

With love from Lisa

Ready for a fresh start?

Happy New Year!
It's 2018! Out
with the old, in
with the new!

Some of us need an excuse to clean out old things in closets and drawers, and the new year seems to bring that opportunity. It's cold outside, and while staying inside, what better way to use your time? Or maybe you like to get a fresh start on yourself with your diet, exercise and devotion time, among other activities. No matter how much effort I put into any of these, I seem to fall short of accomplishing all



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

that needs to be done.

Since I fail daily, I am so thankful that I am not in charge of my salvation.

When Jesus died on the cross:

“He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.” **2 Cor. 5:15**

Jesus gave us a fresh start, and we have the freedom to live our lives in thankfulness, serving God by serving others. When I see fresh fallen snow that blankets the earth, I think of that fresh start that Jesus provided at the cross. Is. 1:18 tells us:

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD; though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as



white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”

Will your society look at a getting a fresh start this year? Maybe you will invite someone to your Bible study who hasn't gone before, or develop a friendship with someone by going out for lunch together.

God bless you as you begin this new year, knowing that you have a fresh start each day because of Jesus. To Him be all glory, forever!

Coming this summer: district convention!

The Sioux Falls Zone is looking forward to hosting you for the 2018 LWML South Dakota District Convention. We are already working to make your visit an outstanding experience.

I am eager to help as convention chairman. Since all of you may not know me, here is a brief bio: I was South Dakota District president from 1996 to 2000, having also served as mission projects VP, meeting manager, Mission-Ministry Vision (MMV) consultant, program resources chairperson and district retreat co-chairperson.

On the national level, I have been VP of Special Focus Ministries, meeting manager and committee chairman for the LWML 32nd Biennial Convention in 2007 in Sioux Falls, while also serving on the Board of Directors and the Nominating, Gospel Outreach and Convention Programming committees for the 36th Biennial Convention in 2015 in Des Moines, Iowa.

We are hoping and praying that some 300 women and men will gather in Sioux Falls, June 1-2 for the district biennial conven-



tion. We will celebrate 75 years as a district, God's grace to our district and to each of us, and His steadfast love for all under the theme “Sharing God's Love from Generation to Generation” (from Ps. 100:5):

“For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

As convention chairman, I will be very pleased to see all generations from all parts of the state gather in Sioux Falls to celebrate and share what God has done. We will be a significant witness to the city!

Pat Reichert
Convention Chairperson

PIERRE ZONE report

As I write this, I am no longer serving as Pierre Zone president. At our fall rally, elections were held with Jan Larson of Faith, Pierre, being elected as our new president. We also elected a new vice-president and secretary/treasurer.

The Rev. Benjamin Theiss, pastor, Holy Cross/Trinity/Immanuel, Onida/Blunt/Harrold, led us in a Bible study on free will. It was an interesting study with many questions presented.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the members of the Pierre Zone as well as the Board of Directors. I have enjoyed my time serving with you all, and look forward to serving in this new year.

Mary Jo Stier

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

All things new

Are you all settled into the new year? We like new opportunities with new beginnings, and thoughts of new family vacation plans and new ways to make money for this new year. There's something about newness that excites us. Who doesn't like a fresh start?



Rev. Joshua Baumann
LWML District Counselor

It doesn't take us long to settle in and get comfortable in the new year. It's refreshing to move from an old thing to something new and exciting, something even better. We are determined to not be bothered by the mistakes and circumstances of the past.

"Behold the old has gone, and the new has come!" This too is at the heart of God when he discusses Israel's unfaithfulness in Is. 43:18-19:

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

It's good that we can, as St. Paul says in Phil. 3:13: "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead," especially when it comes to our sins and past mistakes. We don't stay nestled into our old anxieties over the future or our ancient guilt from the past (Matt. 6:25-34). That's where the devil would keep us. We don't get comfort-

able with a lifestyle that doesn't please God (1 Cor. 6:12-20; Titus 2:11-14) or become cozy with people whose actions compromise our faith (Titus 3:10-11). We don't stay hunkered down away from the traditions of the Christian Church, which has come together weekly for more than 2,000 years (Heb. 10:25). On Sundays, the Saints of God are gathered to celebrate the victory that is theirs in the Lord of Life, and in the One who is King over death and sin.

God has already condemned and punished your sin in Christ. Don't settle into staying away from that. Come as you are. Come as often and get as much of Jesus as you can. Take and eat, take and drink, His very body and blood are given for you. Jesus sets us free from Satan's clutch on our lives.

Jesus empties the power of death and sin over us. Jesus gives our lives value. Jesus sets the lowly in families and redeems our life from the pit. Jesus crowns us with steadfast love and mercy. God doesn't dwell on the old; in fact, He hurls our iniquities into the depths of the sea. He casts our sin into the waters.

In your Baptism, God is doing a new thing. In Baptism, the old Adam is drowned and the new Adam emerges daily to live a God-pleasing life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation. The old has



LWML/Erin M. Lunsford

passed away; behold, the new has come." **2 Cor. 5:17**

In Jesus, the work of the LWML South Dakota District is blessed as we are made new, spotless and perfect in the eyes of our God.

We always joke that Lutherans don't like change, but that's exactly what a new year brings. That's exactly what Jesus brings. "For at one time you were darkness..." (Eph. 5:8). As we settle in to His perfect love, we change to be more like Him. We walk and live in the light of Christ our Savior. We can adjust to change and whatever life brings because we have Jesus with us, in us, near us and as One who is for us.

PRAYER: Please God, don't let me settle into being my old sinful self and what I want to be; change me to be more like you. May you become greater, may I become less in this coming year. In Your Name I ask it. Amen.

REMINDER: reports are due

Greetings! The new year has arrived and I am asking you to turn in you Officer Reports. You may find the forms at sdlwml.org; click "LWML SD District Forms & Helps." The officer report forms are in two formats (please choose the one that pertains to your office):

- a PDF file that you print, fill in and mail; or,
- an Excel form that you fill out, save and email.

Society presidents need to send reports to the zone secretary by Jan. 15, and zone secretary reports are due to the district secretary by Feb. 1. If you have questions or concerns, you may contact me at smswanson@midstatesd.net.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the LWML district convention in June. Thank you and God's blessings.

Susan Swanson

LWML South Dakota District secretary

With love from Lisa

2018 Prayer Service available

As a former teacher, I remember how in February the classrooms and school was filled with hearts and talk of love. Not just love, but sharing “God’s” love was a privilege I had as a Lutheran school teacher.



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

As God’s chosen people, we have first our relationship with God and His love for us that He especially showed when He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. We also have our relationships in which we share that love of Jesus with others.

Paul wrote it so well in Col. 3:12-17:

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another, and if one has a complaint against one another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And

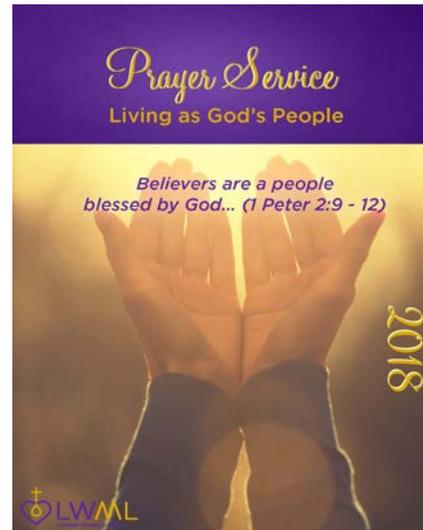
let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

It is not easy following these guidelines, but we know that we are not alone. God is with us always, wherever we are. He is there to guide and to forgive.”

We learn more about being God’s chosen people in the 2018 LWML *Prayer Service*. “Living as God’s People,” written by the Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner, 2013-16 LWML pastoral counselor. This service is based on 1 Peter 2:9:

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellences of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

I encourage you to go to lwml.org/



prayer-service for free downloads. You can read it as a personal devotion or with friends, at your Bible study or at a zone prayer/service event.

Remember also to mark your calendar for June 1-2 and attend our LWML South Dakota District Convention at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. Look for details in future issues.

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Col. 3:17

May God bless you as you share His love with others!

SIoux FALLS ZONE report

The ladies from Zion Lutheran Church, Canistota, hosted the Sioux Falls Zone Retreat on Sept. 30.

Attendees learned a lot from the Rev. Corey Aker, pastor, Faith, Sioux Falls, who presented a talk on “The Reformation—500 Years Ago and Today.”

The ingathering was for the Canistota School District backpack program, and the 52 people who attended donated

162 items and \$90. The mite offering was \$344.

Tammie Schultz was elected as the new zone secretary, and Sherrie Bruhn was elected as the new treasurer.

The ladies enjoyed a time of fellowship, song and prayer. Reports from the society presidents told about all the activities that the members did, such as making cookies at the Ronald McDonald House, making hygiene kits for girls in need, decorating a Christmas tree for The Banquet in Sioux Falls, collecting sweaters for Lutheran World Relief and more.

The Sioux Falls Zone had 12 volunteers work at the Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron on Sept. 4. On that day, 245 people attended the puppet show and 75 Bible studies and 97 whistles were handed out.

The Pre-Lenten prayer service will be held Feb. 24 at Blessed Redeemer, Brandon.

The Brookings/Sioux Falls Zone Retreat will be in April at Faith, Sioux Falls.

Patty Peters
Sioux Falls Zone President

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Ashes, ashes...

My youngest (she's 2) currently is really into the game "Ring around the Rosie." Thankfully, her two older siblings are usually happy to oblige her and play along.



