

PATTY'S PONDERINGS



Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa, was a mission grant recipient for the 2020-22 biennium. Delegates to the June convention will vote on recipients for 2022-24.

Let's gather for convention!

What are you doing on June 3-4?

I am excited to give you a good reason to drive to St. John's, Yankton — we are holding our LWML South Dakota District Biennial convention. This year's theme is "Walk in Love." You don't want to miss it!

We have many activities planned for you. Jan Wendorf, former national LWML president, will be the keynote speaker and Marie Chow, vice-president of Organizational Resources, will bring news from national LWML and host a breakout session.

The Mite Walk will be held along the Missouri River and ends with a birthday party in the park. We will celebrate the 50th year of South Dakota's own Puppet Place ministry and the 80th year of LWML. Rev. Andrew Utecht will be at the birthday party to entertain us with magic and a puppet show. Our servant events will support the Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair.

Mission grant reports will be given by



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President

Tina Lenz, Young Woman Representative (YWR) chairwoman; Rev. Don McKillop of the Community Outreach Mission at Trinity, Belle Fourche; and Rev. Peter Utecht, pastor of Bethesda, Hot Springs.

The convention will also include an opening communion service, Bible study, a sending service, breakout sessions, ingathering, choir, banner parade, YWR activities and voting on the mission grants for the 2022-24 biennium.

You will soon be able to register for the convention and book a hotel room. Please talk to your friends and make plans to attend. If you know a woman who wants to know more about the mission of LWML, this is a great introduction. We joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions and equip women to honor God by serving others!



MILBANK ZONE report

The Milbank Zone held its Fall Rally/Workshop in October at Emanuel, Sisseton. It was great to meet and have a Bible study together since we hadn't been able to gather in person for over a year.

Thomas Mueller, a Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, student who is serving this school year as vicar at Emanuel and Zion, Waubay, led the group in a Bible study, titled "Eyes on Jesus." Patty Peters, LWML district president gave an interesting report on her most recent trip to Guatemala. She showed us pictures and displayed items she had purchased on her visit. She spoke with such enthusiasm and the pictures were so heartwarming that several had tears in their eyes.

We held an ingathering for a Sisseton homeless shelter and Sweet Grass women's shelter. The outpouring from the Milbank Zone was amazing. Collectively, the ladies donated 21 of their own handmade quilts and blankets, 15 packages of new socks, 24 sweaters and sweatshirts and numerous gloves, scarves, coats and kids' and baby clothing. They also donated bar soap, laundry soap and toilet paper, including nearly 400 care packages.

The items were greatly appreciated by both the homeless shelter and Sweet Grass. Many adults and children in the area will be warmer now, as all of the items are especially needed during the cold South Dakota winter months.

Jeanette Gravdahl
Milbank Zone President

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

Lent! Here it is! Sometimes during this busy time of year I have to wonder, "What am I doing again?" Sometimes I have so many things that need to get done that I lose my place and forget what I'm doing.



Rev. Clint O. Thorson
LWML District Counselor

It is like that for many Christians, and not just during Lent and other busy times of the church year. We can get so busy that we forget what we're doing. It is during those times that I am most likely to start plowing through things just to check them off my to-do sticky note on my desk — just to be done with them. My focus is on getting done, not what I'm doing or why.



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But part of the message of Lent as a season in the Christian church is to be purposeful. Paul tells us in Phil. 3:14 that he is "[pressing] on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Our goal during Lent is the Cross, where Jesus is lifted up and slain, that we might have the everlasting prize of eternal life with God.

As you go about your days during Lent, go with the goal of the cross ever on your mind, remembering that Jesus set His face toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:53) and the cross with your salvation in mind. Remember that Paul encourages

you to press on toward the goal of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Remember the Cross of Christ. Through His Word and Sacraments, the "high and lifted up" Jesus (see Is. 57:15) calls you to receive His gifts, that on the last day we might be called upward to "meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thess. 4:17) with all believers and spend eternity with Him.

That is our focus during Lent. No matter how busy you are, you are never lost. You are on your way to the Cross and —through the Cross — resurrection and eternal life.

Mission trip is April 2

The LWML South Dakota District will hold a mission trip to the Orphan Grain Train branch in Milbank from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 2. Attendees will prepare Mercy Meals and sort clothes.

Register by March 15 at sdlwml.org (click the link at the top of the page, underneath the LWML logo).

Nyla Jurens
VP of Special Focus Ministries

Mite deadline near

The deadline for the 2020-22 bi-ennium mite offerings is March 15. Please remind your groups about this deadline when you meet this month.

We still have four grants waiting to be paid from the past convention. Please consider holding a special event to help raise the remaining needed funds. God bless your efforts!

Jan Larson
VP of Gospel Outreach

Wanted: YWRs

We are looking for young ladies who want to learn more about the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and attend the South Dakota District Convention in Yankton June 3-4. At the convention you will learn how the women of South Dakota are mission-minded and about the many ways they are the hands and feet of Jesus, helping to spread His love.

The Young Woman Representatives (YWRs) participate in many fun activities during the convention. They make new friends, take part in mission activities, discuss business and participate in social events with their

fellow sisters in Christ.

Keep an eye out for the registration form in a future *Lutheran Witness* insert. You don't need to wait for an invitation to attend; simply fill out the registration and join us!

If you have any questions, please ask your local LWML group.

LWML members, please encourage at least one young woman in your congregation to attend the convention.

Tina Lenz
YWR Chairwoman

