

PATTY'S PONDERINGS

HAPPY 2021!



Getty Images

God is blessing us with another year to work for Him in the harvest fields.

As we started 2020, we did not know how many burdens we would carry and what changes were coming. The COVID-19 pandemic shook our world and our lives. I felt like I was in a time warp because nothing seemed normal. There was isolation, no graduation parties and no March Madness.

Weddings were postponed and funerals were not the gatherings of family and friends as they should be. Zoom meetings and virtual school became the norm. It is amazing that God gave us the technological know-how to connect even when the pandemic forced us to physically stay apart.

We learned how to attend church over Facebook Live. Facemasks and social distanc-



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President

ing became our habits, whether we liked it or not. We did that for love of our neighbor. Even though we couldn't be together, kindness was shown in so many ways — teddy bears in windows, letters in the mail, music from porches.

We still have our faith, our churches, our Bibles, our Lord and Savior. We know that God is with us at all times and that He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to live, die and rise so that we can have eternal life.

One way to be in the Word with our LWML sisters is to participate in the LWML prayer service that is held in February or March. You may find the prepared prayer service at lwml.org/prayer-service. This is a great opportunity to praise our Lord and pray together.

May God bless our work for Him in 2021.

CHAMBERLAIN ZONE REPORT

The Chamberlain Zone held its Fall Rally on Oct. 10 via Zoom. Our zone counselor, Rev. Marcus Ring, led us in a Bible study on Job. We conducted zone business and I was re-elected as Chamberlain Zone president.



2020 has been a difficult year for our LWML groups and societies. Some of the groups are doing limited activities, while some are not meeting at all. We are praying that in 2021 we will be able to gather as one. The LWML of Zion Lutheran Church, Chamberlain, will host the 2021 Chamberlain Zone Spring Workshop.

We are also looking forward to the district Spring Retreat, to be held April 23-24 at Peace Lutheran Church, Brookings.

I am truly blessed to be working with the wonderful women and men of the LWML. May we continue to grow and share our blessings with others through our Lord Jesus.

Your servant,
Susan Swanson • Chamberlain Zone President

Officer reports due

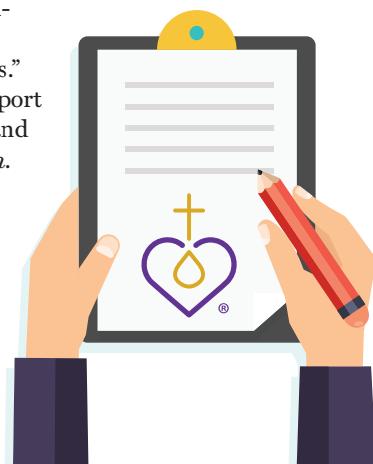
It's that time of year again: Society presidents and secretaries, please send your completed officer reports to your zone secretary by Jan. 15.

Zone secretaries, please compile the society reports and send them to me by Feb. 1. Zone presidents and secretaries, please complete the zone officer report form and send that to me by Feb. 1.

I look forward to collecting these reports from you. You can find the forms by visiting sdlwml.org. Scroll to the bottom of the page and under "Helps" click "LWML SD District Forms & Helps." Scroll down to "Officer Report Forms." Fill out the form and email it to me at heather.m.miller2020@gmail.com, or send by postal mail to Heather Miller, 1803 W. 10th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57104.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Heather Miller
District Secretary



COUNSELOR'S CORNER



An “epiphany” is a manifestation or a revealing. During the season of Epiphany, the Lord brings to our remembrance all the ways that the glory of Jesus was revealed to His people. Jesus’ glory as the Son of God was certainly revealed in the appearance of the star that led the Magi from the East to find Jesus, and worship Him and give Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Jesus’ glory was also revealed in His Baptism, in the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana, in the transfiguration and in other miracles and signs that the church recalls during Epiphany.

I like to keep my Christmas lights shining a little bit longer because during Epiphany, the festival of lights, we remember that Jesus is no mere mortal. He is indeed “God of God, Light of light, very God of very God.” He has revealed His glory to us in many ways, but above all in His death and resurrection for our forgiveness, life and salvation. That’s the Good News we need to hear on Dec. 26, Dec. 27, Jan. 6 and every day beyond as well. But in January, when much of the rest of the world is ready to put Christmas away until next year, I like to keep the lights on a little bit longer as a reminder to myself that the glory of Jesus that is revealed for us in His love and forgiveness never gets put away. We have it with us all year long.

As you begin another new year, I pray that the Lord Jesus would bless you mightily by His grace, that you may see the glory that He has revealed to us in His blessed Word and Sacraments.



Rev. Daniel Grimmer
LWML District
Pastoral Counselor

If you drive by my house in January, you’ll notice that it looks a little different than most of the neighbors’ houses. Unlike many people on my block, I don’t take down my Christmas lights on Dec. 26, or on Dec. 27 either. I wait until at least Jan. 6, and often leave them up for a couple of weeks longer. It’s not laziness that drives this decision. There is purpose to it.

For the secular world, the Christmas season runs from Black Friday to Christmas Day. But for the church, the season of Christmas begins on Christmas Day and runs for 12 days, culminating in Epiphany on Jan. 6. On Epiphany, we observe the Magi visiting the child Jesus, and the appearance of the great star at Jesus’ birth. But Epiphany is much more than this. It begins the whole season that goes until Lent or pre-Lent, depending on which lectionary your church uses.

Group contact email needed



2021 has arrived! We underwent many changes and challenges last year. For me, a significant challenge was the world of Zoom meetings. I am sure you also had experienced new ways of connecting with family and friends.

There were many events and meetings canceled last year. Emails were used to a great extent by the LWML South Dakota District Board of Directors to get information to our groups and societies. It is very helpful that we have a reliable email contact for your LWML group. Your group contact should have an active email account and they should check it

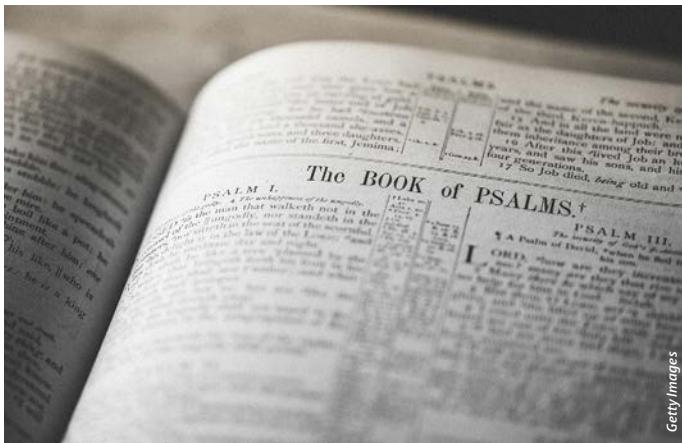
regularly. The contact is encouraged to pass the information on to your LWML group in a timely manner.

Be sure to include an email contact for your group and include it on your group officer report that is sent to your zone secretary.

I look forward to seeing you in April for the district retreat. May the blessings of our Savior guide you, protect you and be with you throughout 2021.

**God's blessings,
Susan Swanson • VP of Communication**

PATTY'S PONDERINGS



Wrap yourselves up in the Psalms

How many of you are wrapping yourself or sleeping with a quilt during the deep of winter? Maybe your grandma or mother made that quilt, which is filled with memories that warm your heart as well as your body.

God's Word also surrounds us with love and comfort. The theme of our LWML district retreat is "God's Quilt of Comfort—Wrapping Up in the Psalms." It is based on Ps. 119:76:

Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant.

Usually our retreat is in the spring, but this year it will be in September to allow time for people to get the coronavirus vaccine. The district LWML Board of Directors wants everyone to feel safe to attend



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President

the retreat. It will be held in Pierre — an easy travel from any part of South Dakota.

This district fall retreat will also be the annual Christian Life Workshop. There will be only one because we want the zones to have good attendance at their fall rallies.

We will learn about the Psalms, but also have fun doing activities related to quilts and blankets. After many months of not meeting, our hope is that many women will come together for a Friday afternoon and evening and a Saturday morning.

Please spread the news about this change of timing for our retreat. The zones will have assignments to help with the retreat.

Stay warm and wrap yourself up in the Psalms, God's Word of love for you.

HURON ZONE REPORT

In late October and early November, the Huron Zone LWML Board of Directors planned the fall business meeting using current technology as well as the tried and true methods of communication. A combination of Zoom meetings, email, telephone chats and good ole snail mail was used to elect officers.