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor

But she is also perfectly content playing the game all alone, spinning around in a circle before getting to the best part: "Ashes, ashes, we all fall down!" The children fall and giggling ensues, followed by the request, "Again! Again!" another half-dozen or so times.

Interpretations of this nursery rhyme are varied. It may have no meaning at all. Or it may have originated as a way to "get around" dancing bans in some old pietistic Protestant circles, as kind of a "square dance," only done

in a circle or "ring" with no music set to it — thus it wasn't really dancing. Then there's the popular, but likely erroneous, theory that it has to do with the Black Plague, in which the "ashes" are believed to refer to the cremation of bodies or the burning of victims' houses.

This more solemn interpretation would seem to fit in well with the sentiment of Ash Wednesday. In ancient times, ashes were used to indicate and express grief, sorrow and repentance. Take for instance the king of Nineveh's reaction to Jonah's warning that God would destroy them:

"The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes." **Jonah 3:6**

Many Christians have taken on the practice of smudging ashes on their foreheads on Ash Wednesday as a reminder of a similar sentiment of



grief, sorrow and repentance for their sins and consequences of their sins, namely that we are dust and to dust we shall return, echoing the curse given to Adam in Gen. 3:19. We will all one day die.

But the ashes are put on in the form of a cross as an expression of the hope we have in Christ, who suffered on the cross to forgive us our sins, of which we repent and are promised eternal life from that curse of death. These ash crosses on our foreheads can then serve as a visible witness of our faith. As Lutheran Women (and men) in Mission, that's what we're all about.

With ashes, ashes, we all fall down and repent of our sins. But with ashes, ashes, we all witness to Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross for us.

Deadline approaching: get mites in!

It seems just like yesterday that we gathered in Pierre and selected 11 mission grants with a \$46,500 budget to fund for this 2016-18 biennium.

The Lord has blessed our mite offerings to aid nine of these recipients to receive funding. With the biennium deadline of March 15 arriving so quickly, I encourage all not to wait to send in your mites. These "Mighty Mites" produce magnificent outcomes in proclaiming Christ's saving message both at home and abroad.

All donations need to be sent to Jeanette Smith, financial secretary, P.O. Box 94, Northville, SD 57465. Please continue to pray and trust in God's plan for each of these mission grant projects.

Ann Cruse
District VP of Gospel Outreach

2016-18 MISSION GRANTS

- Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Food Bank \$5,000-PAID
- Peace Lutheran Church and Educational Ministries \$5,000-PAID
- LCMS Mission Central Current & Urgent Grant \$4,000-PAID
- Mercy Medical Team – Chaplain Scholarships \$3,000.
- Gospel Hands – VBS for Deaf Children \$4,500.
- Little Lambs Lutheran Pre-school, Sturgis \$5,000-PAID
- The Confessional Lutheran Education Foundation E-Reader Project \$5,000
- POBLO International \$5,000-PAID
- LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry Revitalization \$2,500
- Shepherd's Canyon Retreat \$3,500
- Stronger Pastors for Southeast Asia with the Book of Concord \$4,000-PAID

With love from Lisa

God's gift of love



For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

— Eph. 2:8-10

We are a couple of weeks into the Lenten season now. I thought it was really neat how Ash Wednesday fell on Valentine's Day this year. What a great gift — better than roses or jewelry!

While having the service of ashes, thinking of the gift we receive in the depth of love that Jesus showed to us when He went to the cross to pay the price for our sins — it is that kind of love that is impossible for us to totally understand.

At the end of this month will be Holy Week, a time for us to focus intimately on God's gift to us and all He went through to give that gift. I can catch myself complaining about a toe that hurts or my aching back, someone doing something that hurt my feelings, someone driving too slow or cutting in front of me — the list could go on and on. All the things that I might consider suffering is nothing compared to what Jesus went through for me — and you!

Thank you, Lord, for your gift of love you showed to us on the cross. Help me to be your workmanship and show your love to others in my words and actions. Amen.

I pray that you are being fed by the Word. I pray that you are finding ways to serve. If you are looking for ideas to help in these areas, go to lwml.org. At the top, go to "The Word," where you will find Bible study and service ideas from the drop-down menu. Remember to use the Prayer Service, go to your zone's spring retreat or rally, and plan to be fed and to serve at our district convention June 1-2 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center.

In all that we say and do, let us give God honor and glory!



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

LWML South Dakota District Convention

- ▶ June 1-2, 2018
- ▶ Sioux Falls Convention Center
- ▶ Theme: "Sharing God's Love from Generation to Generation"
- ▶ Scripture Verse: "For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."
Ps. 100:5
- ▶ Keynote Speaker: Linda Reiser
- ▶ Registration forms will be available in the April *HiLites* and in the call letter that will be sent out by email.



Invite younger women!

As the 2018 LWML South Dakota District Convention approaches (see above), please think of inviting the younger women in your LWML societies.

The theme for this year's convention is "Sharing God's Love From Generation to Generation," so this is the perfect year to encourage the young women (35 years old or younger) in your church to join us. Please also consider paying their way as an added encouragement.

Grandmas bring your granddaughters, mothers bring your daughters, and daughters bring your friends! Any and all relations are welcome. Just be sure your guests mark "Young woman or teen" on their registration forms. We hope to see you there!

Josie Lorang
Committee on Young Women chairman

Mighty Mites are needed

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage each of you to continue giving your mites.

Along with the 11 mission grant recipients chosen at the 2016 convention, the LWML South Dakota District has ongoing grants. These include the Puppet Place at the state fair, *Today's Light* subscriptions for inmates at the women's prison in Pierre and the South Dakota District Student Endowment Fund. A portion of our mites also goes to help fund the national LWML grants.

You can find more information about the LWML grants at lwml.org/mission-grants. Please continue to pray for all our mission grants as they are used to spread the Good News of our Lord. The South Dakota deadline for mites for the 2016-18 biennium is March 31.

Ann Cruse
LWML South Dakota District vice-president of Gospel Outreach

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Can you believe it?

When watching movies like “The Nutty Professor,” in which animals talk, or “Honey, I Shrunk the Kids,” in which the family is reduced to the size of ants, we partake in something called the suspension of disbelief. We realize that for an hour and a half of our lives, we’ll have to put aside the thought that what we are seeing doesn’t really take place in our reality.



Rev. Joshua Baumann
LWML District Counselor

How do we reconcile the supernatural miracle episodes in Scripture with what we know to be true in our reality? How can someone be swallowed by a big fish and survive to tell about it? How could a snake possibly talk?

The walls of a fortified city couldn’t possibly come down from the vibrations of marching, voices and musical instruments! How could a man come back to life after having been crucified

and buried for three days? Eat my flesh, drink my blood?

What to make of all of these miraculous and unexplainable events? Some say that the Bible is full of fairy tales, and to top it all off, they say Christians worship some mythical “God” that doesn’t exist. Perhaps you, too, have known someone who doubts the authority and inspiration of Scripture, and questions the God of heaven and earth who created it all.

The truth is Christians know full well the joys of faith and the hope of a confidence that is rooted in something so much greater than ourselves. We don’t have all the answers, but we do have a trust that isn’t destroyed. Jesus said to His followers in Luke 17:6:

“If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea.’”

Our trust is in Jesus, who did miraculous things. No matter how small the faith, the trust in Christ is BIG!

It’s certainly not the suspension of disbelief. If anything, it takes belief to go against what our head says is logical

and possible. “Your ways are higher than my ways” the prophet Isaiah says. God is big! God’s ways are beyond us.

Faith in Jesus is a big thing. Faith is “being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” One-hundred percent proof requires zero percent faith! To discredit God’s Word because it doesn’t make logical sense in our minds, or because we can’t prove it, is to walk away from a God who does ordain things that we don’t understand, who does allow things to happen that don’t make sense to us, who does keep silent when we think He should speak, who does use the unbelievable to make believers.

It can be a frightful thing to try and peer behind the mask of the hidden God. We will never fully know God in all His ways, but what we do know is His love for us through His Son — Jesus, the Christ.

Lent is a season marked with pondering and reflection about the God who punishes sin and who, without Jesus, is downright frightening. During the season of Lent, we acknowledge our sinfulness before our holy God and all the ways in which we cast doubt upon His Word in our lives. We know that “Dust we are and to dust we shall return.”

We don’t always “get” God, but what we do know is that in our Baptism, we are made heirs of all the treasures of heaven won for us on the cross of Calvary. We remember that our God was not silent, but from the cross, He cried out in our place: “It is finished.” God’s answer for all our questions is the cross of Good Friday and the empty tomb of Easter.

God bless you as you journey this Lent with faith marked by trust in the crucified and ascended Lord. Why can we trust the Word of Jesus? Because Jesus promises that we can. God’s Word — a Word that is trustworthy and true (Rev. 21:5).

May God enrich your faith and life this Lenten season as we move toward the cross, and to the joyous celebration of the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead on Easter morning.

YANKTON ZONE report

During the Christian Life Workshop held at Concordia, Vermillion, last spring to celebrate the LWML’s 75th anniversary, each Yankton Zone society shared interesting facts about their history. Since that time, other interesting facts have become available. The Rev. Paul Ablers, Concordia pastor, presented “Freedoms, Options and Faith: Remaining Faithful to God’s Word amid the Newfound Freedoms of College.”

Our Fall Rally was held at St. John’s, Wagner, with Deaconess Intern Andra Gates presenting the topic “What’s In a Name? Jesus: The Name Above All Names.” A report on the national convention in Albuquerque in June was given by Gary and Andra Gates, with comments by Florence Powers.

