



2023
Hi-Lites



PATTY'S PONDERINGS

Time to register for convention!

"Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" is the theme for the 40th Biennial LWML Convention, to be held June 22-25 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. The winter edition of *Lutheran Women's Quarterly* (LWQ) and *lwml.org/2023-convention* has the information you need to plan your trip.



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota District President

Registration will be done online. Please see *LWQ* for guidance. Please ask for help if you don't use a computer or if you're having difficulty registering. Early registration will be from Jan. 9 to March 14 and the cost is \$160. Registration is \$180 from March 15 to May 10. Late registration (May 11-June 10) is \$205.

The registration fee covers the sessions, evening activities and entrance to the exhibit hall.

We will have a bus traveling from South Dakota to Milwaukee. Information will be available at *sdlwml.org*. Those who ride the bus will have hotel reservations made for them. Otherwise, hotel reservations can be made on the online convention registration form.

Tours of Milwaukee and the surrounding area will be held. There will also be fun programs and events for children.

We will worship God at the opening communion service, participate in Bible studies, hear Mites in Action reports, vote on the new mission goal and mission grants, and have fun with our friends in the exhibit hall and during the evening activities. It is such a great joy to sing praises to our Lord with several thousand fellow Lutheran women and men. Talk to your friends and make plans to attend the convention. May God bless our time together.



Zone reports are due

It's that time of year!

Group presidents and secretaries, please send your completed officer reports to your zone secretary by Jan. 13.

Zone presidents and secretaries, please complete both the Group Officer Compilation Report form and the Zone Officer Report form and send them to me by Feb. 1. I look forward to hearing from you!

The forms can be found at *sdlwml.org*. Go to "Resources," and select "Officer Report Forms" from the drop-down menu. Choose the appropriate report(s) for your group/zone and enter the information. My contact information is on the forms.

Thank you.

Luann Zuercher
LWML District Secretary

CHAMBERLAIN ZONE UPDATE

The Chamberlain Zone held its Fall Rally on Sept. 24 at Messiah, Murdo. Rev. Ray Greenseth led the Bible study, emphasizing "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it!"

Yours truly was elected president. The other zone officers are:

- ▶ Leanne Zirpel (Zion, Presho), vice-president
- ▶ Patti Greenseth (Messiah, Murdo), secretary/treasurer

Rev. Marcus Ring, pastor of St. John's, Gregory, serves as zone counselor. Hope Lutter, a member of Zion, Chamberlain, will be the zone delegate to the

LWML convention in Milwaukee in June.

St. John's, Gregory, LWML will host the zone spring event.

Our zone had the pleasure to work at the Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair on Sept. 3, and help celebrate its 50th anniversary. We had volunteers from St. John's, Gregory; Zion, Chamberlain; and Messiah, Murdo.

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

Susan Swanson
Chamberlain Zone President

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

NEW DAY, NEW YOU!



Blessed new year to all of you! With all the new year's resolutions floating about, I would like to emphasize something to you that new-year celebrations often bring to my mind. Whether you know it or not, you are a new person. In fact, you don't have to wait for a new year to be a new person. Every day you are new because of what Christ has done for you.

In Eph. 2:10, Paul reminds us of something that I want you to keep in mind, alongside all your new-year goals. You are God's workmanship in Christ, made for good works that the heavenly Father has set aside specifically for you.

From this I want you to hear two things. First, I want you to hear that God created you newly in Christ Jesus. Because of your Baptism, you have been united with Christ in death and more importantly in life. That means you are a newborn Christian every day. As you rise, Christ clothes you with His

righteousness, covers your old sins and makes you a new person to serve in His kingdom.

And second, as Christ has covered you and made you new, God has prepared tasks for you to complete. Paul calls them good works. God loves you enough to prepare the way for you to work for Him. So you are a new person with your work all laid out and ready for you. God created you on His divine workbench and set up your own bench to work with.

That is an awesome reality that is brand new each day. Daily you rise as new people, and God sets up new tasks for you to do for the benefit of His kingdom. You are new! Your sins are forgiven, and your mistakes are left in the past. You are daily God's workmanship, rising to do His work in His workshop. This year I want you to resolve to remember and live that reality.

God makes you new each day by the work of His Son, and He uses your work to extend His workshop, His kingdom. So every day this year, remember it's a new year and you're a new you, with new and wonderfully blessed things to do!

We pray: Lord, make us new every day. Give us the faith and confidence to do your work that you lay out anew for us daily. Amen.



Rev. Clint O. Thorson
LWML District Counselor

Zion honors 80 years of LWML

Fall was a joyous time for the women of Zion LWML, Avon, who celebrated 80 years of LWML in various ways.

Zion celebrated LWML Sunday on Oct. 2 by displaying a new banner representing the theme, "For Us and With Us." LWML ladies served coffee and an 80th anniversary LWML cake following worship services, and attendees received bookmarks. Mite boxes were made available for the Sunday-school children. The ladies acknowledged the day as "Honey Sunday," making order forms available for honey from the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

In addition, the ladies set a goal of collecting 80 nonperishable food items for the Bon Homme County food bank. In all, 95 food items were delivered to the food bank on Oct. 6.

Praise God for 80 years of the LWML!



Among those who delivered food to the food bank were, from left, Debbie Brandt, Carol Swier, Lyla Brandt, Brenda Fathke and Margaret Poppe.

PATTY'S PONDERINGS

Plan to attend district retreat

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

The theme is based on Rom. 15:5-7:

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota District President

Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

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

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



Invite, Listen/Love and Encourage.

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

Updated email addresses wanted

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

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

I look forward to hearing from each group and zone!

God's blessings,
Heather Miller



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

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

The LWML is organized according to the following levels:

Groups

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

Zones

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

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

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

Mary Jo Stier • Structure Chairperson

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Defined by love



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

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

We all have a desire to be loved.

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

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

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

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



Rev. Brian Mosemann
LWML District Counselor

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

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

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

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

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

Send in your Mites!

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



To God be all glory! Thank you.

Paula Warren • Financial Secretary

HURON ZONE UPDATE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ann Cruse • Huron Zone President

PATTY'S PONDERINGS



If you are a basketball fan, you know that March is full of high school and college basketball tournaments — and usually lots of snowfall in South Dakota.

But more importantly, we are in the season of

Lent, when we ponder the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus Christ for us, His beloved children.

This is also a very busy time for LWML. Many zones and groups are using the **2023 LWML Prayer Service**, “My Soul Rejoices,” based on Psalm 5:11a. The service was written by Rev. Dr. Mitchell Schuessler, past LWML counselor (2017-21) and contains multiple hymns, Bible passages and prayers. It is available at lwml.org/prayer-service.

You have an opportunity to join your LWML sisters at the district **Spring Retreat**, to be held April 21-22 at Peace Lutheran Church, Brookings. The theme, “With One Voice,” is based on Romans 15:5-7. The retreat will include



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President

singing, a mission/mite walk, a servant event, an 80th year anniversary party for our district and Bible study led by our district counselors, Revs. Clint Thorson and Brian Mosemann.

Pastor Thorson writes more on the retreat on page 5. Below his article are details about our retreat Gifts from the Heart.

Please find the registration form at sdlwml.org/district-retreats or use the form on page 6.

