

No resolutions needed

(We are the Body of Christ!)

Happy New Year! It is 2017! So what is your new year's resolution this year? New year's resolutions are a tradition, when we make a promise to do an act of self-improvement or something nice. I stopped making them quite a few years ago because regardless of my intentions, I never seemed to stick with it, so I just stopped making them.



Lisa Asmus
LWML
South Dakota
District President

While visiting our son in Japan in November, we met a Japanese woman named Yoko. She asked us if we were religious. We told her that we believe in Jesus.

When we asked her if she was religious, she said, "That is a good question." She



Yoko

shared with us how she believes there is something in the universe bigger than us, but she doesn't like to name him. She prays to whatever god she is near. She just wants everyone to have a little good happen to them. We shared with her that we believe that the God who created her loves her so much that He also died on the cross for her sins.

God has blessed us with the gift of His Son, Jesus, whose birthday we just celebrated. Soon we will also set aside time to remember His suffering, death and resurrection that He accomplished for

the forgiveness of our sins — including broken promises (resolutions)!

We don't really need to make resolutions to begin each year. Because of what Jesus did for us, we already are the body of Christ, "resolutely" living our lives as God's people. This starts with being in the Word. As God's children, we can show acts of kindness in everyday life:

- ▶ Let someone else go ahead of you in line.
- ▶ Open doors for others.
- ▶ Use your words to build people up and not tear them down.
- ▶ Welcome others to work with you when you serve.
- ▶ Be happy for others when something good happens to them.
- ▶ Send notes of encouragement to people in your church or community.

I'm sure you can think of one that is just right for the situation!

In this 75th year of the LWML, let's make it our daily mission to serve the Lord with a happy heart, reaching out to people that you meet — people like Yoko!

Hurry!

Bus signup deadline is Jan. 8

Have you made your plans to go to the 37th Biennial LWML Convention June 22-25 in Albuquerque, N.M.?

Early registration begins Feb. 1. For convention registration and other information, check out the winter *Lutheran Women's Quarterly* or go to lwml.org/convention.

Hotel reservations can be made now. If

you are riding the district bus to the convention, your hotel reservations are taken care of.

The bus registration deadline is Jan. 8.

Forms are at sdlwml.org — click the "2017 LWML Albuquerque Convention" link at the top of the page — and the zone presidents have also been given copies to share.

Convention registration is \$175 from Feb. 1 to March 13, \$195 from March 14 to May 9, and \$220 May 10 or later.

Bring your "bling!" We will celebrate LWML's 75th birthday with the Diamond Dazzle.



"Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name."

Save the date

The **LWML South Dakota District Retreat** will be held Friday and Saturday, April 21-22, at St. Paul, Aberdeen.

The theme is "Treasured." What is more precious than diamonds? You!

You are the precious daughter of your heavenly Father, who claims you as His own. From a plain old lump of coal to a dazzling diamond, you are transformed in Christ. And you shine brilliantly as you reflect God's glory.

Bring a friend!

The LWML's 75th birthday will also be celebrated.

Stay tuned for more details.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

'A fresh start'

For many people, the beginning of a new year means a fresh start on life, a new beginning, a second chance. What's in the past is in the past. The old has gone and the new has come.



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor

Many take advantage of the fresh, new start, usually in the form of new year's resolutions. They are unhappy or disappointed with their past and desire to do something different to better their lives or the lives of those around them.

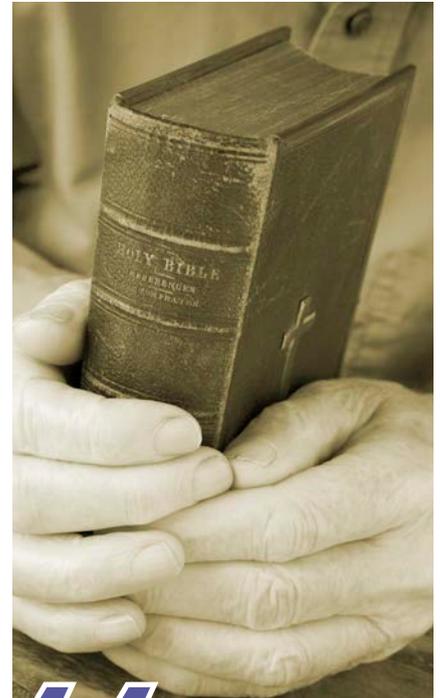
For us as Christians, every day is a fresh, new start because of Jesus and our baptism into His death and resurrection. Because of Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross and resurrection from the grave, all our wrongs, faults, mistakes and sins are a thing of the past

and we are given a second chance to correct our way of life so that we would love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. Of course, like many new year's resolutions, we fail to stick with it. But thanks be to God that His mercies are new every morning and each day is a new day to start all over again.

This is how it was for the apostle Peter. You may recall that Peter denied his Lord three times following Jesus' arrest, even after he had confidently proclaimed that he would die with Christ rather than turn away from Him. It doesn't get much worse than that — than denying Jesus.

But in John 21:15-19, we see Jesus giving Peter a second chance, a fresh start. After asking Peter three times if he loved Him, Jesus instructs Peter to feed and tend His sheep. Jesus put Peter's past denials behind him, forgave him of his sin and trusted him to minister to the people of God entrusted into his care.

You were given a fresh start, forgiven through the blood of Jesus, to love and care for the people of this world. For this reason, the women of the LWML feed and tend the sheep and lambs of Jesus with His gifts of love and mercy. So the time is now for a fresh start to care for people with the Gospel of Jesus.



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."

— 2 Cor. 5:17-18

Get your reports in

As your LWML South Dakota District secretary, one of my duties is to compile a directory that includes all of the society, zone and district officers. Please help me to accomplish this by turning in your reports to the appropriate people.

Society presidents, your Society Officer report is due by Jan. 15. Please make sure you have an email contact for your society and an accurate count of your members. Even if your officers haven't changed, please send a report. You will

send the report to your zone secretary. Zone secretaries, your reports are due to the district secretary, Susan Swanson by Feb. 1.

You may find the forms at sdlwml.org. Scroll down to "Helps" and click "LWML SD District Forms & Helps." The officer report forms are in two formats:

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



Please choose the one that pertains to your office. Thank you and God's blessings.

Susan Swanson
LWML South Dakota District secretary



Celebrate 75 Years of LWML with thousands of your closest friends!

Come to our Diamond Dazzle Celebration at the 37th Biennial Convention
June 22-25, 2017 in Albuquerque, New Mexico

What better way to live your life to the fullest by giving of yourself to others? There are so many different ways you can give, be it your time or talents, fellowship or a smile.

God has called you to be part of something great in the LWML. I encourage all young women to come to Albuquer-

que, N.M., this summer and be a part of the LWML's Diamond Dazzle celebration. Attending the Diamond Dazzle will provide ideas and encouragement to help us use our time and talents to their fullest potential in order to serve the Lord with gladness.

We had a wonderful time at our district

convention in Pierre; so many talented young women with wonderful ideas about how to serve the Lord. Please prayerfully consider attending the Diamond Dazzle in Albuquerque. We would love to have you there!

God calls you to use what gifts, talents and qualities He has given you to serve Him.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

God wants you! Serve Him in your own unique way.

And cookies for all!

The Evening LWML of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, gathered to bake cookies in November for the guests staying at the Ronald McDonald House near Sanford Hospital. The following cookies were mixed and baked in the house kitchen: Pumpkin Chocolate Chip, Ginger-Snap, Peanut Butter Blossoms, Frosted Pumpkin and Cowboy. The bakers were, from left, Barb Ewoldt, Marg Wosje, Karen Morfitt, Trisha Nussbaum, Pam Berg, Marcia Ryken, Courtney Rosendahl, Tina Lenz, Sharon Miller and Heather Miller. The evening was closed with a devotion.



News from the MITCHELL ZONE

The 63rd annual LWML Mitchell Zone Fall Rally was held Oct. 9 at Redeemer, Armour.

Opening devotions were led by the Rev. Jens Jensen, Redeemer pastor.

Redeemer LWML President Judy Wunder welcomed the 45 members, seven guests and two pastors in attendance. She then introduced the afternoon’s guest speakers, Ted and Kimberly Dibbern of Cairo, Neb., who were accompanied by Comfort Dog Moses. The Dibberns shared information about the Comfort Dog ministry.

These Golden Retrievers are a bridge for compassionate ministry, often opening doors for conversation about faith and ways to share the mercy, compassion, and presence of Jesus Christ.

A Gifts from the Heart collection of \$816 was given to the ministry. Most will be used to purchase stuffed comfort dogs to be handed out to those suffering in times of disaster. It was interesting to learn how the comfort dogs are trained and used.

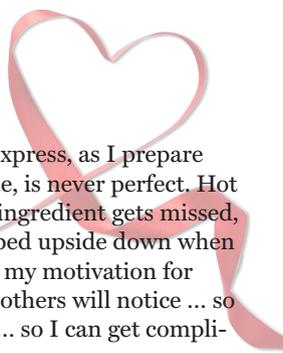
Each society was en-

couraged to bring \$75 to the National Convention in June as the LWML celebrates 75 years in 2017. Zone President Deb Haak encouraged every society to celebrate by doing something special that reflected on the number 75.



Haak, a member of St. Paul, Plankinton, was elected zone president and Londa Fink of Zion, Delmont, was elected treasurer. They were installed by the Rev. Richard Milbrandt, zone counselor and pastor, St. Paul, Plankinton, and Trinity, White Lake.

Perfect love



I enjoy cooking and baking. I learned by practice pretty early in my life. Being the youngest of six children, my older siblings were out and about, my mom and step-dad worked until the supper hour and I was blessed with the opportunity to make supper. I actually enjoyed it — that is my memory of it now, anyway!



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

Throughout the years, I have cooked many meals. If someone expressed that they really enjoyed something, I would often tell them that it was made with “love.”