The 2018 district convention in Sioux Falls is being planned and our societies are excited about attending. In 2020, the district convention will be hosted by the Yankton Zone. We are praying to see many of you there.

Florence Powers
Yankton Zone president

With love from Lisa

Make plans to attend convention!

When our son, Adam, was in first grade, he tied the handle of our kitchen-sink sprayer down so when I turned the water on ... surprise! "April Fools!" He had so much fun planning and executing that.



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

It's fun to play April fools' jokes on people. When I heard that Easter falls on April 1 this year, the first thing I said was "and that's no joke?" Then I heard that some say Easter is a day God makes a fool out of Satan. God loves a good laugh. He tells us in Prov. 17:22: "A joyful heart is good medicine."

Laughter is something that my family is not short of, so when we get together you will hear a lot of laughter throughout all the generations.

Our 60th LWML South Dakota District Convention will be held June 1-2 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. We will focus on the theme "Sharing God's Love from Generation to Generation." It's time now to make your plans by registering and making your housing reservations. The deadline to register for meals and housing is April 30.

Call to Convention can be found at sdlwml.org and will be sent through email to all LWML society presidents and congregation pastors.

Here are a few things you should know about convention:

- ▶ Sessions will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 1.
- ▶ Bible studies will encourage us to share God's love with all generations.
- ▶ There will be Mites in Action speakers and servant events.
- ▶ Mite Bites will be available for you to satisfy your sweet tooth.

- ▶ Walking for Mites will take place prior to the convention.

Also:

- ▶ Please send LWML pictures throughout the years to Jeanette Smith at jeanette@creeksidefarms.biz to be included in a PowerPoint presentation.
- ▶ Zone banners should be 3' x 5'. It should depict the theme without using the actual logo. If you choose to make it into a baby quilt, you are welcome to donate it to the Alpha Center or another charity after the convention.
- ▶ Societies are encouraged to send Young Woman Representatives and Heart to Heart Sisters.

April Fools' Day will be long gone when our convention is here, but be prepared to join in laughter with your LWML sisters and brothers at convention as we are "Sharing God's Love from Generation to Generation!" To God be the glory!

Here's our MISSION GRANT PROPOSALS

God has abundantly blessed the LWML South Dakota District 2016-18 mission grant recipients as all have been funded. Now we look ahead to the 2018-20 biennium's new mission opportunities.



Keep these 14 mission grant proposals in your daily prayers as we prepare for the delegate vote at our district convention June 1-2 in Sioux Falls.

1. Children's Bible Stories for India and Sri Lanka Families (LHF) – \$5,000

2. Life: A Better Choice (Lutherans For Life of South Dakota) – \$5,000
3. Black Hills Lutheran School, Rapid City, Curriculum Enhancements – \$5,000
4. Sioux Falls Lutheran School: Health Wellness/Learn, Move, Grow – \$4,900
5. In Their Own Language: Distributing the Jesus Film to New Americans in South Dakota (POBLO International) – \$4,000
6. Sharing the Love of Christ in Lima, Peru (Nichelle Dykema, LCMS missionary) – \$5,000
7. Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk, Early Childhood Center – \$5,000

8. Mount Calvary Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten, Huron, Karen Hispanic Interpreters – \$5,000
9. Humanitarian Aid to Peru (Orphan Grain Train, Milbank) – \$5,000
10. Harvest Winds Sewing Factory, Parmelee – \$5,000
11. Lutheran High School, Sioux Falls, Technology – \$5,000
12. Concordia Seminary Food and Clothing Co-op, Fort Wayne, Ind. – \$5,000
13. Lutheran's For Life Word of Hope Post-Abortion Crisis Hotline Expansion (LCMS) – \$3,000
14. Operation Barnabas for Comfort Dog Congregations (LCMS) – \$2,500

God has a plan for them all!

Ann Cruse
Vice President of Gospel Outreach

WANTED:

Young women at convention

Young Woman Representatives (YWR) and Heart to Heart Sisters ... pack your bags and get ready to join us at the district convention!

If you are a young woman (up to age 35) or a woman who is interested in being part of the Heart to Heart sisterhood, talk to your society members about representing them at the convention. We have some special activities planned for you, including a mission project in which we will tie blankets for Orphan Grain Train, and young children are welcome to join.

We will also have a special guest, Leslie Jaseph, facilitate a break-out session just for you. A social hour will be held Friday night. We are excited to have you join us at the convention, and to share God's love and works with others.

Carissa Naasz
Vice President of Servant Resources

Introducing your candidates

The Nominating Committee met at the district retreat in Aberdeen last April to discuss possible nominees for the 2018 convention elections. Here is the slate to be presented:

Secretary

Heather Miller and Susan Kinsley

Financial Secretary

Donna Harr and Jan Bohling

VP of Communication

Susan Swanson and Karla Westerfield

VP of Special Focus Ministries

Nyla Jurrens and Laurel Schamber

Nominating Committee

Bobbie Bierman, Elaine Hankel, Arlene Naasz, Jeanette Smith and Nancy Ziegeldorf

Junior Counselor

The Rev. Daniel Grimmer, Zion, Mitchell, and the Rev. Benjamin Theiss, Holy Cross/Immanuel/Trinity, Onida/Harrold/Blunt

It was privilege to "serve with gladness" on this committee.

Sharon Falk

Florence Powers

Janell McKinstry (Chair)

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Resurrection— not a hoax!

According to the Museum of Hoaxes website (hoaxes.org), the No. 1 April Fools' Day prank of all time was done on April 1, 1957 by the BBC TV show "Panorama." The show ran a segment about that year's bumper Swiss spaghetti harvest. Many a Brit were fooled into believing the show's report.

Some other great April Fools' jokes include when Cottonelle, in 2015, tweeted that it was introducing left-handed toilet paper, which was "hands down the best thing to happen to lefties since left-handed scissors." Or there was the time in 1962 when the Swedish national network told the public that they could turn their black-and-white televisions into color televisions simply by watching the broadcast through nylon stockings.

Then, there was this one from 1994, when *PC Computing* magazine ran a story that Congress passed a bill prohibiting internet usage while intoxicated.

This year, Easter Sunday falls on April 1 — April Fools' Day. Many pastors may likely declare that Jesus pulled off the greatest April Fools' joke of all time with His resurrection from the dead!

Just imagine a grieving group of women approaching the tomb on that first Easter morning and the angel says, "April Fools! He's not here! He is risen!" Or when Jesus enters a locked room of fearful disciples and says, "April Fools! I'm not dead! I'm alive!" Only it's no joke — it's the real deal! Jesus really did die on the cross to forgive the sins of the world, and Jesus really did rise from the dead to defeat death for us!

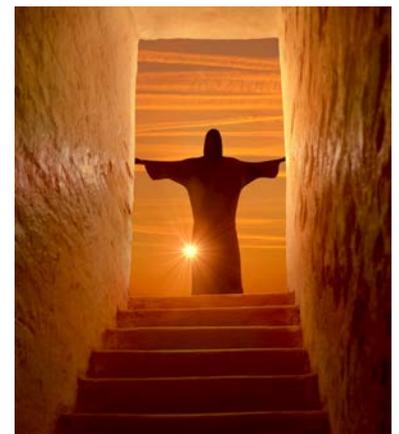
But many skeptics try to fool the world into believing that Jesus, His death and His resurrection are just a hoax. The Bible speaks of such things as foolishness:

"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'" — **Ps. 14:1**

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perish-



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor



ing." — **1 Cor. 1:18a**

Paul goes on to tell us, though, that our God uses things that are foolish to the world in order to accomplish His salvation, including the foolishness of the cross:

"But to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

— **1 Cor. 1:18b**

The world's foolishness can only be overcome by Jesus' foolishness for us on the cross and by way of the empty tomb.

So let the women of the LWML and Christians around the world consecrate their lips to foolishly proclaim: "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"



**60th LWML South Dakota District Convention
June 1-2, 2018**

**Sioux Falls Convention Center
Registration Form**

Deadline for registration and meals—April 30, 2018



Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State ____ Zip _____ Phone _____
 Email _____
 Church & City _____ Zone _____
 Emergency contact & Phone number _____

Housing Information—You are responsible for making your own hotel arrangements. Ask for LWML rates. Rooms are blocked at:

Sheraton Hotel: \$139 plus taxes
 1201 N. West Ave, Sioux Falls
 1-800-325-3535

Ramada Airport Hotel & Suites: \$106 plus taxes
 1301 W. Russell St, Sioux Falls
 605-336-1020

Deadline for room reservations is April 30, 2018

Registration Status

(check one)

- ____ Voting member of Board of Directors
- ____ Delegate
- ____ Past LWML District President
- ____ Non-voting member of the BOD
- ____ LWML Member
- ____ Pastor

Please check all that apply:

- First time attending a District Convention
- Young Woman Representative
- Heart to Heart Sister

Interest Centers (Number by your preferences)

Friday—4:30 p.m. Saturday—11 a.m.

- ____ Linda Reiser ____ Linda Reiser
- ____ Leslie Jaseph ____ Pastor Mundahl
- ____ Cynthia Kahn ____ Cynthia Kahn
- ____ Moses-Comfort dog ____ Moses-Comfort dog

Registration Fee

	Quantity		Fee Total
Registration	_____	\$35	\$ _____
Pastor gratis	_____	\$0	\$ _____
Friday lunch*	_____	\$15	\$ _____
Meal package	_____	\$60	\$ _____
I need my meals Gluten-Free <input type="checkbox"/>			
Convention T-shirt			
__ S __ M __ L __ XL		\$13	\$ _____
__ XXL		\$15 __ XXXL \$16	\$ _____
Convention Polo			
__ S __ M __ L __ XL		\$16	\$ _____
__ XXL		\$18 __ XXXL \$19	\$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Meal Package:

*Friday Lunch is optional.