How many of you are going to Milwaukee for the **LWML 40th Biennial Convention** June 22-25? The convention theme is “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations,” based on Psalm 33:12-13. It is such a blessing to gather as the body of Christ to receive the Lord’s Supper, participate in Bible study, hear mission grant reports and vote on officers, bylaws and new mission grants. Also, it is a lot of fun! For more information and to register, go to lwml.org/2023-convention. Registration information is also available in the winter edition of *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly*. Please help each other with registration, as you are able.

The LWML South Dakota District is

sponsoring a **MOST Ministries mission team** trip to Guatemala Oct. 27-Nov. 4. The team will provide families with a sustainable water purification system and information on how to use the system. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact your zone president or email me at lwmlsdprespatty@gmail.com.

There are many opportunities to be together in the Word and in service to our Lord and neighbors. Prayerfully consider what you can do this spring to celebrate your being a child of God through your Baptism. This is not “madness” to believers, but a gracious gift of our Triune God.



Down to the wire!

The new year brings the closing of our LWML South Dakota District biennium mite goal! The deadline for the national LWML’s biennium mite goal is March 15. Perhaps you can send in a special amount to help push us toward our goal of \$2,150,000! Such a blessing to so many ministries!

Jan Larson • VP of Gospel Outreach

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML)

is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman’s relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions. Visit lwml.org.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER



I encourage you to meditate on this Bible passage prior to the retreat. They are verses of blessing and hope that lead us as we gather from all corners of South Dakota.

How appropriate that these verses begin with the idea that God is the One who is patient and enduring, the One who is able to give us consolation and encouragement. He calls us out from wherever we are, from whatever we used to do and from whomever we used to be so that we may together as one glorify His name as we work in unity and peace to make His glorious work in Christ Jesus known.

Traveling across our beloved state can be daunting, depending on where you're coming from. Planning a large gathering can be stressful. The road, and life in general, can make us wary and weary of others. God the Holy Spirit, through the pen of Paul, encourages us to endure and build one another up.

We build one another up so that by our lives and our actions we might glorify God and welcome each other into God's loving care always. The encouragement Paul gives is Christ. By patient endurance Jesus welcomed me and you at our worst. He shed His blood on the cross so that we might know His mercy and in turn welcome others by that same mercy.

So next month, let's get to know Jesus and one another better in Brookings as we continue to work together in patient endurance and hope that one day every voice will glorify God through Jesus for His enduring mercy.

'With one voice'

God's richest blessings to all of you! I want to take a few minutes to promote the upcoming Spring Retreat for the LWML South Dakota District. The retreat will be held April 21-22 at Peace Lutheran Church, Brookings. The ladies of Peace, as well as the pastoral staff, have been preparing for our



Rev. Clint O. Thorson
LWML District Counselor

arrival! A big thank you to them for putting in the time and effort to host all of us involved and interested in the LWML.

As you may know, the theme for this year's retreat is "With One Voice," based on Romans 15:5-7:

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Gifts from the Heart

At the district retreat, we will assemble care packages and enclose a handwritten note of encouragement with each package. After the retreat, you are welcome to take some care packages with you and deliver them to a church worker near you!

Please bring items from the following list:

- \$25 Walmart or \$25 Visa gift card
- Trail Mix (individual servings)
- Cough drops (about 30 count)
- Water flavor packets of 10



- Tic Tacs
- Mustard Seed Devotions packets

In addition, please consider a cash donation for Sleep in Heavenly Peace of Brookings. Across the United States, too many children go without a bed or pillow to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets and even floors, which has adverse effects on their physical and mental health.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a group of volunteers dedicated to delivering to these children hand-built bunk beds free of charge. Oftentimes, the kids who receive one of the beds have never owned a bed of their own. For every \$250 collected, a child will receive a bed, mattress, pillow, set of sheets and comforter.

LWML SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

Spring Retreat

April 21–22, 2023

Peace Lutheran Church, 1104 22nd Ave. South, Brookings

Theme: “With One Voice” • Scripture Verse: Romans 15:5-7



Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Email _____

Group _____ Zone _____

Deadline for registration and meals - April 1

Mark which applies:

- Member of the LWML SD Board of Directors
- LWML Member
- Young Woman Representative
- Heart to Heart Sister
- Pastor (no registration fee)
- Guest
- Special Dietary needs

Housing Information - You are responsible for

making your own hotel arrangements. Ask for the LWML rates. Rooms (two queen beds) are blocked at:

Country Inn and Suites

- 3000 LeFevre Drive, Brookings
- Phone: 605-692-3500
- \$ 75 + tax
- Reserve before March 20

Hampton Inn and Suites

- 3017 LeFevre Drive, Brookings
- Phone: 605-697-5232
- \$130 + tax
- Reserve before March 17

Registration Fee

	Quantity	Cost	Fee Total
Registration	_____	\$15	\$_____
Saturday Lunch	_____	\$ 9	\$_____
Total Enclosed			\$_____

Holiday Inn Express and Suites

- 3020 LeFevre Drive, Brookings
- Phone: 605-692-9060
- \$140 + tax
- Reserve before March 17

***Pastors please choose gratis meal.**

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

Mail your registration form with payment to:

Phyllis Porisch
307 Summit St. S.
Flandreau, SD 57028

PATTY'S PONDERINGS



HAPPY EASTER!

Young women are recognized at the LWML 39th Biennial Convention in Lexington, Ky., in 2021. The 40th convention is in Milwaukee in June.

This month we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ! What a glorious day Easter is!

Yet we have been traveling through the season of

Lent. During Holy Week, we look upon Jesus, our suffering servant, and see there is no greater love than this: that He laid down His life for all people of all time.

Each day we need to ponder our sinful condition and ask for forgiveness from God. He is always listening for our prayers.

I hope that many of you will attend the **district LWML Spring Retreat** April 21-22 at Peace Lutheran Church, Brookings (see article on this page). The theme is "With One Voice," based on Rom. 15:5-7. We will have lots of fun being in the Word together through Bible



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota District President

study and singing, participating in a servant event and mission grant mite walk, and celebrating the 80th anniversary of our LWML South Dakota District.

And we have a surprise for you on Friday night. You don't want to miss it! Please see the March *HiLites* or visit sdlwml.org/district-retreats for the retreat registration form.

Another opportunity to "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" is the **LWML 40th Biennial Convention**, to be held June 22-25 in Milwaukee. If you have not been to a national convention, I urge you to go and experience being together in worship and fellowship with thousands of your sisters and brothers in Christ.

There will be a communion service, Bible study, singing, servant events, Mites in action reports, fun at the booths in the exhibit hall, a mission walk and much more! Please see the information about the convention in the Winter 2022 *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* or visit lwml.org/2023-convention.

May God richly bless your work for Him as you reach out to your neighbor with the Gospel and love of Jesus.

Make plans to attend SPRING RETREAT

Please make plans to attend the LWML South Dakota District Spring Retreat, which will be held April 21-22 at Peace Lutheran Church, Brookings. The theme is, "With One Voice," based on Romans 15:5-7:

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Revs. Brian Mosemann and Clint Thorson, our LWML district pastoral counselors, will lead the retreat Bible study.

During the retreat, we will assemble care packages for district pastors, DCEs and deaconesses. Please also be prepared to write a note of encouragement to go with the care package. You are welcome to take some care packages with you and deliver them to church workers near you!

