

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Anecdotes from **Arlene**

**"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare [or peace] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."
(Jer. 29:11)**



Arlene Naasz
LWML South
Dakota District
President

What will happen in 2015? Have you ever wished you knew the future? We don't know — yet we do know the Lord holds our future. We really are in good hands, no matter what insurance policies we may or may not have. As we begin a new year, we can make plans and ask God to guide and direct our paths. As you make those plans, we in the LWML

South Dakota District want you to include some of our upcoming events in your future endeavors.

In April, we will have the opportunity to gather at St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton, for our district retreat. Our theme is "Always Changing, Always the Same" based on Heb. 13:8: "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*" Retreats are a great opportunity to invite someone who's not an LWML member to join in and get to know more about us in an informal, relaxing environment. Make plans to invite a guest.

June will find us traveling to Des Moines, Iowa, for our national LWML convention, to be held June 25-28 under the theme "Bountiful, Sow, Nourish, Reap." Our district is traveling by bus. More information on the buses can be found on our district website, www.sdlwml.org, or from your zone or society president. The registration information

is in the latest issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, which also has information on the speakers and some of the many activities being planned for the convention. How many from your society and zone are going? This convention will be the shortest in distance from South Dakota for several years. You don't want to miss this opportunity to enjoy worship and fellowship with thousands of other LWML members.

Are you keeping up-to-date on the LWML grants paid by our district and national LWML? Is your poster current? Please pray for the grants and use the Mite Devotions on the website to keep you informed on how your mites are being used to help spread the Good News throughout the world.

As we journey into 2015, continue to invite others to LWML, pray for our organization and strive to "Serve the Lord with Gladness."

Guide offers help in starting new group

Blessings to all in the name of Christ. I would like to tell you about a wonderful new resource on the LWML website. The HOPE committee has helped create a LWML starter kit: "A Guide for Beginning a New Group."

This user-friendly guide provides leaders of new LWML groups support in the often-daunting task of starting a new group. It also has great resources for strengthening existing LWML groups and bringing things back to basics. It is available as a free download on the HOPE Web page at: www.lwml.org/resources/hope-committee.

Carrisa Naasz
VP of Servant Resources

LWML 'Shouts for the King'



A communion service was held Friday, May 30, at Zion, Mitchell, to begin the LWML South Dakota District Convention. The Rev. Andrew Utecht was the proclaimer. It was a wonderful way to begin the convention as we shouted for the King!



Counselor's Corner

Happy New Year 2015!

Temporal time proceeds swiftly, sometimes without our keen awareness. We are overwhelmed by responsibilities, emotional stress, physical illness, spiritual warfare and I'm sure many of you are naming off more in your minds. The sanctity of our baptismal, Christian life contradicts the standards of culture. And in the midst of balancing these complexities, time passes quickly. Days, months and years mark our temporal life.

Yet God, in His Word and Sacrament, thrusts us into an eternal awareness that surpasses human understanding. His time is marked by peace, grace, mercy and forgiveness. These divine gifts and expressions of our compassionate God enable us to contemplate eternal time. And that time will be enjoyed with all the saints, angels and Christ Himself!

At the new year especially, we reflect back on the different times in our lives, at family vacations, birthdays and anniversaries, Baptisms, weddings and funerals. Memories are so important to us, and how to keep them alive. It's pretty easy to get consumed in our new year resolution that we put together and proclaim each Dec. 31 for the new year ahead.

We try to project what 2015 will



The Rev. Greg Lehr
LWML District Counselor

bring, and we look forward to the events that we know are coming up as we fill in the squares of our new calendars. There is also so much we don't know. We look back on the past year and comment: "If I had only known," or "what I didn't know then." We must admit: "My time is in Your hands, Lord."

There is a time for everything under heaven. This is your time, and this time is a gift from God. It's your appointed time. No one on earth knows how much time you have left. You see, for such a time as this, the Lord has appointed you to live, to live as a fruitful steward of the days and years He will give. The Holy Spirit is our powerful source of strength for living as fruitful stewards of time. You see, "My time is in Your hands, Lord." The Holy Spirit is our powerful source of strength for living as fruitful stewards in all aspects of our lives.

Our earthly time will continue to be measured by days and weeks

and years, but it will be filled with actions, deeds and words that are brushing up against the eternity that stands immediately alongside our days and weeks and months of 2015.

You see, transforming in the time allotted to you into a Christ-like image of eternity is what the LWML is about as we individually and together:

- ▶ Reach out in many and various places in the name of Jesus;
- ▶ Build each other up in the study of God's Word;
- ▶ Hold each other up in fellowship with support; and
- ▶ Come together to serve and meet the needs of each other, those in God's family and all people who have need.

It's a new year, so participate in, with and through your LWML society or circle because in the midst of balancing all these complexities of life, time passes quickly so we pray and say, "My time is in Your hands, Lord." Amen.

Crowned!



An election for a new pastoral counselor was held during the LWML South Dakota District Convention in June. The photo shows the passing of the torch (from left) from the Rev. Daniel Redhage to the Rev. Greg Lehr, who became the senior counselor, and the Rev. Steve Weispfennig, who was newly elected. Do you suppose Lehr wears the crown at all the meetings?

LWML HI-LITES

Anecdotes from Arlene

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.” (Ps. 84:1-2)



Arlene Naasz
LWML South
Dakota District
President

Do you have a favorite church? Is it the church of your youth or perhaps your current church? Maybe you have visited a famous church or cathedral. I remember the old St. John's Lutheran Church in Wolsey. The altar stood out a few feet from the wall, and for communion you received the bread and then moved

behind the altar and waited for a table and then went to the other side to receive the wine. When I was very young, my father carried me with him and gave me a look indicating it was to be absolutely quiet when standing behind the altar. Whatever the church, the reason we go is to feed and nourish our souls and thank God for the gift of His Son, our Savior from sin.

The 2015 LWML Prayer Service is available: “God-Given Hats.” Our Lord graciously has called us to various stations in life. They are the “hats we wear” in His world. Our Lord blesses us to take this amazing identity as His forgiven children into the vocations to which He has called us. We are members of our families, workers in the workplace, citizens and members of our communities. We are members of the bride of Christ — His Church, and members of the local gathering of

the body of believers, our home church. In this service we glorify God for the various hats we wear.

The Prayer Service is designed to be used at any time, by large or small groups. It is an abbreviated worship service, copyrighted by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and users agree to use the service in full context, deviating only as the author suggests. Please plan on using this service, written by the Rev. Kris Whitby, former LWML counselor. The service and other resources are available for download at www.lwml.org.

Have you sent in your registration for the LWML convention June 25-28? Early registration needs to be postmarked before March 14 (see below). The winter issue of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* has a 16-page insert with information and registration form for the convention. See you in Des Moines!

NATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS

Time is now to register early

Register now for the LWML Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. Those who register between Feb. 2 and March 14 will receive a discounted rate. So sign up now to gather under our theme, “Bountiful! Sow • Nourish • Reap.” The women of the host committee can't wait to welcome you to Iowa!

The convention will be held June 25-28. Be fed by God's Word and Sacrament. Be nurtured through worship and fellowship. Be equipped to sow, nourish and reap in the Father's field. Registration forms and more information can be found in the winter issue of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and online at www.lwml.org. We can't wait to see you there!

The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. James Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life; the Mites in Action mission speakers will be Carly Hatcher, executive director of MOST Ministries, the Rev. Jim Hetzner, president of Lutheran Church Charities, the Rev. Dr. Tilahun Mendetto, president of Concordia College



Alabama, Selma, Ala.; and the Rev. E. James Rivett, prison ministry.

The Rev. Gregory Seltz, speaker of The Lutheran Hour, will be the proclaimer on Thursday evening. Saturday evening entertainment will be provided by Jan Struck and Dr. Dina Vendetti. Won't you join us?



Counselor's Corner

What is love?

Hearts. Cupids. Chocolate. These are all things that have come to be associated with Valentine's Day. But the thing that we probably most associate with this day is love. So what is this thing that we call love?

In the ancient Greek, there are four words that are translated as "love" in English — storge, philia, eros and agape. Storge is a natural affection between a parent and child — think "motherly" love. Philia is friendship or companionship. Eros is where we get our English word "erotic" and is an emotional, sensual, romantic, sexual love — this is generally what we mean by falling or being "in love."