As much as I love to cook, it doesn’t always turn out like I intend. I remember baking a cake from scratch once in my earlier years, and I forgot to put in the flour. When I checked the cake, it was bubbling and I realized what I had done. We didn’t like to waste ingredients, so I decided to try putting in the flour after I discovered this. For those of you who were wondering how to make a “rubber cake,” that would be the trick!

The love that I express, as I prepare food for someone, is never perfect. Hot dishes burn, an ingredient gets missed, desserts get flipped upside down when serving them. Is my motivation for showing love so others will notice ... so God will notice ... so I can get compliments?

My love is not perfect. But the love that



God gives to us, that He showed in sending His Son, Jesus to be our Savior, is a perfect love. Consider the words of 1 John 4:10:

“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

God’s love is a perfect love. He doesn’t change his mind about loving us. He doesn’t stop loving us because He found someone else to love instead. He loves all people and wants us to share that love with others, so all people can know of Jesus’ love for them!

A song I like to sing when teaching children is “We love, because God first loved us” (1 John 4:19). Love is a choice, not a feeling. So the next time your meal burns, you have a disagreement with your spouse, your friend disappoints you, you are not kind in your words or body language or things aren’t going your way, you can still choose to love, because of and in response to the love that Christ showed to us on the cross when He forgave our sins.

As you celebrate Valentine’s Day this month, I pray that your choice to show love is motivated by the love shown to you by Jesus!

PIERRE ZONE report

How time flies by, I often wonder. As I write this article, it is Dec. 7. It is cold and extremely blustery out. It makes me want to stay snuggled in a warm blanket, sitting on my couch reading a good book. This day also marked the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Wow — 75 years!

It’s hard to gather that in just a few short months, it will be time for the 2017 LWML Convention in Albuquerque, N.M. Have you made plans to

attend? If you have never attended a national convention, I highly encourage you to make plans. It is one of the most uplifting experiences I have ever had. I think the Lord knew that the convention was just what I needed at that time. I come home filled with the Holy Spirit, eager to do His work.

The Pierre Zone does not have any plans set for the Spring Christian Life workshops. Our Fall Rally fell through due to limited numbers of members. Our zone now only has three active societies and it is hard to get people to attend. I am hopeful, however, that we will have a good turnout in the spring. I need to remember to put my concerns in the Lord’s hands and He will provide.

There’s no better way to spend it than by serving the Lord and continuing to be in His Word. Blessings to you all as we journey on in a new year.

Mary Jo Stier
Pierre Zone President

Prayer service

Go to LWML.org/prayer-service to download the 2017 Prayer Service, “Celebrating 75 Years of Commending Christ From One Generation to Another.”

Do you use the prayer service in your society, church and zone? Consider gathering some people together to worship and pray together with the 2017 Prayer Service.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Living in a loveless world

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

John 15:13

In the movie, “Happy Feet,” the main character, an emperor penguin named Mumble, is confronted with an age-old problem ... he is terrified by the thought of loneliness. His fear was: “What if no one will ever love me? What if I’m alone forever?”



Rev. Joshua Baumann
LWML District Counselor

We might say, “Why, that’s irrational.” Or, “That’s the kind of attitude that only thinks of itself.” Or “I know a couple people like that.” Maybe that’s even you some days. St. Valentine’s Day is a day attributed to love, and has also been dubbed by some of my unmarried friends “Singles’ Awareness Day!” Who

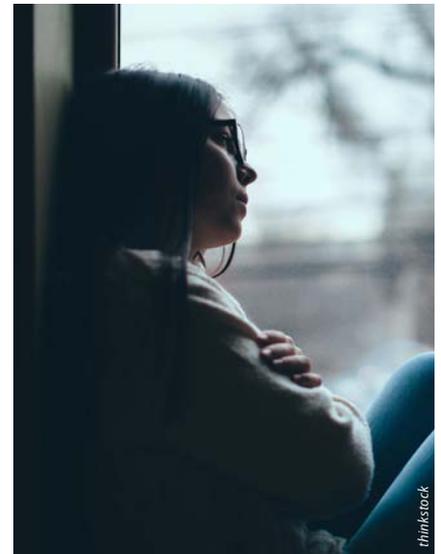
will love us? Will their love always be there no matter what?

The movie goes on to tell us that Mumble’s fear is real because all the other penguins are finding their soulmates through their beautiful singing, and poor Mumble can’t carry a tune in a bucket. He’s doomed to a life of loneliness because he’s not good enough. Will he ever find his heart song to attract another penguin to love him?

Good thing that God doesn’t love us based on our abilities or skills. Good thing that God doesn’t leave us nor forsake us because we don’t have the right pedigree or perquisites. Good thing we don’t ever have to worry about being good enough or earning God’s love, or that He’s too busy or too preoccupied for us.

God doesn’t love us because of who we are, but because of Whose we are. In the waters of Holy Baptism, you were washed and made perfect in the blood of the Lamb. We are a part of the family of God and heirs of all His promises. How comforting!

This world certainly judges based on height, weight, skin color, team alle-



giance, family background, social status and the list goes on and on. But this world’s love is conditional, limited and temporary. God’s love for you in Christ is unconditional, unlimited and eternal!

What an existence to go about this life always wondering if you will ever be loved, to question if you are always good enough. In Christ, we are loved! We are good enough! “Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!”

How great it is to have friends like you in the LWML South Dakota District to love and live the love of Christ. We are friends of the risen and living Lord Jesus, who calls us “good enough” and who loves us now and always.

Register now for convention

Is your registration in for the 2017 convention in Albuquerque June 22-25? Grab your “bling” and join us for a dazzling celebration!

I attended my first LWML convention in 1999 in Minneapolis on the Fourth of July weekend! It was quite an experience! I was encouraged by the speakers, the mission grants and all the activity, and getting reacquainted with people I haven’t seen in a while and, of course, attending with my mom. I have attended five others and look forward to each one. This convention will be

such a blessing as we will celebrate the diamond jubilee of LWML and the convention theme, “Jesus Christ Above All.”

Some of this year’s highlights will be:

- ▶ Deaconess Betty Knapp serving as Bible study leader;
- ▶ Jan Struck portraying Katy Luther;
- ▶ Ida Mall, LWML president, 1991-95, serving as keynote speaker;
- ▶ Diamond Dazzle; and
- ▶ Meeting Lutheran Women in Mission from all over the United States.

Lisa Asmus

To register, go to lwml.org/2017-convention

Jesus Christ
above all
Philippians 2:9

What to keep, what to send in

As the current LWML South Dakota District archivist-historian (A-H), I would like to go over my list of duties. If there is not an A-H in the district, zone or society, the responsibility for her duties falls onto the shoulders of the society, zone or district secretary.

The following rules are set forth in the 2016 LWML South Dakota District By-laws, which are or will soon be located at the district website.

All reports should be signed and sent by postal mail in an envelope large enough to be able to lay the 8x11.5 paper flat. Please don't use staples or paper clips to group pages together; instead, use a half sheet of paper and enclose it around the group.

Zones and societies should keep the following:

- ▶ Signed copies of executive and board of directors meeting minutes. One copy gets sent to zone from society. Zone sends two copies of zone meeting minutes to district A-H.
- ▶ Zone and society newsletters.
- ▶ Zone rally book, which also gets sent to district.
- ▶ Printed materials received from leader assemblies, workshops, prayer services and other special events. One copy should also go to district.
- ▶ Photos from special events, which need to be labeled with the basic details — who what, where and when. Photos without identification will not be kept.



- ▶ Zone and Society history. These should be updated every four years and filed.
- ▶ Current copies of the society, zone and district Bylaws. Old Bylaws should be kept in an archived file.

Make sure there are no staples in paperwork, photos are kept in an archival sleeve (no tape), folding of paper is kept to a minimum and all newspaper articles are photocopied to archival paper. Archival paper should be kept in archival file covers.

Contact me if there ever is a question about what to do with certain items.

Financial records are to be kept for at least 10 years. It would be better if they are in a book, but original receipts should be archived for at least seven years or until an audit is preformed.

If someone is taking pictures at an event, get the photographer's name and address so copies of the photos can be obtained. The archivist-historian district office is very much lacking photos of events throughout the state over the last several years.

Lastly, the district A-H is planning on writing a 75-year history for South Dakota's 75-year celebration in 2018. I could use all the help you are willing to give, including information, photos and stories of events. Please contact me at yakatyak@gmail.com.

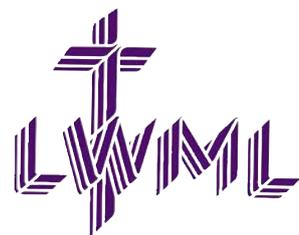
I want to say thank you to all the present, past and future archivist-historians of the LWML South Dakota District. Without a past, there can be no future.

Kay Nelson
Archivist-Historian

Coming soon

To all priceless, valuable women (that's you) — **Treasured**, a bedazzling women's retreat getaway.

The fun event will be held Friday and Saturday, April 20-21, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Aberdeen. Look for more details in the March HiLites.



With love from Lisa

Our need for a savior

I love the Lenten season, not just because supper is served at church every Wednesday so I don't have to make that meal. We also have the opportunity to take extra time to focus on the road to the cross that



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

Jesus took and what that means for us. In my life, I have constant reminders of my need for a Savior.

Recently I was getting a room ready for a class I was teaching a few hours later. I needed to have tables and chairs moved, and set up a projector to show a movie during class. Since I was unable to move the tables and chairs myself (I've been recouping from back stress suffered a couple months ago from doing too much of the above), I needed

to wait for help. I decided to get the movie set up while I waited. Everything worked except the sound. I did all I knew how, and couldn't get the sound to work. Class time was close and I was getting anxious.

I calmly but rudely interrupted my husband and told him that I was getting very frustrated. I wasn't really frustrated at him, but that I couldn't move the tables on my own, figure out the sound problem and control the situation. I don't know for sure if it was my pity party or good timing, but he was now able to help, along with one of the mentors of the class who had just arrived. We got it all taken care of with a bit of time to spare. I'm not proud of my behavior, but it is just one more reminder that I am a sinner in need of a Savior!