Ann Cruse is our new zone president and delegate to the 2021 LWML convention; Kristina Van Sharrel is the new treasurer; and Laraine (Lari) Kahre is our alternate to the 2021 LWML convention. I would like to personally thank those BOD members for their time spent arranging the election, the candidates who were such gracious volunteers, the group presidents who facilitated the balloting, and our members who were willing to try something new to accomplish a necessary task. I was gratified to see how everyone worked together.

As a side note, I was interested to notice that all four of our elected officers for 2021-22 are members of Mount Calvary LWML, Huron. My search through zone records brought me to the conclusion that this situation has not occurred in the past 20 years and possibly never before. I mention this only because I am always amazed how the Lord sends the right person at the right time to fill in where he or she is needed. Praise the Lord!

Jill Johnsen • Past Huron Zone President

Revisions are required

There were quite a few changes made at the last LWML convention, including new terminology in the Bylaws and Standing Rules. The zones and groups — yes, groups — need to revise their Bylaws and Standing Rules.

The former societies are now known as a group or groups. Therefore "society" and "societies" need to be removed and replaced with "group" and "groups" in the zone and individual congregation official documents.

Now would be a good time to go through your documents and start working on the changes so that we, as a district, will be in sync with the LWML. There is a protocol for making the changes, which includes sending a copy of the revised documents to the Structure Committee for approval. Your district parliamentarian, Mary Jo Stier, and I will guide you through the process.

Groups: Contact your zone president for more information.

Serving the Lord with Gladness

Florence Powers • Structure Committee Chairman

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

LOVE AND DEVOTION

“ 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

February is marked by love and devotion because of Valentine's Day. But there is another day this February that marks an incomparable love and devotion. On Feb. 17, we will celebrate Ash Wednesday and begin Lent.

Now I know that you have probably



**Rev. Clint O.
Thorson**
LWML District
Counselor

never really thought about Lent as a season of love, but it is certainly a season of devotion. We take time to devote ourselves to prayer and repentance, focusing our hearts and minds on the single most important act of love in all of history. That is Jesus' death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. I invite you to understand your Lenten journey this year in this light.

Lent is all about the love of God coming to an unworthy people. During this season, we will reflect on Jesus' journey

to the cross, His willingness to die for a people who hated Him, His devotion to God the Father's mission for Him, and the love that Christ Jesus even had for His enemies. Lent shows us a love and devotion so great that it was painful because that is how much God loved us, enough to give up His only Son so that we could receive a gift far greater than chocolates and roses.

Because of God's love for us, we receive eternal life. That is what Lent is all about — watching Jesus live the love that God has for us. In fact, Jesus loves you so much that He was willing to endure abandonment, torture, death and even hell for your sake. He endured what our sin accomplished so that you would be restored to a relationship with God. Why? Because He loves you and because His Heavenly Father loves you even while you were still His enemy.

This Lenten season, devote yourself to that love, the love that comes from God. May Christ's devotion to God's plan and His love for you inspire you to your own devotion to God. As Christ laid down His life for us, may we all lay down our sins and instead cling to Christ's love and devotion that ushers in the glorious Easter message and our salvation.

Looking forward to convention

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on our friends and family. At the 2019 LWML convention in Mobile, Ala., I was so happy to represent the South Dakota District in the Heart to Heart District Leader Program. We are a state that is full of diversity and culture. We are a friendly state, which is helpful for immigrants who arrive having been through very violent, hard times.

I was just getting organized and starting to meet with the ladies who would be excellent candidates for the program when the pandemic stopped everything in its tracks.

I have kept in touch with national LWML and many on the Heart to Heart Sister Facebook page. The district leaders have a

new pin, to be presented at the convention in Lexington, Ky., June 24-27. I will attend with my friend, Kim Hoffman. Prayerfully, the COIVD-19 vaccine will result in many of us being able to attend.

I will visit the new group of district leadership program attendees, and will attend the Heart to Heart Sister dinner. By the time I return, LWML programs will get rolling once more. I wait with anticipation for the day I can connect again with the ladies at Faith here in Sioux Falls. If anyone knows of a group or individual woman who would be a good candidate for the Heart to Heart Sister program, let me or Nyla Jurrens know.

Serve the Lord with Gladness!
Kay Nelson

Get your mites in

All LWML groups — Please remember to send in your mite offerings to me. The end of the national biennium is March 15. I need to have your checks by then to be included in our total to national LWML. I believe our total mites are down again this year. Please pray to the Lord to help us give a little extra.

Thank you
Donna Harr
Financial Secretary

PATTY'S PONDERINGS

A word from my mother

Thank you to Norma Harer, former LWML South District president. She sent to me a package of the *Hilites* articles written by my Mom, Annette Jarratt, when she was district president (1992-96). The following article is Mom's, but it certainly also pertains to us in today's world.

Patty Peters, LWML District President

"Remember, God loves you."



Annette Jarratt

My 6-year-old grandson, Michael (now 32), whispered those words to me as he said goodbye. He and his dad, mom, and brothers were packed and ready to leave after a too-short vacation with us. Somehow he sensed that I was sad at their leaving and was consoling me the only way he knew how.

Besides being surprised that he would know to say this, I was humbled in knowing that God was caring for me through Michael.

It also made me think. Do I need to say those words more often to others around me?

And how do we say, "Remember, God loves you" to others? A plate of cookies to a shut-in, a pat on the back for someone who's done well, a note of sympathy, a smile to someone on the street, a "thank you" to a store clerk — all simple things that show God's love through you.

LWML mite projects also give us the chance to show God's love to many people in far-flung places such as Russia and Papua New Guinea, and closer to home with projects in Missouri, North and South Dakota.

As we place our nickels, dimes and dollars in our mite boxes and pray for a particular project, we can softly whisper, "Remember, God loves you."

And to all of you, dear LWML friends, "Remember, God loves you, too."



Youth at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch spend time with horses for comfort and healing.

Ministries blessed through **MISSION GRANTS**

Exciting news!

Three of the 12 LWML South Dakota District Mission Grants have been paid and distributed. These recipients were chosen during the district convention last spring and are for the 2020-22 biennium.

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Minot, N.D., helps troubled children by providing psychiatric therapy and trauma-informed care. The children have a structured and safe Christ-centered environment in which to learn and heal.

They are using their grant funds of \$3,000 to update the audio equipment in their chapel. Enhancing the worship experience gives the children there an added benefit as they hear God's Word and express their praises to the Lord.

The international students in

graduate school at **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis**, are thankful for the \$5,000 they received to help with the cost of the program. These students will return to their home nations to proclaim the life-changing Word.

Young children and their families will benefit from the new equipment **Hot Springs Early Learning Center** will purchase with a \$4,000 grant.

Three different ministries in three different areas, all funded by your generous donations! God is working in so many lives — locally, nationally and internationally. Thank you for your continued support of our mission to spread the Gospel to all people.

Please keep your mites coming. They are needed to complete the remaining nine mission grants! Blessings on all your efforts for the Lord!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Church history is women's history!

Women's History Month has been celebrated in the United States every March since 1987. With limited time for the school curriculum to have even a rudimentary survey of American history, it can feel like history is dominated by the words and deeds of men.

But this would be giving short-shrift to women, who in many ways have made significant contributions in shaping this country's past, present and future.

When reading the history of the church, the names, words and deeds of men loom large. But this is not because women saints of the Lord haven't made bold and faithful witness to Christ Jesus and the Gospel throughout the 20 centuries of Christian history. They have indeed. One needs only to recount the resplendent history of the LWML to see the Lord at work through the gifts and prayers of His people.

The story of the church is the story of



Rev. Daniel Grimmer
LWML District
Pastoral Counselor

faithful men and faithful women. The Scriptures certainly are interested in the stories of women, which is why the Bible is full of the stories of women like Sarah, Hagar, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary and many others. Church history also has many accounts of women who courageously confessed Christ in Word and deed.

On March 7, the church remembers two faithful women and martyrs. **Perpetua** was a Roman noblewoman who together with her servant, **Felicitas**, confessed faith in Christ and was baptized in 203 A.D. Eventually, their faith was discovered and reported to the authorities, who had them arrested and jailed. They had only to denounce Christ and be spared, but both continued steadfast in their confession of Jesus' name in the midst of this persecution. Perpetua's father even visited her in jail and begged her to renounce Christ. She was a young mother, her child but an infant, and Felicitas was pregnant at the time. Yet the women were unswerving in their confession, and after Felicitas gave birth and their children were entrusted to relatives, they were both condemned to death. They met their end in the arena, scourged by gladi-



Photos ©LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

tors, attacked by wild beasts and finally martyred with the sword.