The word most overwhelmingly used in God's Word for "love" is agape. It's also the most uncommon word for "love" used in secular ancient Greek writings. Agape is the unique, Christian love that is an unconditional, self-sacrificial love demonstrated by our actions — not our emotions — that fully puts the needs of others before our own.

This is the word used in John 15 when Jesus said, **"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends"** (John 15:12-13). The greatest act of agape love is to lay down your life for another. And that is exactly what Jesus Christ did for you and for the entire world when He sacrificed Himself on the cross to save you from eternal torment because of sin and our failure to love one another as He loved us.

"We love because [Christ] first loved us" (1 John 4:19). No, we can't love perfectly the way that Jesus did — and we may never be put in a situation where we need to sacrifice our life for another — but by the power of the Holy Spirit, we can make sacrifices for the sake of the people in our lives. Similarly, the women of the LWML make sacrifices of time, talents, and treasures for the sake of others, both far and near, who are hurting and in need of the Gospel of Jesus.

Cards, chocolates, flowers and candle-light dinners can be wonderful expressions of love, but they don't compare to the perfect love of Jesus, who is the only one who could free us from our sinfulness, which He did when He lay down His life for you and me with His perfect, self-sacrificial agape act on the cross.



**The Rev.
Steve
Weispenfening**
LWML District
Counselor

Pierre Zone is planning for you

Greetings from the ladies in the Pierre Zone! It's hard to believe spring will soon be here, before we know it. For many, winter seems like it lasts forever, but know the beauty of the Lord — the awesome blooming of the spring flowers and the smell of a nice, gentle rain are soon at hand.

With the coming of spring, the Pierre Zone has begun the task of preparing for the 2016 district convention, which will be held in Pierre. Committees have been formed, planning is underway and we are all excited to serve as your host. We hope you start to make plans now to come see the wonderful city of Pierre and all it has to offer as well as be uplifted at the convention.

Mary Jo Stier
Pierre Zone President

Grants are being funded

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works" (Eph. 2:10a).

As vice-president of Gospel Outreach, I have the distinct privilege of sending greetings and mission grant money to those who were selected as recipients for this biennium. Over the past couple of months, the following grants were funded:

- ▶ Divine Shepherd Preschool, Black Hawk
- ▶ Graduate Studies for International Lutheran Leaders
- ▶ Trinity/HOPE Inc. Project to Feed Hungry Children in Lutheran School in Haiti
- ▶ Black Hills Lutheran Schools Association, Inc
- ▶ Life: A Better Choice

Though these projects have already been funded, we still have more that are waiting. I encourage your societies to continue to send in their mites on a monthly basis. Don't wait until the end of the year. To help encourage your societies, try something different. You could put together a mite calendar or have a fashion show for mites — just about anything will do.

As we transition into the second half of our biennium, we look to the next. Mission grant proposals are due to me by Aug. 31. I encourage societies as well as individuals to spread the word about our mission grants. For more information, I can be reached at Mary.Stier@k12.sd.us.

Mary Jo Stier
Vice-President of Gospel Outreach

LWML HI-LITES

Anecdotes from **Arlene**

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

(Heb. 13:8)

The saying goes: “If you don’t like the weather in South Dakota, wait 15 minutes and it will change.” While our weather changes frequently, we know the love and grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ, never does. Please plan on attend-



Arlene Naasz
LWML South
Dakota District
President

ing the LWML South Dakota District Retreat, under the theme “Always Changing, Always the Same.” We will meet April 24-25 at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Yankton. You will find the registration form and more information in the latest *HiLites*. Also, your zone president will share information with all societies. Our retreats are casual events, so wear your comfortable clothes and we will see you soon.

Have you registered for the national LWML convention yet? Early registration for a reduced rate needs to be submitted by March 14. Look in the winter issue of *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly* for the registration form, meal package details and other information. The conven-

tion will be held June 25-28 in Des Moines, Iowa. Pack your walking shoes so you can join us on the LWML Mission Pledge Walk–Mission in Motion. Stroll along the Principal River walk path before celebrating with your sisters at the Bountiful Bash Block Party on Friday evening. This convention is an event you don’t want to miss.

The LWML South Dakota District recently funded additional mission grants. Please check the website, www.sdlwml.org, for the list of grants we have paid this biennium. Also on the website are the Mite Box Devotions; plan on using one at each of your society meetings to learn more about how your mighty mites help spread the Good News.

Attention all young women:

We would like to invite you to the LWML South Dakota District Retreat April 24-25 in Yankton. Registration forms and information about the retreat are included in this month’s *HiLites*. Please come for fun and fellowship and see what great things the LWML is doing.

We would also like to congratulate our Young Woman Representatives that will represent South Dakota in Des Moines, Iowa, during the 2015 LWML National Convention: Margret Baumann, Faith, Pierre, and Josie Lorang, Zion, Sioux Falls.

Sioux Falls Zone Report

There were 67 LWML members who attended the Sioux Falls Zone Fall Rally. They helped assemble more than 72 hygiene kits and 181 witness bracelets that will be taken to Nicaragua with a medical mission team from Sioux Falls.

Trusting in His promises!

Lisa Asmus

Sioux Falls Zone President



Clockwise from top, Mary Jo Stier and the Rev. Greg Lehr present a skit on attending the national LWML convention this June; the “Wing Man” is the Rev. Steve Weispfennig and Lehr is the king; South Dakota Lutherans for Life President Jill Johnsen, left, receives mites from LWML South Dakota District President Arlene Naasz.



Counselor's Corner

Look forward to what God is doing

Birthdays are special times. When we are young, we look forward to our birthdays. It's exciting for us to be another year older and have birthday parties and celebrate with our friends. As we get older, we of course don't look forward to our birthdays as much. I guess it's because we are getting older and our bodies and minds are not quite like they used to be.

As I celebrate my half-century birthday in March, I am beginning to notice all of the things everyone warned me about. So, although I am not so excited about my body and mind getting older, **I do want** to mature and grow in Jesus' grace and knowledge.

I don't want to stay the same! I want God to continue to grow me and change me and mold me. I don't want to make the same mistakes year after year, but I want to learn from them and overcome them. I know God is doing a new thing in me each year. I don't want to look over my shoulder, lamenting about the past and the mistakes I've made.

Instead, I want to look forward to what God is doing in me and through me **today**. The next 50 years, I want to take the wisdom God has given me and make the right choices. I want to put away my "childish" ways, my immature, selfish ways. From Phil. 3:14, **"Forgetting what is behind and straining what is ahead, I press on toward the goal."**

Abraham Lincoln said, "And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." Isn't that so true? As a Christian, you've been born into God's family ... given a whole new life in Christ ... baptized into Christ's death and resurrection... an heir of God with Christ ... given a mind to think and a heart to feel ... through no merit of your own at all.

The LWML members share generously their "life in their years" as they celebrate and experience the new life in Christ. LWML members are partnering in the Gospel, benefiting ministries in many of our churches and communities right here in the South Dakota Dis-



The Rev. Greg Lehr
LWML District Counselor

trict, as well as supporting international ministries. And in all they do, it's acknowledged that it's through no merit of their own, at all. "It is not I, but the grace of God that is with me" (1 Cor. 15:10). "God is working in me that which is pleasing in his sight" (Heb. 13:21). "He fulfills every resolve for good by his power" (2 Thess. 1:11).

Birthdays are something special. He loves you so much and it's a joy to be part of His family. Our lives should reflect that we are His children as we mature and grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. So, are you celebrating your new life in Christ? Check out your local LWML society to share, experience and celebrate the "life in your years."

LWML South Dakota Retreat

April 24-25 • St. John's, Yankton

"Always Changing, Always the Same"

Enjoy inspiration, Bible study, and fellowship, food, singing and celebrating the seasons

Friday registration: 6-7 p.m.