Please bring items from the following list:

- \$25 Walmart or \$25 Visa gift card
- Trail Mix (individual servings)
- Cough drops (about 30 count)
- Water flavor packets of 10
- Tic Tacs
- Mustard Seed Devotions packets



In addition, please consider bringing a cash donation for Sleep in Heavenly Peace of Brookings. Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a group of volunteers dedicated to delivering to children hand-built bunk beds free of charge. Oftentimes, the kids who receive one of the beds have never owned a bed of their own. For every \$250 collected, a child will receive a bed, mattress, pillow, set of sheets and comforter.

If you would like to order a feather pin, please contact me at dihemm@rushmore.com.

Dianne Hemminger

Vice-President of Special Focus Ministries



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Out of the lion's den

Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!" DANIEL 6:16

Daniel prays to his God, Yahweh. King Darius, however, doesn't change the rules for Daniel even though the king loves him and doesn't want him to die. Why doesn't the king just change the rules? Because it doesn't work that way. The law is inflexible, for "not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished" (MATT. 5:18).

For us sinners, this is terrifying news.

A misconception about Christianity is that grace involves setting aside the Law of God. Jesus's work of salvation is seen as lowering the bar of the Law, as if He takes God's Law and turns it into "Do your best to love God and one another." This is a profound error con-



Rev. Brian Mosemann
LWML District Counselor

cerning Christ's work. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explained how high the bar of the Law has always been.

When we sin, God does not set the Law aside. If He did, we would have no peace. We would wonder what God would do next time we sin or what He would do if we kept repeating the same sin. Would He keep setting aside the Law?

Putting aside the Law is not grace. Moreover, instead of peace, it leads to fear.

The good news is that God does not set aside the Law. Instead, He closes the lions' mouths.

Jesus did not come to set the Law aside but to fulfill it! When we are confronted



with our sin, we don't have to hope that we can bend the rules. We know that the Law has been placed on the shoulders of another and that He has been cast to the lions in our place. Daniel walked out of the lions' den without a scratch, saved by God.

Jesus does one better. He was raised, victorious over sin and death. He triumphed over the lions. He shut their mouths — and not just for Himself, but for you.



MILBANK ZONE REPORT

Six of our ladies had a wonderful time helping at the Puppet Place (at the South Dakota State Fair) and reported that the puppet show was a popular attraction for people of all ages. We are so blessed to have such giving ladies in our zones!

The Milbank Zone held a Fall Rally at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Milbank, under the theme, "Let the Children Come to Me." Sharon Falk, a member of Mount Olive, Watertown, led the opening with a devotion titled "Children Come to Jesus." Rev. Arthur Drehman of Our Savior's, Wilmot, and Trinity, Corona, led an inspiring Bible study on our rally theme. Twenty-four members attended.

Our ingathering supported Backyard Bulldogs Day Care in Milbank. Kelsey Buttke, owner and operator, talked to us about her work at the day care. Her excitement and passion for children and instilling positive behavior in them was so evident. She appreciated the items our zone donated for the day care.

Many of our ladies plan to attend the district Spring Retreat in Brookings this month. Several members are making plans to attend the LWML national convention in Milwaukee in June.

Our 2023 Fall Rally will be at St. John's, Revillo.

Jeanette Gravdahl
Milbank Zone President

PATTY'S PONDERINGS



HATS OFF to our delegates!

The voting delegates of the South Dakota District will represent each of our 10 zones at the LWML 40th Biennial Convention. Each zone has its own way of deciding who the delegate is and how to support her. An alternate delegate is also chosen.

The delegates will vote on the LWML Mission Grant proposals a few weeks ahead of the convention, to be held June 22–25 in Milwaukee. Voting at the convention will be for new officers, the Nominating Committee for the 2025 convention, bylaws and the new mission goal. This is very important work for the LWML. Please review these topics at your zone and group meetings and share your thoughts with your delegates.



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota District President

- The voting delegates are :
- ▶ Betty Ochsner (Aberdeen Zone)
 - ▶ Patti Praeuner (Black Hills Zone)
 - ▶ Dora Harste (Brookings Zone)
 - ▶ Hope Lutter (Chamberlain Zone)
 - ▶ Laraine Kahre (Huron Zone)
 - ▶ Linda Remund (Milbank Zone)
 - ▶ Michelle Lemcke (Mitchell Zone)
 - ▶ Mary Jo Stier (Pierre Zone)
 - ▶ Cathy VandeBraak (Sioux Falls)
 - ▶ Sandy Brandt (Yankton Zone)

Thank you very much, delegates, for being a part of the convention and preparing for this important job of carrying out the work of LWML. May God bless our time at the convention!

SEW Happy

Faith, Pierre, boxes up handmade dresses for Mexico mission

Making dresses from new or gently used pillowcases has been a project of the Faith, Pierre, LWML group for over 12 years. Throughout the year, the pillow cases, buttons, lace and trim of all kinds are donated by Faith members while the LWML provides the elastic and bias tape.

LWML members gather to make kits that people can take home and sew into a dress, ranging from extra-small to extra-large. Each kit contains a pillowcase cut to a specific size and the materials needed to finish the project. When the dress is complete, it is returned to the church and another kit is taken home to sew.

Faith's mission team recently took the dresses to Mexico for its trip to help Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care of El Paso, Texas. The mission team has also taken shorts and flip-flops to give to boys they encounter. Handing out these tangible gifts in person has been rewarding for the mission team as well as



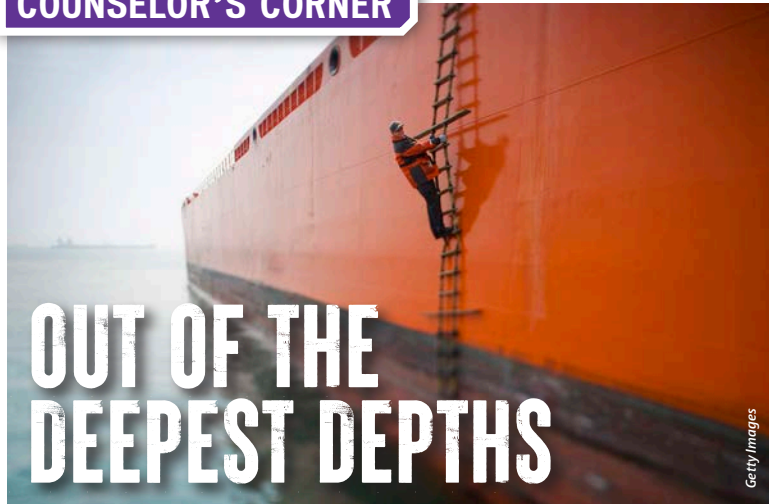
From left, Doreen Miller, Luann Zuercher, Jan Deal and Renee Knapp prepare dress kits.

the recipients. This has been a fun project for all the members of Faith Lutheran Church, and it's amazing to see how creative women can be!

The sewing typically starts in February and is completed by mid-May. In the beginning, up to 70 dresses were completed each year, but recently the number of completed dresses has been closer to 400! Doreen Miller coordinates the project for the group, but many hands go into serving the Lord in this event.

Jan Larson • VP of Gospel Outreach

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



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

I want to start off by reminding and “hyping” you up for the LWML 40th Biennial Convention, to be held June 22–25 in Milwaukee. It isn’t too late to sign up. If you are able, please consider attending this wonderful event.



Rev. Clint O. Thorson
LWML District Counselor

When you attend an LWML convention, you will see one mighty way that the Spirit works through His people — the way the phenomenal ladies of the LWML share His love and mercy with the rest of His creation. These conventions are wonderful experiences that everyone should attend at least once.