Stories of faithful women like Perpetua and Felicitas are not rare in the history of the church. Along with the stories of many men who from their pulpits and their pens sounded forth the truth of God's Word, church history is full of the stories of many women who in their vocations as mother, wife, friend and neighbor confessed the faith, many times under duress. Indeed, every story in church history is an opportunity to give thanks to Jesus, who has bestowed His grace so abundantly on all humanity — man, woman and child — so that together we might receive the forgiveness of sins and sound forth His praise!

Make plans for combined workshop/retreat

It seems like it's just a few weeks ago that we were in the season of Advent, joyously awaiting our Savior's birth. Now, in this season of Lent, we relive the sadness of the crucifixion — and the wonder and joy of that glorious Easter morning.

Our South Dakota District LWML is also seeing changes this year. The COVID-19 vaccine will not be available to everyone by the end of April, when the District Retreat is usually held. Therefore, we are combining the District Retreat and the Christian Life Workshop into one event.

"God's Quilt of Comfort Wrapping Up in the Psalms" will be the theme for the workshop/retreat. This will be a two-day

event in Pierre, beginning at 1 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 17, and concluding at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

There will be a variety activities planned for our LWML members and friends of all ages to enjoy. Come prepared to participate in skits and servant events, sing and enjoy Bible studies led by our pastoral counselors.

We invite all LWML women of South Dakota to come, bring a friend and attend the workshop/retreat, to be "Wrapped Up in God's Quilt of Comfort in the Psalms."

Joy in Jesus
Susan Buxcel • VP of Christian Life

PATTY'S PONDERINGS



ARE YOU READY?

"Running the Race...Looking to Jesus" is the theme of the 39th Biennial LWML Convention, to be held June 24-27 in Lexington, Ky. The theme is based on Heb. 12:1-2:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right had of the throne of God.

I know that, whether you are there in person or virtually, the convention will help us celebrate our salvation through Jesus Christ, to focus on Him through Bible studies and song, and to share His grace with others as we witness and fund mission grants. All of you veterans of past conventions know that this is a mountain-top experience. I hope that there will be several first-time attendees from South Dakota.

There are so many activities planned for us, including Servant Connections, Photo Finish Mission Walk, Bible studies, Mites in Action speakers, worship services and opportunities to have fun and fellowship with your friends. If you want to visit Lexington attractions, there are pre- and post-convention tours planned to places such as Ark Encounter and Creation Museum.

If you want to ride the district bus to the convention, register online. Visit sdlwml.org, scroll to "Events" and click the "LWML Convention" link.

If you have not registered for the convention, visit lwml.org/2021-convention or check out the winter *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* for the form.

I hope to see you in Lexington with your LWML sisters from across the country.



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President

Heading to convention...

The South Dakota District is sending two Young Woman Representatives to the LWML convention in Lexington, Ky. They are **Elizabeth Schmidt**, a member of Faith, Sioux Falls, and **Janelle Lafrentz** of Our Redeemer, Sioux Falls. They will be inspired to grow in their faith in Christ and learn how they can use their talents to further the mission of LWML.

Another great blessing is to send **Brooke Aker** as the district's Heart 2 Heart (H2H) Sister Leader trainee. The H2H program motivates, equips, challenges and provides mentoring opportunities for women of diverse ethnic groups to serve the church, participate in LWML, witness to the world and grow in relationships with other women. Brooke will learn ways to connect with all our sisters in Christ and then take this education to groups in South Dakota.

These ladies will have a joyful experience of "Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus."

Pandemic creates greater need

The pandemic has slowed us down a bit here at the South Dakota Orphan Grain Train branch in Milbank.

We send 12 to 14 pallets every five to six weeks to the distribution headquarters in Norfolk, Neb. Each pallet consists of 36 boxes, which contain donations of clothing, quilts, shoes, hygiene items, layettes, mercy (hygiene) kits, school kits and supplies, household linens and kitchen items, toys and Bibles. We are getting several used bicycles, which are refurbished and also very welcome.

The needs are great throughout the world, so a group is continuing to send a shipment of pallets to Norfolk.

The Mercy Meals site here has not been open since the work to pack meals requires people to be in close proximity. Our packing crew did help the Mercy Meals group fill a pallet so that it could be shipped. Right now, hunger is ram-

pant and food is needed. An automated system has been developed at Norfolk and they are able to pack about 18,000 meals a week.

There are several volunteers continuing to work at home, mending or making quilts, pillowcase dresses, sleeping mats and knitted caps and scarves. One lady from the Ortonville, Minn., area recently finished her 1000th cap!

We have donated money to a feeding program at Norfolk, and our local food bank and school system (for masks and sanitizers).

A side benefit for the volunteers at the warehouse is being able to get out and see others during these days of restrictions. Our work blesses others and we are blessed by working together for the good of others.

To God be the Glory!

**Coordinators Mae Seeger,
Joyce Kasuske and
Jeanette Stensland**

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

THE END OF THE ROAD

Getty Images

The road to the cross through Lent is a solemn one. It is a journey that invites us to consider the pain we cause for one another, which is never a pleasant experience. By the time our Good Friday services are over, we are often so full of yearning for a good word that it hurts.

In the best of times, Lent can leave us emotionally drained and even physically exhausted, and we all know that we have not been in the best of times. Disease, riots, injustice, insurrection and mistrust all mark the year we just experienced.

And throughout Lent we are drawn once again to watch helplessly as Jesus makes His way to the cross. We are left to cry out in confession and repentance, to plead for forgiveness for the pain we have caused. Then at the end of the road is the cross, that terrible cross, where Jesus painfully dies.



**Rev. Clint O.
Thorson**
LWML District
Counselor

I am not saying there is no Gospel preached during Lent. There is and there always should be, but the focus of Lent often draws us to dwell on the difficulties of our own sins and shortcomings. But it is precisely because of our sins and helplessness to do anything about them that Jesus came to earth, Word in flesh, to walk the long, arduous road to the cross.

He walked the road and endured the shame so that you would have life. Christ walked the road to the cross willingly to proclaim His victory over all things, even death. He did this so you would know His victory, so you could know His life. Our Savior walked this road for you to see that in Him is the end of sin, of pain, of strife and even of death. He walked the road so that those of you who are overwhelmed by the bitter happenings of this world could see the end and see that — through Christ — the end is joyous.

Just as Lent ends in the joyous proclamation of Easter that Jesus is risen, so the end of all who believe in Jesus and trust in His work is the resurrection of all flesh and heaven. Be at peace, the end of the road is near.

MILBANK ZONE report

Love the LORD, all you his saints!
The LORD preserves the faithful.
— Ps. 31:23a

This promise has been our assurance during the pandemic. We can remain faithful in God's Word and work regardless of where or how or if we meet. The ladies in the Milbank Zone have met safely among their own congrega-



tions, but we have had no zone activities in the past year.

The Milbank ladies have faithfully packed items for Orphan Grain Train.

We praise God for their dedication so that others can benefit from shipments of clothing, quilts, layettes and hygiene kits.

The ladies from Revillo have made thousands of masks for distribution around the state. Ladies from Wilmot, Sisseton and Watertown also provide for their community food banks, shelters and wherever else there is need.

Let's keep our eyes focused on ways to "Serve the Lord with Gladness!"

Susan Magedanz
Milbank Zone President

PATTY'S PONDERINGS

We have our delegates!

The 39th Biennial LWML Convention, under the theme "Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus," will be upon us very soon!

We have lots of fun at convention, but there is also business to accomplish. New officers will be elected and bylaws and mission grants will be voted on. If you want to learn more about these, go to [lwml.org/2021-convention](#) and scroll down to "Delegate and District Information."

Listed below are the delegates and alternates from our South Dakota zones. I thank them for doing this work for our district. Please discuss the amendments and proposals that will be voted on within your groups and let your delegates know your thoughts. The delegates are:

Aberdeen Zone
Jan Bohling and Gwen Petrich

Black Hills Zone
Kathleen (Casey) Harvard and Dianne Hemminger



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President

Brookings Zone
Delorus Limmer and
Nyla Jurrens

Chamberlain Zone
Susan Swanson

Huron Zone
Ann Cruse and Laraine
(Lari) Kahre

Milbank Zone
Sharon Larson

Mitchell Zone
Nancy Bogenhagen and
Kimberlea Lessman

Pierre Zone
Jan Larson and Melissa Brock

Sioux Falls Zone
Tina Lenz and Heather Miller

Yankton Zone
Dianne Diekman and Bonnie Pinkelman



YWRs chosen for convention

The South Dakota District is blessed to have two Young Woman Representatives (YWRs) attending the 39th Biennial LWML Convention June 24-27 in Lexington, Ky.

Elizabeth Schmidt, a member of Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, has attended a variety of LWML activities with her mother. She is a student at Southeast Technical College in Sioux Falls and is in the licensed practical nurse program. She lives with her parents and one brother.