I would like to share one of the points made in the video we watched, "How Great is Our God." The cross is where

Jesus became the sin bearer for us. It is also the proof that God doesn't always change the circumstance. He didn't for Jesus on the cross either. The cross is also proof that God has a purpose in the circumstance and that His purpose and plan will triumph over all circumstances in this world.

Thank you, God, for coming to this world to be our Savior and for being with us in all circumstances, no matter how good or bad, big or small.

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we have opportunities to touch people's lives with the love of Jesus each and every day. It begins, though, with being fed by the Word of God. Along with your worship and study/devotion time, many opportunities are available this spring, including using the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* Bible studies and LWML Prayer Service, and attending the South Dakota District Spring Retreat April 21-22 in Aberdeen and the LWML convention in Albuquerque, N.M., June 22-25.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Look to the interests of others

When Lena died, Ole moved to a very Catholic town in Minnesota. A life-long Lutheran, Ole got along very well with his new Catholic neighbors — at least until Lent. Every Friday, Ole liked to grill venison steaks outside. But the aroma of the venison was too much of a temptation for his Catholic neighbors, who were not



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District
Counselor

permitted to eat meat on Fridays during Lent. So Ole's neighbors convinced him to become Catholic. After instruction with the priest, Ole was invited to come forward during Sunday Mass to be welcomed into the Catholic faith. When Ole came forward, the priest sprinkled some holy water on Ole and said, "You were born Lutheran. You were raised Lutheran. Now you are Catholic." Ole's neighbors rejoiced — at least until the next Friday when they once again smelled venison steaks being grilled by Ole. As they approached his house to confront him, they overheard Ole say, as he sprinkled some salt on the venison, "You were born a deer. You were raised a deer. Now you are a fish."

Lent is a somber season of repentance and is often accompanied with acts of

self-denial, such as the traditions of not eating meat on Fridays or giving up something. While there is nothing wrong with such practices, they are not necessary for salvation or to demonstrate your devotion to Christ. Faith alone in Christ and His act of self-denial and sacrifice on the cross for you is more than sufficient for that:

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who ... emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." **Phil. 2:5, 7-8**

Before these words, Paul instructs us to:

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count

Continued on next page



LWML South Dakota Retreat

April 21-22



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
214 Seventh Ave. SW, Aberdeen, SD 57401

Join us for a chosen time as we walk in the light of God's Word together.

Theme: "Treasured"

Based on Deut. 14:2: "The LORD has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession."

Friday registration begins at 6 p.m.; Saturday registration begins at 8 a.m.

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____ City: _____ State ____ Zip code _____

Telephone: (____) _____

Society: _____ Zone: _____

Mark which applies

- Executive Board Member Zone President Young Woman
- LWML Member Pastor (*no registration fee*) Guest
- Special Dietary needs: _____

Registration fee is \$20, which includes a catered lunch Saturday. Deadline is April 7.

Make your check payable to: **LWML SD Retreat**

Mail your registration form with payment to: Denise Melius, 15825 373rd Ave. Northville, SD 57465

Make your own room reservations. A block of rooms under SD LWML are reserved until March 21 at:

- ▶ Hampton Inn and Suites – 3216 Seventh Ave. SE, Aberdeen, SD; 605-262-2600; (\$109 +tax)
- ▶ Quality Inn – 2923 SE Sixth Ave., Aberdeen, SD 605-226-0097 (\$85 +tax)
- ▶ My Place Hotels – 410 S. Harvard St., Aberdeen, SD 605-262-4600 (\$75 +tax)

Gifts from the Heart: Food pantry items — dry and canned goods and paper goods

Challenging all LWML sisters: Can each zone bring 75 pounds of items for Gifts from the Heart? How about \$75 for mission mites?

others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" **Phil. 2:3-4**

Jesus looked to our needs for His grace and gave Himself up for us. So if you are looking for an alternative to giving something up for Lent, consider doing something in the interest of others, such as giving more to your mite offerings or having your LWML circle do something nice for someone who is in need of Christ's mercy and love.

Warm toes in the Aberdeen area

The challenge for the LWML South Dakota District **Aberdeen Zone:** for an ingathering, collect 75 pairs of socks to give to local charities.

Challenge met! And then some...the ladies collected 188 pairs. What a blessing! They were able to distribute them to three charities to help many keep their feet warm this winter.



With love from Lisa

Steadfast love

I have had the song that comes from Lam. 3:22-23 in my head for a couple of days now:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; new every morning;

great is your faithfulness, oh Lord; great is your faithfulness.

I know these words to be true in my head and heart, and yet so often I fail to act like I know that my life is in His hands. I find myself questioning peoples' actions, especially in the world of protests and violence, that we have witnessed in our country, especially



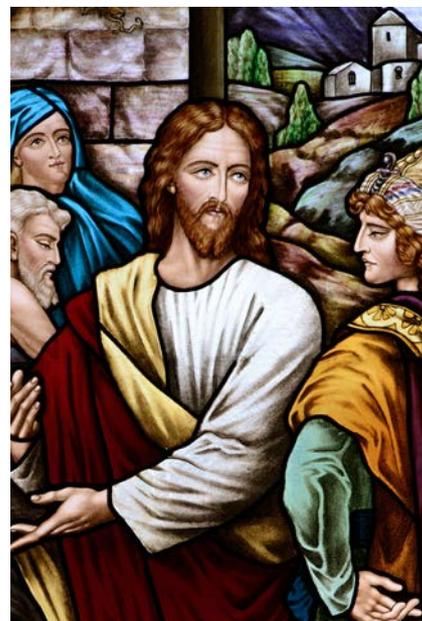
Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

recently. It's not my "style" to gather people to protest the protesters, but unfortunately, I can find myself complaining about what I see.

What good does that do anyway? It is not my desire to be negative and contradictory, rather to live in the love of Jesus. I am thankful that my salvation doesn't depend on my wants, desires and actions because I fail daily! God called me to be His own in my Baptism. Thanks be to God for His faithfulness to me, to all of us!

Jesus came to this earth to be our Savior. He wants us all to know what a treasure we are to Him, even as He is our ultimate treasure! That's why I pray that you will attend our retreat, "Treasured," in Aberdeen April 21-22 (see below).

This month, we continue taking the journey to the cross during our Lenten



and Holy Week services, focusing on what He did for us on the cross — and in the empty tomb. Now we live as Easter people, forgiven and with new life in Christ.

God bless you on your journey with the Holy Spirit as your guide, recognizing the steadfast love of the Lord.

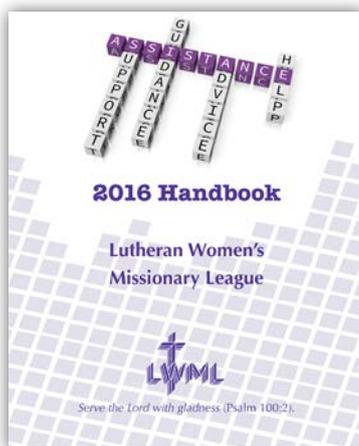
'Bylaws are Beautiful'

How many times have you heard that phrase?

Hello, I am Mary Jo Stier and I am serving as the 2016-18 LWML South Dakota District parliamentarian and structure committee chairperson.

When was the last time your society or zone bylaws were updated? Has it been more than 10 years? If so, maybe it is time they are given an update. When sending in bylaw changes, please remember to send in the original bylaws as well. It helps the structure committee to have something to look at and compare what is being proposed.

Please send them to me at *Mary*.



Stier@k12.sd.us. If you would like to learn more about the structure of LWML, there is wonderful information at lwml.org/bylaws.

There is a pdf file titled *LWML Handbook* (revised in May 2016) available for download that will give you helpful information.

Ready for retreat?



April 21-22

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen

We will have an opportunity to learn about how we are precious, chosen possessions of our Heavenly Father at our district retreat. Join us on a spectacular hunt as we seek the Ultimate Treasure. We will walk in the light of God's Word together, enjoy fabulous fellowship and tasty foods and lift our voices in praise to Him!

Registration forms can be found at sdlwml.org. In the "Events" box, click "LWML SD District Retreat."

Calling all national convention delegates

A special table for delegates to the LWML 37th Biennial Convention in Albuquerque, N.M., June 22-25, will be reserved at the retreat during lunch. Lisa Asmus will share convention information with you.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Alive in Christ!

Greetings in the name of our *risen* and *living* Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Alive! That's what we are. And chances are good, if you are reading this right now, you are too! But more than just being upright and taking nourishment, we are spiritually alive in Jesus Christ!

His death and glorious resurrection mean so very much to us — His bride, His Church. We are alive in Christ, we are alive in faith and we are alive in the Gospel. The umbilical cord of our Baptism received in the Church directly connects us into the death and resurrection of Christ. Because He lives, we too shall live.



Rev. Joshua Baumann
LWML District Counselor

“We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life.” **Rom. 6:4**

The men and women of the LWML South Dakota District are a people who are alive in the love of Christ. You show it each and every week as you:

- ▶ attend and participate in corporate worship;
- ▶ serve in various circles and boards, and;
- ▶ seek to know Christ and to make Him known in your devotional, reading and prayer life.

Our mite offerings and Gifts from the Heart and the various activities of your circles in your congregations center around the things of life. Christ says in **Matt: 6:25, 32:**

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and

the body more than clothing? ... And your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.”

So thank you for being people who think about the things of life — life here in time, and there with Christ in eternity — and who trust in God to provide you with what is necessary for this life.

Thank you for living a life of love that serves the Savior as you serve and love your neighbors around you. Generously live your life in Jesus and pour out His love on others as much and as often as you can. You do so in the holy calling you have received in your baptism to follow Christ.

See a need, fill a need. We seek to reflect God's love in the same way that Christ loved the Church and gave His life up for her. We too are servants as Christ taught us to be. May you continue to always live in Christ and to endlessly love and adore Him. He surely is your life and your salvation!