With that reminder, I have a question for you: Have you ever felt like you were in too deep in some area of life, or just in general? With everything the world throws at and expects of us, and with all the things that we want to do and expect of ourselves, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed, buried under a mountain of endless tasks. It gets even harder when we face disease and death in our own lives or the lives of our loved ones, not to mention the sins and temptations that weigh heavily on our hearts.

If you are feeling like you’re in too deep, take a minute to read Psalm 130. The author has found himself feeling this way. Sin and iniquity have piled up; he is buried. From this self-made grave he cries out to the Lord because he knows there is no digging himself out of depths he has fallen into. He cries to the Lord because help in the Lord is his only hope.

God wasn’t and isn’t afraid of the depths that we find ourselves in when we sin, or even when we’re buried underneath everything that the world has heaped upon us. In fact, He sent His Son Jesus to dive right into those depths, to take our sin and pain on Himself. Why? So that we would be free of it all. Why? Because of His love for us. Jesus even descended to the depths of hell so that you who believe and hope in Him would not just be rescued from the depths you regularly face, but so that you would be free from the deepest, darkest depths of death because Jesus gives you eternal life.

So out of your own depths, hope in the Lord. He isn’t afraid to plumb the depths of your life to rescue you from the darkness of death and bring you into His marvelous life.

Time to prepare
MISSION GRANT PROPOSALS

The deadline for mission grant proposals for the LWML South Dakota District is Aug. 31. Although that seems far off, now is the time to think about how your zone or ministry could be helped by a grant from LWML.



Mission grant proposals should be sent to Jan Larson at 920 Woodridge Drive; Pierre, SD 57501, or larson920@hotmail.com. You may also contact Jan for more information or visit sdlwml.org/mission-grant-application.

MITCHELL ZONE UPDATE

The Mitchell Zone finished 2022 with an Orphan Grain Train (OGT) fish feed Oct. 2 at Zion, Delmont. The event in many respects turned out to be more than we had bargained for.

The entire town of Delmont was in the midst of a major road project. As I looked out of the church window on Oct. 1, I saw that there was no possible way for vehicles to get into the church driveways. The road crew had pretty much shut down for the weekend, leaving one lone worker to diligently smooth out a path to the east driveway. But God is gracious. In spite of the road conditions, many people came.

By the end of the day, our ladies had the opportunity to work with some pretty amazing people who are now friends. We fed over 150 people, raised \$3,000 for OGT and filled a trailer with donations. It’s true: “With God all things are possible” (Matt. 19:26).

On Oct. 8, Zion, Mitchell, hosted the district Christian Life Workshop, “The Tabernacle/ Temple in the Bible,” with 87 attending. Mitchell Zone members made and donated several items for a silent auction for the district mission goal. A mite offering of \$1,318 was collected.

I pray God’s blessings on all of you for 2023!

Julie Kaufman • Mitchell Zone president

LWML selects young women for convention

Congratulations to Rebecca Scott and Vania Asmus, who were selected as the LWML South Dakota District Young Woman Representatives and will attend the LWML 40th Biennial Convention in Milwaukee in June.

Vania attends Memorial, Sioux Falls. She is interested in learning more about the LWML as well as meeting other women who have a similar interest. Vania has contributed to the LWML South Dakota District by designing logos and banners. She is also the daughter-in-law of Lisa Asmus,

former LWML district president.

Rebecca Scott attends Zion, Sioux Falls, and wishes to learn more about the LWML and get to meet other young LCMS women. She serves as an advanced emergency technician (AEMT) and is a clinical research coordinator for Sanford Health. She is the daughter of Cathy VandeBraak.

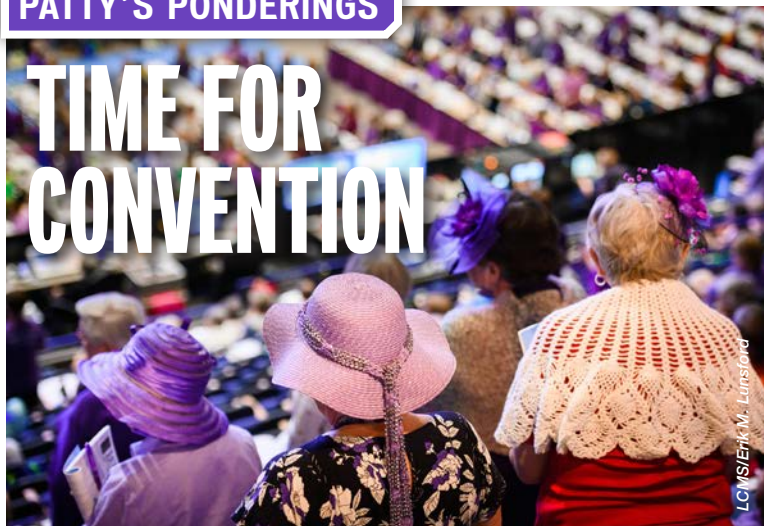
We are so glad to have these young women represent the South Dakota District!

Laurel Schamber

YWR Committee Chairwoman

PATTY'S PONDERINGS

TIME FOR CONVENTION



June is the month to “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” at the LWML 40th Biennial Convention in Milwaukee, where I look forward to seeing many sisters and brothers in Christ as we pray, sing and study God’s Word.

It is a time to renew friendships and make new friends. What fun it will be to participate in the servant activities, hear mission speakers, watch the banner parade and parade of national flags, and laugh with the Lutheran Ladies’ Lounge on Saturday night! I pray that God will bless our travels and our time together.

If you can’t go this year, please pray for an opportunity to go in the future. The next convention will be held in 2025 in Omaha, Neb.

Mission trip

Do you enjoy traveling, seeing beautiful scenery, eating foods of other cultures, meeting new friends and spreading the love of Jesus? If so, you have a most wonderful opportunity. The LWML South Dakota District mission trip to Gualan, Guatemala, is scheduled for Oct. 27–Nov. 4.

The goals of the trip are to teach the people of Gualan how to assemble a water purification system, provide health and hygiene education, and help the local church with evangelism.

To learn more, visit sdlwml.org or contact Dianne Hemminger, vice-president of Special Focus Ministries, at diemm@rushmore.com or 605-350-4942. This experience offers a

tremendous opportunity to both bless and be blessed by others!

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **ROMANS 15:5-6**



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota District President

PIERRE ZONE REPORT

The Pierre Zone may be small in numbers, but it is mighty in its commitment to the LWML mission! In October, our zone held its fall rally in Onida. Sharon Ball of the Church of Hope at the women’s prison in Pierre was our guest speaker. Sharon shared with the 17 attendees a video of a young prisoner who talked about how God helped to turn a bad situation into a good one, much like the Old Testament story of Joseph and his brothers.

In March, 12 Pierre Zone members gathered for a spring workshop. The theme was “An Easter Treasure Box,” based on an LWML program. Rev. David Strable, pastor of Holy Cross, Onida, led the group through the Gospel of Matthew and the story of Christ’s passion and resurrection. After each passage, the ladies were asked to write down one thing that



Sharon Ball is pictured with a quilt to be raffled at the fall rally in Onida.

was meaningful to them. After all the passages were read, workshop attendees went on a treasure hunt to find items hidden throughout the church to put in their treasure boxes. All present had a

wonderful time and yes, all of the hidden treasures were found!

Mary Jo Stier
Pierre Zone President

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



GOOD LORD, HAVE MERCY!

