

## PATTY'S PONDERINGS

# Join us for ‘inexpressible joy’



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

Are your plans in place to attend the LWML South Dakota District Convention, to be held June 7–8 at the Aberdeen Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center?

The theme is “Inexpressible Joy + Matchless Savior,” based on 1 Peter 1:8–9:

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

The ladies of the Aberdeen Zone are planning a convention filled with Bible study, singing, Mites in Action reports, and a fun mission walk at Wylie Park, where you can enjoy Storybook Land, the Land of Oz and a zoo. There are many activities for your whole family!

We are so excited to have Kay Kreklau, former LWML president (2011–2015), as our keynote speaker, and Donna Snow, author of many Bible studies and devotions, as our Bible study leader. The national LWML representative will be our own Arlene Naasz, who serves as



**Donna Snow**

vice-president of Organizational Resources. You will have fun learning a lot from these ladies.

Gifts from the Heart will be collected for Safe Harbor and Journey Home, which are Aberdeen-area organizations that provide shelter and resources during crisis situations. Both organizations pledge to give a “hand up, not a handout” to people who are committed to changing their lives.

Registration is open for the convention, and the Best Western Ramkota is accepting hotel room reservations. Please see the



**Kay Kreklau**

registration form in this insert. You can also find information at [sdlwml.org/district-conventions](http://sdlwml.org/district-conventions).

The servant events will be held the morning of June 7, so be ready. The opening communion service will immediately follow lunch that day, and we will later vote on mission grants, bylaw amendments and new officers.

Come to the Hub City and serve the Lord with gladness as Lutheran Women in Mission. Rejoice in the knowledge that Christ died and rose for you to give you the salvation of your souls!

## Our blessed officer nominees (so far)

We, the Nominating Committee, are delighted to announce the list of nominees for the 2024 LWML South Dakota District Convention. We are grateful to these women and men for their thoughtful consideration and eagerness to serve the Lord with joy. We would also like to express our gratitude to Patti Greenseth and Nyla

Jurrens, who are members of the committee.

As of now, we do not have a complete list of candidates, but we are working diligently to finalize it before the convention. Praise our Lord!

**Ann Cruse, Susan Swanson**  
Nomination Committee chairpersons

**President**

- Mary Jo Stier

**Vice President of Gospel Outreach**

- Cathy VandeBraak

**Vice President of Christian Life**

- Kristy Ring

**Nominating committee:**

- Lori Hoffman
- Patricia Huisman
- Lurene Mogler Denke

**Pastoral Counselor:**

- Rev. Christopher McCarthy
- Rev. Thomas Mueller

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER



## There's more to who you are!

Rich Bimler, one of our Synod's first DCEs, shared the story of two caterpillars that were passing by one another on a tree branch. While sharing a friendly greeting, they were distracted by a butterfly flitting high above them. One caterpillar, shaking its head, warily said to her friend, "Mark my words, Anastasia, you'll never get me up in one of those!"

Sometimes our vision and our experience are too earthbound to recognize everything we truly are. But the Good News of Easter reassures us that we have more life to live than what we see on this side of the grave! Just as our Savior rose from the grave on that wonderful Easter morning, so God promises that we, too, shall rise, even though we die.

John writes:

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. **1 JOHN 3:2**

Yet we are not promised new life just for the sake of our bodies. Our whole being is made new in Jesus Christ!

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. **2 COR. 5:17**

Indeed, our old sinful selves shed their cocoons and our renewed spirit in Christ emerges to soar with newfound freedom and forgiveness. We carry and share the love and hope given to us from Jesus.

So be ready, lady caterpillars — you've got some flying in your future! Be ready, Lutheran Women in Mission. We have more to live and give than we're able to see.

God bless your daily Easter celebration as His dearly blessed and gifted children.



**Rev. Aaron Asmus**

## Mission grant ballot announced



The Rev. Dr. Walter Steele (right), LCMS missionary to East Africa, works with a student in the library of Matongo Lutheran Theological College in Nyamira County, Kenya. Funding for theological libraries in Africa is a proposed mission grant for the next biennium.

It is with great excitement that I am able to announce the following mission grants to be placed on the ballot for the 2024 LWML South Dakota District convention in Aberdeen this spring! More detailed information will be coming your way before the convention, but here is the official list of mission grants to be considered:

1. Lighthouse Preschool, Aberdeen, \$5,000
2. Servants of the Gospel Through Dots of Love — Lutheran Braille Workers, \$3,000
3. Critical Tools for Body and Soul — MOST Ministries, \$5,000
4. New Shepherds for South Sudan — Lutheran Heritage Foundation, \$5,000
5. Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch: Bismarck Chapel Furnishings, \$3,000
6. Help Haitian Seminarians: Ministry in Mission, \$4,000
7. Faith Lutheran Motor Coach Improvements, Pierre, \$5,000
8. Main Street Living Ministry Outreach TV Program, \$4,998
9. Faith Lutheran Preschool, Pierre, \$3,075
10. Faith Health and Wellbeing and Community Outreach, Sioux Falls, \$4,600
11. Proclaiming Christ to the Nations: Concordia Seminary (St. Louis) International Student Support, \$5,000
12. Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, \$5,000
13. Walking Together in the Mission Field: Alliance Missionaries — LCMS, \$5,000
14. Theological Libraries and Resources (Africa) — LCMS International Mission, \$5,000
15. Proclaim the Gospel, Serve in Mercy — LCMS, \$5,000
16. Mount Calvary Learning Center Security Update, Huron, \$5,000

Blessings on each of these ministries as they carry out the Great Commission! It is exciting to think we may be a part of this work. Please keep these ministries in your prayers in the days ahead.

**Jan Larson**  
Vice-president of Gospel Outreach