Saturday registration: 8-9 a.m.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Telephone: (____) _____

Society _____

Zone _____

My Birthday Month _____

Mark which applies:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executive board member | <input type="checkbox"/> Zone president |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Woman | <input type="checkbox"/> LWML member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor (no registration fee) | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child care: children's ages _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dietary needs _____ | |

- Registration fee is \$15 (includes catered Saturday lunch); registration deadline is April 10
- Make your check payable to LWML SD Retreat
- Mail your registration form with payment to:
Bonnie Pinkelman
104 Calumet Drive
Yankton, SD 57078

Make your own room reservations

A block of rooms are reserved until March 24

- Broadway Inn (\$60, 605-665-7805)
- Days Inn (\$70, 605-665-8717)
- Holiday Inn Express (\$95, 605-665-3177)

LWML HI-LITES

Anecdotes from **Arlene**

"His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them." (Job 1:4)



Arlene Naasz
LWML South
Dakota District
President

"On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants." (Gen. 40:20)

Even in Old Testament times, people celebrated their birthdays. Do you celebrate your birthday? Have you ever given extra money to mites in thanksgiving to God for blessing your past year? Does your LWML remember those shut-ins having a birthday? Our family celebrates several birthdays in April

— three of our four grandchildren, one son and one daughter-in-law.

Later this month, we will gather for our LWML South Dakota District Retreat. At the retreat, you will be seated with others who share your birth month. It will be fun to hear how others celebrate their birthdays, remembering no matter how many candles, God loves us the same every day. At our retreat, we will have the opportunity to learn more about the mission work being done on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Sarah Sutton, wife of the Rev. Al Sutton, missionary at-large on the reservation, will share with us the efforts to share the Good News on the Pine Ridge. We hope to see you at our retreat.

As my birth month, June, approaches, I find myself getting more and more excited about our LWML Convention, being held June 25-28 in Des Moines, Iowa. Have you heard the latest news about the convention?

- ▶ Each participant will receive a convention bag at registration.
- ▶ The *Bountiful! Harvest Times*

will be a daily news source.

- ▶ A DVD of convention highlights is back! Participants may take it home to share their LWML convention story.
- ▶ Live-streaming is back! Everyone across the nation will be able to join in the celebration from their own churches or homes.
- ▶ LWML will debut a new Outreach Today's *Light Bible*. Plan on purchasing this Bible to give away and reach out to someone who needs to know Jesus loves them.
- ▶ Friday night's block party — "Bountiful Bash—a Party with a Purpose!" — will be an event to remember.
- ▶ SONshine Bear will greet everyone as they visit the LWML store.
- ▶ Jan Struck and Dr. Dina Vendetti will keep the crowd entertained on Saturday evening.
- ▶ The Mission in Motion/Mission Pledge Walk will be from 5 to 6 p.m. on Friday, June 26.

God willing, we will see you at our retreat in Yankton and convention in Des Moines. To God be all the glory!

Principal grateful for LWML gift

I would like to deeply thank the LWML for their extremely gracious donation of \$7,500 to Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls (LHSSF) for the purchase of a newer, but used, 12-passenger van for the school. Without the LWML's help, LHSSF would still be trying to obtain the necessary funds to purchase the van.

Before purchasing the van, LHSSF needed to either borrow a van from a different organization, rent a van or have school personnel use their vehicles to transport students from LHSSF to various activities and back to LHSSF. This was

creating a huge reimbursement expense for the school.

Now that LHSSF has its own van, we are able to provide transportation for school activities at a much lower cost. We are also able to offer the van to different organizations so that they can continue to do God's will here in Sioux Falls and the surrounding areas, including church mission trips, transporting meals to shut-ins and transporting students from other



schools on field trips.

Again, I want to thank the LWML for their gracious and generous donation. The van will be put to great use to further the Kingdom of God here on earth.

In Christ,
Derek Bult
Principal, LHSSF



Counselor's Corner

What is Easter?

It was time for theological exit interviews at the seminary. The first seminarian came in before the panel of interviewers and was asked, "What is Easter?" He answered nervously, "It's the holiday when we get together to eat turkey, watch football and give thanks to God." The panelists shook their heads and dismissed him. The next seminarian came in and was asked the same question. He answered nervously, "It's the holiday in which we celebrate the birth of Jesus." He too was dismissed and the next seminarian came in. He also was asked, "What is Easter?" He thought for a moment and then began to say, "It was after Jesus was crucified and laid in a tomb." The panel said excitedly, "Yes, go on!" So he continued, "And three days later, the stone was rolled away from the entrance of the tomb." The panel said, "Yes, keep going!" And he continued, "Then Jesus came to the entrance of the tomb and if He saw His shadow, it meant there was still six more weeks of winter."



The Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor

Now I'm quite certain that the seminarians from our seminaries would be able to confidently answer the question about what Easter is — that it's the day Christ was raised from death to life, defeating death forever so that it no longer has any power over all who believe in Jesus, and that as He lives, on the Last Day we too will be raised to life and live forever. *"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Cor. 15:55-57).

Sadly there are many people in this world that would not be able to answer the question about Easter or any question about Jesus, for that matter, because they have not heard the Good News of Christ crucified and risen from the dead.

That's where you and the LWML come in. Through mite box offerings, the LWML supports numerous mission grants that help put the Word of God into people's hands, establishes Christian learning centers and schools and trains Christian leaders to bring that Word of God to people in the United States and many nations throughout the world. The goal of the LWML is that all people would be able to exclaim on Easter Sunday, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

Gifts from the Heart

The Time is NOW ... our LWML logo draws us to our mission of sharing Christ's love with those around us and beyond. One of the ways we share His love is by Gifts from the Heart. As we join together in Des Moines for the LWML Convention in June, we are encouraged to bring any number of assorted items to be given to Luther Care Services, Orphan Grain Train and Lutherans For Life.

The following are items suggested for donations: Crayola markers, Tempera paint, school paint brushes, crayons, colored pencils, glue or glue sticks, pony beads and laces and school and hygiene kits. Also, you may purchase or make quilts, hot neck wraps (filled with rice to be heated in microwave), shawls, sleeveless undershirts, decorative pillows (to clutch, prop up and brighten the room), and scarves (useful for those whose clothes do not fit due to weight loss).

Also, don't forget your Gifts from the Heart for our district retreat in Yankton April 24-25. The much needed new underwear and socks collected will go to Orphan Grain Train.

Judy Gies

Vice-President of Human Care

"Always Changing, Always the Same"

Hopefully your registration for the April 24-25 "Always Changing, Always the Same" retreat at St. John's in Yankton is checked off your list. If not, please go to www.sdlwml.org to complete the form and send it in. We are excited to have Sarah Sutton, who with her husband, the Rev. Al Sutton, are missionaries at Pine Ridge. She will share some of their mission stories with us on Friday evening.

We will also be entertained Friday evening by "Smooth Benediction," an a cappella group from Mount Marty College. This along with our Saturday Bible studies and activities add up to a fun weekend event.

Our Gifts from the Heart are new underwear and/or socks for the Orphan Grain Train. Children and adult sizes are needed.

See you in Yankton!

Bobbie Bierman, Judy Gies, and Susan Swanson
Retreat Committee

LWML HI-LITES

Anecdotes from

Arlene

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

(John 14:27)



Arlene Naasz
LWML South
Dakota District
President

Do you remember your confirmation? Mine was in May. For many of the girls in my class, it was our first time wearing high heels. As we knelt at the altar after renewing our Baptismal vows, the pastor laid his hand on us and gave each of us our

own Bible verse. The passage from John 14:27 is my confirmation verse. If you don't remember your verse, look it up and reflect on the verse and its meaning.

In just a few weeks, the LWML will meet in convention in Des Moines under the Bible verse: And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Cor. 9:8 NIV) As is our custom, we will have Bible study! How many times do you think the theme verse will be mentioned? Is Bible study a regular part of your LWML meetings? If not, ask why and perhaps reevaluate your priorities.

As the LWML South Dakota Dis-

trict, we will send 10 delegates, two Young Woman Representatives and our newly elected pastoral counselor. Along with them will be two buses full of LWML members and guests from South Dakota. More than 100 of us are going, to God be all the glory.

Our district caucus and district photo will be Thursday afternoon, June 25. Look in the convention daily newsletter for times and locations. You will receive the newsletter at the registration tables. Names of the delegates are listed in another article.

Please pray for all those attending the convention that God will be with them and bless this opportunity to grow in faith and knowledge of Him.

Greetings from the Aberdeen Zone!

Isn't it great to have the sun shine down on us with some spring heat after a cold winter?