A reflective Good Friday, and a blessed Easter to you.

“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

1 Cor. 15:55

YANKTON ZONE report

The Yankton Zone held its Fall Rally on Nov. 5 at St. John's, Tyndall. The Rev. Dean Schroeder, pastor, St. John and Martinus, Utica, led the devotion titled “Mary, Mary and the Other Mary — Women in the Gospel.”

The societies are getting excited about the District Retreat in Aberdeen and also the LWML Convention in Albuquerque, N.M., in June. Sandra Brandt is the zone delegate and Andra Gates is the alternate to the convention.

Several women are planning to travel on the South Dakota bus. What a won-

derful way to share the enthusiasm of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ when traveling with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Spring Christian Life Workshop is scheduled for April 1 at Concordia, Vermillion.

Our societies are being challenged to do something special for the LWML's 75th anniversary. How about \$75 to mites or the Special Gifts Fund, or 75 items for the ingathering at the retreat and also a special offering at the convention? There are many ways we can praise the Lord through the work of the LWML.

See you at the retreat and in Albuquerque!

Florence Powers
Yankton Zone President



Treasured gifts

At the retreat in Aberdeen April 21-22, Gifts from the Heart will consist of items for the food pantry — dry and canned goods and paper goods. Along with these gifts, we also want to remember to bring our mission mites.

God bless you as you consider helping our brothers and sisters in need.

Judy Gies
VP Human Care

With love from Lisa

Ready for convention?

“Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! ... For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

Ps. 100:1-2, 5

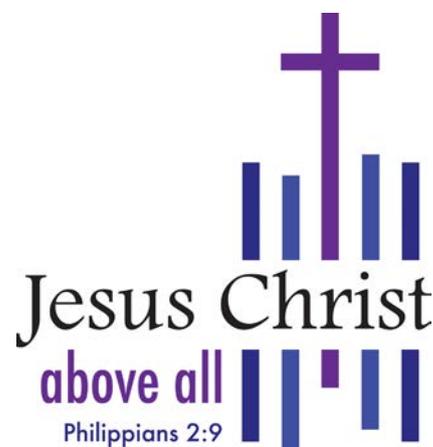
This verse gives a picture of how we live as God’s people! It also describes our upcoming time in Albuquerque — serving, singing, making



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

joyful noise, studying the Word, worshipping our Lord and Savior and sharing God’s love with those we meet. What a great reminder that God is faithful to all generations as we celebrate 75 years of Lutheran Women in Mission. Along with the 80-some attendees from South Dakota, we will also be represented by three Young Woman Representatives; our first Heart to Heart Sister, Maria Louise Mwenda, and her translator, Kay Nelson; the Rev. Josh Baumann, our junior pastoral counselor; and the following voting delegates from our zones:

- ▶ Jean Haselhorst, Aberdeen
- ▶ Vonda Sturzenbecher, Black Hills
- ▶ Nyla Jurrens, Brookings
- ▶ June Ring, Chamberlain
- ▶ Jill Johnson, Huron
- ▶ Pam Wilshusen, Milbank
- ▶ Londa Fink, Mitchell



- ▶ Mary Jo Stier, Pierre
- ▶ Patty Peters, Sioux Falls
- ▶ Sandra Brandt, Yankton

These delegates are your voice at the convention. Please pray for them. Please talk with them about the candidates for office, bylaws and amendments and mission grants they will vote on. This information can be found online at lwml.org/2017-convention. Scroll down to “Convention Ballot Information.”

ABERDEEN ZONE report

Did you discover the treasure? Are you treasured? The Aberdeen Zone was pleased to host the District LWML Retreat April 21-22. The theme was “Treasured,” based on Deut. 14:2: “The LORD has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession.”

We want to thank you very generous ladies and your societies for all the Gifts from the Heart that you brought to the retreat — from 75 pounds of soup to 75 rolls of paper towels. Our local charities appreciated your kindness so much. What better way to celebrate the LWML anniversary than doing what for 75 years has been our mission — “our hands to work for Him — our silver and our gold to extend

His Kingdom.”

I want to thank the Aberdeen societies for all their help in putting on the retreat. I had volunteers willing (no arm-twisting needed here) to be hostesses in the church, make and serve muffins, take care of the registrations, bring bars for dessert, make signs, be the secretary or treasurer, help with the crafts and more. What a wonderful group of ladies to work with. Thank you!

Now we are looking forward to our Fall Rally in the Aberdeen Zone, which will be hosted by the Immanuel Lutheran Church Society of Wecota. The date has not yet been set.

Jean Hasselhorst
Aberdeen Zone President

Little mites are mighty

As we put our coins and dollars in our little mite boxes with a prayer, it is hard to imagine that they will ever amount to so much. But with faith and the Lord’s blessing, we see the many mighty results He has given.



The LWML 2015-17 biennium just ended on March 31 with all 19 mission grants totaling \$2 million being funded. We are 50 percent of the way through our 2016-18 LWML South Dakota District biennium with three of our 11 mission grants funded. Can you believe that those little coins really grow so big and are so helpful to so many? Thanks be to God that His Gospel is being touched and heard by so many.

It is now the time that we begin looking ahead to the 2018-20 mission grants that are also in need of funding. Mission grant proposals need to be submitted by Aug. 31 to Ann Cruse, vice-president of Gospel Outreach, 1780 Simmons Ave SE, Huron, SD 57350. Guidelines and instructions are available on the South Dakota LWML website at sdlwml.org

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Treasured

We've all been told that "April showers bring May flowers." Spring has always been one of my favorite seasons of the year. Baseball is in full swing; the sun is warm after a long, cold winter; and grass, trees and flowers are in full bloom and fill the landscape with its luscious green and colorful vegetation, full of life after staring at a dead white, grey and brown canvas for the last several months. Yes, spring is full of life!



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor

With the new life of spring, we are reminded of the new life we have in Christ. Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins. But Jesus did not remain dead in the tomb. He rose again to new life, defeating death forever so that all who have faith in Him never have to fear or worry about death because

death no longer has any power over us. Jesus has conquered death and the grave to give us life!

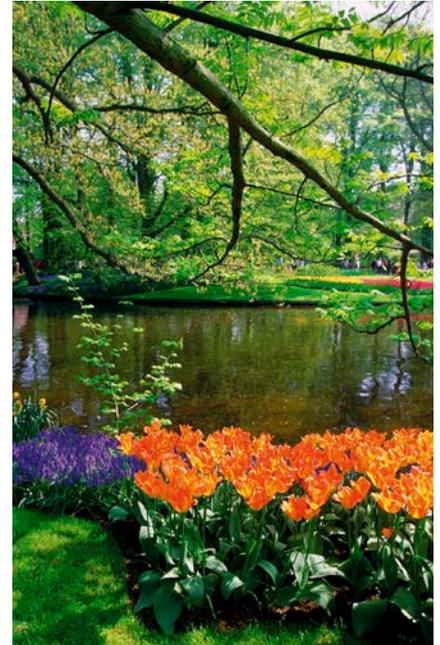
But at times we still worry and fear death. Telling us not to be anxious about our lives, Jesus said:

"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field ... will he not much more clothe you?"

Matt. 6:28b-30

And in speaking about how God cares for birds in this same passage, Jesus reminds us of how much more valuable we are to Him than a bunch of birds or grass or lilies.

Last month at the LWML South Dakota District Retreat in Aberdeen, we were reminded of just how valuable we are to God. We are Christ's treasured possessions. We are a valuable treasure to Him. So valuable, in fact, that He would give up everything for us, including His heavenly throne and even His very own life!



Springtime is great! The May flowers are beautiful! God takes them care of them. Yet they eventually wither and die, only to be raised back to a new life each spring and made beautiful again. How much more valuable are you? In Christ, God takes care of our daily needs, but gives us so much more. As His wonderful treasure, He will raise us up from death to new life on the Last Day to live with Him forever arrayed in all His glory!

YWRs chosen for convention

Congratulations to **Pamela Baker**, **Megan Fair** and **Christina Sereda**, who were selected to be the Young Woman Representatives for the South Dakota District at the 2017 LWML National Convention in Albuquerque, N.M.

Pamela is a wife, mother, preschool teacher and private music teacher from Brookings. She enjoys encouraging others to engage in their congregations and communities, and she is especially excited to learn ways of involving younger, working women in the LWML.

Megan is a wife, mother, daycare provider and photographer from Madison. She was inspired after she attended the 2016 district convention, seeing all the ladies in purple

and learning about the missions our mites help support. She hopes to learn even more and to inspire others to join LWML.

Christina is a teacher from Sioux Falls. She is new to LWML but is very excited to learn more at the convention. She enjoys serving in the choir and Worship Team and several other areas of her church, and looks forward to sharing her gifts within the LWML.

We thank God for these young women and their desire to serve the Lord with gladness! Look for their report on their national convention experience in the September and November *HiLites*.

Josie Lorang
Chairman, Committee on Young Women

The mission of the South Dakota Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to provide women opportunities for spiritual growth and to equip and nurture them to use their God-given gifts to serve the Lord in home, church, community and the world.

With love from Lisa

Time for convention!

“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

— Phil. 2:9-11

It's only a couple of weeks until thousands will attend the LWML 37th Biennial Convention of the LWML in Albuquerque, N.M.! South Dakotans will be traveling by plane, car and a charter bus. If you are going, be sure to check the information page you receive at registration that will share what time and where on Thursday will be our



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

district caucus and group photo.

I look forward to seeing you there! If you are unable to attend, you can still participate by:

- ▶ watching the livestream of all the convention sessions;
- ▶ sending mite offerings and Gifts from the Heart items with someone who is going; and
- ▶ praying for safety and God's hand of blessing on the attendees, leaders and, above all, that we would be witnesses of Jesus' love to people we meet.

Information on Gifts from the Heart and livestreaming the convention can be found at lwml.org.

