

PATTY'S PONDERINGS



Growing with God in 2024

guide for daily life.

God wants us to proclaim His name to our neighbors just as the shepherds did after they saw baby Jesus in the manger.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. **1 PETER 2:9**

We should feel the urgency of telling others about the love and the forgiveness of sins that Jesus gives without any work on our part.

Joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions and equip women to honor God by serving others. That is the mission statement of Lutheran Women in Mission. You can use this statement to guide you and your LWML group as you make plans for 2024. Many resources are available for you, such as devotions, Bible studies, litanies and sketches at lwml.org/resources. Also check out the options at "The Word" tab at lwml.org.

Invite a friend to church or to your LWML activity so that she may learn more about the love of Jesus.

Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples! **PSALM 96:3**

May God bless your life and your plans for 2024!



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President

Do you have special plans for 2024? Maybe there will be a family wedding in the spring, or a new baby born this year! Are you planning your first winter vacation or cruise because now you are retired? How many graduations and confirmations will you plan or attend?

The list of activities can be long, exciting and sometimes tiring. Psalm 37:5 tells us to:

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act.

As we make plans for the new year, God wants to be the most important part of it. Ask God to help you read your Bible regularly, and never be afraid to ask Jesus to intercede for you in prayer. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** says:

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

This is one of my favorite Bible verses because it is a wonderful

Reports are due

It's that time of year again! Group presidents and secretaries, please send your completed officer reports to your zone secretary by **Jan. 15**.

Zone presidents and secretaries, please complete both the Group Officer Compilation Report form and the Zone Officer Report form, and send them to me by Feb. 1. I look forward to hearing from you!

The forms can be found at sdlwml.org. Go to "Resources" and select "Officer Report Forms" from the drop-down menu. Choose the appropriate report(s) for your group/zone and enter the information. My contact information is on the forms. Thank you.

Luann Zuercher • LWML District Secretary

CHAMBERLAIN ZONE REPORT

The Chamberlain Zone held its Fall Rally at Zion, Presho, on Sept. 23. Rev. Ray Greenseth, Zion pastor, led a Bible study on joy, based on Heb. 12:2b. Hope Lutter reported on her experience as a zone delegate at the 2023 national LWML convention in Milwaukee.

Our zone groups collectively decided to create Bible story craft kits for Rev. Andrew Utecht, who serves as a missionary to the Rosebud Reservation. They

will purchase or assemble 20 to 25 kits to be used every week for Pastor Utecht's mission.

In October, the Zion, Chamberlain, LWML group collected socks and underwear to donate to Orphan Grain Train.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the district convention in Aberdeen in June.

Susan Swanson
Chamberlain Zone President

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Jesus chose you



LCMS/Erin M. Lunsford

Do you have a piece of art in your house that says, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord?"

Many people do. It's ironic, if you think about it. After Joshua makes a great proclamation of the Lord's faithfulness to the Israelites, he tells the people to choose whom they will serve. He says, "Choose this day." And it seems as though they've made a good decision, right? They say:

"We also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." JOSHUA 24:18

Yet the very next verse comes as a surprise. Usually, when we think of these verses, we stop right after the "choosing" part. But listen to Joshua's response to the people:

"You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy God." JOSHUA 24:19

Joshua tells the people that they are not free, even though they think they are. Sure, they are free to say that they will serve the Lord. But Joshua understands that because of their sinful human nature, they are not free to serve by their own strength. They are bound to sin, just as we are.

In spiritual matters, we might think we are free, but we cannot not sin. We serve other gods; gods of our own creation. Jesus said that we did not choose Him, but that He chose us and gave Himself for us as an offering and sacrifice to God (John 15:16).

Even when we run from God, Jesus chooses us. Jesus died for us and rose again, that we might live to serve Him. He sets us free from our bondage to sin. He gives us eternal life so that we may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.



Rev. Brian Mosemann
LWML District Counselor



Make plans to attend
DISTRICT CONVENTION

The 63rd LWML South Dakota District Convention will be held June 7-8 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Aberdeen.

The theme is "Inexpressible Joy, Matchless Savior" and the theme verse is 1 Peter 1:8-9:

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.



Donna Snow

We are pleased to announce that speaker and author Donna Snow will be the Bible study leader. She has written over 20 Bible studies (cph.org/donna-pyle-snow).

The Aberdeen Zone at work on the convention committees and we are getting excited to have you visit our city.

Betty Ochsner • Convention Chairman

Sponsoring Mission Grants since 1943...

The LWML Mission Grant Resume and Mission Grant history documents have been updated on the LWML website to include the 2021-2023 Mission Grants. The Mission Grants Resume is meant to help Lutheran Women in Mission with mission education and to motivate further service. It presents a quick reference and source of information for working on displays, mission fairs, skits, devotions, programs and reports.

The Mission Grant History is a listing of all the LWML grants from the 1943-1945 biennium through 2021-2023. The importance of this history is not to say, "See what the LWML has done," but to point toward a future of service. Both resources are great documents to have available at your next zone event and district convention, and are available at lwml.org/mission-grant-history.