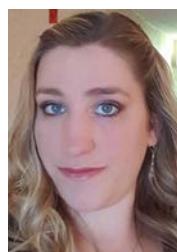
Elizabeth was a Faith youth group member while in high school and she participates in "Young Living Group," which teaches young adults how to share the love of God. She also works at Sanford Hospital as a patient care tech.

Elizabeth looks forward to working together with other ladies so they can spread the love of Christ to those in need.

See YWR, page 7



Elizabeth Schmidt



Janelle Lafrentz

MITCHELL ZONE report

2020 proved to be a challenging year. We've had to dig deep to maintain positive attitudes and hopeful perspectives. But God gives us an everlasting promise in Heb. 6:17-20:

So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf.

Assured that Jesus has gone before us, we faithfully carried on. We completed our banner for the district convention and, after the cancellation of the convention, we looked forward to the "reveal" at our Fall Rally, which was eventually postponed as a result of a spike in COVID infections.

We gathered as a board to complete zone business and elect officers. Two officers were installed, and we looked expectantly to 2021.

Our time together physically has been limited, but we continue our work making mats, sewing mission blankets, preparing school, hygiene and baby kits, and gathering items for various mission projects individually and in our smaller groups. Plans are being made to deliver these items to Orphan Grain Train in the near future.

We recently had our zone Board of Directors meeting. We look forward to the rest of 2021 and will, to the best of our ability, continue in God's call for each of us. Whatever the second half of 2021 brings, we will "hold fast to the hope set before us" and finish the work given us with hope and joy.

Julie Kaufman
Mitchell Zone President

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

OUR PERFECT SACRIFICE



THE APOSTLE PETER WRITES:

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 do not use the terms “priest” or “priesthood” a lot in contemporary Lutheran church language, but that is probably to our loss because the Scriptures are clear that every Christian is a priest of God.

The role of priests in the Old Testament was primarily to offer sacrifices. But not



Rev. Daniel Grimmer
LWML District
Pastoral Counselor

every sacrifice was of the same kind. Some sacrifices were to atone for sins. Other sacrifices were offered not for sin, but as thanksgiving and praise to the Lord. Peter makes it clear that we are priests, but in what sense? Do we offer sacrifices for sin?

No. Christ Jesus alone is the faithful high priest who was the perfect and final sacrifice for all sin by offering up His very body on the cross for us.

His sacrifice atones for all our sins forever. There is no longer a need to slaughter bulls or goats for sins. The blood of Christ covers us completely.

Instead, as New Testament priests, we offer the sacrifices of thanksgiving and praise. We give thanks to God for His gift to us of His Son Jesus.

Our priestly sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving serve a missional purpose as well. By offering in worship our thanks and praise to God, we are also proclaiming His excellencies to those who do not yet know Him. Our praises and thanksgivings serve to give witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ itself. For in praising God for sending His Son, we are also proclaiming His Son to all the world and giving a reason for the hope that is within us.

I recall a day some years ago when Ben & Jerry's was giving away free ice cream cones. Hundreds were lined up out the door and around the block to receive the free ice cream cone. As they waited, they talked about how great it was that Ben and Jerry's was doing this and what a special treat it was. And as others passed by, they wondered what was going on, that so many would be waiting for ice cream. Then those in line told the passers-by the good news and the line grew a little longer.

I don't mean to trivialize the Gospel, but I think our worship of God as His holy nation of priests is a bit like that. Animated by the joy of Christ, we give spontaneous witness to those around us of the hope and joy we have in Christ. And the holy nation of God grows a little bit larger as others are called with us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

The Lord bless you with His grace, that secure in His mercy you proclaim the excellencies of your God!

Time to submit mission grant applications

Spring has arrived! With the new season, it is time to think about new mission grants for our district. Applications for mission grants are due Aug. 31. Please remind your group about this important step in serving the Lord with gladness. I am excited to see what the Lord has planned for us in the next biennium.

Jan Larson • Vice President of Gospel Outreach



Hayden Rensner takes vitals from a young patient for a Mercy Medical Team (MMT) in Sierra Leone in 2018. Scholarships for nursing students to serve on an MMT is a 2020-22 district mission grant.

YWR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

The second YWR is Janelle Lafrentz, a member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls. Janelle and her husband, Michael, have two small children, James and Lydia.

Janelle is a very busy and talented young woman. Although her background is in music, she is currently the director

of A-OK, a before- and after-school program at Sioux Falls Lutheran School. Janelle also uses her music and technology skills volunteering at Our Redeemer.

When asked why she would like to serve as a YWR, she said, "I feel being a Young Woman Representative would help me gain some more experience and knowledge that I can pass on to my friends to help get them get excited

about LWML activities in the future.

"I serve with joy in many capacities in my life. To serve as Christ served, I must put other's needs above my own."

We look forward to having Elizabeth and Janelle as YWRs at the national LWML convention, learning to serve as Women in Mission!

Tina Lenz • YWR Chairman

PATTY'S PONDERINGS

Convention is here

"Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus" is the theme for the 39th Biennial LWML Convention June 24-27 in Lexington, Ky. The hosting districts are Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. I am so thankful to all the women and men who worked so hard to plan a convention in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Wearing a mask is a requirement for being in the convention center, and social-distancing protocols will be used. We want convention attendees to be safe while they worship God, learn from our mission-grant recipients, participate in Bible study, sing, pray, and enjoy fun and fellowship with their LWML sisters.

If you can't attend in person, you can watch the livestream. Visit lwml.org/2021-convention for the stream. You can be part of the Photo Finish Mission Walk. Maybe your group or zone can have its own mission walk to raise money for mites. Be sure to wear your Kentucky Derby bonnet! You can also conduct your own Gifts from the Heart. I know that many ladies from our South Dakota Dis-



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President

trict will not be attending the convention in person as they usually would do, so make other plans to support the mission work of LWML.

Part of the convention business will be to elect new officers, including pastoral counselor, VP of Christian Life, VP of Communication, VP of Gospel Outreach,

recording secretary and Nominating Committee. Our former district president, Lisa Asmus, is a candidate for the Nominating Committee.

Bylaw revisions will be voted on. The new mission goal and mission grants, voted on in May, will be announced at the convention.

Praise be to God for our reaching and surpassing our mission goal for the 2019-21 biennium, which was \$2.1 million. The final amount was \$2,137,742. The extra money will be used to fund our next mission goal.

Please pray for a successful and safe convention. Let us always "Look to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." He endured the cross for us and now sits at the right hand of the throne of God.



Keep updated on what's going on!

Our website, email and social media are three platforms you can use to access LWML resources and find out about the latest information on national LWML and South Dakota District events.

At sdlwml.org, you can click the link(s) of the most current events that are planned at the top of the home page, or scroll down to the "Events" section. As details of the events are finalized, the information is quickly posted on the website.

Do you know who the email contact is for your group (society)? Ask them for the latest news! This past spring, President Patty kept us updated with the latest information about the LWML convention in Lexington via email.

We also share information on our Facebook page, facebook.com/sdlwml, including pictures of group (society) and zone events. Email your photos and a brief description to me at lwmlsd2020@gmail.com and I'll be happy to post them for you!

Nancy Bogenhagen
Communications/IT



COUNSELOR'S CORNER



Getty Images

SHELTER

It is here!

Summer is upon us, or at least the summer heat is about to begin bearing down on us. When summer does come, the usual heat hangs around and beats on us, wears on us and runs us down so we seek refuge, whether it is in a mall, a library, a lake or in the comfort of our own homes.

Take a minute to read Psalm 121. In life, it isn't just the sun that beats us down and wears us out. In fact, many things can do that. Work wearies us. Friends frazzle us. Enemies engulf us. Tasks try us. We spend a good deal of our life seeking refuge.

Psalm 121 is reminder that we have a shelter no matter



**Rev. Clint O.
Thorson**
LWML District
Counselor

what might be assaulting us. The Lord promises to shelter us from all evil, and the psalmist reminds us that not even the sun can bring us harm against his power.

God, in this psalm, certainly promises to keep His believers from evil and to keep our lives in Christ. Our Lord promises us that He will guard our hearts from being tainted by evil. Jesus is our shelter in times of evil. He shades us from the heat of hell and the assaults of evil. But He also sends us into the world to be surrounded by that heat and evil, that we might offer the shelter we enjoy in Him to others who have been scorched by that heat and run down to nothing by the evils of the world.

When next you stroll in the sun and endure the heat of summer, remember that you have a shelter greater than any evil you might experience, greater even than the gates of hell itself. Your shelter is Christ, the one who endured and conquered the world. He will keep you as you go in and out this summer, and He will guard your heart and life from being snatched by any evil.