Jesus Christ
above all
Philippians 2:9



The LWML South Dakota District Convention is only 12 months away!

We will meet at the Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center in Sioux Falls June 1-2, 2018. Our theme is “Sharing God's Love from Generation to Generation,” based on Ps. 100:5. The LWML South Dakota District will also celebrate its 75th year in 2018! To God be the glory!

Our nominating committee will be looking for willing ladies to serve in the following areas:

- ▶ VP of Communication
- ▶ Financial Secretary
- ▶ Secretary
- ▶ VP of Special Focus Ministries
- ▶ Nominating Committee

Please contact one of the following nominating committee members with names of people who would like to serve in one of these areas:

- ▶ Janell McKinstry (chairman): mckinstryjanell@gmail.com or 605-390-2414.
- ▶ Sharon Falk: sfalk@sstel.net or 605-756-4511
- ▶ Florence Powers: florencepowers@hotmail.com or 605-491-0494

BLACK HILLS ZONE report

Hello summer! Here in the Black Hills, we like our quiet, cozy winters but love our busy, crazy summers! There's something new to do every weekend and lots of visitors to greet to our little corner of the world.

This is a big year for Lutherans all over the nation and the world: the 500th anniversary of the Reformation! Exciting things will be happening to get ready for the big Reformation Day celebration in Rapid City on Oct. 29. If you find yourself in our neck of the woods, call

any of our churches and we'll fill you in on all the details.

This past year has been busy for our ladies in the Black Hills. We've welcomed three new pastors: the Rev. Eric Obermann, serving Custer and Hill City; the Rev. John Fries, serving Sturgis and Deadwood; and the Rev. Kent Borglum, serving as interim pastor in Wall and Creighton.

In October, we had our Fall Retreat at the Terra Sancta Retreat Center in Rapid City. Attendance was up 40 percent over the previous year with 35 ladies, and we had a great time of learning and fellowship.

On April 1, we had our Spring Rally at Blessed Emmanuel, Sturgis. There were 65 in attendance! Connie Gilbride

led us in a wonderful talk on how to determine your own limits and find the courage to say “no” when you are a “worn out woman.” Obermann led an insightful Bible study on “Making an Eternal Difference.”

The women of the Black Hills Zone continue to fill their days with many worthwhile, mission-supporting activities, using their treasures, time and talents. They are baking, creating, serving and gleaning as the Lord directs them throughout their church life and in their communities. I am so blessed and thankful to be a member of the family of God with each and every one of them!

Karla Westerfield
Black Hills Zone President

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

I can't wait!

"Good things take time!" Or as another saying puts it: "Good things come to those who wait."

Well, 75 years of waiting for the LWML Diamond Jubilee celebration is over! We've waited for the LWML National Convention in Albuquerque, N.M. The wait is over! We praise God for the incredible work He has done among His people for these last 75 years as the LWML South Dakota District has always placed Jesus Christ Above All! The Scriptures, and more specifically the Psalms, speak of waiting and what that looks like for God's people.



Rev. Joshua Baumann
LWML District Counselor

The psalmist David wrote in Psalm 40:

"I waited patiently for the LORD;
He inclined to me and heard my cry."

And again in Psalm 130:

"My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning."

Waiting is one thing, but waiting patiently is yet another. This is the life of God's people. God doesn't always work on 30-minute time frames. There is no free pizza from God if He doesn't deliver in 30 minutes or less. We are a people who wait on God's action, on God's timing and on His working in our lives.

We wait for God to give us a spouse or a child, to bless us with the endurance to make it through years of schooling or years of health battles, we wait until Sunday morning to receive absolution and forgiveness from the pastor as from

God Himself (although some choose to wait a little longer than others!).

We wait for God to show us the right path in our vocations and life callings. We wait for Christ Jesus to return again to judge the living and the dead. And we wait for God to give life to our mortal remains and raise us from the grave on the Last Day.

This waiting is a tough thing to do, but the wait is worth it! The Psalms say that God's timing is different from ours.

"For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night."

— Ps. 90:4

How is God growing and teaching you to wait on Him and to put a more complete trust in His Word and promises? May the words in Ps. 119:81 be our very own words:

"My soul longs for your salvation, I hope in your word."

God's grace and peace to you as you rest in the promises of Jesus Christ for you given in Baptism and as you wait patiently on the Lord.

A LOOK BACK

District receives first convention

Back in 1985, our South Dakota District had decided to extend an invitation to host the 23rd Biennial LWML Convention in 1989 in Rapid City. An invitation sketch/skit was part of the convention programing and ours was performed at the convention in Ames, Iowa.

The sketch featured the presidents whose faces appear on Mount Rushmore. The participants included Dorothy Milhans as George Washington, Edie Behrens as Thomas Jefferson, Betty Haar as Theodore Roosevelt and Sharon Falk as Abraham Lincoln. Others pictured included Marilyn Herz, who conducted the interview; Yvonne Steffen as the camera person; and Marilyn Koepke as sculptor Gutzon Borglum



In the invitation, Lincoln states that "Twoscore and three years ago the LWML came into being and they have yet to meet in South Dakota." Washington later responds by stating, "I cannot tell a lie. We would be so happy if you would come to our fine state." In conclusion, Roosevelt excitedly pleads with the ladies, "So get out your credit cards and

'charge' your way to Rapid City."

The sketch was repeated at the Rapid City convention with some slight changes in the script as the presidents thanked the ladies for bringing the convention to South Dakota.

Sharon L. Falk
LWML South Dakota District President (1988-92)

With love from Lisa

God is with you — always

Here we are in the heat of the summer. The “Jesus Christ Above All” convention has passed with a wonderful celebration of 75 years of LWML. New mission grants have been selected and we are all busy filling our mighty mite boxes!



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

Trips have been taken, some to see family and friends, some to Germany to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, some to the Holy Land, and some to other exotic or just ordinary places.

The state fair will be held Labor Day weekend, and it will again be time to share God’s love at the Puppet Place. If you haven’t been there, I hope you will come this year and see the wonderful ways that God is using the Utecht family and many volunteers to share His love at the fair.

New signs on the building have been an added blessing.

Maybe this summer has brought you challenges in your job, relationships and health, or a death in the family or of a close friend.

Or did you have celebrations of engagements, birthdays or anniversaries? God willing, my mom will turn 90 years old this month, and for this I am truly

thankful. No matter what you’re dealing with, you can be certain that God is with you through it all, in the good and bad times.

Ps. 73:26 says:

“My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.”

And in **Deut. 31:8**:

“It is the LORD who goes before
you. He will be with you; he will
not leave you or forsake you.”

As we move forward, we look forward to continuing the celebration of LWML’s ministry in South Dakota for 75 years in 2018! Look for articles from our past presidents as they share some memories of what LWML was like “back then.” Plan now to attend our convention June 1-2, 2018, in Sioux Falls.

To God be all praise and glory!

Add workshop to your calendar

The Christian Life Committee is excited to share with you the schedule for Fall Workshops.



The Rev. Dan Domke, senior pastor of Mount Calvary, Huron, will present “Marriage and Family: God’s Plan” on the following dates:

- ▶ Friday, Sept. 15, at Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk
- ▶ Saturday, Sept. 16, at Faith, Pierre
- ▶ Friday, Oct. 6, at St. John, Yankton
- ▶ Saturday, Oct. 7, at Our Savior, Aberdeen

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the workshops will conclude by 3 p.m. We look forward to a wonderful day of studying God’s Word and sharing together.

Debbie Sattgast

Vice-President of Christian Life

Submit your project proposal

Is your mission project seeking God’s guidance? Is it in need of some extra funds to further His ministry? Mission projects may be proposed by any individual or organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Extending the ministry of His Word is the goal in each project.

LWML South Dakota mission grant proposals for the 2018-20 biennium

are due by Aug. 31. Send them to Ann Cruse, VP of Gospel Outreach LWML SD, 1780 Simmons Ave. SE, Huron, SD 57350. Proposal guidelines can be found at sdlwml.org (click the link in the “Missions” box), or email Ann at anncruse84@gmail.com.

Mighty mites with God’s guidance produce magnificent measures!

Will you serve?

Nominations for the following South Dakota District LWML positions are now being accepted:

- ▶ Vice-President of Communication
- ▶ Vice-President of Special Focus Ministry
- ▶ Secretary
- ▶ Financial Secretary
- ▶ Nominating Committee member

Please prayerfully consider those you know who have the gifts and abilities to

serve the Lord through the LWML. Any LWML member may suggest someone to be considered.

Nominations will be accepted until Nov. 15 and may be sent to any member of the committee. Elections will be held during the 2018 convention.

Contact **Janell McKinstry** at mckinstryjanell@gmail.com or 605-390-2414; **Sharon Falk** at sfalk@sstel.net or 605-881-4295; or **Florence Powers** at florencepowers@hotmail.com or 605-491-0494

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Let your light shine

So you've returned home from the LWML Convention in Albuquerque. And even if you didn't get to go, hopefully you had the chance to experience it through those who did as they brought back their stories to tell and shared their enthusiasm for proclaiming Jesus Christ above all!



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor

It was an incredible experience — the worship and Bible studies, praising Jesus, seeing and hearing how God is at work in the mission field both near and far, meeting old friends and making new ones, the sea of purple flooding the

streets of Albuquerque and, of course, in this 75th anniversary of the LWML, the BLING!

Yes, it was a truly wonderful experience. But now what?

Events like the national convention are “mountain-top” experiences when you feel you're on top of the world. You leave the event all enthused with tremendous ideas and a great zeal for your faith like you've never had before. But when you get home, reality sets in and you come down from your “mountain-top” high, and it doesn't take long to go back to life as usual. And that's OK.

Because what do you do? You do exactly what Jesus instructed His disciples to do:

“You are the light of the world ... let your light shine before others, so



that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” — **Matt. 5:14, 16**

Because of Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the grave, He has pulled you out of the darkness of your sin and death. He has illuminated your life to make you shine in the light of His forgiveness, grace, mercy, compassion and peace.