The meal package includes Friday supper and Saturday breakfast and lunch.

Deadline for the meal package is April 30, 2018.

Make check payable to: **LWML SD District Convention**
 Mail check and registration to:
 Heather Miller
 1803 W 10th St.
 Sioux Falls, SD 57104
millerhe18@hotmail.com 605-359-7825

With love from Lisa

What is a mite box?



As our family was approaching a restaurant a few weeks ago, I looked down and saw a penny. I picked it up and said, “for my mite box!” Then as I walked further, a few more coins appeared. Then, I said, “more for my mite box!” One of the people with us said, “what is a mite box?” I thought everyone knew! Well, I was mistaken.



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

The mite box is a tool the LWML uses to collect offerings. It comes from Jesus’ example of the widow’s mite. Jesus sat down opposite the place where the

offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins (the King James translation calls these coins mites) worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling His disciples to Him, Jesus said:

“Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.” — **Mark 12:43-44**

LWML uses the mites — coins, bills, checks — that are collected to support the mission grants selected at conven-

tion for local and global missions. Seventy-five percent of all mites collected are kept in the district to support our mission grants and the work of our LWML. Twenty-five percent of the mites support the work of national LWML, including the mission grants we choose at convention.

God is doing great things through these mite boxes! As our LWML South Dakota District celebrates 75 years, we also celebrate that over these years God has used our efforts to support more than \$727,000 in mission grants. To God be the glory!

I encourage you to attend the LWML South Dakota District Convention June 1-2 in Sioux Falls, where you will witness the selection of the next mission grants we will support with our mite box offerings. We will also have a number of grant recipients as mites-in-action speakers and interest session leaders. They will talk about how God has used our mites to bless their ministries.

The next time you see a coin on the ground, I hope you will pick it up, feed your mite box, and then praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

VP says ‘goodbye’

It has been my pleasure to serve as VP of Human Care these past four years. I attended all quarterly Executive Board and Board of Directors meetings and submitted my report at each meeting.

For the Aberdeen Retreat, I worked with the host committee to determine which groups would be recipients of Gifts from the Heart and saw that they were delivered.

Being a member of the Executive Committee, I was involved in planning the 2018 District Convention. Again, I worked with the Host Committee on the Servant Events and Gifts from the Heart.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. It has made me even more in awe of all the amazing women who are members of the LWML. Your mission hearts are accomplishing great blessings for God’s people all over the world.

Judy Gies • VP of Human Care



Meet the 2018 district convention Host Committee

From left, Pamela Baker, music; Elaine Sestak, exhibits; Patti Peters, convention coordinator; Lori Hoffman, properties; Tammie Schultz, ushers and pages; Heather Miller, registration; Colleen Keiser, banners; Pat Reichert, convention chairman; Denise Schmidt, hospitality; Lynn Boyd, Gifts from the Heart and servant events; and Sherrie Bruhn, treasurer. Missing from the photo are Mary Dunlap, secretary; and Tina Lenz, decorations.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



Farewells

What an absolute joy and privilege it has been to serve our Lord and the wonderful LWML ladies of the South Dakota District as financial secretary for the last four years.

I have met many wonderful LWML sisters and enjoyed meeting together at Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. I have traveled to National LWML conventions, where I have seen the amazing impact the LWML makes here and around the world.

God has truly blessed me in many ways in my service and I have enjoyed receiving your mites and other payments, often along with a short note of greetings from the society treasurers. What an encouragement these notes have been to me.

As I see my time as financial secretary ending, I wish the very best to the newly elected financial secretary. I also thank those whom I have worked with over the last four years — each of you has been a blessing in my life. May God continue to bless you and the LWML South Dakota District in the years to come.

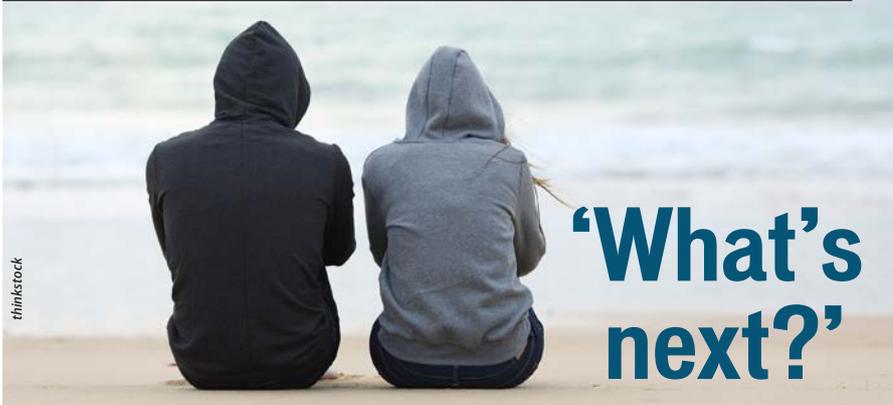
Jeanette Smith • Financial Secretary

What a joy-filled privilege it has been to serve my Lord and Savior as your LWML South Dakota District secretary for the past four years. I have been blessed and honored to work with many dedicated Christian women.

Whatever the Lord has in store for me next, I will cherish the friendships and memories I have made.

It is my prayer that we of the LWML South Dakota District continue “Sharing God’s Love” while we serve the Lord with gladness!

Susan Swanson • Secretary



‘What’s next?’

It doesn't take us long in our lives to come up with that one question we all would like to have answered. Oh, you've certainly asked it, I'm sure, a time or two before. It's something we all want to know.



Rev. Joshua Baumann
LWML District Counselor

It's the perfect question to ask when you're bored with life and its circumstances. Kids ask it all the time. It's a question you would get from someone who has been through the wringer and has experienced one hardship after another.

It's Murphy's Law — if something bad can happen, it will happen! “Oh boy, here we go again, what's next?!” It's the question you ask when your adrenaline is pumping and you feel you can take on the world. We've only filled 10,582 sandbags — “What's next?!?”

Joshua and the Israelites wondered “what's next?” as they crossed over the Jordan without their leaders, Moses and Aaron, to enter the Promised Land of Canaan. The disciples wondered “what's next?” as Jesus' stone-cold body was taken off the cross and laid into the stone-cold tomb. So it's no surprise that we too might wonder “what's next?” in our lives as well.

Our God reminds us in His Word that He will never leave us nor forsake us,

(Heb. 13:5) and that Jesus will not leave us, His Church, as orphans and widows (John 14:18). St. Paul says in Phil. 1:6:

“And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

We take comfort in knowing that God knows what's next and that He finishes what He started.

We know what's next as the people of God who gather around Word and Sacrament. The creeds tell us! “From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. ... I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.” As a Christian, I can't wait for what's next ... The bodily resurrection!

In one sense, “What's next?” well, only God knows (James 4:13-14), and yet in another, we know what's next in that we continue to live as Jesus' disciples who are called by faith to trust and action. As I head to a new call to serve the Lord in Stevens Point, Wis., may God bless you and His people in all that is next, and in the next counselor He brings to serve the LWML South Dakota District.

“For no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has fully known what God has prepared for those who love Him.” — **1 Cor. 2:9**

In joyful anticipation of all that is next,
Pastor Baumann

With love from Lisa



I recently went to see the movie “Paul, the Apostle of Christ.” My heart was reminded of the struggle that the early Christians had even with daily life. They could be put to death for proclaiming Jesus as their Savior. They, along with Paul, knew in their hearts that Jesus is the real thing, He is the Savior of the world and proclaiming that truth was worth the risk.



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

While in prison, Paul said (written in Rom. 14:8):

“For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.”

As God’s chosen people, we are called to live to the Lord, sharing His love with those around us.

LWML developed a new logo that is a good reminder of who we are as God’s people. It has:

- ▶ A HEART to represent the love and giving nature of the members.
- ▶ A DROP to symbolize the blood of Christ.
- ▶ A CROSS above all else to proudly show the purpose behind the efforts of the LWML.

The heart of God is behind all that we are and do. He showed us His love through Jesus’ death and resurrection. Now we lift high the cross of Christ as it guides our thanks, praise and service.

This summer, as many societies take a break from their gatherings, let’s not take a break from living as God’s people. Continue growing by using the daily Mustard Seed Devotions found at lwml.org, participating in Word and Sacrament worship regularly, and serving God by serving others, of all generations, in any way you are able.

As we just ended our district convention, remember to pray for the newly elected and continuing officers, and as you add coins to your mite box, to pray for the mission grants that we just adopted! As Lutheran Women in Mission, it is in our hearts to serve God this way!

To God be the glory!

38th Biennial LWML Convention

June 20–23, 2019

Mobile Convention Center, Mobile, Ala.

Convention Theme: “In Praise to the Lord” – based on the Scripture verse, “Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations” (1 Chron. 16:23-24a).

Convention Goal: Led by God’s power, we praise and proclaim the Lord among all the nations.

Convention Objectives:

- ▶ Sing and rejoice in celebration of His Word.
- ▶ Tell of His salvation for all.
- ▶ Declare His glory among the nations.
- ▶ Go forth in His joy!

