Missions. This theme is based on the texts: Ecclesiastes 3:9–15, Galatians 2:1–10, and Mark 10:35–45.

Watch the LWML.org website for more information.



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



November Newsletter Deadline

Deadline: Oct. 15, 2026

Delivery Method:

Distribute at Joy Event & email.

Need information from: President,
Vice-Presidents, Zones & Societies,
2027 Joy Event information, Sr. 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
Carolinas Cross Connection
via electronic mail.*

Mission of the Quarter 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.

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

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.

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 White, Mission of the Quarter Chairman

Southern Zone

Southern Zone Rally was held on June 27th at Grace Lutheran Church in Summerville with 20 in attendance.

Bible study was led by Deaconess Karen Suter based on Psalm 96.3. An open discussion was very helpful in learning the word of our Lord and how to use the teaching for us to teach among the nations his marvelous works among other peoples and truly we did that.

The meeting was continued with guest speakers from the group Sowers of the Kingdom. Ellen Pearson and Erica Gray members of the board of directors, spoke about the program that's been going on for several years in the Dominican Republic they shared a slide show and shared their stories about the different events occurring on their trips. This mission group was founded in 2007 through a partnership between the IGLESIA de dios de professia and Sowers of the Kingdom. This includes a school that offers children a safe nurturing environment where they can learn to grow and thrive through the generosity of sponsors. Each child receives tuition, essential classroom materials, and daily hot meals. Financial support goes to fund more than education that gives everybody hope opportunity and a brighter future.

This program also assists in care for the population with dental work and medical assistance. Recently they started vision care. They also are building safe structures and improving existing ones for individuals to live in and adding on to the school program. There is so much need in the area and at times it seems like an overwhelming situation where funding is not available or is limited to do what really needs to be done. In the summer a VBS program is put on with over 150 in attendance. A Gift of the heart collection was given to Sowers of the Kingdom.

A salad lunch was served by members of Women of Grace.

A business meeting was opened by Southern Zone president Kathleen Dinges. There were several items that needed to be discussed. First off was, the current vice president has moved on to another state with her husband so she is no longer available to fulfill the responsibility of the office. There was an election for vice president for the zone. A motion to nominate Jeanette Jones from Faith Lutheran Church in Beaufort was made. This was carried unanimously. This also was an introduction of the society from Beaufort which recently became a formal society; they are now being very active in their attendance and leadership to meet the goals and the program achievements of the LWML during this time.

Southern Zone continued

Discussion was held on proposing that Sowers of the Kingdom apply for a LWML mission grant. After much discussion, a motion was made by Monique Moore, seconded by Wendy Graham and carried unanimously to present this to the Sowers of the Kingdom membership. Members of Sowers will work with the Southern Zone to apply for this grant.

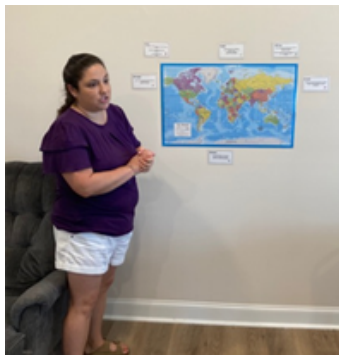
The meeting was adjourned by President Kathleen Dinges and closed with the Lords Prayer.



Southern Zone continued

Faithful Foundations (LWML)– Faith Lutheran Church, Beaufort, SC

held it's first LWML meeting on Saturday, July 11th. A small but mighty group was in attendance. Special guests were Kathleen Dinges, Southern Zone President and Shirley Marquardt, Editor of the Carolinas Cross Connection newsletter. Meeting was opened by Jeannette Jones and Bible Study titled *Prayer Passport, Where in the World is God Working?* led by Britney Steckley. Discussion was held about future events, mites, and district activities.



LWML Gift Planning

A good gift plan within an estate includes inheritance for family and gifts to ministry. As you consider an estate gift to your favorite ministry, should you talk with ministry leaders in this planning? What if the gift you want to give to your favorite ministry doesn't fit into that ministry's future? For example, you want to give a \$20,000 gift for a future pipe organ. The total cost would be \$5 Million. No one else shares your same desire. That gift would be orphaned and would never accomplish anything. Conversations with ministry leaders can help discern this.

Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help to get this conversation going.
Contact...Sarah Seying at
Sarah.Seying@LFND.org Phone: 800-741-4138
lwmlgiftplan.org

Webpage

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.

VP of Christian Life

Happy New Year!

You might question such a greeting as “Happy New Year!” in August, but a new year of school will soon be starting for all students and teachers. Who in your life or in your circle of influence will enter a new grade or leave home for the first time to start school? The Gospel Outreach tab on the LWML national website has several ideas for Mission Service Activities supporting students. The ideas range from as simple as collecting school supplies for your local homeless shelter to creating “off to college” goodie bags for college bound students. As leaders, I encourage you to also use your own creativity and tailor any of these ideas for your community. For example, one of the items in the “off to college” goodie bags is a pencil attached to a card with this written: God’s Word is written for you: “I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart (Psalm 40:8)”. Perhaps several ladies could get together for coffee or tea and assemble cards for all students in your congregation. And to take this one step further, each Mission Service Activity page includes a devotion, scripture focus and short prayer.