So like all the bling that sparkled and shined in the Albuquerque sun, all who have faith in Him sparkle and shine the light of Jesus to all those around them. It doesn't have to be in some extraordinary, monumental way. You can let your light shine through the simple and ordinary things of your daily life: changing a diaper, cooking your spouse's favorite meal, covering someone's shift at work, going to visit someone who lives by themselves, giving someone who's sad a hug or a shoulder to cry on. This brings glory to our Father in heaven.

So let your light shine and proclaim Jesus Christ above all.

Check out the puppet show

The Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair is getting some new signs. Stop by and check out the exterior changes. Step into the air-conditioned Puppet Place and watch the puppet show, which shares God's love for us. Performances are held each day at 11 a.m. and 1, 3, 5 and 6 p.m., Aug. 31 through Sept. 4.

Be greeted by volunteers in animal costumes and invited into 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.

We look forward to seeing you at the Puppet Place this year.



2017 ZONE WORKER SCHEDULE

- ▶ Thursday: Chamberlain Zone
- ▶ Friday: Millbank Zone
- ▶ Saturday: Mitchell Zone
- ▶ Sunday: Pierre Zone
- ▶ Monday: Sioux Falls Zone

Set-up and clean-up:
Huron Zone

Rally with the Brookings Zone

The ladies of the Brookings Zone are excited about celebrating the 75th anniversary of the LWML at their Fall Rally! The zone rally will be held Oct. 21 at Zion Lutheran Church, White.

Our speaker is Virginia Von Seggern, former LWML president (1999-2003). She comes from a small farm in northeast Nebraska and has been active in the LWML for many years. She will speak on the LWML's history, including its many accomplishments.

Other activities will include devotions, election of officers, lunch and a meeting. Save the date, and we hope to see many in White.

Nyla Jurrens
President, Brookings Zone



Von Seggern speaks at the LWML convention in Oklahoma City in 2003.

Faith ladies help member with evangelism efforts

The LWML at Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, recently presented member Nick Hill with a check for \$600 to use while he and the congregation, including youth, witnessed to Native Americans living in Cherry Creek.

Nick hosted a soccer camp in May for Cherry Creek youth. The money given to Nick was raised during a silent auction held in conjunction with a Faith LWML monthly meeting. The money was used to help provide groceries and books to the youth who participated in the soccer camp. The simple books help illustrate and explain the truths of the Gospel.

Cherry Creek is located on the Cheyenne Indian Reservation in western South Dakota. Nick had previously donated his time to witness to those living in Cherry Creek. The South Dakota District LWML prays his witness may bear fruit and bring souls to Christ.



REFLECTIONS

Late 80s were busy for district LWML

By Ruth Neuberger

LWML South Dakota District President,
1984-88

Big excitement reigned and many leaguers got on the “bandwagon” to help host the 23rd Biennial LWML Convention in Rapid City in 1989, the first time the national convention (then international) was held in South Dakota.

Norma Harer served as chairman of our host committee; co-vice chairmen were Edna Haeder and Belva Schindler. The Revs. Robert Utecht and Ray Hartwig were pastoral counselors.

Many extra meetings were necessary and committee members attended the Fort Worth (Texas) Convention in 1987 so we could be mentored by their chairman.

Typewriters and “snail mail” were the means of communication. Few telephone calls were made as we were on a budget.

We did everything from scratch — bought bolts of material, and each society sewed tote bags and made wheat crosses to put in each bag. Convention workers sewed their own outfits,

designed and embroidered badges and made pheasant-feather corsages. These ladies really got involved in “Serving the Lord with Gladness.”

The LWML made the requests and we filled the order joyfully. To God be the glory!

Another big change was to hold the district convention bi-annually and host a district retreat in the years that International holds its convention. Arlene Naasz served as the first retreat chairman. Many ladies served as educational section leaders. It was well attended and we had a fun overnight gathering.

Over the four years I served as president, I planned and presided over three district conventions, attended district gatherings, brought greetings to the South Dakota and LLL district conventions, served as guest speaker at several events, and hosted a victory party for newly elected International vice-president for Mission Inspiration, Betty Haar from South Dakota.

It was my privilege to serve a Christ-centered mission organization of volunteers. Praise and thank you, Jesus, and the district LWML members and pastoral counselors.

New logo revealed

LWML adopted its new logo and branding at the convention in June in Albuquerque, replacing the previous logo that was adopted in 1991. The update was in response to feedback received from an LWML marketing and PR survey that went out in February.

According to the brand guidelines, “the goal of the LWML brand is to attract a



broader audience and convey the characteristics of the organization that make it so unique.”

For more information, go to lwml.org/logos-style-sheet.

With love from Lisa

You are God's child

ON THURSDAY MORNINGS I ATTEND A BIBLE STUDY. I wanted to get in some time at my job before going to class today. Getting ready, I felt like I was in the cartoon *Family Circus*.



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota District President

I found myself getting distracted from my routine, going from one spontaneous task to another. Finally, I was ready to go (about an hour later than I had hoped). I got into the car and went down the street. Whoops! I forgot my sweater and I usually need it inside with the air conditioner on. So I turned around and went back home to get it.

OK, back on the road and down the street. No! I forgot my phone — which I need for work — and it has my Bible on it for study. So I turned around again. I got into the garage and looked at the rider's seat in the car. There was my phone. Sometimes I just have to laugh at myself, or roll my eyes.

Do you ever have days like this? No matter how good my intentions and how hard I try, I often fall short of my expectations. If I let my abilities and expectations define who I am, I would be known as a failure.

Thanks be to God, who said, "Lisa, you are my child. I love you. I forgive you. You are mine. I will be with you wherever you go."

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." 1 JOHN 3:1

He says this to you also! Let's let our lives be defined not by what we do, but by what God has done for us — through Jesus.

Memorable trip for YWR

My name is Megan Fair, Young Woman Representative (YWR) from the South Dakota District. I was so blessed to be chosen to attend the wonderful LWML 37th Biennial Convention in June in Albuquerque, where we also celebrated the LWML's 75th anniversary. As some of you heard, many of us from South Dakota had an interesting "bus experience" that I wouldn't take back in a heartbeat. We had some great laughs!

Our days in Albuquerque consisted of registering and checking out the exhibits. I was blessed to find my childhood youth leader, Barb Schaer, who was also on this year's ballot (for vice-president of Communication). It was awesome connecting with 81 YWRs throughout the United States. It was an amazing experience sharing our ideas and exchanging our creative traditions throughout our societies.

The highlight of this experience was to see how big of an impact our nickels and dimes — in those little mite boxes we collect each month — had on



71 countries over the years. We raised millions of dollars; and as He has requested us to do, we are making a difference in the world, spreading the Good News and being the hands and feet of Jesus.

I'm proud to be a part of this organization and can't wait to see the many more things we will do, and many more countries and people we will help along the way.

Megan Fair
St. Peters Lutheran Church, Wentworth

From left, Lisa Asmus, district LWML president; and YWRs Megan Fair and Pamela Baker. The star quilt banner was made by Harvest Wind LLC on the Rosebud Indian Reservation and designed by Nyla Jurens.

Marriage, family topic for workshop

The Rev. Dan Domke, senior pastor of Mount Calvary, Huron, will be the presenter for our fall Christian Life Workshops in Black Hawk on Sept. 15; in Pierre on Sept. 16; in Yankton on Oct. 6; and in Aberdeen on Oct. 7.

His topic will be "Marriage and Family: God's Plan," with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m. Please plan to come for this time in God's Word while sharing with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Debbie Sattgast
Vice-President of Christian Life



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Empty

“He must increase, but I must decrease.”

JOHN 3:30

You might be surprised to hear that I've had what I would call some good “empty” moments this summer. Typically we think of emptiness as a bad thing, but it doesn't always have to be that way. What a joyous feeling it was when in July we made it to our Circuit Bible Camp campsite, and the trailer was completely empty from the kids taking all their gear out of it for us.

Indeed, it was nice to see the trailer empty! An empty office is a good thing because it means I'm out and about traveling to an LWML convention, with our youth, with the congregation, or going with family to some destination, or



Rev. Joshua Baumann
LWML District Counselor

maybe even embarking on one of those South Dakota pheasant hunts we're so well known for. So there's certainly a number of good forms of “empty” I am refreshed to see and experience.

And yet in the Christian journey, there are undoubtedly those moments when we feel empty and dried up. King David writes about this feeling in Psalm 22, which we also know to be Messianic in nature as it points us to Christ. King David writes: “My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.”

Talk about being empty! Ultimately this psalm points us to the One who was completely emptied for us. Jesus' strength was emptied on the cross and through everything it took for Him to march the hill to get there for us. He was laid in the dust of death for us. His dignity was emptied for us. His life was poured out for us. For those days and moments when you feel completely hollowed out and empty, like you've got nothing left and are emptier than ever, just remember the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was poured out unto death for you, poured out to fill you up with God's

incredible love for you!

Christ transforms your emptiness into a vessel, which brings God glory. On those hollow days, may your prayer to the Lord be especially meaningful and honest. May you fill someone else up — encourage, love, serve! In your baptism, you are filled with all the promises of Jesus Christ. Jesus' death and resurrection declares all God's promises to you.

The cross of Christ would be a sad and tragic story had death fully won. We know that the body of the Son of God was placed in a tomb, and that tomb was filled with the corpse of a dead Jesus. But three days later, the tomb was ... you got it! Empty! So too the cross was empty. And Jesus was made alive and lives and reigns to this day as He is seated at the right hand of God the Father.

“So, pour us out Oh Lord. Empty us out of all those sinful and worldly desires that would pull us away from you. Fill us up with your love so that we may fill others with the love Jesus has for them.”

We are a people sent forth by the love of God. We are emptied of who we are so that Christ may fill our lives and His name be glorified. He must increase, we must decrease. For I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

God's blessings as you live for the King!