Convention Logo

Explanation: To declare His glory among the nations is the heart of who we are as Lutheran Women in Mission. Guided by the Holy Spirit and God’s marvelous works, we will be equipped by 2019 at Mobile, Ala., to tell of His salvation from day to day. The cross and the heart mark the work of Christ Jesus to all the earth and lead us “In Praise to the Lord.”



Servant says farewell

For four years, I heard these wonderful words: “To God be the Glory.” That is what LWML has been for me.

LWML has helped me see how a little mite can go a long way and make a difference in God’s world, to God be the Glory. As I have worked beside some wonderful ladies, I am reminded that it is His work, not ours that keeps the LWML going; and that in every hardship faced and effort made, what we do is for Him, to God be the Glory.

Working with the Young Woman Representatives and Heart 2 Heart Sisters have been great experiences for me, allowing me to see how God has made a great difference in others, to God be the Glory.

I am thankful for my four years of God’s service in the LWML and am grateful for the friends and fellowship during those years, to God be the Glory.

Carissa Naasz
VP of Servant Resources

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Connected to Christ's family — for generations

When I was still in high school, I received an email out of the blue from an Ulli Weispfennig from Germany. He noted that we shared the same last name and inquired if I would be willing to share any family information with him since he was working on a family genealogy.



Rev. Steve Weispfennig
LWML District Counselor

Since Weispfennig is a rare name, there was a good chance that we might be related. So I shared the family info I had and have remained in contact with Ulli for about the last 20 years — even visiting each other's homes — in hopes

of finding a family connection.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to find any hard evidence that confirms we are related. Ulli theorizes that the Weispfennigs were wire makers who originated in west-central Germany, where he currently lives. But he believes one Weispfennig brother's clan moved to Prussia (current day Poland and northeast Germany), which is where my more immediate family moved from when they came to the United States.

Due to world wars, the former Prussia was destroyed, along with any records. So finding any kind of verifiable link to Ulli's family and mine has been next to impossible — but we still consider ourselves family.

Learning about your family history can be fun and interesting. This year's

LWML South Dakota District Convention is focused on our Christian family's history. By faith in Christ and through the waters of Holy Baptism, we are all connected to each other in the family of faith as brothers and sisters in Christ, who has saved us by His grace and mercy on the cross and empty tomb.

God, our heavenly Father, has connected us all together as a family through a common faith in Christ that has been passed down from generation to generation — from the father of all humanity, Adam, to the father of many nations, Abraham, to Jesus, the Son of God who was of the house and line of David, to the apostles, who were sent out into the world to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching all that Jesus instructed, all so that we might be called children of God.

“For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

— Ps. 100:5

It's our joy as a family in Christ to share God's love from generation to generation.



Photos © LCMS/Frank Kohn



Lisa Asmus visited the LCMS International Center in St. Louis in January to present district mission grant checks for Synod ministries. They are, (top left) \$3,000 to the LCMS Office of International Mission (OIM) to send a chaplain on a mission trip with a Mercy Medical Team (from left, Erin Alter, director of OIM Short-Term Mission Teams; Anne Gonzalez, manager of Short-Term Training and Engagement; and David Fiala, assistant director of Missionary Recruitment). (Top right) \$2,500 was given to the Rev. Dr. Mark Wood, director of LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry for the LCMS Office of National Mission. The funds will be used to for *re:Vitality*, a comprehensive program to help congregations improve their abilities to invite, welcome and receive people from outside the congregation. Left, Asmus chats with Mary Hamilton, Grants and Foundations coordinator for LCMS Mission Advancement.

With love from Lisa

Getting ready for Mobile

“For the LORD is good, his steadfast love endures forever; his faithfulness to all generations.”

— Ps. 100:5



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

It was great to see so many of you at convention in June under the theme “Sharing God’s Love from Generation to Generation.” Our new officers are beginning to roll up their sleeves to plan our activities for the next two years!

We are currently in the heat of the summer, and getting ready for puppet place ministry at the state fair; Christian Life workshops; LWML Sunday, asking, “What will LWML look like in your church this year?”; saving and planning to go to the next national convention.

Here are a few things for you to be aware of:

- ▶ “Our Rest in a Changing World” is the theme for the 2018 LWML Sunday. Materials can be found at lwml.org/lwml-sunday. LWML Sunday is usually celebrated the first Sunday in October, but can be observed at any time.
- ▶ Sign-up for the bus to the LWML convention in Mobile will be due early January (round-trip from Sioux Falls June 19-24).
- ▶ Designs are needed for our convention banner. If you enjoy designing banners, please start planning — the Board of Directors will vote on designs in January.

The LWML 38th Biennial Convention will be held June 20–23, 2019. The theme is “In Praise to the LORD!” The Scripture verse is:

“Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations.”

— 1 Chron. 16:23–24a

I hope to see you at the state fair, Christian Life workshops, or your fall rally. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Col. 3:7).

At convention, grants selected, officers elected

The 60th Convention of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) South Dakota District was held June 1–2 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. Here we celebrated 75 years of history of being Lutheran Women in Mission. More than 260 from across the state attended.

Linda Reiser, former LWML president (2003–07) was the keynote speaker. Greetings from national LWML were given by Leslie Jaseph, LWML meeting manager. The Rev. Robert Mundahl, LWML senior pastoral counselor, was the proclaimer for the convention worship service. The Rev. Steve Weispfenig, LWML district pastoral counselor, led the Bible studies.

Those attending the convention participated in servant events and made 147 cards and 55 thank-you notes for military personnel and 17 fleece blankets for Orphan Grain Train. Gifts from the Heart were collected for the Alpha Center (897 gifts, 3,294 diapers and \$255) and the Children’s Inn (804 gifts and \$300), both of Sioux Falls.

Delegates selected 11 mission grants totaling \$50,000, to be funded during the 2018–20 biennium:

1. Harvest Winds Sewing Factory, Parmalee — \$5,000
2. Life: A Better Choice, Lutherans For Life of South Dakota — \$5,000
3. Pre-school and Pre-Kindergarten Karen/Hispanic Interpreters, Mount Calvary, Huron — \$5,000
4. Food and Clothing Co-op, Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. — \$5,000
5. Orphan Grain Train, Humanitarian Aid to Peru, Milbank — \$5,000
6. Children’s Bible Stories for India and Sri Lanka Families, Lutheran Heritage Foundation — \$5,000

7. Sharing the Love of Christ in Lima, Peru (Nichelle Dykema, LCMS missionary) — \$5,000
8. Curriculum Enhancements, Black Hills Lutheran Schools; Rapid City — \$5,000
9. Early Childhood Center, Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk, — \$5,000
10. Operation Barnabas for Comfort Dog LCMS Congregations — \$2,500
11. In Their Own Language: Distributing the Jesus Film to New Americans in South Dakota; POBLO (People of the Book Ministries) International — \$2,500

Officers elected to four-year terms were:

- ▶ Susan Swanson, Chamberlain — Vice President of Communication
- ▶ Nyla Jurrens, White — Vice President of Special Focus Ministries
- ▶ Heather Miller, Sioux Falls — Secretary
- ▶ Donna Harr, Sioux Falls — Financial Secretary
- ▶ Bobbie Bierman, Mansfield — Nominating Committee, chairman
- ▶ Elaine Hankel, Spearfish — Nominating Committee
- ▶ Arlene Naasz, Rapid City — Nominating Committee
- ▶ The Rev. Daniel Grimmer, Mitchell — Pastoral Counselor

Videos and pictures can be found at sdlwml.org/conventions/2018.

Nancy Bogenhagen
LWML District Webmaster

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Introducing the new pastoral counselor

Greetings in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

It is a great privilege to be able to serve you as your new LWML pastoral counselor. This summer, I have been studying what the Scriptures say about mission.



Rev. Daniel Grimmer
LWML District Counselor

Mission begins first with God. Eph. 1:5-6 teaches us that God, before the foundation of the world, has chosen those whom He will save. He causes His Word to go out to the far corners of the world so that those whom He has chosen will hear the Gospel, be brought to repentance and faith by the Holy Spirit, and through the Holy Spirit persevere in faith until the end. Mission work is all about God's grace: God's grace in choosing the elect for salvation, God's grace in sending preachers of the Gospel to call and gather His people into His church, and God's grace to begin and sustain faith in them.

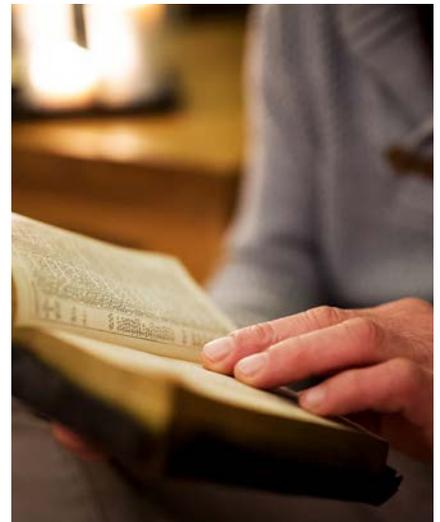
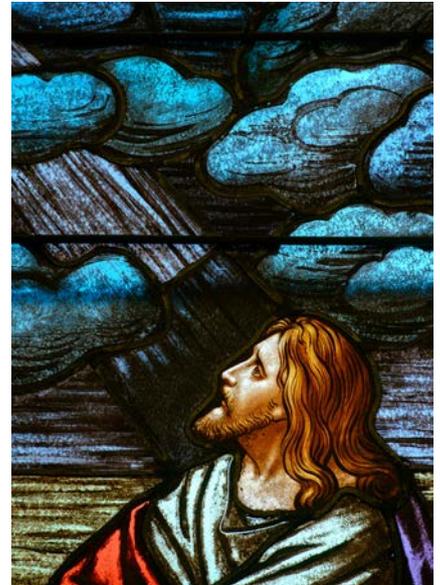
It is also God's grace that He uses poor sinners like me and you to be His instruments as He works to call and gather His church. What a blessing and a privilege this is for us! Each of us plays a part in God's mission according to our various vocations. As you collect your mites, God is working through you to bring the Gospel to all people. Through the Gospel, the Holy Spirit will bring

the salvation won by Jesus Christ for fellow sinners.

