

PATTY'S PONDERINGS



HAPPY EASTER!

Young women are recognized at the LWML 39th Biennial Convention in Lexington, Ky., in 2021. The 40th convention is in Milwaukee in June.

This month we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ! What a glorious day Easter is!

Yet we have been traveling through the season of

Lent. During Holy Week, we look upon Jesus, our suffering servant, and see there is no greater love than this: that He laid down His life for all people of all time.

Each day we need to ponder our sinful condition and ask for forgiveness from God. He is always listening for our prayers.

I hope that many of you will attend the **district LWML Spring Retreat** April 21–22 at Peace Lutheran Church, Brookings (see article on this page). The theme is “With One Voice,” based on Rom. 15:5–7. We will have lots of fun being in the Word together through Bible



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota District President

study and singing, participating in a servant event and mission grant mite walk, and celebrating the 80th anniversary of our LWML South Dakota District.

And we have a surprise for you on Friday night. You don't want to miss it! Please see the March *HiLites* or visit sdlwml.org/district-retreats for the retreat registration form.

Another opportunity to “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” is the **LWML 40th Biennial Convention**, to be held June 22–25 in Milwaukee. If you have not been to a national convention, I urge you to go and experience being together in worship and fellowship with thousands of your sisters and brothers in Christ.

There will be a communion service, Bible study, singing, servant events, Mites in action reports, fun at the booths in the exhibit hall, a mission walk and much more! Please see the information about the convention in the Winter 2022 *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* or visit lwml.org/2023-convention.

May God richly bless your work for Him as you reach out to your neighbor with the Gospel and love of Jesus.

Make plans to attend SPRING RETREAT

Please make plans to attend the LWML South Dakota District Spring Retreat, which will be held April 21–22 at Peace Lutheran Church, Brookings. The theme is, “With One Voice,” based on Romans 15:5–7:

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Revs. Brian Mosemann and Clint Thorson, our LWML district pastoral counselors, will lead the retreat Bible study.

During the retreat, we will assemble care packages for district pastors, DCEs and deaconesses. Please also be prepared to write a note of encouragement to go with the care package. You are welcome to take some care packages with you and deliver them to church workers near you!

Please bring items from the following list:

- \$25 Walmart or \$25 Visa gift card
- Trail Mix (individual servings)
- Cough drops (about 30 count)
- Water flavor packets of 10
- Tic Tacs
- Mustard Seed Devotions packets



In addition, please consider bringing a cash donation for Sleep in Heavenly Peace of Brookings. Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a group of volunteers dedicated to delivering to children hand-built bunk beds free of charge. Oftentimes, the kids who receive one of the beds have never owned a bed of their own. For every \$250 collected, a child will receive a bed, mattress, pillow, set of sheets and comforter.

If you would like to order a feather pin, please contact me at dihemm@rushmore.com.

Dianne Hemminger

Vice-President of Special Focus Ministries



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Out of the lion's den

Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!" DANIEL 6:16

Daniel prays to his God, Yahweh. King Darius, however, doesn't change the rules for Daniel even though the king loves him and doesn't want him to die. Why doesn't the king just change the rules? Because it doesn't work that way. The law is inflexible, for "not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished" (MATT. 5:18).

For us sinners, this is terrifying news.

A misconception about Christianity is that grace involves setting aside the Law of God. Jesus's work of salvation is seen as lowering the bar of the Law, as if He takes God's Law and turns it into "Do your best to love God and one another." This is a profound error con-



Rev. Brian Mosemann
LWML District Counselor

cerning Christ's work. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explained how high the bar of the Law has always been.

When we sin, God does not set the Law aside. If He did, we would have no peace. We would wonder what God would do next time we sin or what He would do if we kept repeating the same sin. Would He keep setting aside the Law?

Putting aside the Law is not grace. Moreover, instead of peace, it leads to fear.

The good news is that God does not set aside the Law. Instead, He closes the lions' mouths.

Jesus did not come to set the Law aside but to fulfill it! When we are confronted



with our sin, we don't have to hope that we can bend the rules. We know that the Law has been placed on the shoulders of another and that He has been cast to the lions in our place. Daniel walked out of the lions' den without a scratch, saved by God.

Jesus does one better. He was raised, victorious over sin and death. He triumphed over the lions. He shut their mouths — and not just for Himself, but for you.



MILBANK ZONE REPORT

Six of our ladies had a wonderful time helping at the Puppet Place (at the South Dakota State Fair) and reported that the puppet show was a popular attraction for people of all ages. We are so blessed to have such giving ladies in our zones!

The Milbank Zone held a Fall Rally at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Milbank, under the theme, "Let the Children Come to Me." Sharon Falk, a member of Mount Olive, Watertown, led the opening with a devotion titled "Children Come to Jesus." Rev. Arthur Drehman of Our Savior's, Wilmot, and Trinity, Corona, led an inspiring Bible study on our rally theme. Twenty-four members attended.

Our ingathering supported Backyard Bulldogs Day Care in Milbank. Kelsey Buttke, owner and operator, talked to us about her work at the day care. Her excitement and passion for children and instilling positive behavior in them was so evident. She appreciated the items our zone donated for the day care.

Many of our ladies plan to attend the district Spring Retreat in Brookings this month. Several members are making plans to attend the LWML national convention in Milwaukee in June.

Our 2023 Fall Rally will be at St. John's, Revillo.

Jeanette Gravdahl
Milbank Zone President