Are you connected? Members of the Aberdeen Zone of the LWML learned about "Connecting in a Disconnected World" at our spring Christian Growth Workshop. Janice (Janie) Krohn of Yankton spoke on strengthening our bonds and finding a ministry through our everyday relationships. St. John, Groton, hosted. An ingathering was held to collect paper products and non-perishable food items for the Groton Crisis Center.

Jean Haselhorst

'The time is NOW' to apply for a mission grant!

Almost 20 years ago, I moved back to my home community and joined in fellowship with the members of my church. After a couple of times of attending church, I was invited to attend an LWML meeting. At that meeting, I heard about "mighty mites."

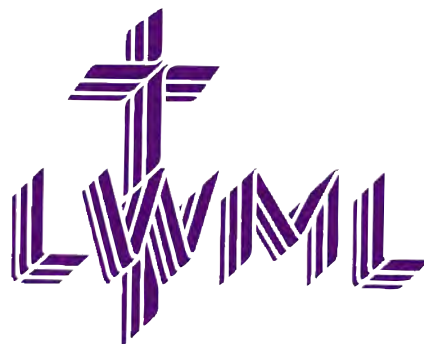
I thought to myself, "how can my pennies, dimes, nickels, etc., make such a difference?" Since my initial introduction to the LWML, I NOW know how. Our mighty mites have blessed many different ministries. It has been used by various ministries to help spread the Good News of our Lord and Savior.

It is NOW time to submit mission grant proposals for the 2016 LWML South Dakota District Convention. Mission grant proposals need to be submitted to Mary Jo Stier, vice-president of Gospel Outreach, by

Aug. 31. To obtain guidelines for submitting a mission grant proposal, please contact Mary Jo Stier, PO Box 224, Onida, SD 57564 or email her at Mary.Stier@k12.sd.us. Copies of the guidelines are also available on the LWML South Dakota District website.

Mary Jo Stier

Vice President, Gospel Outreach
LWML South Dakota District





Counselor's Corner

The power of Pentecost

Yearly we observe Pentecost in the Christian church, 50 days after Easter. The account seems strange with the crowded room, the rushing wind, the tongues of fire, people from many nations hearing the disciples speak in their native languages. What does it mean for us today?



The Rev. Greg Lehr
LWML District Counselor

Jesus' words give meaning to the event ... *"You will be witnesses"* (Acts 1:8). Since Jesus soon will ascend into heaven, he intends for the apostles, witnesses of the resurrection, to proclaim the Good News in word and deed. They are to bear witness in Jerusalem, all Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. What a tremendous challenge! And the disciples stand there confused, weak, afraid ... wavering in their witness.

The purpose of Pentecost remains for us. We are His witnesses — in our own homes, next door, at work, in our community and throughout the world. What a task! And we hesitate, rationalize, stumble ... wavering in our witness.

For that reason God makes available to us the power of Pentecost. The disciples were emboldened to bear witness. Uneducated, sinful, afraid, the Holy Spirit transforms them into unashamed witnesses who cannot but speak the things that they have heard and seen...in the temple, before the council, in

the synagogues. Pentecost power is alive in the Word of God.

Wavering in our witness, we also receive God's Pentecost power. Peter points us to the crucified and risen One, Jesus Christ. Convicted of our witnessing sins, we repent and believe the Gospel — Jesus Christ paying for our sins on the cross. The Word works! The Sacraments heal and empower! But we cannot but speak and live the things that we have heard and seen through God's Word.

The LWML pledge declares this as a central component of the ministry to the nations: "We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do



He was taken up to heaven.

ACTS 1:2

His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him."

Check out your local LWML society to share, experience and celebrate God's Pentecost power of the good news of great joy in the one Savior Jesus Christ! Our standing is firm, our future secure, through Him who loves us, our Victor, Jesus Christ!

Meet our YWRs

Margaret Baumann and Josie Lorang have been chosen to represent the LWML South Dakota District as Young Woman Representatives at the LWML Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, this summer.

Margaret of Pierre and is a mom, pastor's wife and bank teller. She is excited to learn about the LWML and hopes to learn new ideas to increase the involvement of young women in our district.

Josie of Sioux Falls also stays busy as a mom, wife and she works as a credit portfolio consultant. She feels that it's important for Christians to stay connected and wants

to grow by making that more of a priority in her life.

Both of these young women are dedicated volunteers in their churches and look forward to learning about more ways they can serve and get young women involved in LWML. Those of you riding the bus to Des Moines will have a great chance to get to know these wonderful young women even better.

I'm sure that Margaret and Josie will be awesome representatives of the LWML South Dakota District as our YWRs!

Angie Robinson
Co-Chairperson,
Committee on Young Women

LWML HILITES

Anecdotes from Arlene

"Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!"

(2 Cor. 9:15)



Arlene Naasz
LWML South
Dakota District
President

Gifts — all of us enjoy receiving gifts. Be it a bouquet of wild flowers picked by our children or grandchildren or an expensive item we have desired for some time, we like gifts.

A TV commercial talks about the gift of time spent doing things with family as being priceless. The gift of salvation is even better than priceless — it is inexpressible! Words do not exist to describe how great a gift the Father has lavished

upon us.

We experience a foretaste of heaven during worship and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. During our convention, we will have the privilege of sharing this foretaste with sisters and brothers in Christ from across the country, and even some from around the globe.

Once again, everyone across the nation will be able to join in the worship services and programming of the 36th Biennial Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention, to be held June 25-28, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. LWML will offer high quality, real-time video streaming of all events taking place in the main convention hall. Those not able to travel to Des Moines will be able to participate via their own computer, tablet or smartphone, and even display it on a large-screen televi-

sion in their church or home.

Groups are encouraged to host any or all LWML programming events via live streaming as they occur in real time.

Bible studies are a big part of LWML gatherings. Rev. Michael Mattil, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Denison, Texas, will speak on two parts of the convention theme — SOW and NOURISH. Mattil served as LWML pastoral counselor from 2007 to 2011.

We will be introduced to the new LWML outreach Bible! This Today's Light® devotional Bible was specifically designed as an outreach Bible. "Our prayer is that it will be purchased specifically to give to someone, sharing with them our love for God's Word and the gift of His redeeming love for all people," LWML President Kay Kreklau said. Look for it at the LWML store.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June

25-28 LWML Convention, Des Moines, Iowa

August

31 Mission grant proposals due

September

- 3-7 Puppet Place, State Fair
- 3 Brookings Zone
- 4 Chamberlain Zone
- 5 Milbank Zone
- 6 Mitchell Zone
- 7 Pierre Zone

2015 Fall Christian Life Workshops

- Sept. 25 St. Paul's, Aberdeen
- Sept. 26 Peace, Brookings
- Oct. 9 Christ, Winner
- Oct. 10 Peace, Rapid City



Catch stream of opening service at Zion

If you're not able to attend the National LWML Convention in Des Moines, Iowa June 25-28, but would like to participate in the opening worship service, come to Zion Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls on Thursday, June 25, for a 7 p.m. live stream service from the convention.

The proclaimer will be Rev. Gregory Seltz, speaker of the Lutheran Hour. Holy Communion will be served and celebrated, led by the Rev. David Edge.

An offering will be taken (for the 2015-17 LWML mission goal).



Counselor's Corner

Bountiful!

The past three summers, I have enjoyed planting a garden. I've gotten my hands dirty by sowing seeds for a variety of vegetables. I nourished the growing plants by weeding and watering them. And of course, the best part is reaping the fruits of my labor and harvesting the tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes and jalapeños, among a plethora of other goods that were planted. Gardening has been tough some years, trying to keep the plants alive or growing much produce. Other years, the crops were almost out of control. Either way, I can't take credit for my garden, but have had to rely on the grace of God.

That's how it is with our Christian life as well. We can't take the credit for all the wonderful things God does through us and for us — it is only by the grace of God that we are saved and live and move and have our being to love Him and love our neighbor. *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"* (2 Cor. 9:8 NIV). At the LWML national convention in Des Moines, Iowa, in June, LWMLers will SOW, NOURISH and REAP by the grace of God.