It will be my joy to work in service to God's mission alongside you for the next four years. I have served as associate pastor at Zion, Mitchell, for the last three years. I've been married to Christine, a deaconess, since 2014. Together we have two sons: Adam, 2, and Simeon, 5 months.

I have a small LWML "claim to fame" in that my great-aunt, Alberta Barnes, was the LWML president from 1983 to 1987. I didn't even know that until a few years ago when she went to be with Jesus and I read it in her obituary. Though I knew she was involved in her church, she served humbly. She knew that the mission belongs to God, and she was blessed to serve and trust it all to Him.

In that spirit, I take up my service as counselor. I promise to serve faithfully to provide guidance and support to your work in service to Christ's mission. May the peace of Jesus be with you!



See you state fair!

Stop by the air-conditioned Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair and watch the puppet show, which shares God's love for us. Performances are held each day of the fair at 11 a.m. and 1, 3, 5 and 6 p.m.

Be greeted by volunteers in animal costumes and invited in to the show by members of the South Dakota District LWML. Children will receive whistles after the show and Bible studies will be distributed to the adults.

2018 zone worker schedule

- ▶ Thursday, Aug. 30: Yankton Zone
- ▶ Friday, Aug. 31: Aberdeen Zone
- ▶ Saturday, Sept. 1: Black Hills Zone
- ▶ Sunday, Sept. 2: Brookings Zone
- ▶ Monday, Sept. 3: Chamberlain Zone
- ▶ Set-up and clean-up: Huron Zone

We look forward to seeing you at the Puppet Place!

Heather Miller
Gospel Outreach Committee



With love from Lisa

He died for all

On a recent trip to China to visit my son, who is using his gifts in a stunt-show there, I was reminded of the need there is in the world for Jesus' love to be known. I met a man with an Alpha & Omega tattoo. I asked him to explain what it meant to him. He said, "I know you are religious but I'm not."



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

It had to do with a broken relationship between his dad and him and the rest of their family. It was about the two of them being their family now — the Alpha represented his dad and the Omega represented him in their family.

Another person I met had a tattoo of barbed wire wrapped around his arm. I asked if he minded sharing what it meant. He shared each sharp point represented struggles he had in his life. He said that he planned to tattoo something jumping over the wire to represent overcoming the struggles.

On my last day there, one of the young ladies said, "I'm sorry that I didn't always watch my language when you were here." I asked her if she felt she shouldn't say some things in front of me, should she ever say them to others?

Movies that I watched on the plane confirm how in today's world, relationships are so superficial, based on what makes one feel good in the moment and not respecting or even acknowledging God's plan for relationships. I wonder how different the lives of these people would be if Jesus' love would be the foundation of their lives. It is so important for us to share Jesus' love with the people around us.

"He died for *all*, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised." — **2 Cor. 5:15**

Dear Jesus, let our lives be a reflection of Your love for us. Amen.

This year's LWML Sunday theme is "Our Rest in a Changing World." God bless you as you share the love and joy of Jesus in your life — who is our rest in a changing world. I hope you have found the materials at LWML.org/lwml-Sunday and shared them with your church staff.

Ready to serve the district

Let me introduce myself ... my name is Susan Swanson and I am your new VP of Communication. I have been active in the LWML for more than 30 years. I began by attending the society meetings and serving on different committees in my church. I have since held many different offices in my society, zone and in the district. Being part of the LWML has helped me to share with others the love of Jesus.

My husband, John, and I have been married for 42 years and live on a farm by Pukwana. We have been blessed with five children and nine wonderful grandchildren. I have been the secretary at Zion, Chamberlain, for 15 years.

I am excited to be a part of what the Lord has in store for the LWML South Dakota District in the next four years. I encourage all of you to check out the opportunities to support the LWML events with your attendance and participation.

Serve the Lord with Gladness!

Susan Swanson

Plan to attend a workshop near you!

We are making plans for our Fall Christian Life workshops. Rev. Tim Koch will share his favorite Old Testament text, Num. 21:4-9, which is "overflowing with application for us all." We are looking forward to a great presentation on "Serpents, Sacraments, and Salvation!"

The workshops will be held:

- ▶ Friday, Sept. 14, at St. Paul, Spearfish
- ▶ Saturday, Sept. 15, at Messiah, Murdo
- ▶ Friday, Oct. 5, at Zion, Canistota
- ▶ Saturday, Oct. 6, at Immanuel, Wecota.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by opening devotions and the main presentation. There is a one-hour break at noon for lunch, fellowship and visiting the LWML store. The workshops conclude at 3 p.m., following a closing devotion. Come with your Bibles and be

inspired to reach out to others with the life-saving Word!

Debbie Sattgast
VP of Christian Life

Greetings from the Brookings Zone

The 2018 year has been off to a slow start with the cancellation of meetings and the Spring Retreat. Now that district convention has concluded, many are excited and ready to move forward.

In August, the Executive Committee met to discuss upcoming events such as the Fall Rally, LWML Sunday, prayer services and more. On Sept. 2, the Brookings Zone served at the Puppet Place during the state fair. On Oct. 27, the Brookings Zone will gather for the Fall Rally at Mount Calvary, Brookings.

Delorus Limmer
Brookings Zone President



The Aberdeen Zone enjoyed themselves at the LWML South Dakota District Convention in Sioux Falls in June.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

‘Put on Christ’

This time of year means going back to school. When I was a kid, that meant back-to-school shopping. There was always something exciting about getting new shirts, new jeans and most importantly, new shoes! You couldn't wait for school to start so that you could put on your new school clothes and show them off to your friends!



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor

Even as adults, it's still exciting to go

get new clothes! What lady doesn't like to go shopping to pick out a new dress? My wife was excited to pick out new, matching dresses for her and our two daughters for our nephew's wedding this summer. Though most guys might not admit it, we secretly like getting dressed up, looking sharp and pulling out our inner James Bond.

There's something about putting on nice, new clothes that make us feel good. Maybe it's because our old, tattered, worn-out clothing makes us feel a bit old, tattered and worn out ourselves. And the new clothes we put on just make us look good.

In our spiritual lives, we often walk around "wearing" sin when we fail to love God and our neighbor the way that we should. Sin is not a very good look on us. Sin makes us look old, tattered and worn out.

But in Baptism and through faith, we put on Christ and His fresh, new robes

of righteousness that covers all of our sin. Jesus and His blood shed for us on the cross covers our old, tattered and worn-out self to make us look good. Like a kid who can't wait to show off his or her new school clothes, we can't wait to show off Jesus and the new look He gives us!

So in his letter to the Colossians, the Apostle Paul tells us:

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience ... And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." — Col. 3:12, 14

The women of the LWML often put on love, compassion and kindness when they give mite offerings for the Tanzanian Sewing Center, the Food and Clothing Co-op at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., or Orphan Grain Train's humanitarian efforts in Peru; or when they make pillow case dresses for children who don't often get new clothes — all with the hope that they will put on Christ.

Time to 'bloom'

"Sow the Seed" and "Bloom Where You Are Planted" were the themes of the first LWML national and district conventions that I attended. I look back and see how they helped me grow into my new role as your VP of Special Focus Ministries.

I remember my mother's blue mite box set at the edge of her night stand and how she explained the importance of the box and what the coins could do for other people. That's how my mother planted the seeds of LWML involvement in me.

When I attended my first Nebraska North District convention in 1980, I learned that I needed to grow with Christ and "bloom where I was planted." With each role that I have taken with LWML, a new flower or part of me has blossomed. I'm excited to be your VP of Special Focus Ministries and hope you will plant your seeds in LWML and bloom with me for the good of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Nyla Jurrens

Greetings from the Black Hills Zone

It's that time again for motorcycle rallies, vacations and lots of activities in and around the Black Hills to celebrate its history. The Black Hills Zone has a couple of special blessings during the summer months — the opportunity to celebrate our faith by visiting all our sister churches when we travel and to welcome so many visitors to our congregations!

Last October, we had our Fall Retreat at the Terra Sancta Retreat Center in Rapid City. Attendance was up this year with 37 ladies and we had a great time of learning and fellowship.

On April 28, we had our Spring Rally at Our Redeemer, Custer, with 75 in attendance! The theme was "Be a Spark in the Dark." Our speaker was Carol Perrigo, who suffered a terrible loss when her son was killed by a drunk driver a few years ago. She shared how the Lord led her to use this tragic event to edify and grow faith in others, including the man who was responsible for that tragedy. It was a truly moving talk. Rev.

Eric Obermann taught on Eph. 5:8: "For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."

Thirty-five women of the Black Hills Zone also attended the South Dakota LWML convention and thoroughly enjoyed it. They continue filling their days with so many in-gatherings, mite collections, Bible studies and activities that it is just not possible to enumerate all their time and talents. We might be considered remote to some, but we are mighty in our good works for the Lord and He has blessed us!