In Christ • Pastor Thorson



PIERRE ZONE report

The Pierre Zone has been struggling to meet in person for over a year, but summer is now here and we have survived the long drought of being distanced from our LWML sisters!

In April we met in person at Faith, Pierre. It was so great to be in person as we gathered around the Word. Rev. Dr. Corey Rajek, Faith senior pastor, led us in Bible study and we were able to hold a brief

meeting and have some much-needed fellowship.

We are very blessed and excited to have Trinity LWML, Blunt, reactivated in the Pierre Zone. While many groups are struggling to stay active, we are so blessed to have them once again in our group. We are looking forward to once again being about Serving the Lord with Gladness in the Pierre Zone area.

Jan Larson • Pierre Zone President

Mission grants due by Aug. 31

Summer is here at last! I feel like we are coming out of a long winter that has lasted for over a year. It's now time to think of the missions that need our assistance. If you know of an organization in need of our financial help, go to sdlwml.org and click "Mission Grant Applications 2022-2024," located under "Missions."

Jan Larson
VP of Gospel Outreach



LWML South Dakota District Christian Life Retreat

September 17-18

Faith Lutheran Church, 714 N. Grand Ave., Pierre

Theme: "God's Quilt of Comfort: Wrapping Up in the Psalms"

Scripture Verse: *Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant (Psalm 119:76).*

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Email _____

Society _____ Zone _____

Deadline for registration and meals – Aug. 27

Mark which applies:

- Member of the LWML South Dakota Board of Directors
- LWML Member
- Young Woman Representative
- H2H Sister
- Director of Christian Education (DCE)
(no registration fee)
- Pastor *(no registration fee)*
- Guest
- Special Dietary needs

Housing Information—You are responsible for making your own hotel arrangements. Ask for the LWML rates. 2 queen beds. Rooms are blocked at:

- Super 8 Motel, 320 West Ave, Pierre
\$65 + tax • Phone: 605-224-1617
Reserve before Sept. 16
- Quality Inn, 410 West Sioux Ave, Pierre
\$69.99 + tax • Phone: 605-224-0377
Reserve before Sept. 10
- Governor's Inn, 700 W Sioux Ave, Pierre
\$75 + tax • Phone: 605-224-4200
Reserve before Aug. 17
- Club House Hotel & Suites, 800 W Sioux Ave, Pierre
\$139 + tax • Phone: 605-494-2582
Reserve before Aug. 17
- AmericInn Lodge & Suites, 312 Island Dr, Ft. Pierre
\$104.99 + tax • Phone: 605-223-2358
Reserve before Sept. 1

Registration Fee

Quantity	Cost	Fee Total
Registration	\$15	\$ _____
Friday Supper	\$12	\$ _____
Saturday Lunch	\$14	\$ _____
Total Enclosed		\$ _____

*Pastors please choose gratis meals.

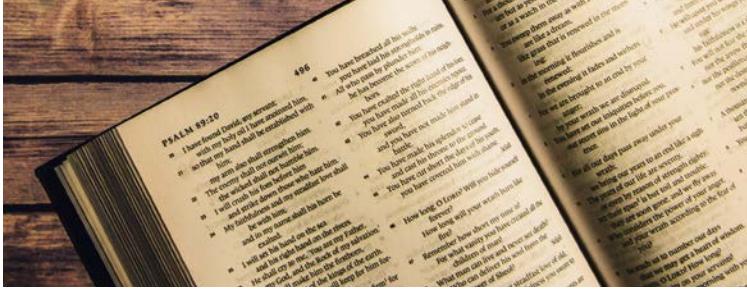
Make your check payable to: **LWML South Dakota District Retreat**

Mail your registration form with payment to:

Marla Moseman
PO Box 414
Onida, SD 57564

PATTY'S PONDERINGS

What's your favorite psalm?



Identifying a favorite psalm can be tough, as there are 150 chapters with verses that praise God and others that speak to the painful times in our lives. Most likely you can find a verse in the Psalms for any situation in your life. God knows what we need and provides support and comfort in His Word.

Chapter 118 is quite an amazing Psalm for me. It encompasses praise to God, but it also includes a statement about God's discipline for us. Verse 22 points us forward to Jesus, the stone that was rejected but became the cornerstone. Verse 24 tells us to rejoice in the day the Lord has made. I am sure that you remember this chapter.

A friend of mine once endured a very emotional time of life and was very angry about it. She is a faithful daughter of Christ and wanted God to speak to her loudly and clearly. One day, she turned to the Psalms for her



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President

reading of the day. The psalm she read spoke to her so deeply, and she knew it was meant for her in this situation. She wrote it on a note card and displays it by her kitchen sink so that, to this day, she reads it over and over again. What an example for us!

I hope that you plan to attend the LWML **District Christian Life Retreat** Sept. 17-18 at Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre (see article at right).

The theme is "God's Quilt of Comfort—Wrapping Up in the Psalms." The Scripture verse is:

Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant. **Ps. 119:76**

Please visit sdlwml.org for the registration form and the list of hotels to make reservations (the link will be at the top of the page). We plan to have lots of fun with our LWML friends from across the state. See you there!

Get ready for retreat!

LWML members of South Dakota — bring a friend to Pierre Sept. 17-18 for the LWML Christian Life Retreat, under the theme "God's Quilt of Comfort—Wrapping Up in the Psalms."

Just as quilts comprise layers of fabric, the Psalms offer layers of meaning. Quilts, when pieced together, form elegant patterned designs. The verses of Psalms, when pieced together, form a beautiful picture of God's grace and forgiveness.

The Psalms speak to our feelings and emotions. As we thank and praise God for all the wonders of His creation, we will each design our own quilt blocks to make a beautifully patterned quilt. Not only are quilts interestingly designed, they are also very useful. They provide comfort and keep us warm. We send quilts to those in crisis and those in need, to remind them that they are not alone.

Many hand-sewn quilts are tied so that all the layers will be kept together. Faith in Jesus is the thread that ties God's Word together. Through the Bible study of Psalms, we will find Christ to be our Comforter. Revs. Daniel Grimmer and Clint Thorson, our district LWML pastoral counselors, will "wrap us up" through Psalms, where we will find God's "Quilt of Comfort."

Please plan to join us for a spirit-filled Bible study, joyful singing, crafts, skits, dancing and fellowship with our district sisters.

Susan Buxcel • VP of Christian Life

Puppet Place schedule

The LWML Puppet Place mission has reached out to South Dakota State Fair attendees for nearly 50 years. The 2021 State Fair will be held Sept. 2-6. The Puppet Place work schedule is:

- ▶ Thursday, Sept. 2: Mitchell Zone
- ▶ Friday, Sept. 3: Pierre Zone
- ▶ Saturday, Sept. 4: Sioux Falls Zone
- ▶ Sunday, Sept. 5: Yankton Zone
- ▶ Monday, Sept. 6: Aberdeen Zone



Please contact me at larson920@hotmail.com to let me know how many people will work on the day your zone is scheduled to help. Thank you for your willingness to help us reach so many fair attendees! Please join us in continuing to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ with this wonderful ministry.

Jan Larson • VP of Gospel Outreach

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



WELCOME BACK!

One of the things I love about August is that it's the time of year when a lot of things start up again. Even if we have been out of school for decades, most of us like to take a little break from some of our regular activities in the summer to free ourselves up for vacations and trips and other activities we enjoy.

But there is also so much joy when we settle back into our regular routine again. I know at my own congregation, Bible studies, confirmation, Sunday school classes and many other opportunities for study and fellowship will soon be starting up again. I imagine it is probably the same in your congregation, and hopefully also in your LWML group and zone, as well.

This fall, I pray that your congregation and LWML group might be filled with overwhelming joy. I pray that you may have joy from meeting together in Christ with friends and family that you might not have seen for months or years. I pray that the Holy Spirit may fill you with joy and thanksgiving and remove any fear that might prevent you from being together around His Word.



Rev. Daniel Grimmer

LWML District
Pastoral Counselor

We rejoice when we are together with our sisters and brothers in Christ because Christ has designed His church in that way. We need to be together. We are His body, each one belonging to the other and needing each other (1 Cor. 12:21-27). The author of Hebrews also urges us to gather together, exhorting us:

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Heb. 10:26-27

If you have been away for a while from your family in Christ, let me say welcome back! We have missed you! We are glad you are back and pray for God to give you His grace and blessing through the Word shared in your congregation, Bible study and LWML group and zone. He has promised to do so, and we know that God always fulfills His promises.