Through the ministry of the LWML, God will:

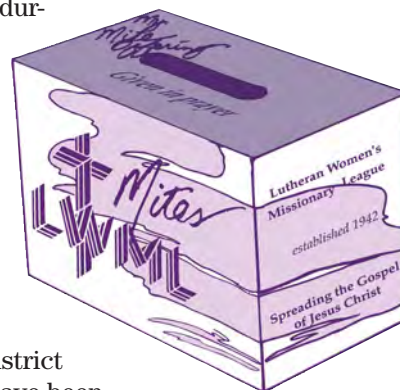
- ▶ **SOW** His Word that makes us wise to the knowledge of Jesus Christ crucified for the forgiveness of sins and risen from the dead to grant eternal life to all who believe in Him.
- ▶ **NOURISH** His people through His means of grace, through the proclamation of His spoken and written Word during worship, Bible studies and numerous speakers and through His Sacraments that have watered us in Baptism and fed us with Christ's body and blood in, with and under the bread and the wine of the Lord's Supper. It's through these means that faith grows, is strengthened and produces the fruits of the Spirit.
- ▶ **REAP** His bountiful harvest as the fruits of labor through His people are celebrated, that through the efforts of the LWML and by the grace of God, numerous people around the globe have been and will be baptized and be given life-saving faith in Jesus Christ, and that acts of mercy would feed the hungry, clothe the poor and care for those in need with the love of God.



**The Rev.
Steve
Weispfenning**
LWML District
Counselor

Blessings... locally and nationally

I am pleased to announce that all of the 2014-16 Mite Devotions have been completed and uploaded to the website. I would encourage societies to use these devotions during their meetings or during a special occasion to spread the wonderful message of how our mites are being used. Today, seven of our 10 LWML South Dakota District mission grants have been distributed. To God be the glory.



Here's even more exciting news — God has blessed the LWML's mission through each of you! The national mission goal of \$1,830,000 has been surpassed! We thank and praise our almighty God for His abundant blessings!

Mary Jo Stier

Vice-president of Gospel Outreach

Black Hills Zone Update

The Black Hills Zone held a pre-Lenten prayer service on Feb. 14 at Peace, Rapid City. We had several Rapid City ladies, but icy weather prevented others from traveling. We held a short zone meeting following the service.

Upcoming in the Black Hills Zone:

- ▶ May 2
Spring Rally, St. Paul, Spearfish
 - ▶ Oct. 10
Christian Life Workshop, Peace, Rapid City
 - ▶ Oct. 16-17
Zone Fall Retreat, St. Martins Monastery
- Many of our zone members are looking forward to the district retreat in Yankton and the national convention in Des Moines!

LWML HiLITES

Anecdotes from Arlene

"Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by." (Ps. 57:1)



Arlene Naasz
LWML South
Dakota District
President

God asks us to show mercy to others. Mercy is the act of being kind or forgiving. Our Heavenly Father showed us the ultimate gift of mercy by sending His Son to save us from the defilement of our sins. Earlier this year, the storms of destruction damaged Zion Lutheran Church, Delmont. Many volunteers helped with the cleanup. We all offered prayers and perhaps sent a



The cleanup group

financial contribution.

Our LWML South Dakota District recently helped coordinate a mission trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation. Our act of kindness was shown by the cemetery cleanup we accomplished in less than two days. The cemetery had not been cleaned in about 20 years. With the help of 25 volunteers, we put up fencing and mowed and raked the area. The South Dakota District is working to have a lease approved for the church/cemetery area for the next 25 years.

We pray God will bless the mis-

sion work being done on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations. A big thank you to all those who helped with the cleanup or supported the trip in any way.

At our Christian Life workshops this fall, we will have the opportunity of hearing about hope on and off the reservation. Our topic leader will be the Rev. Andrew Utecht, missionary to the Rosebud Indian Reservation. More information about locations and dates will be given soon. Plan to attend.

We have been invited to the North Dakota District Retreat Sept. 18-20 at the Chieftain Convention Center in Carrington, N.D. The theme is "Stepping Out to Life on the Edge." What a wonderful opportunity to join our sisters to the north in a time of fellowship and fun. More information is available on our website or from your zone president.

A Gospel outreach opportunity for you!

One of the mission outreach projects of the LWML South Dakota District is the Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair. Each year, the Utecht family provides free puppet shows throughout the day at the fair. The shows are opened to everyone. The LWML zones are asked to furnish volunteers to help invite people to hear the Gospel through the show. Zones are asked to furnish five to six workers for their day at the Puppet Place. All women, men and youth are welcome to volunteer. There needs to be two people at the Puppet Place at all times, including between shows.

This year, the following LWML South Dakota District zones are asked to provide volunteers:

- ▶ Thursday, Sept. 3, Brookings Zone
- ▶ Friday, Sept. 4, Chamberlain Zone
- ▶ Saturday, Sept. 5, Milbank Zone
- ▶ Sunday, Sept. 6, Mitchell Zone
- ▶ Monday, Sept. 7, Pierre Zone

You do not have to belong to one of these zones to come to Huron to help. You are encouraged to come any day that works for you. For more information, contact Mary Jo Stier, vice-president of Gospel Outreach, at Mary.Stier@k12.sd.us.



HELP WANTED

The Nominating Committee is searching for a few women who would be willing to serve the Lord as SD LWML officers in 2016. All offices are four-year term commitments with the exception of the Nominating Committee which is a two year term.

- ☒ President
- ☒ Vice-president of Christian Life
- ☒ Vice-president of Gospel Outreach
- ☒ Treasurer of Nominating Committee

For more information please contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

- ▶ Jill Johnsen, chairman, 605-458-2670 or jjohns8@yahoo.com
- ▶ Susan Magedanz, 605-878-0182 or smagedanz@midco.net
- ▶ Paulette Gross, 605-664-4210 or gpggross@hotmail.com



Counselor's Corner

'The next generation'

Throughout the Bible, Scripture resonates with concern for teaching the next generation about the ways of God. In Ps. 78:4, the psalmist writes, *"We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done."*

And the psalmist doesn't specify ages, but his message seems to invite concern about all generations. The psalmist is interested in "the next generation." That's anyone who comes after your generation, whether you're 80, 65, 47 or 13. There is great concern in the church and among women of the LWML about one supposed "generation," a vaguely defined category of people known as "young adults."

Every congregation and group seems to want more of them. Much strategizing and agonizing goes into how to attract young adults and make them interested in the church, LWML, a small group, Bible study, fill-in-the-blank. The concern often leads to a focus on logistics. Do we need more youthful music in worship? Is our event at the best time for young people? Should we provide childcare? How do we publicize the retreat on social media? Do we have any young people involved in the planning?

These are all great questions if the goal is to have more of a certain age group at your event. Is that really what's at stake though? According to Ps. 78:6-7, there's a

different reason to share stories of God's love with the next generation: *"[so] that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments."*

What if your next planning session began with the psalmist's concern: "How do I tell the next generations about my experience with God so that they will set their hope in God?"

The answer to this question may lead to less focus on events and more focus on relationships. The stories of God in our lives are grand and intimate, impressive and subtle. To share these stories, an invitation to lunch may be more effective than planning a luncheon.

From the LWML League Pledge: "We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love."

Helping a woman of any generation set her hope on God involves sharing your hope and hearing about her hope, and imagining together how the same God sustains them both. Sing His praises and proclaim His love to someone of "the next generation" today!



The Rev. Greg Lehr
LWML District
Counselor

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

31 Mission grant proposals due

September

3-7 Puppet Place, State Fair

3 Brookings Zone

4 Chamberlain Zone

5 Milbank Zone

6 Mitchell Zone

7 Pierre Zone

2015 Fall Christian Life Workshops

Sept. 25 St. Paul's, Aberdeen

Sept. 26 Peace, Brookings

Oct. 9 Christ, Winner

Oct. 10 Peace, Rapid City

Brookings Zone Report

The Brookings Zone decided to sponsor a Young Woman Representative at the 2015 LWML National Convention. We would like to congratulate Katelyn Thompson as our zone YWR. She belongs to Zion White LWML society and was excited to attend the convention and meet fellow LWML members.

Brookings Zone is also excited that the LWML of St. Peter's, Wentworth, has been reinstated. They had their first meeting on Nov. 20, 2014, and had nine members attend. The society meets once a month on a Sunday afternoon.

We praise the Lord for our great news!

Nyla Jurens
Brookings Zone President

Correction

The Black Hills Zone Fall Retreat will be held Oct. 23-24 at St. Martins Monastery. The date was incorrectly reported in the July/August issue of the *HiLites*.