Karla Westerfield
Black Hills Zone President

With love from Lisa

Find rest in God: He never changes

Throughout my life, I have experienced transitions, including going from standard typewriters to electric typewriters to computers.

My first experience with computers was in a computer class. Little did I know it was a programming class. I was pretty sure I would never catch on to using a computer if this is what had to be done. I was thankful to learn you didn't have to program in order to use a computer!

Then it was fun to learn about looking up definitions and information about things you used to find in encyclopedias. It was so much faster to use the computer!

Fast forward a bunch of years. The computer has become so convenient, and we have become so dependent on its quickness and multiple uses. Remember the days of correction tape, when you made a mistake on the typewriter or typing with carbon paper? Remember making copies and sending things through the mail? Now you can email documents and they get to their destination immediately. With email and social media, the computer saves time and money.

Unfortunately, the computer isn't always used for good. This summer, my email has been hacked multiple times. It is frustrating and inconvenient, not only for me, but for the people who received emails they thought were from me. There is so much information available to us through the computer that sometimes you don't know what is true and what is not.

No matter what changes come with computers or anything throughout our lives, our God will never change. His love is permanent and changeless. His promise of salvation is sure for all who know Jesus as their Savior.

This week many of you are celebrating LWML Sunday in your church under the theme "Our Rest in a Changing World." May you always find your rest in Jesus!



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

Introducing...

Hello, I am Donna Harr, newly elected financial secretary on the South Dakota LWML Board of Directors. I was born and raised in Yankton. I was one of five daughters to my parents, Roy and Eleanor Mitchell.

My dad worked for the once well-known Gurney Seed and Nursery Co. After graduating from high school, I moved to Sioux Falls to newer and bigger things. I met my husband John (Jack) at church the first time I attended in Sioux Falls. We married and had a family of four boys. We have added four daughters-in-law and grandkids and great-grandchildren.

I joined LWML in 1973 as a stay-at-home mother. I have enjoyed the Bible studies, fellowship and projects that we do at our meetings and at church. Through the years, I have become closer to God, my faith is stronger and I live for my God and Savior. I have enjoyed going to many of the state and national conventions. I find them uplifting and invigorating, besides being around all the other women of the LWML.

Donna Harr

Greetings from the Chamberlain Zone

The Chamberlain Zone societies are Winner, Gregory, Chamberlain, Murdo, Norris and Presho. Midland, Hamill and Draper are non-hosting societies, but the women still participate in zone and district LWML activities and gather mites.

We provided for workers at Puppet Place at the state fair in early September. Our Fall Rally was held in

conjunction with the Christian Life Workshop, "Serpents, Sacraments, and Salvation!" with presenter Rev. Tim Koch at Messiah Lutheran Church, Murdo, on Sept. 15. In the afternoon, we had a business meeting to elect zone officers and choose a delegate to the 2019 LWML Convention in Mobile, Ala.

Susan Swanson
Chamberlain Zone president



THANK YOU!

The following thank you note was received from Chaplain Paul Weber regarding the cards we made at convention:

“I wanted to let you know that I just received your box of cards. These will be of great help in keeping soldiers connected with their families back home.

God's blessings on your ministry in South Dakota and around the world. I am looking forward to making it back home in the next month. God bless!”

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

REFORMATION AT 501...

Still worth celebrating!



Rev. Daniel Grimmer
LWML District Counselor

Now that it's October, the 501st anniversary of the Reformation is just around the corner! Maybe that doesn't sound very exciting because you went all-out celebrating last year.

Our church had Bible studies, special services and a circuit Reformation service. We even hosted a screening of a Martin Luther movie at our local theater. I know many other churches and circuits in our district did the same or even more.

Though our celebration might be dialed back this year, the Reformation is still something worthy of our attention this year and every year. The Reformation was not accomplished on Oct. 31, 1517. Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses marked just the beginning of many decades of hard labor by the reformers to preach and teach the Gospel of Christ

crucified as the sole basis of our justification, and then to reform the church's practice wherever it contradicted the Gospel.

Of course, that work wasn't limited to Wittenberg or electoral Saxony either. Many men left Wittenberg for other territories and principalities to help teach and reform the churches in other lands as well.

One of the appointed readings for Reformation Day is Rev. 14:6-7:

"Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And



he said with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.'"

The Gospel which Luther preached and taught is none other than the "eternal" Gospel, which is for every nation, tribe, language — all people.

Because the Reformation was all about the proclamation of the Gospel, it was also all about the mission of taking the Gospel out to wherever there are sinners in need of forgiveness. That mission wasn't completed in 1517 or even by the end of Martin Luther's lifetime. Many faithful Lutherans in the centuries that have followed have earnestly sought to bring the Gospel to the far reaches of the globe.

Why celebrate the Reformation this year? In no small measure, the LWML has had an enormous influence in helping to share the Gospel of Christ crucified. Through the sponsoring of missionaries and mission projects, and the support of future pastors through the seminary co-op, the LWML has a hand in bringing the eternal Gospel to every nation, tribe, language — all people — throughout the entire world.

FROM THE ARCHIVIST-HISTORIAN



"Remember the days of old, the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you."

DEUT. 32:7

First, a reminder on upcoming deadlines for society archivist-historians (or society secretary if there is no historian): Your year-end report is to be printed out as one page (front to back).

Dated and signed, it is to be sent in a manila envelope (do not fold) along with any pamphlets or photos from current-years activities at your church (associated with your society). This is sent to your zone historian (or secretary if there is no zone historian) by Nov. 1.

The zone archivist-historian uses these reports to fill out their report in the same manner and send it to the district archivist-historian by Dec. 1.

You can find the report forms at sdlwml.org. Click "LWML SD District Forms & Helps" toward the bottom of the page. Remember you can type your information in and then print it out.

Second, I want to thank all the



ladies that worked on the wonderful display boards brought to the district convention ... standing ovation from me!

If you have any questions on LWML archives or history, please contact me at yakatyak@gmail.com.

Kay Nelson

More LWML news appears on Page 8

With love from Lisa

Serving others

"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus." — 1 Cor. 1:4

It is the month of Thanksgiving! It's time to be nice and thankful for our blessings. Hopefully, giving thanks isn't something that you do just because there is a holiday with the name "Thanksgiving," and then check off the "being thankful" box of a good-deeds to-do list. Living thankful lives flows from who you are as God's forgiven child.



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!"

— Ps. 106:1

As God's children we now live lives of serving God by serving others.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." — Eph. 2:10

Wanted: banner designs

We are looking for people with creative minds to serve by creating a design for our district banner. This banner will be taken to the LWML 38th Biennial Convention June 20-23, 2019, in Mobile, Ala. I will have the privilege of carrying it in a procession with 39 other district presidents and their banners.

The banner design should be based on the convention theme, "In Praise to the Lord," based on 1 Chron. 16:23-24a:

"Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations.

For banner specifications, please go to sdlwml.org — in the "Events" box, click "LWML South Dakota District bus registration and banner information," or talk to your zone president. Designs should be given to your zone president by Jan. 5. We will vote on a design at our Jan. 12 board meeting. Thank you in advance for serving in this way.

God bless you as you practice living thankfully because of who you are as God's forgiven child!

Ride the bus to Mobile!

Have you made plans to attend the 38th Biennial LWML Convention (June 20-23, 2019 in Mobile, Ala.)? The South Dakota District has your transportation needs covered as we will have a bus traveling to and from Mobile.



The bus will leave Sioux Falls on Tuesday, June 18, with an overnight stay in West Plains, Mo., and return on Monday, June 24, with an overnight stay in Memphis. The round-trip rate also includes two overnight accommodations and shuttle transportation between the hotel and convention center in Mobile.

A minimum of 40 people must be registered for this rate. Rates are \$408 per person if staying in a room of four people; \$429 staying three per room; \$471 staying two per room; and \$596 staying one per room.

The registration deadline for the bus is Jan. 10. Forms are available at sdlwml.org — in the "Events" box, click "LWML South Dakota District bus registration and banner information." Zone presidents have also been given copies to share. For more information, email Susan Swanson at smswanson@midstatesd.net.

Greetings from the Huron Zone

The Huron Zone is responsible for cleaning the Puppet Place every summer and getting it ready for the State Fair. This year, the LWML of Zion, Wessington Springs, along with some of the men of the congregation, worked to prepare the building for the public. Typical duties include moving all the furniture outside and dusting and washing it. The floors are mopped and polished and the carpet is vacuumed. Dusting and hanging banners are also on the "to do" list.

The zone Fall Rally will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 18, at St. John's, Wolsey. Rev. James Carretto of Orphan Grain Train will be the featured speaker. The business meeting will include selecting a delegate to the LWML convention in June and electing a president and treasurer.

Jill Johnsen, Huron Zone President

YWRs and Heart to Heart Sisters

Are you age 22 to 35 and have not previously attended a national LWML convention as a Young Woman Representative (YWR)? Here's an opportunity for you! We are accepting applications for district YWRs to attend the LWML convention in Mobile, Ala., June 20-23.

Please contact your society president if you or anyone you know would enjoy this opportunity. Applications may be found at sdlwml.org — look for "Young Women" under "Special Focus Ministries."

Heart to Heart Sisters: Would you like to connect other women leaders from ethnic LCMS congregations to the life and work of the LWML? We would love to have you attend the national LWML convention on behalf of our district. H2H Leader Training will be June 19-20 in Mobile.