We also pray that Jesus would continue to call and gather His church together, seeking in love those who have wandered to call them home. Perhaps you notice someone is still missing? As Jesus' ambassador, you have been equipped by the Spirit to seek and lovingly encourage them to come back to the Lord's house and table, where they will receive forgiveness and mercy and love overflowing, leading them to eternal life and fellowship with Jesus.

Welcome back and welcome home!

SIOUX FALLS ZONE report

With the blessing of vaccines, things seem to be opening up more and more in Sioux Falls. Several ladies in the Sioux Falls Zone planned to attend the national convention in Lexington, Ky., in June.

Zion, Sioux Falls, organized a 39-minute Mission Walk on May 1 to celebrate the LWML 39th Biennial Convention. A total of \$549 was collected and added to the Mission Walk total during the convention.

Lisa Asmus organized a group of Sioux Falls Zone members to help assemble mini mailboxes containing candy treats, which the Growth and Development Committee handed out at the Winner's Circle Celebration during the convention.

On May 26, Jan Larson, Vice-President of Gospel Outreach, presented a \$5,000 grant for an early-childhood playground to Tina Lenz, who applied for the funds to benefit Sioux Falls Lutheran School. The grant money will be used to purchase tricycles, sand toys and outdoor musical instruments. The early childhood staff of Sioux Falls Lutheran School is very grateful for the funds to further extend natural and outdoor play for the young children in their program.

Tina Lenz • Sioux Falls Zone President

LWML HILITES

PATTY'S PONDERINGS

CELEBRATE LWML SUNDAY

"Our Hearts in His Hand" is the theme for **LWML Sunday**, which traditionally is the first Sunday in October. The theme verse is 1 Peter 4:8:

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly.

In thanksgiving to Jesus for His death and resurrection, we dedicate our whole being to serve Him as we serve each other at home or overseas. Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, president and professor emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, wrote the materials for LWML Sunday.

Visit lwml.org/lwml-sunday for resources. This is a great way to spread the news about the life and activities of the LWML groups in your church and district. Have fun gathering mites, explaining the mission grants and inviting women to be part of your Bible studies and servant activities.



The **LWML 39th Biennial Convention** in Lexington, Ky., was held June 24-27. The four-day event provided many fun and wonderful opportunities to



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President



Members of the South Dakota District LWML were elated to be gathered with their sisters (and brothers) in Christ at the national convention in Lexington, Ky.

join our LWML sisters from around the country. God worked through this year-and-a-half of uncertainty and the national convention had 2,787 people in attendance.

The mission goal of \$2.15 million was adopted and will fund the 28 mission grants that were selected. One particularly exciting part of the convention was hearing the reports from several mission grant recipients. There are places where the ministries funded by our mission grants from years ago are still reaping souls for Christ.

Sessions are available online for those who were unable to attend the convention. Visit livestream.com/thelwml to watch the sessions. You can also read about the convention at lwml.org/2021-convention.

The next national convention is scheduled for June 22-25, 2023, in Milwaukee.

And finally, thank you to everyone who worked at our **Puppet Place** booth at the South Dakota State Fair.

I hope to see many of you at the **District Christian Life Retreat** at Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre Sept. 17-18 (*see article at right*).

Get ready for retreat!

The LWML South Dakota District Christian Life Retreat will be held Sept. 17-18 in Pierre. Revs. Daniel Grimmer and Clint Thorson, our district pastoral counselors, will lead Bible studies based on the retreat theme, "God's Quilt of Comfort—Wrapping Up in the Psalms."

Pastor Grimmer serves at Zion, Mitchell. He tells us that we all inevitably experience pain and suffering because we live in a world that is broken by sin and death. In his presentation, Pastor Grimmer will show us how the Psalms provide a faithful way of addressing pain and suffering through something we have largely lost in our world today: lament. He will illustrate how, through lament, our pain, suffering and love are reoriented by God so that we experience that blanket-like comfort of His everlasting, faithful promises to us that give us true hope in suffering.

Pastor Thorson serves the dual parish of Our Savior, Madison, and St. John, Howard. He and his wife, Amber, have three girls. Pastor Thorson will show us how and where in the Psalms God cares for His creation through all kinds of experiences and trials. We will discover how God blankets us with His love and mercy and reminds us that He is in control of all the "stuff"—the physical and spiritual trials and joys we experience.

Sisters, please bring a friend and join us.

Joy in Jesus • Susan Buxcel
Vice-President of Christian Life
"The fruit of the spirit is ... kindness." Gal. 5:22

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Running with endurance

Greetings in the name of our risen and victorious Savior, Jesus the Christ!

Dear sisters and brothers, in June I was blessed to attend the LWML convention in Lexington, Ky. And let me tell you what a wonderful experience it was to be able to get together with so many mission-minded, Lord-loving purple people! To see so many of my sisters in Christ raise their voices with one accord to accomplish so much good in the name of Jesus and for the sake of the world was much more than touching, it was inspiring.

For a few days, the ladies as well as men from many different walks of the LCMS presented and sang and voted and sang and clapped and sang and worshiped and sang. Did I mention there was singing? There was, and it was wonderful! The best part was that the entire conference was focused on one thing — getting the Word out. That's right, everyone there wanted to spread the Word about Christ and the forgiveness and life He offers to all the world.

The theme for the conference,



**Rev. Clint O.
Thorson**
LWML District
Counselor

“Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus,” based on Heb. 12:1-2, was chosen to emphasize the LWML’s efforts of running this race of life with endurance, keeping our eyes on Jesus and taking comfort and courage from the faithful witness of those who run with us and those who ran before us. This message, that was central in so many ways through so many people at the convention, is vital to each and every one of us!

In a world that seeks to weigh us down with all kinds of baggage such as the importance self-image, the guilt of our own mistakes and the shame of our own sins, the message of the convention is one that needs to be shared with everyone. Especially because of the pandemic that we are still enduring in many ways, we all need to hear the message of Christ’s victory so that we may continue to run with endurance the race God has laid out for us.

So hear it! Christ our Lord has won this race for you, enduring mocking and shame, beatings and even death so that at the end of your race He may present you with the winner’s prize. He did this

for you. Jesus did this so that you might be able to endure all the things that try to weigh you down and keep you from running this race.

Now lay aside the weight of all sin and shame, distractions and detractions and run! Run and sing for joy just as we did at the conference. Lift your voice with us and sing of the works of Jesus Christ so that others may take strength from Jesus’ words of life with you. Run with endurance knowing that Christ has defeated death and won the race, winning your forgiveness. Run so that you might endure and receive everlasting life. Amen.

‘Wow!’

YWRs thrilled with convention experience



Melissa Brock of the South Dakota delegation participates in the procession of flags.

Greetings from your Young Woman Representatives!

The time at the national LWML convention in Kentucky was awe-inspiring for both of us! We saw and heard great

See **WOMEN**, page 8

WOMEN

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

news about all the many hands and feet of Jesus making a difference in the world.

The speakers and devotions helped ground us in the Word each day. What a blessing it was to worship together, sing praises to God and pray together with so many of our sisters in Christ. Communing with over 2,000 people was definitely memorable.

The mission videos captured perfectly the servant hearts of the missionaries and volunteers around the world. These people reach out with God's light to help fix broken things and build relationships with Christ's love at the center. The LWML exceeded their mite goal and we were able to fund 29 mission projects! Millions of tiny mites stacked into a mountain of success and much-needed help around the world — wow!

Thank you, members of our church family, for supporting us financially and spiritually on this journey. Bringing young people together to create a network of sisterly love is nothing short of incredible! Our phone and Facebook contacts grew exponentially during the convention. It is wonderful to keep up with fellow Christian women who love with servant hearts.

As our keynote speaker said, it's time to take the mountaintop into the valley! It's important for us to share the light and energy of this experience with our LWML groups back home. We will continue to be "not normal," as Gary Thies puts it. We will charge ourselves and others with the task of reaching out with Christ's love to those around us and afar.

**Blessings to you,
Janelle Lafrentz and
Elizabeth Schmidt**

PATTY'S PONDERINGS



Celebrate LWML Sunday

By Patty Peters

LWML South Dakota District President

"Our Hearts in His Hand" is the theme for this year's LWML Sunday. The theme is based on Peter's first letter to the persecuted Christians in Asia Minor. In 4:8, Peter writes through the inspiration of God:

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly.

The heart of LWML is Christ working in and through its members, and our hearts are made holy by Him.

Now with renewed hearts, we dedicate our lives to serving Him at home and abroad through prayer, mission grants, gifts from the heart and other service projects. He cares for us each day and through our service we show His love to the world.

The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside for the observation of LWML Sunday, but it can be celebrated on any Sunday. LWML Sunday downloadable materials are available at lwml.org/lwml-sunday. Resources include a children's message, coloring page, worship service and bulletin cover. I am sure you have many fun ideas for how to celebrate and spread the news about how God uses our Mites to further His kingdom.