Gifts from state have worldly impact

My name is Pamela Baker and I was a Young Woman Representative selected to attend the national LWML Convention in Albuquerque, N.M., last month. This convention was such a joy to attend, especially during the 75th anniversary celebration. I was able to connect with other YWRs from across the country, attend the convention activities and attend worship with more than 3,000



of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

My highlight of the trip was seeing how each member of the LWML is so important. Each person alone may save only a few dollars a month in their mite box, but together, we as the LWML can make a huge impact on the world. In the 75 years the LWML

has been an organization, they have funded mission grants in 71 countries around the world. Even during the

four short days the conference was in session, the LWML had a huge impact in raising money and gathering items for missions.

At this conference I learned that even though I may live in South Dakota, I can make an impact in my church, my community and the world. I am proud to be a member of the LWML and I can't wait to serve His church and do His work wherever I may go.

Pamela Baker
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church,
Brookings

Scenes from the convention



Top two photos: The delegation of the LWML South Dakota District made it to Albuquerque, N.M., for the LWML 37th Biennial Convention June 22-25.

Third from top: The Diamond Dazzle Parade featured LWML district presidents, Young Woman Representatives and pastoral counselors.

Left: At right is Louise Tshikumbi, the district's first Heart to Heart Sister, and Kay Nelson, her interpreter.

CHAMBERLAIN ZONE report

Greetings!

Our zone consists of treasured women from Chamberlain, Gregory, Murdo, Norris, Presho and Winner. Patti Greeneth of Murdo is our secretary/treasurer, Sharon Ring of Norris is our archivist/historian, Susan Swanson of Chamberlain is our vice chairman and I am the chairman.

The Rev. Adam Welton of Presho is our counselor. June Ring was our delegate to the national LWML convention in Albuquerque and we look forward to hearing her report at our fall workshop in Presho.

Blessings to everyone on the rest of our hot South Dakota summer and we look forward to helping at the State Fair over Labor Day.

Deb Faber, Murdo

Celebrating 75 years in Watertown

Mount Olive LWML, Watertown, challenged the congregation to provide 75 pairs of new socks or underwear to celebrate the 75th birthday of LWML. The congregation brought 103 pairs of socks and 55 pairs of underwear!

In addition, the LWML received a \$250 Thrivent Action Team grant and used it to purchase 72 pairs of socks and 78 pairs of underwear. The goal was surpassed four times ... praise God!

On the final collection day, the humorous sketch "Divine Opinion on Lawn Care" was presented to the congregation following worship. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this fun entertainment and then joined in fellowship and cupcakes.

With love from Lisa

Grow with us!

Am I coming or going? That is how I feel some days. I didn't realize empty-nester life could get busier than when our kids were in school and involved in sports and band. Sometimes I just need



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

to breathe and remember the words of Ps. 46:10: "Be still, and know that I am God." I wonder if the ladies who began the LWML ever felt like that.

As I was reading through the LWML Sunday materials, some interesting history of the LWML was shared in the sermon, written by the Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr., president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., that I would like to share with you. Did you know that 75 years ago, our LWML was started during war times? Many young and older men



were preparing to fight overseas. Women were entering the workforce to fill the vacancies left by the new soldiers. The circumstances were challenging, to say the least!

Yet on July 7-8, 1942, more than 100 women, among them 28 formal delegates, met in Chicago and established the LWML. Its purpose was to encourage a greater consciousness among women for "missionary education, missionary inspiration, and missionary service." It also decided to gather funds for mission projects above and beyond the Synod's budget. From this humble beginning, and through the use of the now familiar mite boxes, the League has blessed the mission efforts of congregations, districts and Synod in amazingly powerful ways.

But there is more, as Marlys Taege

Moburg, LWML historian, has captured it so well:

"The blessing of the LWML, now also known as Lutheran Women in Mission, goes far beyond the millions raised for missions. Its benefits can be seen in faith deepening through Bible studies, in confidence built through leadership training, in the befriending of career missionaries, in blankets and clothing gathered for the impoverished, in food shared with the hungry and, above all, in the friendships nurtured and the lives changed by sharing the love of Jesus Christ."

We thank God for His faithfulness to us. We will nurture our LWML relationships as we serve God by serving others. We can grow in our faith as we study His word at our district fall Christian Life workshops, zone fall rallies and Bible studies, fill our mite boxes and make plans to attend our district convention in Sioux Falls June 1-2, 2018.

This month is also the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. We thank God for Martin Luther and many like him who stood up for the truth about saving grace through faith in Jesus.

To God be all honor and glory.

Call to archivist-historians, secretaries

The deadlines are nearing for reports to be filled in and filed, and copies turned over to the zone and district archivist-historian. Society reports are due Nov. 1. Zone reports are due by Dec. 1.

The forms can be completed and printed at:

- ▶ sdlwml.org/docs/forms/2015/2015-AHreport-society-form.pdf
- ▶ sdlwml.org/docs/forms/2016/2016jan-AHreport-zone.pdf

As district archivist-historian, I want to thank all of you who do such a great job of getting this important information to the correct people on time. It helps to know how our district, zones and societ-

ies are doing with attendance and what interests them. If you will be late, please contact me. Otherwise, I will expect everyone to have their reports in on time.

If you do not have an archivist-historian at your society or zone, the secretary is responsible for filling out the form and getting it to the zone representative. If one of the reports is not turned in, we lose that information forever (as if that society or zone did not exist).

We are the information ministry of the LWML South Dakota District — let us serve the Lord and be glad in it!

Kay Nelson
Archivist-Historian

Pray for mission grants

The new LWML 2017-19 biennium has begun with a newly adopted record mission goal of \$2.075 million. Keep the projects and precious souls in your prayers.

May the Lord bless these projects and our mites that support them, and that each mission may continue to share the Gospel message. Two of the 22 mission grants are:

- ▶ Mercy Meals of Siouxland (providing food and the Gospel to starving children), Sioux City, Iowa, \$40,000.
- ▶ Franklin Avenue Mission (Mercy House for Women and Children), Flint, Mich., \$100,000.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

The Reformation still matters

This summer I had the opportunity to lead 30 people from seven states to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in Germany. Why might someone take two weeks and spend thousands of dollars to travel halfway around the globe for something that, according to many people's opinions, has caused so much division and conflict in Christianity over the past 500 years? Because, as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been promoting, "It's *Still* All About Jesus."



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor

When Martin Luther nailed his 95

Theses (or Disputation on the Power of Indulgences) to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, he set in motion what would become known as the Reformation. He wanted to point people back to Jesus alone for their salvation by God's grace through faith, rather than relying on their own good deeds, the practices of priests or dropping a coin into an indulgence chest, among many other things. For Luther, his concerns were all about what Jesus has done for us on the cross and in the empty tomb to justify us before God — and declare us not guilty of our many sins so that we can live forever in the reign of Christ in heaven.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." — **ROM. 3:23-24**

Still today, 500 years later, the Reformation is all about Jesus. That's why we might make a Lutheran pilgrimage to Germany, proudly sing "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" at the top of our lungs, or toast a "Lutheran beverage" to a little German monk, not to boast in our Lutheranism, but to thank God for His grace toward us in Jesus, who died and rose to save us from the enemies of sin, death and the devil.

It's also why the LWML might (somewhat ironically) drop some coins into a little mite box, so that others might know about Jesus and be saved. Sadly, many Europeans, including those who live in the heart of the Reformation, don't attend worship or believe in Jesus — that's true all around the world. That's why the Reformation still matters today, and that's why the work of the LWML is so important. Because each coin clinging in a mite box helps to tell someone all about Jesus, so that by God's grace, he or she might believe and be saved.

HURON ZONE report

Huron Zone LWML is made up of societies in Huron, Redfield, Wessington Springs and Wolsey. The societies traditionally take turns in alphabetical

order for hosting spring workshops and fall rallies. We also use the same system for assigning the duty of cleaning the Puppet Place at the state fairgrounds each year before the fair.

Our 2017 fall rally will be held Nov. 5 at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Huron. Our business meeting will precede a circuit-wide Reformation service with a supper to follow. The LWML

Zone Board of Directors chose a goal of collecting 500 pairs of childrens' and adults' socks, gloves, mittens, underwear or hats for donation.

The goal was in recognition of the 75th anniversary of LWML and the amount commemorates the Reformation.

Jill Johnsen
Huron Zone President



I was privileged to attend the 37th Biennial LWML Convention in Albuquerque, N.M., in June.

It was an exciting time celebrating the 75th anniversary of the LWML. We were "dazzled," from the opening worship service to the closing service, with Bible studies, inspirational speakers, the unveiling of a new logo and the Saturday evening Diamond Dazzle celebration. I was especially moved by the Mites in Action speakers. These recipients of LWML mission grants expressed

their gratitude to God for the blessings they have received. Your mite offerings do make an impact!

As your LWML district secretary, I remind you that it is time to fill out your zone and society Officer Reports. You will find the forms at sdlwml.org; click the "LWML SD Forms & Helps" link. Please send your reports to me.

Serve the Lord with Gladness!

Susan Swanson
District Secretary

With love from Lisa

With thanksgiving...

It is November ... what an exciting time of the year!

Thank You, Lord, for Jesus Christ, who you sent to this earth to be our Savior.

Thank You for our families, for fall schedules that are as busy as ever, football season that is in full swing, and bazaars and fall rallies in which we study Your Word and serve others.

We also thank You for Martin Luther who You used to interpret Scripture so that we know:

“For by grace you have been saved



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

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.” — **EPH. 2:8-9**

We give You thanks for the blessing of 75 years of LWML being a service and mission organization of the LCMS. We praise You as we enter our district’s 75th year of being Lutheran Women in Mission. Thank You for being with us in all our busyness! Help us to remember our purpose — because of Your love for us — that we serve God by serving others. Amen!