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ. PHIL. 3:8

I recently read a story about a man standing at the gates of heaven, waiting to be admitted. To the man's utter shock, Peter said, "You have to have earned 1,000 points to be admitted to heaven. What have you done to earn your points?"

"I've never heard that before," said the man, "but I think I'll do all right. I was raised in a Christian home and have always been a tpart of the church. I have Sunday school attendance pins that go down to the floor. I went to a Christian college and graduate school and have probably led hundreds of people to Christ. I was an elder in my church and was supportive of what the people of God do. I have three children, two boys and a girl. My older boy is a pastor and the younger works with a ministry to the poor. My daughter and her husband are missionaries.



Rev. Brian Mosemann
LWML District Counselor

I have always tithed and, before my death, I was giving well over 30 percent of my income to God's work. I'm a bank executive and help the poor in our city by securing mortgages for low-income earners.

"How am I doing so far?" he asked Peter.

"That's one point," Peter said. "What else have you done?"

"Good Lord!" the man said in frustration. "Have mercy!"

"That's it!" Peter said. "Welcome home."

Why do we as Lutherans teach God's Law? People must recognize their inability to keep that Law and thus cry out for mercy. If we had to earn points to get into heaven, we would be empty. We'd all be excluded! If points can be earned, then grace has no value or worth. But if points are impossible to earn (and anyone who has ever tried knows that they are), then grace is an inestimable gift, its value priceless.

The Law shows us our failure. But grace — the Gospel of Christ — gives us the victory. No points necessary.

Stay updated!



Through our website, social media sites and email, you have very convenient options to read about the latest information on national and district LWML news and events.

A new look to our website — sdlwml.org — was unveiled in July 2022. The menu is now on the top of the page. You can either click on each category name or hover on it to select from a drop-down menu.

A new category, "BOD," was added. This secure area is for the Board of Directors, that is, our elected officers, zone presidents and special appointed personnel.

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

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

Nancy Bogenhagen
LWML South Dakota District Webmaster/IT

Grant proposals due Aug. 31

Wow! With the first half of our biennium here, it is time to think of our new mission grant proposals. Don't miss this opportunity for our LWML South Dakota District to help in your mission ministries.

Generally we can support \$5,000 per mission grant that is approved by the convention delegates. The deadline for the new proposals for our own district is Aug. 31. I always look forward to getting these grant proposals to see how we can impact the Lord's work. If you have any questions, please contact me at larrison920@hotmail.com or visit sdlwml.org and go to the "Missions" tab at the top of the page.

Jan Larson
Vice-President of Gospel Outreach

PATTY'S PONDERINGS



Patty Peters, LWML South Dakota District president, carries the district banner at the LWML 40th Biennial Convention on June 23 in Milwaukee. She is joined by Vania Asmus (left) and Rebecca Scott, district Young Woman Representatives.

A mountaintop experience

How blessed are you by our LWML conventions? For me, attending an LWML convention is a mountaintop experience. We join old and new friends to study the Word, sing, laugh, hear Mites in Action speakers and vote on mission grants and the mission goal. It is so much fun to do the mission/mite walk with hundreds of people, all connected to the LWML!

The most recent mountaintop experience — the 2023 LWML Milwaukee convention, “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” (based on Ps. 33:12-13) — is now in the books. If you attended the convention, I prayed you learned a lot and had fun! May God bless you as you send in your mites, read *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly*, take part in Bible studies and carry on the mission of LWML to support global missions and to serve the Lord with gladness.

I am excited to announce the theme of the LWML South Dakota District 2024 Convention. — “Inexpressible Joy + Matchless Savior,” based on 1 Peter 1:8-9:

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 convention is scheduled for June 7-8, 2024, at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Aberdeen. Our Bible study leader is Donna Snow, whom many of you know because you have used the Bible studies she has written, including “Chosen,” “Forgiveness” and “Meant for God.”

More information will be coming in the next few months, so mark your calendars and tell your friends. This is a great way to introduce ladies to LWML and tell them of our “Inexpressible Joy” because our “Matchless Savior” died on the cross to redeem us from our sins and rose from the grave to grant us eternal salvation.

HURRY: grant proposals due Aug. 31

The deadline for submitting Mission Grant proposals for the 2024-26 biennium is fast approaching! Please submit your proposals by Thursday, Aug. 31. May the Lord bless your heart as you consider applying on behalf of a Gospel-centered ministry. Grants will be announced at the district convention, to be held June 7-8, 2024.

Aug. 31 is also the first day of the **South Dakota State Fair**. We have another opportunity to serve in a mission right here in our own district. Each year, we help the Utecht family as they deliver the Gospel message in a fun and informative way to children and adults through their Puppet Place Ministry. This is the 51st year of the ministry.

Please note the date that your zone is assigned to help:

- ▶ Thursday, Aug. 31: Pierre Zone
- ▶ Friday, Sept. 1: Sioux Falls Zone
- ▶ Saturday, Sept. 2: Yankton Zone
- ▶ Sunday, Sept. 3: Aberdeen Zone
- ▶ Monday, Sept. 4: Black Hills Zone

Anyone from your congregation is encouraged to participate in this ministry (including men and youth).

For more information, please call Bev Johnson (605-747-2448) or Jan Larson (605-280-0862). You may also visit sdlwml.org (go to “Missions” and select “The Puppet Place” from the drop-down menu).

See you at the fair!

Jan Larson
VP of Gospel Outreach



Feeding children in Lutheran schools in Haiti through Trinity HOPE is a district mission grant for the 2022-24 biennium.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



All things new!

Getty Images

A new school year is upon us. Soon kids will begin a new grade, and a new year of learning and studying.

Of course, school isn't the only place newness happens. We also see it in the church regularly. New pastors, new hymnals, new bills and new ministries are just a few of the "new" categories a church regularly encounters.

In many circumstances, we resist the new. We resist it because it is unknown. We even joke in the Lutheran church that "new" is bad. Most of us have heard things like, "Don't you dare change the color of the carpet," or "Why do we need a new hymnal when the old one is just fine?"

From experience, we know that some "new" is good and some "new" isn't. New phone numbers on our caller ID often mean new scams. The loss of a loved one means learning to live in a new way. New spots on our medical scans mean new treatments.

Remember, though, that some new things are great and that not



Rev. Clint O. Thorson
LWML District Counselor

all the old is good. Take a few minutes to read Revelation 21:1-5. As people who believe in Jesus and trust in His victory over sin, Satan and death, you can be reminded in this passage that you have nothing to fear in the new or the old! In fact, Christ is actively working to make all things new. His death and resurrection put our old, sinful selves to death so that you might

have the promise of new life, and the promise that one day you will live in new and glorious bodies in the new heaven and new earth!

This promise, however, isn't a new thing. In Lamentations 3:23, we read that God renews His mercy every single day for you. His eternal love will never let you down. It will be new for you every morning. Christ fulfills this promise and is making all things new, including you, so that God's old promise might make you new every day and strengthen you to face anything new (or old) in the joy and safety of our loving Lord.

Amen.

Plan to attend Christian Life workshop

"The Impact of Original Sin" is the theme for the LWML Christian Life workshop this fall. If we are to biblically understand the challenges of homosexuality and transgenderism, we first must correctly understand original sin. To do that, we must explore God's Word.

This presentation will focus on the reliability of God's Word, the impact of original sin in the world, especially as it relates to homosexuality and transgenderism, and how to help people who face these challenges.