The author of the materials is Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president and professor emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He also served as speaker of "The Lutheran Hour" radio program.

May God bless your celebration of LWML Sunday! Remember that our hearts are in His hand and He has a plan for each of our lives.

ABERDEEN ZONE report

Our groups are keeping busy, even with many not meeting during the summer months. We held our (late) Spring Workshop in May, hosted by St. Paul's, Ferney. Laurel Wempe, of Church of Hope at the South Dakota Women's Prison in Pierre, spoke to the 36 people in attendance about the hardships the women in prison face, and the joy and hope they receive by regularly hearing about Christ's love and forgiveness, which can truly change lives.

Our zone continues its efforts on mission projects. The St. John's, Britton, and St. Paul's, Ferney, ladies have been busy making quilts, some of which are ready to go to Orphan Grain Train. Shelly Redhage of St. John's LWML has made over 150 sleeping mats. The members of St. John's, Aberdeen, have comple-

ed 980 sundresses, 400 diapers (from T-shirts) and an additional 23 quilts.

The women at Trinity, Mansfield, have finished and are ready to deliver 36 quilts. They also held the annual "Pizza in the Park," serving pizza and delicious desserts to more than 60 attendees.

Other groups have many community projects going on. We thank God for all the talented and dedicated women who contribute in so many ways.

We are beginning to plan for our Fall Rally and eagerly anticipating the district retreat/workshop in Pierre. Hoping everyone enjoyed the summer and that we receive some much needed rain, clear air and good health.

As sisters in Christ, we serve with gladness!

Bev Graham • Aberdeen Zone



At the opening of the LWML 39th Biennial Convention in Lexington, Ky., in June, President Patty carries the South Dakota District banner alongside Young Woman Representatives Janelle Lafrentz (left) and Elizabeth Schmidt.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Our hearts in HIS hand

**In the Name of Jesus.
Amen.**

When I think about October, I think about the LWML. In my zone, the ladies usually have a Fall Rally on the afternoon of LWML Sunday. They get together for worship, fellowship and a Bible study led by a neighboring pastor.

On the district level, the beginning of fall sees our Christian Life Workshop bring women from around the state together to reflect on God's Word. And often in this season, district leadership is hard



**Rev. Daniel
Grimmer**
LWML District
Pastoral Counselor

at work planning for the next district convention.

The theme for LWML Sunday this year is "Our Hearts in HIS Hand." The Bible has a lot to say about our hearts, but one of the best passages is Ezek. 36:25-26, when the Lord Himself says to Israel:

"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the

heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."

It's an image of open heart surgery, with the Lord Himself as our surgeon. Because we are born desperately wicked and sick, with hearts addicted to sin and death, we need new hearts. God's response to our sin is not simply to reform us with therapy and medication. We don't just need a little help; we need a spiritual heart transplant. Our hearts need to be in His hand, as He removes our hearts of stone that are cold and dead to the life and righteousness of God.

And in place of our stony hearts, God has prepared for us a heart of flesh. He has a replacement organ in mind, and it's more than a perfect match. Because the heart of flesh that the Lord has held in His hand and given us in place of our heart of stone is none other than the heart of Jesus. It's the perfect sinlessness and righteousness of Jesus, now beating in us, giving life to our dead and dying bodies through the One who is the way, the truth and the life.

Where did this radical heart transplant surgery occur? In verse 24, the Lord spells it out very clearly. It happened through the sprinkling of clean water that eradicates our uncleanness, accompanied by the new Spirit of the Lord that was breathed into us. In our Baptism, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have given us the heart of Jesus, His perfect righteousness and holiness. And so we have life in Him. Our hearts are in His hand, and He holds them for safe keeping for us forever.

Reports due to historian Nov. 1

We all want to be counted in that number when the saints go marching on. Soon we will be counting events we attended this year. Who were officers at this time? I am collecting contact information of group members, how many attended where and when.

As I wrote my biennial report, I found my historian reports ended before the election of officers and when the secretary reports were due. So my numbers did not match with the secretary.

It is important for historians to be on point with their group information, if we want accurate numbers so that future generations can read our reports and learn about the women who came before them.

A side note: For a memory book project, Lisa Asmus is collecting stories of women who were your mentors. Please send her your stories. I love it when past historian Norma Harer sends me pictures or articles to put in my file box for that year's events.

We all matter in this race for Jesus. **Signed reports are due to Lurene M. Denke by Nov. 1.** Please mail them to 1008 Izaak Walton Road, Pierre, SD 57501.

PATTY'S PONDERINGS



Giving thanks in ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!

Join the full throng; Wake, harp and psalter and song;
Sound forth in glad adoration! (TLH #444, v1)

This is such a favorite hymn of my family that it was sung at my wedding, all three of my children's weddings and the funerals of my mom and dad.

What do you think of when you hear "November?" For some, November may bring to mind scenes of sitting in a deer stand or walking in the forest looking for the perfect buck. But for most of us Americans, it is Thanksgiving and a time to be with family and thank God for the abundant gifts He gives us daily. Last year my husband, Scott, and I celebrated Thanksgiving together and joined our three daughters and their families on Zoom for a virtual visit. It wasn't the same, of course, but we saw that we still had so many things for which to give thanks. Hopefully, we will all be together in person this year.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable. Ps. 145:3

This season I invite you to read Psalm 145. It is a beautiful poem of praise to God. I thank Him every day, especially for His Son. Jesus Christ came to earth to live among us, show love and compassion and become a servant. So deep was His love for us that He died and rose from the grave to give us the gift of eternal life with Him.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen sound from His people again; Gladly for aye we adore Him. (v.5)
May God bless you with a special day filled with thanksgiving!



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President

BLACK HILLS ZONE report

In spite of all that has been going on (or not going on), the Black Hills Zone has been doing our best to get together.

The 2021 Fall Retreat was held on Sept. 25 at Zion, Rapid City. Our theme, "Restore," comes from 1 Peter 8:10. Rev. David Warner, pastor of Our Redeemer, Custer, and Our Savior, Hill City, led the Bible study, while Rev. Thomas Brown, pastor of St. Paul's, Spearfish, offered opening and closing devotions and prayers. We were also blessed to have a guest speaker from the Black Hills Pregnancy Care Center share with us about the organization's ministry and current needs.

Our zone held its 2020 Fall Retreat on Oct. 24 at Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk, under the theme, "Where Is Our Comfort and Help?"

In February, we held a pre-Lenten prayer service at Peace, Rapid City, during a major cold snap. Even with temperatures falling below zero, those who attended enjoyed the service.

To get in the full swing of spring we had our Spring Rally on April 10 at Grace, Deadwood. We were blessed to have 32 ladies, two pastors and three guests attend.

Several members of the Black Hills Zone were able to attend the national convention in Lexington, Ky., held June 24-27.

Casey Harvard
Black Hills Zone President



The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League South Dakota District 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.

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COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Why do you give thanks?

Hymn 806 in *Lutheran Service Book* encourages us to “give thanks with a grateful heart.” As we sing it, we lift encouragement to those around us as well.

Sometimes though, it’s hard to give thanks, even during the season of Thanksgiving.

Normal life and the day-to-day routines wear us out and grind us down. Add disease or loss on top of that and giving thanks may seem next to impossible.

With that in mind, let me ask you: Why do you give thanks?

Hymn 806 tells us that we give thanks for the things the Lord has done for all of us. And what things has He done for us? 2 Cor. 8:9 answers this question by stating that Christ gave up riches, became poor and transferred His wealth to you and me. Though in this world we might have hardship after hardship, Christ has given us His riches — namely righteousness and everlasting life!



**Rev. Clint O.
Thorson**
LWML District
Counselor

But since this is Thanksgiving I’m talking about, we don’t need a simple appetizer. We need a feast, right?

Paul brags in 2 Cor. 12:9-10 about a “thorn in his flesh.” He brags! Why? Because he wants the Corinthian Christians and you, me and everyone else who reads and hears this to know that even in the midst of all kinds of suffering, we can rejoice in and give thanks for the gracious gift from Christ. We can do this because, as Paul explains, God sent Christ to reach into the hurt, the harsh and the hard of our lives so that when we’re weak, Jesus would be our strength. This is why Hymn 806 encourages us to give thanks. Like Paul, we can give thanks and rejoice even when we’re suffering and in pain.

Maybe this will be your first Thanksgiving alone, or maybe you’ll have to contend with a disease alongside the holiday. Or maybe life is just hard right now. Even in these kinds of struggles, you can take comfort in the knowledge that God’s power in Christ is more than sufficient to bring you through these hardships and into eternal, “thornless” joy. So in this season, no matter what you’re facing, give thanks. Amen.