But students are not the only ones anticipating a new year – all teachers and school support staff are too! How could you and other ladies in your church support teachers and school workers in your area? Try this as an easy start: call the school closest to your church and ask for the names of all the staff. Then begin a prayer schedule to include each name over the course of the school year. Your group could divide up the names; you could meet at designated times to pray together or ask your pastor to include a name or two each week during corporate prayers and on the prayer list for the church. Again, there are ideas on the Gospel Outreach tab with suggestions on supporting teachers in your communities and congregations. Here is the link: <https://www.lwml.org/mission-service-activities>.

My prayer for you during this time is that you will reach out to one student or teacher this year and let them know they are loved. It’s time to go back to school!

VP of Christian Life
Kecia Roseman



VP of Mission Outreach

Mission Possible Day –

A day when we come together, in faith and action, to make an eternal impact through the mission grants we support. Mark your calendars for September 15, 2026, and join us to transform lives and spread His love. Together, we can make a difference!

Learn more at lwml.org/givingday. Please make a donation to the LWML Carolinas District marked mites and sent it to Sonni Thornton, 910 12th Ave. NW, Hickory, NC 28601. 25% of what you give to LWML Carolinas District goes to LWML National for the 2025-2027 Grant Projects.

LWML Carolinas District

2026-2028 Mite GOAL \$81,000

25% to LWML National \$20,250

20% to Administrative Expenses \$16,200

55% to Grants & On-going Projects \$44,550

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.***

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- 1. Shepherd's Heart Ministry – Extending Our Reach (\$5,000)***
 - 2. All Saints Classical Academy – Indian Land, SC (\$5,000)***
 - 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)***

Carolinas District Joy Event

Saturday, November 7, 2026

**REACHING OUT
TO ALL NATIONS**



St. John's Lutheran Church, 2126 St. John's Church Road, Conover, NC 28613

Registration Form:

Please type or clearly print your information.

BADGE NAME (Last) _____ (First) _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Email: _____

Society: _____ Zone: _____

REGISTRATION and \$35.00 payment are to be mailed to Kim Cater, 306 2nd Ave. NE, Conover, NC 28613. Email: lwmlkfcater@gmail.com. **Registration Date - Aug 17 thru Oct 1, 2026, Cost: \$35.00 per person. Make checks payable to Carolinas District LWML and earmark it as Joy Event.** More Joy Event information is on the website and on the front page of this issue of the CCC.

Please check the following as it may apply to your needs:

_____ Food Allergies (Please list them here.) _____

_____ Mobility concerns that require assistance/adaptation? List details of need. _____

HOTEL Reservations: Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 104 10th ST NW, Conover, NC 28613

Reservations must be made by October 7, 2026. Cost \$145.77 inc. tax (2 queen beds). Call the front desk to book room (828)465-7070. Ask for Joy Event Group Block.

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.

Initial _____

Carolinas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Officers

President Mary Ann Boone 6606 Coltrane Mill Rd., Greensboro, NC 27406 (M) 336-451-4291 carolinasdistrictpresident2026@gmail.com	Nominating Committee Chair Nancy Nolley 4613 Carolando Dr., Concord, NC 28027 (M) 704-222-6956 ntere312@yahoo.com	Web Servant TBD
Vice-President for Mission Outreach (Mite Box) Paula Daniels 363 Round Top Mt. Rd., Taylorsville, NC 28681 (M) 828-310-1928, (O) 828-632-7336 lwmlprdaniels@gmail.com	Camp Linn Haven Liaison Debbie Roseman 6925 Rouse Road, Holly Springs, NC 27540 (M) 919-414-0160 dacroseman@gmail.com	Catawba Zone President Kim Cater 306 2nd Avenue, NE, Conover, NC 28613 (M) 828-302-6110 (H) 828-464-4519 lwmlkfcater@gmail.com Catawbapresidentcd@gmail.com
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Financial Secretary Sonni Thornton 910 12th Ave., NW, Hickory, NC 28601 (M) 919-749-5881 carolinasfinsec@gmail.com	YWR - 2025-2027 Sarah Graham 131 Cottonwood Dr., Summerville, SC 29485 (M) 843-329-3933 graham.sarah95@gmail.com	Western Zone President Betty Rytter 247 Harmony Rd, Ware Shoals, SC 29692 (H) 864-861-2236 lizrytter@gmail.com
Sr Pastoral Counselor Rev. John Scheuermann 3216 Morris Farm Dr., Jamestown, NC 27282 (M) 775-848-5835 johnscheuermannjr@gmail.com	Nicole Willsea 303 Mayfield St., Summerville, SC 29485 (M) 843-300-9141 nwillsea535@gmail.com	
Jr. Pastoral Counselor Rev. Eric Hauss 2995 Shell Hollar Rd., Claremont, NC 28610 (H) 828-441-9559 (M) 828-896-5180 erichauss@charter.net	2028 Convention Chairman TBD	