Josh Schmitt, DCE at St. John's, Yankton, will be the presenter.

The workshop (schedule below) will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Peace Lutheran Church, Rapid City; and Saturday, Sept. 30, at Zion, Sioux Falls.

Bring your Bible. The LWML store will be open, and you will have time to visit with your LWML sisters. Bring a friend and share in the blessings of LWML!

Susan Buxcel • VP of Christian Life

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- 9:30–10 a.m. Registration and coffee
- 10–10:15 a.m. Opening devotion
- 10:15–10:30 a.m. Greetings, announcements
- 10:30–11 a.m. Speaker
- 11–11:15 a.m. Break/singing
- 11:15–noon Speaker
- Noon–1p.m. Lunch/shopping
- 1–1:45 p.m. Speaker
- 1:45–2 p.m. Break/singing
- 2–2:45 p.m. Speaker
- 2:45–3 p.m. Closing
- 3 p.m. Coffee and goodbyes



PATTY'S PONDERINGS

'The King is Coming'

Every year, LWML plans an LWML Sunday, meant to highlight and honor the organization and the work and service its women so steadfastly provide.

It is time to plan your LWML Sunday! The recognition is traditionally held the first Sunday in October, but it can be celebrated any Sunday. The theme for this year is, "The King is Coming," based on Psalm 24:7-10:

Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!
Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory!

What great comfort these verses give us as we see that our Lord is so strong that He can conquer anything for us. He leads us through the battles of our lives, no matter what they may be. Each day we are confronted with the evil of this world. We can tell Satan to get behind us because we have our almighty King charging through the obstacles and carrying us across the barren desert and the foaming sea.

The well-known hymn, "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates," also based on Psalm 24, says in the fourth verse to "fling wide the portals of your heart and make it a temple set apart ... adorned with prayer and love and joy."

May God bless you in your circles and zones as you plan LWML Sunday for your church or for a zone gathering. Learn more and download materials, including those for Sunday bulletins, at lwml.org/lwml-sunday.



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President

Young women offer convention reflections

I am grateful to have experienced such a wonderful event with LWML at this year's convention in Milwaukee! I loved seeing just how many people attended and how much good we are doing collectively. It was wonderful to connect with other women my age, and especially to form a friendship with Rebecca, whom I now hang out with regularly as she has joined our Bible study for married couples.

My favorite part of the convention was the Mission Walk because through it I saw so much passion and support for raising money to do good. Another memorable moment was walking with the banner I designed for our district. It is one



Vania Asmusa

thing to design something; it is another to design something with so much good and impact behind it.

Finally, during the convention I was able to bond with my husband's parents and play golf with my father-in-law for the Mites Tournament. I was the first YWR to participate in the golf tournament, so I hope that more YWRs are inspired to participate next year!

These are memories I will hold onto forever. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as a Young Woman Representative at the national convention. I am excited to see what is next for me with LWML!

I was so blessed to be selected as a Young Woman Representative for the 2023 national LWML convention. In the few days I was in Milwaukee with the other members of LWML from throughout the country, I was amazed to see the passion of those who serve our Lord.

Something that really stood out to me was the worship services and devotions, where over 3,500 women throughout the nations came together under the same belief and supported each other in faith. With prayer, the LWML voting assembly selected 31 mission grants to fund over the next two years, and set a mission goal of \$2.35 million! All of those funds will be used to spread the love of Jesus and support Christ's work throughout the world. To me, this emphasizes the theme of "Celebrate the Lord of all Nations."



Rebecca Scott

During the convention, we heard from some of the groups that had received funding from previous years. It was wonderful to see how these groups were working to support their cause and use the resources given to them through

LWML. These missions truly honor God by serving our neighbors near and far and proclaiming God's saving message to the nations.

The national convention was a wonderful experience that I am thankful I could experience alongside those from my church, the greater Christian community and all of those who came from across the nations.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Itching ears

Going to church for what you *want* to hear?



Getty Images

outside forces and can be overcome by following a few simple steps.

In essence, we want to hear that it is all good, and that if we start feeling life becoming less good, we can easily right the ship. It is not a coincidence that many large churches in America proclaim this kind of message since that is what people want to hear. If you tell people what they want to hear, then the people and the money will roll in.

The problem with this “what I want” refrain is that it can’t actually help us in the long run. When your life starts sliding off the rails, you can’t depend entirely on that handy self-help manual (think “10 Steps to Financial Security” or “8 Steps to Recover a Significant Relationship” or the like).

As it turns out, you need something different than what you want. You need the truth. What people need to hear at church is an accurate diagnosis

of their condition. “What I want” can’t offer a solution because it refuses to diagnose the disease — sin. “What I need” recognizes your plight and offers a cure: a Savior, Jesus Christ, who substitutes Himself for us.

It will probably always be true that preaching “What I want” will rake in the money for the church; it tickles people’s itching ears. “What I need,” however, will be there when the bankrupt devotees of “What I want” need somewhere to turn and

have no money left to try to buy their way in. Today, revel in a God who gives us what we need: a Savior.

“What I want” can’t offer a solution because it refuses to diagnose the disease – sin.”

In September we look forward to many upcoming events, and there is much rejoicing in the word and work of our Lord Jesus! There is LWML Sunday (generally the first Sunday of October) with the wonderful theme, “The King Is Coming.” Christian Life Workshops are scheduled for Sept. 16 (Peace, Rapid City) and 30 (Zion, Sioux Falls), with the intriguing theme, “The Impacts of Original Sin.”

What people want to hear at their church and what they need to hear are two very different things. We want to hear that we are fundamentally good, in control and on the right track. We also want to hear that the problems we experience in life are the result of



Rev. Brian Mosemann
LWML District Counselor

YANKTON ZONE REPORT



Members of the Yankton Zone gathered supplies and assembled school kits for Orphan Grain Train, which distributes the kits to those in need.

The Yankton Zone planned their Christian Life Workshop for last March 11 at Trinity, Fairfax. Everyone was looking forward to hearing our presenter, LWML pastoral counselor Rev. Brian Mosemann. For the ingathering,

we planned to make school kits for the Orphan Grain Train (OGT).

Unfortunately, Mother Nature had different plans, and we ended up canceling our workshop altogether. Supplies for

the school kits were gathered by local groups, along with a cash gift to be used toward shipping costs.

Several ladies met and assembled the school kits in donated backpacks. Forty-three school kits were delivered to the OGT warehouse in Norfolk, Neb.

Some of our ladies attended the district Spring Retreat in Brookings in April. They returned with care packages to give to their church workers. The attendees prepared the packages by filling the bags with gift cards and other goodies.

Two ladies from the Yankton Zone attended the LWML Convention in Milwaukee in June.

Sandy Brandt • Yankton Zone President

PATTY'S PONDERINGS



Surprise gift from Grandma

Do you ever find a treasure when you are cleaning your house for things to sell at the rummage sale? I did, and I want to share my joy with you!

My maternal grandma, Irma Weisenburger, was a faithful LWML member at Bethesda Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, and a dedicated witness for Christ in her family and community. I discovered a bound, 158-page booklet in my grandma's handwriting. It was all about reading the Bible, living in God's love and sharing this awesome Good News.



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota District President

On page 23, Grandma writes about growing in the faith, and she gives us the tools for it. So get out your Bibles and hear God's Word about this topic — growth! You may want to add your favorite verses that pertain to each command.

