

PATTY'S PONDERINGS

Plan to attend district retreat

“With One Voice” is the theme for the LWML South Dakota District Retreat, to be held at Peace Lutheran Church, Brookings, April 21-22.



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota District President

The theme is based on Rom. 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.

The retreat will start the evening of Friday, April 21, as we celebrate the 80th birthday of our district. We will sing, shop in the LWML store and share evening devotions. District pastoral counselors Revs. Clint Thorson and Brian Mosemann will lead the Bible study on our theme. Then we will get moving with a mission/mite walk inside the church and learn about our mission grants. The ingathering and servant event will support the church workers of the LCMS South Dakota District.

Also on Saturday, we will learn about a program called SMILE, which stands for Share Stories, Mentoring, Involve/



Invite, Listen/Love and Encourage.

You don't want to miss the fun of gathering with your LWML sisters. More information about hotel rooms, items to collect for the ingathering, Saturday noon meal, and cost will be available at sdlwml.org. I look forward to seeing you and praising God “With One Voice.”

Updated email addresses wanted

As your vice-president of Communication, I would like to encourage you to send me your most up-to-date email address. We in the LWML use email to effectively communicate with our zones and groups.

If you are the zone president or secretary, please send me an email updating your zone emails. If you are a group president, please send me an updated email I may use to reach your group. Send the information to heather.m.miller2020@gmail.com.

I look forward to hearing from each group and zone!

God's blessings,
Heather Miller



“Bylaws are Beautiful” — have you heard that song before?

No, it's not really a song but an old saying meant to remind people that bylaws aren't the work of Satan. Bylaws truly are important to an organization and essential at every level.

The LWML is organized according to the following levels:

Groups

Each local group should write basic bylaws that best describe its structure and method of transacting business. The person responsible for drafting the zone bylaws may contact the zone or district bylaws chairman for help and information as needed. Articles on object, membership and parliamentary authority must conform to national bylaws.

Zones

Each zone should write basic bylaws that best describe its structure and method of transacting business. The person responsible for drafting the zone bylaws should study the district bylaws to determine the parameters set by the district. If help is needed, the Structure Committee chairman should contact the district Structure Committee chairman for guidance.

Articles and sections on name, object, membership, representation at LWML conventions and parliamentary authority must conform to LWML bylaws.

Now is a good time to take a look at your bylaws and standing rules. There is a lot of information regarding the governing documents at lwml.org. Go to the “About” tab up top and select “Structure” from the drop-down menu. The LWML Structure Committee is always willing to help answer any questions. If I can be of assistance, please feel free to reach out to me.

Mary Jo Stier • Structure Chairperson

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Defined by love



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

We all have a desire to be someone. To be something. To make a name for ourselves.

We all have a desire to be loved.

Valentine's Day is coming, and we tend to focus on our love for one another. Yet as we ponder a different day this month, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, we see an even greater love. Our Lord Jesus willingly laid down His life on the cross and poured out His love for us.

If you have ever driven across the country, you have probably entered a state or a town where you saw a sign by the side of the road that read, "Welcome to such-and-such place, home of so-and-so." Wouldn't it be nice if your hometown thought it worthy of putting a sign up for you?

The apostle Paul says in 1 Cor. 13:2:

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have



Rev. Brian Mosemann
LWML District Counselor

all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

If you had all those gifts, it would certainly warrant a sign outside your hometown. But Paul said that even though you might have all those gifts, if you don't have love, you are nothing. Notice the wording, which cuts us deeply to our core. He did not say that you have nothing. He said without love, you *are* nothing.

In order to be someone, in order to make a name for yourself, you must have love! Love makes you who you are. The love that God has for you created you, and recreated you in the waters of Holy Baptism, and His love flows from you to others whereby you acknowledge His creation.

In the Gospel, we have a love that is given, not required. When we are unloving, Jesus is love incarnate for you. We are not defined by the love we generate for others. We are defined by the love that Jesus gives us, which flows from us to others. Because of Jesus, your name is on a sign outside your heavenly hometown — it's written in the Book of Life.

This season, let us reflect on the greatest love ever given, Jesus Christ, God's only son.

Send in your Mites!

It is that time again when our national Mites are almost due. I need to receive them by March 15. Please pray that we will all give generously to meet our national Mission Grant goals!



To God be all glory! Thank you.

Paula Warren • Financial Secretary

HURON ZONE UPDATE

The Huron Zone kept busy in 2022! The spring retreat was held on May Day, May 1, at Messiah, Redfield, and featured guest speaker Nancy Schwartz, executive director of the Family Crisis Center. The 15 of us who attended learned about the services the Family Crisis Center offers to domestic violence victims across three counties.

The Fall Rally was held at Zion, Wessington Springs, with Rev. Richard Weeman speaking about "Close(d) Communion, the 'Age' Agreement." Twenty-four attended the rally, with four of our five groups represented. We sat in church pews covered by quilts made by the ladies of Zion, which were to be donated to those in need.

Men and women from Zion cleaned the Puppet Place in preparation for the South Dakota State Fair, held Sept. 1-5.

The ladies of St John's, Wolsey, have monthly mission work days in which they assemble health kits, school kits and layette sets. Mount Calvary, Huron, has work days to assemble quilts and pack clothing. Youth of Mount Calvary loaded the items, packed in over 150 boxes, onto a truck destined for Orphan Grain Train. School kits were donated to local schools. Mount Calvary held a diaper derby from Mother's Day to Father's Day, with all diapers being donated to families and the Plus One Pregnancy Guidance Center in Huron.

Finally, the annual Christmas tree exhibition at the Huron Event Center had a beautiful tree decorated and displayed by Huron Zone sisters.

Our LWML Huron Zone sisters are thankful to be able to gather in His Word, and continue to serve Him with gladness.

Ann Cruse • Huron Zone President