LWML HiLITES

Anecdotes from Arlene

"And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness."

(Is. 35:8)

Where did you travel this summer? Did you navigate any new highways? As a child, I remember my dear father, Hugo, had a difficult time staying on the right highway. His eyes would take in the scenery as we traveled. Once when we were trying to get to a major league baseball stadium, he was going the wrong way on a one-way street and the police had to stop all



Arlene Naasz
LWML South
Dakota District
President

the traffic to allow us to make a U-turn. My brother and I hid in the back seat to avoid being seen with our father driving the car. Dad would have benefited from GPS.

We all have been blessed with our very own personal navigation system: the Word of God given to us in the Bible. But even the best routing method does you no good if you do not use it. At the LWML convention this past June, we were reminded of the importance of nourishment. The time is now to daily nourish your faith.

Our Christian Life workshops are an excellent way to add something more to your faith nourishment. Learn more about the topic, dates and location in the current issue of the *HiLites*. The time is now to invite someone to attend a Chris-

tian Life workshop as your guest.

The 2015 LWML Sunday materials are now available. The theme for this year's service is "Seek First the Kingdom of God." A full worship service will not be offered this year as many pastors prefer to tailor their service to their congregation's needs, but the sermon, litany and dedication may be inserted in any worship wherever needed. All resources are available as **free** downloads at lwml.org/lwml-sunday. Bulletin covers will be available for sale. Your society might want to consider ordering the mission grants bookmark, which is an excellent prayer tool. Purchase them through the LWML Store or by calling Concordia Publishing House at 800-325-3040. The time is now to celebrate the LWML in your church.

CONVENTION

An unforgettable experience

Do you know that feeling of knowing you are exactly where you should be? That's how I felt while attending the 2015 LWML National Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, in June. I was blessed to be chosen as a Young Woman Representative for the South Dakota District, though I had my reservations after finding out I'd been chosen. "Is this really 'my thing'?" I'd ask myself. There was also the concern of whether I'd fit in with the other young women since this was only my first year as a member of the LWML.

However, God showed me what a gift He had for me, for all of us women, in the sisterhood of Christ. I've never felt so welcome and supported in all my life! I originally joined the LWML for the Bible study, but learned how amazing and important the LWML is in the mission of spreading God's Word and

supporting missionaries who do so. I also learned that I don't need to be so shy and worried about sharing God's Word with others. As Jesus' follower, it's only my job to share His love and Good News and not worry about whether that "seed" will produce fruit (that's the work of the Holy Spirit).

I am so thankful to God for taking me down this path that led me to the LWML and the convention, and for showing me what a family we have in His followers. I hope to inspire more women to join the LWML and experience that same feeling of sisterhood and love that I've felt. My experience at the convention has definitely helped me to be less shy about spreading the Word!

Josie Lorang
Young Woman Representative

We need YOU!

The Nominating Committee is searching for a few women who would be willing to serve the Lord as LWML South Dakota District officers in 2016. All offices are four-year term commitments with the exception of the Nominating Committee, which is a two-year term.

Positions needing nominations are:

- ▶ President
- ▶ Vice-President of Christian Life
- ▶ Vice-President of Gospel Outreach
- ▶ Treasurer
- ▶ Nominating Committee (three positions)

Contact Nominating Committee Chairman Jill Johnsen and let her know you will help, 605-458-2670 or jjohns8@yahoo.com.



Counselor's Corner

The joy of inviting others to church

It's that time of year again when students and teachers are going back to school. Many churches across the nation will host "Back to Church Sunday" later this month. The idea behind "Back to Church Sunday" is that you would invite friends, neighbors

and relatives who left the church to come back with you. Just like there might be fear and excitement about going back to school, there might be fear and excitement about going back to church.

Consider the Prodigal Son. A father has two sons. One asks for his inheritance early and squanders it on reckless living. After he hits rock bottom, the son decides to go back to his father as a servant. Now the Bible doesn't tell us how he felt about going back to his father, but we can imagine the shame, guilt or fear that he may have felt. We probably know someone who has left the church for any number of reasons. They might feel ashamed, guilty or afraid of going back to church.

But when the father saw his son coming, he was so overjoyed that he sprinted to welcome his son back and threw



The Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor

a great, big party for him, *"for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found"* (Luke 15:24).

This is what the LWML is all about: celebrating that the lost is found! The LWML strives to carry out God's mission to seek and save the lost with the

Good News that Jesus reconciles us with the Father and restores our relationship with Him through His death on the cross and resurrection from the grave.

"Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation" (Col. 1:21-22 NIV).

It might be scary or awkward to go up to that friend or relative and say, "Would you like to come to church with me?" Don't be pushy or rude, but be as helpful and accommodating as possible — the worse they can do is say "no." But oh, what joy there will be if that person says "yes," for *"there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents"* (Luke 15:10).

Missionary gets **special gift** from district

The LWML South Dakota District took two buses to the convention in Des Moines. Even the bus trip was used as an opportunity to learn more about missions and how our gifts are able to help spread the Good News of salvation. More than 100 South Dakotans toured Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa. Mission Central is the largest mission-support agency in the LCMS.

After the tour, a check for \$1,000 from the South Dakota District Special Gifts Fund was presented to Sarah Kanoy to help support her as she begins serving the Lord as teacher and community health nurse



Kanoy

to the people of Kenya, East Africa. We pray our gift will help share the message of Christ to many people in Kenya. To God be all praise and glory.

Attend a conference

Ladies, it's time to gather your friends and make plans for a road trip to the nearest LWML South Dakota District Fall Christian Life Workshop:

- Friday, Sept. 25, St. Paul's, Aberdeen
- Saturday, Sept. 26, Peace, Brookings
- Friday, Oct. 9, Christ, Winner
- Saturday, Oct. 10, Peace, Rapid City

Each workshop begins with registration at 9:30 a.m.; opening devotions follow at 10. An offering will be collected for workshop expenses. Lunch begins at noon, which includes a free-will donation to cover lunch expenses. Anything extra collected will be donated to the district mites. Workshops will conclude at about 3 p.m.

Oh, you might want to bring a checkbook to shop at the district LWML Store.

Bobbie Bierman
Vice-President, Christian Life

ANECDOTES FROM ARLENE

But I will hope continually, and will praise you yet more and more.

Ps. 71:14

HOPE ... what types of things have you hoped for? A good medical checkup? The children to sleep through the night? That special guy to ask you out? My special guy asked me out more than 45 years ago. And I continue to praise God for all His blessings.



Arlene Naasz
LWML South Dakota
District President

At our Christian Life workshops this fall, we will look at “Hope: Sharing Hope, Giving Hope and Living Hope On and Off the Reservation.” Rev. Andrew Utecht, missionary to the Rosebud Reservation, will be our topic leader. He will also share with us news on the Parmalee Sewing Project.

Hopefully, I will see many of you at one of our Christian Life workshops. The workshops are an excellent way to add something more to your faith nourishment. The dates and locations are listed in the latest issue of the *Hi-Lites*. The time is now to invite someone to attend the Christian Life workshop as your guest.

The 2015 LWML Sunday materials are now available. The theme for this year's service is “Seek First the Kingdom of God.” All resources are available as **free** downloads at lwml.org/lwml-sunday. The LWML thanks God for LWML counselors Rev. John Heckmann and

Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner, authors of this year's materials. The time is now to celebrate the LWML in your church.

Have you ever hoped for something special to use at your LWML meeting? Go to the LWML website (lwml.org) and, under the “Missions” tab, select “Mission Grants.” A video briefly describing the 19 mission grants that were adopted for 2015-17 at the convention is available for your use. This video will remain on the website for the entire biennium. Plan to show it to your society and congregation, and use it throughout the next two years to promote support for mites.

Our new LWML president, Patti Ross, has encouraged all of us to select one national grant as our special grant. Learn more about the grant, and regularly pray for and support the grant through mites. The time is now to pray for and promote our LWML mission grants.

Your information please!

These autumn days are busy with school activities, crop harvests and the LWML zone rallies. Many of the LWML societies and zones have elected new officers. I would like to thank all of the ladies who are willing to serve the Lord through the LWML.

It is time to fill out the Zone and Society Officer Reports. You will find the report forms at sdlwml.org; click the “LWML SD Forms & Helps” link.