- G** Go to God in prayer daily (JOHN 15:7).
- R** Read God's Word daily (ACTS 17:11).
- O** Obey God, moment by moment (JOHN 14:21).
- W** Witness for Christ by your life and words (MATT. 4:19).
- T** Trust God with every detail of your life (1 PETER 5:7).
- H** Holy Spirit—Allow God to control and empower your daily life (GAL. 5:16-17, ACTS 1:8).

Whether Grandma was the author of this or not, I am encouraged in my faith by reading the thoughts she recorded in that special book about so many Bible passages. This treasure is amazing! The Holy Spirit was certainly working in her heart and mind.

Perhaps we should all consider writing our thoughts in our Bibles or in a special book for our future generations to discover. What a wonderful way to pass on your love of Jesus!



Women of the LWML South Dakota District joined in a sea of teal down the escalators, heading out for the river walk during the 40th Biennial Convention in Milwaukee in June. Many strangers along the river asked who these ladies were. They responded: "We are Lutheran Women in Mission, on a Saturday evening stroll by the river to raise money, for missions is our goal!"

Preserving our memory as 'women of faith'

We can count it all joy to celebrate and meet together. This year I celebrated with my husband, youngest son and his wife at their first LWML convention. What an incredible illustration to share with them why I'm a woman on a mission for the Lord!

One mission grant recipient could not get to the convention fast enough. He drove from California to Milwaukee to say thank you for the startup grant money that will help him and his family share the love of Jesus with others. He drove hundreds of miles for a five-minute thank you. That's dedication!

We remember our "firsts" in life. They mean a lot to us. By keeping records of these "firsts," we can pre-

serve history, start traditions and share great causes, memories and stories with more people.

The records we keep in the LWML are not just notes and numbers on paper. They represent people dedicated to keep us growing in the Lord. We also keep records so we can be remembered as women of faith who did God's work and who share the love of Jesus with others.

We keep our records in manila file folders marked by years, and we keep those manila folders in a banker's box to preserve them. We mark on the outside by years what's inside each box.

Please remember that your yearly reports are due by Nov. 1. Please send them to me at lmnden.3840@juno.com.

Thank you for your dedication to the mission of the Lord!

Lurene M. Denke
LWML District Archivist/Historian

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



Over 500 years ago, Martin Luther began the Reformation. Can you imagine something so significant that it continues to influence people after five centuries? I'm no history buff, but it's safe to say that the Reformation was an incredibly impressive event. How amazing that we get to celebrate Luther's strength and vision through the Holy Spirit and see how God continues to use what Luther and his fellow reformers did for our good today!

Along with the Reformation, many congregations will also celebrate LWML Sunday on the first Sunday in October. While the LWML has been around for only 80-plus years (a far cry from the Reformation's 500!), the Lord also continues to use the women of our congregations to work for a lot of good in the world. Hopefully, we all have the privilege of celebrating both LWML Sunday and the Reformation every year. But we need to do it right and well.

So don't forget, when we celebrate the Reformation or the LWML, we celebrate something that is far older and longer lasting than either of them. We celebrate the freedom that



Rev. Clint O. Thorson
LWML District Counselor

Christ won for us some 2,000 years ago. We are celebrating God's lasting love to make good on His promise that He gave long before Jesus died and rose again. Because when we celebrate the Reformation or the LWML, what we are actually celebrating is that God has freely made us His children through His Son Jesus Christ and released us from our slavery to sin — all out of His love for us.

As we look once again at the Reformation and the work of the LWML, we are thankful that God gave us these servants, Luther and our lovely ladies in purple, to make His lasting love in Christ clear. We thank God that Dr. Luther's work in the Reformation reminds us that Jesus is our sole source of salvation and peace. We thank God that now we walk in the Spirit, doing the things that He teaches us to do without making those works of love and faith into works of Law, trying to work for our salvation. And we thank God that the LWML helps to lead the way in those wonderful works of faith and love.

Read Romans 1:17. Luther gives thanks for this verse as it led to his discovery of the Gospel. In the Gospel, the righteousness of God is revealed! It isn't hidden away as some secret. No, the power of salvation is unleashed where the Gospel is proclaimed! God's awesome power to save and His lasting love is what both the Reformation and the LWML with all of its loving labors help us to celebrate.

Let us remember God's everlasting love, not just in October but always!

ABERDEEN ZONE REPORT

The Aberdeen Zone held its spring Christian Life Workshop on April 29 at Immanuel, Wecota. Twenty-two women attended from eight groups. Rev. Jacob Smith, associate pastor of St. Paul's, Aberdeen, led opening devotions, "Waiting for God to Act."

The speakers were Linnea Schwandt and Joyce Kauske, coordinators of the Orphan Grain Train (OGT) branch in Milbank. They told us about the or-

ganization and what OGT could use: clothing, pillowcase dresses, T-shirt diapers, crocheted caps, school kits, personal-care kits, layette kits, quilts, plastic sleeping mats and 20" bikes. Visit ogt.org/branches/south-dakota.

Ingathering collections went to OGT. We collected quilts, diapers and other items, along with \$291.

Rev. Samuel Bobby, who recently served as senior pastor of St. Paul's, talked to us about his call to the mission field as a theological educator and missionary

pastor in Riga, Latvia. He and his family left in August.

The few women from our zone who attended the LWML Convention in Milwaukee had a great time with other LWML women in mission, worship, singing and Bible study.

We had another zone meeting in July. We are beginning to plan for our district convention in Aberdeen, scheduled for June 7-8, 2024.

Betty Ochsner • Aberdeen Zone President

PATTY'S PONDERINGS

Inexpressible
Joy +
Matchless
Savior
1 Peter 1:8-9

“Inexpressible Joy + Matchless Savior” is the theme of the LWML South Dakota District’s 2024 Convention, which will be held June 7-8, 2024, at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Aberdeen.



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota District President

The theme verse is 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 logo nicely expresses our theme. Rev. Clint Thorson, our senior pastoral counselor, shared these words about the meaning of the logo:

Light of the world (Jesus) bursting forth in glorious victory over death. The once-black cross becomes white, a symbol of death now pointing to eternal life.

Now is the time to plan to attend the convention. Please bring your friends from your congregation! What a wonderful time to share the love of Jesus and invite others to take part in the servant events, bring your Gifts from the Heart, and hear about how our mites fund the mission grants.

With the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, St. Peter wrote such beautiful words to show the joy we have because of the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ponder these verses and rejoice, because God so loved us that He sent His Son for you and me. There is no one mightier or more caring than our Heavenly Father. Live daily in the confidence of eternal life in heaven because of your faith in what Jesus did for you.



Puppet Place celebrates 51st year



Despite extremely hot weather, we had a good turnout at the Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair, held Aug. 31-Sept. 4 in Huron. Revs. Andrew Utecht and Peter Utecht work together to write scripts and select music for the play, which this year was “David and Goliath.” Besides making several new puppets, Pastor Andrew also wrote a Bible study for the adults to take with them as they exited. Children could each take with them a hand puppet and a copy of *My Devotions* or *Happy Times* magazine (from Concordia Publishing House).

A big thank you to everyone who helped make puppets, donated devotional materials or worked at the Puppet Place. It takes many hands to create this opportunity to spread the Gospel each year! A huge thank you to the Utecht family, including Donna, for giving so generously of their time and talent to this ministry.