Photos: Getty Images

Are you being called to serve?



It is that time again when the LWML South Dakota District is looking for precious sisters to serve on the district Board of Directors. Offices on the ballot for the 2022 convention include:

- ▶ Vice-president of Communication
- ▶ Vice-president of Special Focus Ministries
- ▶ Secretary
- ▶ Financial Secretary
- ▶ Nominating Committee

I can say that serving Christ on this board has been a great joy and learning opportunity for

me. It was not an opportunity that I thought would “fit into my schedule.” But our Lord had a different plan.

Perhaps now He is guiding you to a new opportunity. If you feel led to serve, please consider the opportunity, pray about it and talk with the 2020-22 Nominating Committee about these positions. The current Nominating Committee — Ann Cruse, Nancy Bogenhagen and Pat Reichert — would love to hear from you!

Listen ... is He calling you to serve? If He is, say “yes,” knowing the Lord’s grace will guide you.

Following His plan,
Ann Cruse • anncruse84@gmail.com

LWML HILITES

PATTY'S PONDERINGS

Walking in love



Getty Images

"WALK IN LOVE" is the theme for the LWML South Dakota District Convention, to be held June 3-4 in Yankton. The theme verse is Eph. 4:32-5:2.

Please plan to attend the convention, which will include servant events, Bible study and fellowship. The ladies of the Yankton Zone are planning lots of fun for us.

Each zone will have a convention banner with a design based on the convention's theme. A Young Woman Representative is invited from each zone to participate in the mission of joyfully proclaiming Christ, supporting missions and equipping women to honor God by serving others. Please find that person to attend so she can learn more about LWML.

THE LWML.ORG WEBSITE and the LWML app have resources to help your groups with Bible studies, skits, crafts and activities. Visit *lwml.org* and browse "The Word" tab at the top of the page, along with the other tabs.

If you have an iPhone or iPad, the app is available at the App Store; or at the Google Play Store if you have an Android phone or tablet. For more information, visit *lwml.org/app*.

I AM SO BLESSED that I was able to attend several zone rallies this fall. As we enter Advent, let us prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who put aside His crown to become a servant, to walk beside us and know our sufferings. After Advent, we will prepare for the Prayer Service in the spring.

May the Holy Spirit work in your hearts and minds as you take time to study and pray upon God's Word. May God's face shine upon you during this Advent and Christmas season.



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President

QUILTS OF COMFORT



During the Christian Life Retreat, from left, Bev Graham and Mary Flanigan sign cards of encouragement for church workers.



Sandy Williams packages food donations.

"GOD'S QUILT OF COMFORT: WRAPPING UP IN THE PSALMS"

was the theme for the South Dakota District LWML Christian Life Retreat, held in Pierre Sept. 17-18. There were 111 members and guests in attendance. Servant events included tying blankets, designing cards of appreciation and collecting food, all of which will be sent to comfort Christian friends.

Since our theme was "God's Quilt of Comfort," our sisters brought quilts to display, each having its own story of comfort to share in beautiful designs and colors. At the retreat, each LWML member designed her own quilt square, and those squares will be made into a quilt. The recipient of this work of Christian love will be determined at a later date.

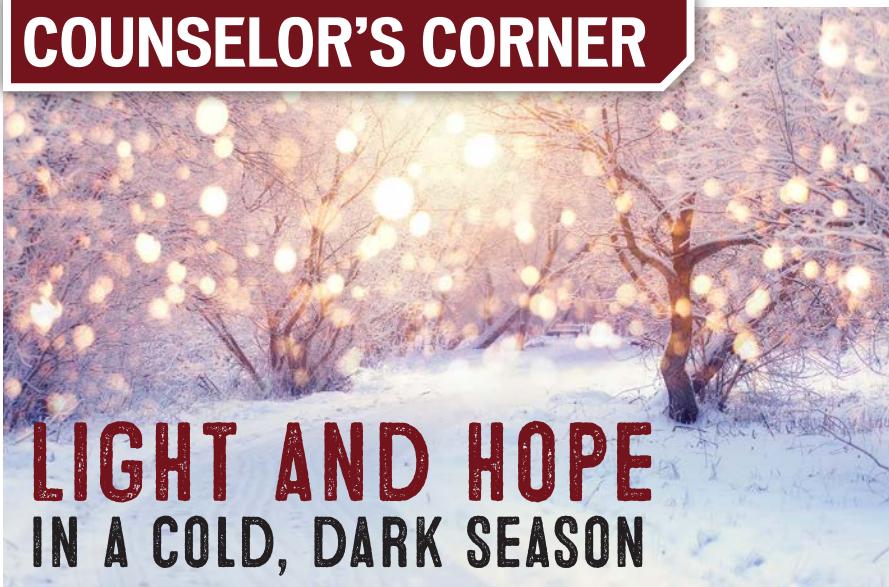
The ladies heard from Rev. Mick Wolfram of Lutheran Family Service of Iowa, which hopes to provide services in South Dakota in 2022.

Young Women Representatives Janelle Lafrentz and Elizabeth Schmidt reported on their joyful experiences at the LWML 39th Biennial Convention, held in Lexington, Ky., in June. Heart-to-Heart Sisters Kay Nelson and Brooke Aker talked about their work of supporting women of other cultural backgrounds.

We also heard from Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek, who recently served as senior pastor of Faith, Pierre. He accepted a call to serve as an LCMS missionary to Latvia and teaches at the Luther Academy, the seminary of the

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COUNSELOR'S CORNER



LIGHT AND HOPE IN A COLD, DARK SEASON

What's your favorite Christmas hymn? There are so many good hymns that it's hard to pick a favorite. One of my favorites is the old German carol "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" (*Lutheran Service Book* #359). While it's not generally as well known today, I love listening to it and reflecting on the beauty of the Son of God coming into our sinful and fallen world to redeem us.

The hymn builds upon the image found in Isaiah 11:1:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.



Rev. Daniel Grimmer
LWML District
Pastoral Counselor

Some 600 years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah was prophesying that the Christ would come from the "stump of Jesse," a clear reference to the lineage and house of David. But it's the stump of Jesse, not the tree of Jesse. The Spirit had revealed to Isaiah that the earthly power and authority of David's kingdom would be broken. The tree would be cut down. Foreign kings and nations would conquer David's kingdom and lead the people into captivity. No king from David's house would rule in Jerusalem again.

And yet, even from the dead and lifeless stump where the great tree of Jesse — the kingdom of David — once stood, a shoot would come forth and grow. God's promise that David's kingdom would endure forever was not broken. Jesus was a new King David, come to save and deliver God's people in a far different way than they were expecting.

The hymn reflects on this image from Isaiah. However, it depicts the shoot not as a mere green leafy branch, but as a rose with bright, full colors against the gray and dark backdrop of the cold, dead of winter, a rose that is beautifully fragrant in a world that smells of death.

Perhaps my favorite part of the hymn is the first half of stanza 3:

This flow'r whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air, dispels
with glorious splendor the darkness
ev'rywhere.

I think this is one of the reasons why Christmas is so warm and beautiful. At the darkest time of the year, when growing plants and flowers and the beauty of the earth is least in our minds, we decorate trees with lights and color. Poinsettias bloom and we bake delicious treats and are generous to both our loved ones and those around us who are less fortunate.

But all of it is a reflection of the glorious splendor of Jesus, the Son of God, becoming incarnate in the womb of the virgin Mary, entering into our dark and lifeless world to become the life and the light of men. We are generous as a reflection of His mercy. We are generous because He who took on our flesh and blood later saved us from our sin. Even in the dark of the winter of this sinful world, we remember that the rose of Christ's love and mercy through His death and resurrection blooms brightly still.

May your Christmas be filled with beauty and joy as you remember that Jesus was born to save you from your sins. Merry Christmas!

HURON ZONE REPORT

With COVID-19 factoring in the group planning the last year, the Brookings Zone had yet to meet in person, but I'm excited to mention that we had our Fall Rally on Oct. 16. The Brookings Zone will have new officers and, with that, I hope to see fresh ideas and a focus on new goals for our zone. This will be my last article as the Zone president. Although it has been a rewarding and exciting two terms, I am ready to pass on the torch.

The societies within the Brookings Zone have all been busy doing their mission projects. Many have been supporting the Baker family from Mount Calvary, Brookings. Pam Baker is a former Young Women Representative and zone vice-president and her husband, Matthew, is currently attending Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. We are excited to support the Bakers on their new adventure. I encourage everyone to check out their blog at bakerleapoffaith.com to stay connected to their seminary journey.

Delorus Limmer • Brookings Zone President