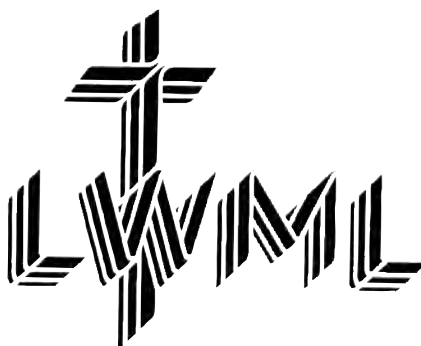
The society president should fill out the report and send it to their zone secretary by Jan. 15. The zone secretary fills in the Society Office Compilation form and sends it to the LWML district secretary by Feb. 1. The zone president/secretary should fill out the Zone Officer Report and send it to the district secretary by Feb. 1.

A part of my duties as the LWML South Dakota District secretary is to keep track of this information. It is important to have current information. This helps to keep the lines of

communication open and our historical records accurate. I ask that you include the email address of a contact person from your society. This person does not need to be an officer; just a responsible person to make sure the information they receive is shared with everyone.

The Time is NOW is to share with other women the joy of being a member of the LWML.

Susan Swanson
LWML District Secretary



GREETINGS FROM THE CHAMBERLAIN ZONE

In April, our zone held a spring rally hosted by Christ Lutheran Church, Winner. The guest speaker was Rev. Glen Demke, who shared a study on the “Gift of Prayer.” Thirty-two people attended the rally, including five pastors and three guests.

Are you sowing the seed of God's Word? Seven members of the Chamberlain Zone attended the LWML National Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, in June and learned that we are all missionaries who have been created, redeemed and called to tell all the world about Jesus.

It was a nourishing experience for all.

Laurel Schamber
Chamberlain Zone President

YWR REFLECTS ON CONVENTION IN DES MOINES

I am so grateful to the South Dakota District for sending me to the LWML National Convention in Des Moines as one of your Young Woman Representatives. Honestly, they didn't give me enough space to write all the details of the amazing experience I had — the Bible studies, worshiping with more than 5,000 believers, seeing more clearly the inner-workings of the LWML and the big things our mites do. (Being seated in Row 2, right behind the past presidents, helped me feel even more integrated!).

FELLOWSHIP WITH YOUNG WOMEN OF THE LWML — WHO ARE EAGER TO REACH OUT TO OTHER YOUNG WOMEN!

The YWR experience is incredibly important to the future of the LWML. We need these opportunities to engage young women, to encourage them in their faith and to support our growing mission field. I've heard from several women that their first national convention was what sparked their involvement in their societies and zones. And although I have been involved in my society, I must say convention really is life-changing! I left Des Moines with new, life-long friends, a new fervor for serving the Lord however He sees fit and encouraged about the future of the LWML.

I would like to pass on some of that encouragement and urge you to reach out to the younger ladies in your congregation. Invite them to join you at your next circle meeting. Ask them to help you with your next zone rally. Seek out their opinions and listen to their input. Be the hands reaching out to them. Don't wait until next time; the time is now to get young women involved!

Margaret Baumann
Young Woman Representative

MISSION GRANTS CHOSEN FOR 2015-17

I recently had the pleasure of attending the 57th LWML Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. If I had only one word to tell you about my experience it would have to be "Rejuvenated." The four days were filled with singing, fellowship, learning and, most of all, praying. I love attending the LWML conventions because it brings my life into perspective. Christ should be the forefront in our lives. The convention shows me just that.

One of the main events of the convention was the setting of the LWML Mission Goal of \$2 million. Wow! The following mission grants were selected:

- #1 Clean Water and Evangelism Ministry, \$50,000
- #2 Disaster Response Trailers, \$80,000
- #3 Cancer Care Packages—Phil's Friends, \$50,000
- #4 Renovation of JEM Seminary Buildings, \$120,000
- #5 Redeeming Life Maternity Home, \$100,000
- #6 Hope and Healing to the Navajo People, \$75,000
- #7 Outreach in Refugee Camps—Lebanon, \$72,000
- #8 Healthy Families, \$60,000
- #9 LCMS Global Seminary Initiative, \$100,000
- #10 Training Teachers and Leaders, \$100,000
- #11 Opportunities in Uganda, \$100,000
- #12 "In Their Hands and Upon Their Hearts," \$50,000
- #13 We Are God's Workmanship," \$32,500
- #14 Bringing the Gospel to the Lost Sheep of Israel, \$100,000
- #15 Helping Hands Initiative, \$100,000
- #16 Deaconess Training, \$90,000
- #17 Lutheran Youth Corps, \$25,000
- #18 Providing Hope for Detroit, \$100,000
- #19 Rosa Young Academies (Partial), \$14,064

If you haven't had the opportunity, check out the LWML website at lwml.org/mission-grants. You will be able to click on the grants to find out more information about them.

To God be the glory.

Mary Jo Stier
Vice-President of Gospel Outreach

HURON ZONE INVITES YOU TO FALL RALLY

LWML Huron Zone held the Christian Growth Workshop at Zion Lutheran Church, Wessington Springs. Rev. Dan Domke of Mount Calvary, Huron, led the Bible study on "The State of Marriage in 2015." Zion Lutheran Church looks very nice after the needed repairs from the damage caused by the tornado in 2014 were completed.

Our zone delegate to the National Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, was Roseanne Spiehs.

Our LWML Fall Rally will be held at 2

p.m. on Oct. 11 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Wolsey,

The Rev. L Scott Spiehs will be the Bible study leader. His topic will be "Focus Lost ... Focus Restored."

We invite everyone to join us for our Fall Rally.

Susan Kinsley
President, LWML Huron Zone



ANECDOTES FROM ARLENE

"He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."

1 John 2:2

In the official Scrabble dictionary, "propitiation" is worth 66 points. Remember that the next time you play Scrabble. According to Easton's Bible dictionary, propitiation means "Christ is the propi-



Arlene Naasz
LWML South Dakota
District President

tiation." By His becoming our substitute and assuming our obligations, He atoned for our guilt and covered it. Many times when you think of a substitute, you think of someone not as good. As a substitute teacher for many years, I wasn't as good at explaining the day's lesson as the regular teacher. When I was substituted into a basketball game, it was for a reason — my ability was not as good as the starting player. But when Christ became our substitute, He did what we were unable to do. He paid the price for our redemption. He is perfect while we are not.

God wants the whole world to know about Christ being our substitute. How do you and I tell the whole world? We can help by using our mighty mites, and through our mission grants help spread the Good News throughout the world.

How does your society promote the work of the LWML? Do you use the

mite-box devotions for the South Dakota mission grants? Have you read about the national mission grants on the LWML website? If your society has someone that shares a devotion, encourage them to share how the LWML is working to spread the Gospel of Christ. The time is now to promote the LWML mission grants and keep them in your prayers.

Plans are being made for the 2016 LWML South Dakota District Convention, June 3-4, 2016 at Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre. Our theme will be "We are the Body of Christ, each one of you is part of it." Rom. 12:5, "So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another," is our scripture verse.

The time is now to put the dates on your calendar and keep the convention planning in your prayers.

Greetings from the **MILBANK ZONE**

The women of the Milbank Zone send you blessings for Thanksgiving.

In 2015, the zone women gathered at Emanuel, Milbank, for the Spring Rally.



They were treated to music provided by the Emanuel bell choir and a presentation by Rev. Keith Bicknase, his wife, Becky, and Raeann Barthel about the mission trip to Concordia Lutheran School in Hong Kong

During the year many of the ladies of the area had the opportunity to serve at Orphan Grain Train in Milbank, putting together mercy meals. Some

are still busy making sleeping mats.

On Sept. 5, the Milbank Zone took its turn to serve at Puppet Place. What a fun and tiring day as we tried to reach out to as many of the fair attendees as possible.

On Nov. 13-14, the women will gather for the retreat and fall rally at the Abbey of the Hills. This is a time for fellowship, fun and growth in faith. Rev. Glenn Schultz is scheduled to lead the Bible studies, focusing on "What do we do when the government says 'Yes' and God says 'No.'"

Rebecca Bicknase
Milbank Zone President

Time is now to be a

YWR!

You may have recently read *HiLites* articles written by our YWRs who attended the LWML convention in Des Moines, Iowa, in June. These young ladies clearly had an amazing experience and learned so much more about the work of the LWML.