We give thanks for the opportunity to celebrate God’s 75 years of faithfulness and blessing as we prepare our LWML South Dakota District Convention, “Sharing God’s Love from Genera-

tion to Generation,” June 1-2, 2018. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend at the Sioux Falls Convention Center where, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will remember past generations, rejoice with current generations and reach out to future generations.

Experience the excitement as we welcome former LWML President Linda Reiser as our keynote speaker, choose new mission grants to support, see our mites in action, study God’s Word together and enjoy time with LWML sisters from across the state.

Let’s give thanks to God, not only because it’s November, but because we have so much to be thankful for!

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what He has done ... Alleluia (“Thank the Lord,” *LSB* p. 164).

To God be the glory!



Your mites at work

Lisa Asmus, LWML South Dakota District president, and Ann Cruse, VP of Gospel Outreach, presented a mission grant check of \$5,000 to the Peace Lutheran Early Childhood Center in Brookings on Feb. 23. From left, (back row) the Rev. Tim Rynearson, principal; Asmus; Stacy Sahr, early childhood director; Cruse; (front row) kindergarteners Lola, Jaxon and Makena.



Heart to Heart Sisters

The Heart to Heart Sister training program at the 2017 LWML National Convention was attended by two members of the LWML South Dakota District. Marie Louise Mwenda, right, attended as participant; Kay Nelson attended as interpreter for Marie. Both were commissioned and given a Heart to Heart pink and purple shawl. During a parade on Saturday morning, they participated in the carrying of flags that represent the diverse membership of Heart to Heart Sisters, and then were recognized on stage that afternoon. The parade and introduction can be seen at livestream.com/TheLWML. For now, the South Dakota group will be known as “Multicultural Sisters.” These are the first two Heart to Heart Sisters in the LWML South Dakota District.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Remember **WHO** to thank!

“Give thanks to the LORD for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.” Ps. 136:1

November is upon us and with that comes a number of my favorite things for this time of year. There's deer, antelope and pheasant hunting. And then there's fall, a changing of the leaves, cooler temperatures and of course one of my favorite features when it comes to food — pie!

As we join together later this month around family, friends, food and maybe even football, let us not neglect to daily live out the words of Psalm 136, to “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.”



Rev. Joshua Baumann
LWML District Counselor

St. Paul has a word to say about thanksgiving as well. He says in Phil. 4:12-13:

“I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

St. Paul's struggles intensified his thanksgiving and caused him to fully rely on the Lord in any and every circumstance.

What intensifies your thanksgiving? Is it sickness, a near-death experience or traveling to a third-world country? If you're a Christian, the cross of Christ intensifies your thanksgiving. The cross of Jesus tells us what should have been, and what could have been if it had not been for God's only Son. And what do we receive instead of wrath? We receive God's good grace, pardon and peace from His Holy Spirit that passes all un-

derstanding. Through Jesus Christ, you have been brought from condemnation to salvation, from darkness to light, from death to eternal life!

I pray you may see the unforeseen, unsuspecting and hard things of life as opportunities to intensify your thanksgiving and devotion to God. If you're a parent, those children are reminders of God's gift of life. If you're a farmer, the drought intensifies the moment when drops of rain fall from heaven. If you're a nurse, those hectic moments and times of distress intensify your thanksgiving to God for good co-workers, for the training you received, and for time off. The homework you do intensifies the thanksgiving for the food a good job will one day put on your table to provide for your family.

So today, intensify your thanksgiving and say, “How does this life experience, this difficult situation or this new challenge help me to give greater thanks to God?” And never forget to “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever!”

In Jesus Christ it is thankfully so!

Thank your for your help



The Puppet Place building this year received new signs to enhance the look on the outside. The story from the inside shared Christ's love, just as it has for the past 45 years.

“The Three Little Pigs” was performed this summer at the Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair. This show put a new twist on the story, which told about how important it is to build a firm foundation on Christ the solid rock. The things of this world cannot stand up against the evil one, only Christ will remain standing.

The visitors to the Puppet Place were entertained before the show with juggling acts and balloon animals. Thanks to the Utecht families and the members of the Huron, Chamberlain, Milbank, Mitchell, Pierre and Sioux Falls zones for all you did to help spread God's Word to the 1,195 people who viewed this show.

Praise to God for His blessings of wonderful weather, terrific workers and many visitors to hear about Christ the solid rock!

God's blessings
Heather Miller, Gospel Outreach Committee

MILBANK ZONE report

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 THESS. 5: 16-18

Putting this verse into practice is only possible with the help of the Holy Spirit. I spend a great deal of time in prayer trying to be thankful and joyful for all circumstances. Some days I am more successful than others. But God is gracious and He forgives me.

As a wife, mother of three mar-
See LWML, page 6

With love from Lisa

An advent idea for giving

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." **John 3:16-17**



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

God sent Jesus to the world because of His love for us, who are in need of a Savior. We give thanks as we celebrate this each year at Christmas. During the season of Advent, we get ready for the celebration of Jesus' birthday. How will you do that this year? Decorations, baking, shopping, eating Christmas

goodies, parties, family gatherings, Advent devotions with an advent wreath, exchanging gifts, and gathering at church for Word and Sacrament are all familiar things to do at this time of year. God has blessed us with so much, especially by sending Jesus, who lived a perfect life, then suffered and died for our sins.

This Advent season consider sharing God's love with others with a reverse Advent calendar. If you are used to using Advent calendars, you often open a box or flap and read a verse from the Christmas story, sometimes even accompanied with a piece of chocolate! A reverse Advent calendar has you give something away each day. Decorate a box with Christmas paper. Each day in Advent, put in a non-perishable food item in that box and say a prayer for the



person who may receive it. On Christmas Eve, take it to the local food pantry, or someone you know who could use it.

God bless you and your family as you share His love in your community, serving God by serving others.

Have a blessed CHRISTmas celebration! As we enter 2018, may we all look for opportunities for God to use us to bless others.

To God be the glory!

MITCHELL ZONE report

Societies: Alexandria, Armour, Clayton/Emery, Delmont, Dimock, Mitchell, Parkston, Plankinton, Spencer, Tripp and White Lake

Zion, Delmont, hosted our LWML 2017 Mitchell Zone Rally on Oct. 1. What a fun time we had celebrating 75 years of LWML. We were also blessed to have the meeting in Zion's new church. To God be the glory.

Our presenters for the day were Deaconess Christine Grimmer, Jessica Jenson and Andra Gates. They shared information on how LCMS trains deaconesses and their experiences during and since the training.

Attendance for the rally was 61 LWML members, four pastors and four guests. An offering of \$464 was collected for mites, and a "Gifts from the Heart"

collection of \$1,519 will be sent to the LCMS Disaster Response for hurricane relief.

Most of us tried to dress in something representing 1940s style as part of the celebration. There were lots of hats, gloves, heels, broaches and shirt-waist dresses. Rosie the Riveter even made an appearance. Cupcakes were decorated to represent high heels in a very unique way.

Societies shared how they had celebrated 75 years of LWML. Some made 75 quilts. Some collected mittens, caps, Arch Books and gift cards for seminary students. Some put together health kits and school kits. Some provided items for the Feeding South Dakota BackPack Program. A table was decorated in LWML colors at the Mitchell Area Safe-house fundraiser and all participants dressed in purple. School supplies for children were donated. And many more great things were done to celebrate.

Deb Haak
Mitchell Zone President



Mercy for those suffering from hurricanes

150 Hygiene Kits were recently delivered to Orphan Grain Train. Thanks to all the ladies from Faith, Pierre; Holy Cross, Onida; Zion, Avon; St. John's, Tyndall; and Our Savior, Springfield, who helped put them together.

The people at Orphan Grain Train were thrilled to have the kits, which will be used for hurricane relief in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

To God be all praise and glory.

Arlene Naasz

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

'Joy to the world!'

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
LUKE 2:10-11



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
 LWML District Counselor

These words from the angel announcing the Savior was born brought "joy to the world."

This joy inspired Isaac Watts, in 1719, to write one of the most popular Christmas hymns of all time. Watts interpreted the "joyful noise" that "heaven and

nature sing" over the coming King in Psalm 98 as the "good news of great joy" announced to the shepherds at Jesus' birth. From a Christian perspective, this interpretation makes joyful sense since Jesus is the Savior who came to save the world from the curse of sin — "far as the curse is found."

And just how far is that curse of sin found? As far as the east is from the west. The curse is found everywhere — it's worldwide!

Therefore, everyone needs to hear the joyful message of Jesus' birth, life, suffering and death on the cross and resurrection from the grave for them. It's this work of Christ on the cross for all the people of the world that "no more let sins and sorrows grow." This

is the joyful news that makes all the nations of the world "prove the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love."

For 75 years, the LWML has been spreading "joy to the world." Every coin dropped in a mite box, every hand that does His work, every foot that runs His errands, every voice that lets their "songs employ" spreads that "good news of great joy" that "the Savior reigns." He makes "His blessings flow" through the work and generosity of the LWML to ensure that the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting is shared with people from every corner of the earth — from Brookings to Flint, Mich., to Tanzania to the Middle East to Southeast Asia and everywhere in between.

Led by the Holy Spirit, it's our job as Christians to "repeat the sounding joy" of God's "truth and grace" through Christ's death and resurrection for every person of the world. The "joy to the world" that Jesus brings is the reason we celebrate this season.

Meaningful witnesses in a secular world

As our faith and our families are assaulted by secular influences in our daily lives, we were reminded by the Rev. Dan Domke, pastor, Mount Calvary, Huron, of the importance of being in the Word often so we can be prepared to stand firm as Christians and Lutherans. We also want to be prepared to give a meaningful witness to others of how God strengthens us to serve our spouses, families and church family according to His will.

There were 133 people who attended



our Fall Christian Life Workshops in Black Hawk, Pierre, Yankton and Aberdeen, with 14 being first-timers! There were about 37 congregations represented.

The donations to cover the workshop

expenses were \$619 and \$492 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, Vice President, Christian Life