Please fill out the H2H Leader Training application found at sdlwml.org — look for "Heart to Heart Sisters" under "Special Focus Ministries." The deadline for all applications is Dec. 15. Please mail them to Melissa Brock, 620 N. Harrison, Pierre, SD 57501; or email them to melissa_b_brock@hotmail.com.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

We give in thankfulness

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

— 2 Cor. 9:7

God loves a cheerful giver and so we give thanks to God with a grateful heart! In this season — in which we give thanks to God for the abundant blessings He’s given to us out of His divine goodness and mercy — we often give to those who are less fortunate than us. So with grateful hearts, we give from our abundance.



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor

But it’s not always easy to give cheerfully. We have a tendency to become anxious about whether or not we are going to have enough for ourselves. But the Lord reminds us in Matthew 6 that the birds of the air and the lilies of the field don’t worry about finding food, shelter or clothing. God takes care of them, and He takes care of us who are so much more valuable than birds and flowers.

We are so valuable to God that He gave His life for us on the cross. Jesus gave everything He had so that we would have life and live it to the full. He gives us so much more than we could possibly imagine! And yet we so often take it for granted. But Jesus died to forgive us of the greed that so closely clings to our

hearts and that reluctantly lets go of our wealth to benefit others.

Because of the love of Christ, through His sacrifice on the cross, the LWML South Dakota District cheerfully gives to those in need. One such ministry is Orphan Grain Train’s Humanitarian Aid to Peru, out of Milbank, which provides basic needs that we so often take for granted, like clothing, food and water, but also access to Christian literature.

We give in *love*, because God first loved us and gave us our Savior Jesus and the forgiveness, life and salvation that He purchased for us on the cross. We give in *faith*, trusting that the Lord will take care of us and give us more than we need. We give in *joy*, knowing that we get to participate in the Lord’s work. We give in *thankfulness*, with grateful hearts for “you will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God” (2 Cor. 9:11).



Witnessing the love and mercy of Christ, through puppets

Once again, the Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair was a wonderful witness to Christ’s love for us all.

The show was told from the perspective of the centurion who was at Christ’s crucifixion. It told about Christ’s death and resurrection. It was a great reminder that Jesus suffered, died and rose again for us all.

The Utecht families once again did a great job of performing the show and entertaining the families be-

forehand with balloon animals and juggling. We even had fire juggling outside of the Puppet Place. It was wonderful having so many family members there to help with the show.

Thanks for donating your time. Thanks also to the Huron, Yankton, Aberdeen, Black Hills, Brookings, and Chamberlain zones for helping to invite more than 950 people to the show. We praise the Lord for the blessing that the Puppet Place is to the visitors at the state fair!

Heather Miller
Gospel Outreach Committee

MISSION GRANT SPOTLIGHT

Life: A Better Choice, Lutherans For Life of South Dakota, \$5,000

This grant will help provide pro-life, pro-family advertisements to be broadcast on local TV stations, with the goal of creating more awareness on the sanctity of life.

With love from Lisa

Advent blessings!

Dec. 2 marks the beginning of the Advent season, observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas, as well as the return of Jesus at the second coming.



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

We don't often hear references to Advent in December; rather, Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays would be the greetings we hear. Then, as soon as Christmas Day is over and the presents are opened, the tree goes back into the box — or to the curb — and everything goes back to normal. However, the season of Christmas begins on Christmas Day!

In the following list that was given to me years ago,

each element in “The Twelve Days of Christmas” can be a code word for religious truth:

- Dec. 25:** The partridge in a pear tree is symbolic of Jesus and the wooden cross on which He died. The partridge will give its life to protect its chicks.
- Dec. 26:** Two turtledoves are the Old and New testaments.
- Dec. 27:** Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.
- Dec. 28:** Four calling birds may represent the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- Dec. 29:** The five gold rings recall the Hebrew Torah (Law), or the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- Dec. 30:** The six geese a-laying



stand for the six days of creation.
Dec. 31: The seven swans a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the Spirit.

- Jan. 1:** The eight maids a-milking are the eight Beatitudes.
- Jan. 2:** Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Spirit.
- Jan. 3:** The 10 lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.
- Jan. 4:** Eleven pipers piping can represent the 11 faithful apostles.
- Jan. 5:** Twelve drummers drumming remind us of the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed.

I pray God's blessings to you and your family in this Advent season, and as we celebrate His birthday! Merry Christmas!

WE WANT YOU!



As I look at my Christmas cactus waiting for the first bloom ... Christmas is almost here! The first bloom is always exciting for me as it reminds me of the holiday season, and that a new year is approaching.

The deadline for applications to be a Young Woman Representative (YWR) at the national convention, and to attend Heart to Heart Sisters (H2H) leader training, are fast approaching.

The due date is Dec. 15. So please plant your seed and apply. Also, please say a prayer for those who are applying, that they may bloom with Christ and LWML.

YWRs

Are you age 22-35 and have not previously attended a national LWML con-

vention as a YWR? Here's an opportunity for you! We are looking for YWRs to attend the LWML 38th Biennial Convention June 20-23 in Mobile, Ala.

Please contact your society president if you or anyone you know would enjoy this opportunity. Applications may be found at sdlwml.org. Find the link under “Special Focus Ministries.”

H2H Sisters

Would you like to connect other women leaders from ethnic LCMS congregations to the life and work of the LWML? We would love to have you attend the H2H leader training on behalf of the South Dakota District during convention.

Please fill out the H2H leader application found at sdlwml.org (under “Special Focus Ministries”) if you would like to be considered for this program.

Mail applications to Melissa Brock, 620 N. Harrison, Pierre, SD 57501; or email to melissa_b_brock@hotmail.com.

Nyla Jurrens

VP of Special Focus Ministries

WORKSHOP REPORT

Just as the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness as punishment for their blasphemy against God and Moses, Rev. Timothy Koch, pastor, Emanuel, Milbank, reminded workshop attendees that we too wander in sin, grumble and are in need of salvation! We graciously receive the salvation we so desperately need from God's Word and Sacraments. And we have many opportunities to share that Good News with others!

There were 170 people from 40 congregations who attended the Fall Christian Life Workshops in Spearfish, Murdo, Canistota and Wecota. Donations to cover the workshop expenses totaled \$1,063, and \$833 was donated for mites. Thanks be to God for another opportunity to have fellowship together, to grow in our faith and to serve one another!

Debbie Sattgast

VP or Christian Life

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Sing to the Lord!

The Gradual appointed for Christmas is taken from Is. 9:6:

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”



Rev. Daniel Grimmer

LWML District Counselor

And Ps. 98:1a:

“Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!”

The first passage from Isaiah is probably very familiar to us. This is one

of the most explicit prophecies in the Old Testament on the coming of Jesus, which is saying a lot since all of the Old Testament points to the redemption that was to come in Him. It's a passage that is often read by the kids in the Christmas pageant, it's on the front of Christmas cards, and it's found in some Christmas songs. It definitely makes us think of Christmas. But the second passage from Psalm 98 is probably less likely to make us think about the birth of Christ.

Nevertheless, the two passages do fit together. Ps. 98:1a is our appropriate response to what God has done in sending His Son Jesus in the flesh as the redeemer of the world. In the rest of Psalm 98, it's made clear that as God's people we sing and rejoice because the

Lord has remembered His people, and revealed His righteousness and salvation to all the earth.

Following the practice of God's people of old, Christians have a strong tradition of making music and singing in response to the great things God has done in and through Jesus Christ. If you're anything like me, one of your favorite times to sing is during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Knowing that God loved us so much that He would become a human being — as even a zygote in the womb of Mary — so that He could be a fitting sacrifice for our sins moves us to sing to the Lord a new song for the marvelous things He has done.

It also helps us to remember that in Jesus there is salvation for all humanity, and God graciously uses us to proclaim that salvation to people all around the world. Through the various missionary projects the LWML supports, we help to proclaim the marvelous things the Lord has done so that together with us, people from every tribe, language, nation and race might sing to the Lord a new song.



Rev. Timothy Koch makes a presentation at a Christian Life Workshop.



Mission grant delivered!

Ann Cruse (standing, second from right), VP of Gospel Outreach, delivered a mission grant to Mount Calvary Preschool, Huron, to be used for interpreters for students of Karen and Hispanic languages.

Blessings in Black Hawk

Divine Shepherd Early Childhood Center, Black Hawk, received a mission grant to help with expanding enrollment. Presenting the check were Lisa Ausmus (standing, third from left), LWML district president, and Debbie Sattgast (fourth from right), VP of Christian Life.



News from the Milbank Zone

As I write this, we are looking forward to a new grandchild in October and celebrating Thanksgiving with our three daughters, their spouses and 12 grandchildren in Montana! You are reading this after it has happened, God willing.

We have so many reasons to be thankful. And now we look forward to what we are most thankful for — the birth of our Savior! As we anticipate Christmas, may we truly be thankful for the gift of each new day and the blessings associated with it. Sunshine, rain, snow, health, family, home, warm clothing and above all, faith in the Triune God, are just a few of the things that have blessed my life.

LWML friends that meet together weekly for Bible study and fellowship are another special blessing. Our favorite author, Donna Pyle, digs deep into Scripture so that we can grow and learn. We are excited to go to lwml.org/bible-studies and find another downloadable study to use.

I wish I knew where I read this so I could give credit to the author I am paraphrasing: "What would I have today if it depended on what I thanked God for yesterday?" Thank you God for your mercy and grace that you give each day.

Susan Magedanz
Milbank Zone president



Milbank Zone members assembled layettes and mercy meals for Orphan Grain Train.

Mercy for parents in need

Zion Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, collected 9,331 Diapers for the 2018 Diaper Derby. The diapers were taken to the Alpha Center.