If you're a young woman in your church, the time is now for you to start your journey with the LWML and maybe one day become a Young Woman Representative. "How do I start with LWML?" you ask. Go to your church's next circle meeting and you'll experience wonderful fellowship and Bible study and learn the latest about what the amazing ladies of the LWML are up to in your church, across the state, nation and world.

We, Lutheran Women in Mission, look forward to meeting you with lots of purple hugs at the next LWML event!

Angie Robinson
Co-Chairman
Committee on Young Women



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

'Sent out to harvest'

The landscape is filled with combines clearing out fields and the last of summer's produce is picked out of the gardens. It's harvest time! — when we get to enjoy the fruits of our labor. So we give thanks to the Lord for the bounties of the earth that He provides for our tables, whether it's a from a hobby garden, a farm for earning a



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor

living or even if we just pick it up from the market.

But there's also a spiritual harvest in which to thank God. This past summer, the theme for the national LWML convention was "Bountiful! Sow • Nourish • Reap." The Word of God has been planted, faith has been nourished through Word and Sacrament and now is the time to send workers into the harvest field.

"When (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'" (Matt. 9:36-38)

Yes, now is the time to send out laborers into the Lord's field! We live in a world that is harassed by the devil and his schemes, where confusion about God's truth and persecution abounds. People are hurting and helpless and are in

need of Christ's compassion and mercy — not only for the hungry, the homeless, the sick and the dying, but also for those who are spiritually destitute. Yes, Jesus had compassion for the sick and poor, and He provides for "our daily bread." More importantly, Jesus came to save sinners — who are led astray by our sinful desires, the world and Satan — through His death on the cross and resurrection from the grave.

The Lord of the harvest is calling workers out into the harvest field to show Christ's compassion to a hurting and sinful world. At convention, the LWML set a \$2-million mission grant goal for 19 different ministries, many that are caring for the sick and needy, and many that will help prepare future pastors, missionaries and church workers to save sinners through the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ crucified and risen from the dead. You can find out more about these mission grants at lwml.org/mission-grants. But perhaps God is even calling you out into the harvest.

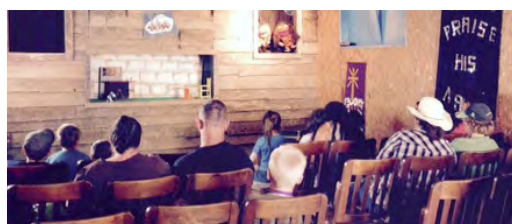
Puppet Place gives Gospel presence

Once again, Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair was a blessing to all who stopped by and took in the show. This year's show was titled "Jesus Loves Cowboys."

More than 1,187 people stopped by to see the show along with magic tricks. The children really loved the balloons made into animals. A new addition to Puppet Place was a puppet named Carver, carved by hand by Rev. Andrew Utecht.

I would like to thank everyone who helped out at the Puppet Place this year, especially the following zones: Brookings, Chamberlain, Milbank, Mitchell and Pierre. A very sincere thank you to the Huron Zone for all they do in getting the Puppet Place ready before the fair as well as closing it for another successful year.

Mary Jo Stier
Vice-President of Gospel Outreach
LWML South Dakota District



Top, a small portion of those who volunteered at Puppet Place this summer. Left, a look inside at Puppet Place.

ANECDOTES FROM ARLENE

"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."

Eph. 4:29



Arlene Naasz
LWML South Dakota
District President

Were you ever a cheerleader? Or pretended to be one? While in high school Walther League (church youth group), a group of us girls were cheerleaders for our church team while they played basketball in a city tournament. It was fun to lead the rousing chants and cheers trying to encourage both players and fans.

Scripture lists a few cheerleaders, too. Mordecai encouraged Queen Esther, Jonathan supported David, Elizabeth affirmed Mary and Barnabas reinforced Paul. Is there someone in your church or LWML society you could encourage? Perhaps they need to know they have

something to offer the group and are waiting to be built up by you. The time is now to look beyond your normal circle of friends and be willing to speak encouraging words to those who need them.

Look at your LWML church bulletin board. Does it have a "Save the Date" poster for the June 3-4, 2016 LWML South Dakota District Convention? If not, go to sdlwml.org, print one and put it up. Deb Burma, originally from South Dakota, will be our keynote speaker. We are making plans for breakout sessions and mission moments. Our theme is "We are the Body of Christ; Each One of You is Part of it." Our Bible verse is taken from Rom. 12:5: "So we, though

many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." The time it now to put it on your calendar and plan to come to Pierre. I encourage you to do so!

As our year comes to a close, make it a resolution to be more in the Word of God. Suggest to your family you would like some new devotional material for Christmas. The LWML has many great resources. Prepare a place, perhaps include a prayer journal and have your Bible with the correct size font for easy reading readily available. In 2016 grow in the Word of God and not necessarily a new dress size. The time is now to be in the Word of God.



News from the MITCHELL ZONE

The LWML Mitchell Zone held its 62nd Fall Rally at Trinity, White Lake, on Sunday, Oct. 4. A total of 35 people listened to the Rev. Ken Greinke as he shared his experiences as a missionary in Nigeria and working with Lutheran Bible Translators. Greinke related how LWML mission grants have helped the work in Nigeria, including spreading the Gospel. Zone President Deb Haak shared her excitement in what our mites have and will continue to do to help spread the Gospel throughout the world.



Mary Jo Stier, LWML South Dakota District Vice-President of Gospel Outreach, represented the LWML district executive board and shared the work within the district of cleaning the cemetery out for Native Americans. She also reported on preparations for the state convention in Pierre in 2016. A review of the district website (sdlwml.org), including how to find tools to help you and your societies, was given. Members were encouraged to use the website.

Haak provided her report on the LWML National Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. Convention highlights were shared. She reported that one memory she has is when LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison announced that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriage is constitutional. This announcement was met with silence from the convention attendees.

Harrison reminded us that we need to continue to pray.

**Submitted by Deb Haak,
Mitchell Zone President**

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Cheerful ... Humble ... Faithful

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.'" (LUKE 1:46-55)

Mary sees clearly a most remarkable thing about God ... He is about to change the course of all human history. The most important three decades in all of time are about to begin.

And where is God?



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor

Occupying Himself with two obscure, humble women. One is an old and barren woman named Elizabeth. The other is a young virgin named Mary. And Mary is so moved by this vision of God, the lover of the humble, that she breaks out in song ... a song that has come to be known as "the Magnificat."

Mary and Elizabeth are wonderful heroines in Luke's account. He loves the faith of these women. The thing that impresses him most, it appears, and the thing he wants to impress on Theoph-

ilus, his noble reader, is the cheerful humility of Elizabeth and Mary.

Elizabeth says in Luke 1:43:

"And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord would come to me?"

And Mary says in Luke 1:48:

"He has looked on the humble estate of his servant."

The only people whose soul can truly magnify the Lord are people like Elizabeth and Mary ... people who acknowledge their humble estate and are overwhelmed by the magnificent God who comes down to save His people.

Come and join the cheerful, humble servants of the LWML, who like Elizabeth and Mary are overwhelmed by the love of God in Christ and in response "consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him."

Peace and Joy in the Baby Jesus!



Rev. Andrew Utecht

Utecht shares hope at workshops

"HOPE: Sharing Hope, Giving Hope, and Living in Hope on and off the Reservation — Including the Hope that helps us get past racism" was the theme of our 2015 LWML South Dakota District Christian Life workshops.

"Informational program ... fun to listen to ... applicable for each of us ... kept us engaged ... I can be a friend ... we all need hope" were some of responses to the Rev. Andrew Utecht's presentation.

Even though we can't fix all the problems of the world, we can give hope to others by sharing the love of Christ; we ourselves can live in that hope. We're all just the same — sinners — and yet, "While we were

still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8b).

We thank Pastor Utecht for sharing that message with us and also updating us on sewing quilts at the Parmalee sewing factory, "Harvest Winds."

Workshops were held, in Aberdeen, Brookings, Winner and Rapid City, and 169 people attended, seven for the first times. Attendees donated \$851 to help cover workshop expenses and \$448 for our district mission grants (mites).

To God be the glory forever,

Bobbie Bierman
Vice-President, Christian Life
LWML South Dakota District