Each of the zones were well represented this year. We had 24 volunteers representing the Pierre, Sioux Falls, Yankton, Aberdeen and Black Hills zones. The volunteers handed

Pictured are Rev. Andrew Utecht (above) and, from left, Heather Miller, Patty Peters, Sandy Brandt, Sandy Williams and Andra Gates.

out 304 puppets, 157 Bible studies, 77 devotions and 96 pocket crosses. Over the five days, Puppet Place had nearly 900 visitors.

The final two signs were added to the outside of the building this year. The offering from the last district convention was used to pay for the signs, which cost \$356. This leaves a balance of \$985 from the offering to be used for Puppet Place. The building will soon need a new air-conditioning unit, and the outside of the building may need a few touch-ups before next year’s fair.

The ladies of the Wolsey group from the Huron Zone cleaned the building the week prior to the fair. Ann Cruse helped with the final clean up, and she cleans the carpets each year. Bev Johnson was responsible for contacting and coordinating work times for each zone.

Jan Larson
Vice-President of Gospel Outreach

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

His mercy endures forever

On His way to Jerusalem, where He was going to die and rise for the life of the world, Jesus was met by 10 lepers who stood at a distance and called out to Him (Luke 17:11-19). The lepers didn't cry out, "Unclean, unclean!" as they were supposed to, but they called out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"



Rev. Brian Mosemann
LWML District Counselor

They sought mercy.

Jesus doesn't touch them but simply speaks His Word: "Go and show yourselves to the priests." As they went, they were cleansed. One of them turned around and went back to Jesus. This time, he didn't stand at a distance but came right up and fell on his face at Jesus' feet and gave thanks. He worshiped Jesus. Not only had he been a leper; he was also a Samaritan. This

made him a double outcast in the eyes of any Israelite.

But no one is too downtrodden, no one too lowly, no one so outcast that Jesus' mercy is not for them.

Nine out of the 10 lepers left and never came back. They were healed. They got what they wanted from Jesus, and so off they went. They wanted less than all that Jesus gave for them.

By contrast, the Samaritan knew whom to trust, not only with his disease but also with his death. And he knew at whose feet his salvation rested. When Jesus addresses the Samaritan leper, He doesn't say, "Your faith has made you well." He says, "Your faith has saved you." Jesus spoke a word of healing to all 10 lepers and all 10 were made well. But when he speaks to the grateful Samaritan alone, His is a word of salvation.

A surprising thing is *not* that only one leper came back to say thank you, but that Jesus would heal all 10 *knowing* that only one would come back and say thank you. All 10 lepers are cleansed; the lack of gratitude on the part of



nine did not negate their healing. Jesus didn't give their leprosy back to them when they neglected to thank Him. He showed mercy to all 10, even though the difference between the nine who did not thank Him and the one who did is stark. Nine trusted Jesus for their healing. The one trusted Jesus with his life.

It is good news that our lives depend on God's love for us rather than on our love for Him! After all, it is His steadfast love that endures forever, not ours. God doesn't love you because you are good. God loves you because He is good, and His mercy endures forever.

BLACK HILLS ZONE REPORT

Our pre-Lenten prayer service was held on Feb. 11 at Peace, Lutheran Church, Rapid City, and included a brief overview of upcoming events in the zone and district. The theme of the prayer service was "My Soul Rejoices," written by Rev. Mitchel Schuessler, pastor of St. John, Clarinda, Iowa. Rev. David Lindenberg, Peace pastor, led the service with 21 in attendance.

The Black Hills Zone hosted its Spring Rally at Bethlehem, Lutheran Church, Rapid City, on April 29. The theme was "... Perfect Love Casts Out Fear ..." based on 1 John 4:18. Rev. Josh Jones, Bethlehem pastor, led us in an excellent Bible study.

In the afternoon, a panel spoke about their lives as caregivers and helping people with disabilities. Pastor Jones' daughter was born with many difficulties and his personal experiences caring for her were informative. We also heard a presentation from Black Hills Works, an agency that provides homes, employ-

ment, recreational opportunities and social outlets for adults with disabilities.

The Black Hills Zone fall retreat was on Sept. 16 at Peace, Rapid City. The theme was "The Impact of Original Sin." Josh Schmitt, DCE of St. John's, Yankton, was the presenter.

The Christian Life Workshop was held on Sept. 30 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Spearfish. The theme was from Ps. 121:1-2: "I lift up my eyes unto the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Rev. Dr. Thomas Brown, St. Paul pastor, led opening and closing devotions. A Bible study was led by Rev. Christopher McCarthy, pastor of First, Wall, and Emmanuel, Creighton. Our afternoon speaker was Kate Meadows, who offered a presentation on "Telling Our Life Stories." Entertainment was provided by the Spearfish Senior Choir. The ingathering went to the Zion, Rapid City, Christ's Way school-expansion campaign.

Casey Harvard • Black Hills Zone President

PATTY'S PONDERINGS



Introducing women to the LWML

“As redeemed women in God’s Word, we engage and involve each woman in the congregation.”

This statement is part of the 2023-2025 Lutheran Women in Mission strategic plan. We also “recognize and reach out to all women as His children, each with God-given gifts.”

How do you reach out to a new woman in your congregation? This may be easy for some, but others may not believe that they have the gifts to strike up a conversation with someone new. One way to introduce women to LWML is to ask them to visit lwml.org. They can learn about LWML by going to the “About” tab at right and selecting “Who We Are” from the drop-down menu. On that page are links to the “About LWML” and “Introduction to LWML” videos.



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President

Many of our LWML groups are shrinking in membership or even disbanding because of the declining membership or the difficulties that arise due to aging. Most of you know women who faithfully come to the Sunday church service but have not been invited to an LWML activity. Are you engaged in service projects, social activities or Bible studies in which you can meet and have the opportunity to get to know each other?

Do you have women of different ethnic groups that attend your church? One way to familiarize yourself with a new culture is through participating in activities together, such as cooking or sewing. This can lead to laughter, friendships — and growing together in Christ.

Another way to help our groups survive and grow is to invite women from other Lutheran congregations that do not have an active LWML group to join you for meetings, retreats, rallies and social events. The LWML South Dakota District Convention, to be held June 7-8 in Aberdeen, is another great opportunity to invite women to join us in proclaiming Christ and supporting missions.

We are to “Serve the Lord with gladness and come into his presence with singing!” (Psalm 100:2). May God richly bless you as you invite women to your LWML activities.

BROOKINGS ZONE REPORT

The Brookings Zone hosted the District Retreat at Peace, Brookings, in April. LWML women from South Dakota gathered “In One Voice” to glorify God.

In the coming months, you will find our women preparing frozen meals for members, sewing bibs for the early childhood center, making Christmas bags for Sunday school and preschool children, quilting, serving community suppers, hosting zone prayer breakfasts, organizing “freewill” rummage sales for backpack programs, gathering free school supplies for children in the district, serving meals to seniors and more. It is amazing the many ways the women of the Brookings Zone societies are witnessing and showing their love of Jesus to others. These women also support the pastors and church workers in their congregations, collect mites for missions and hold Bible studies. They are busy ladies on a mission!

Four women of the Brookings Zone attended the national LWML convention in Milwaukee in June. Delegate Dora Harste gave her report at the Fall Rally, which was held on Oct. 7 at Zion, White. David Miller of Sleep in Heavenly Peace spoke about the organization’s mission of building and donating beds to children so that “No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!” Rev. Tim Rynearson, zone counselor and senior pastor of Zion; Redeemer, Flandreau; and Peace, Brookings; led the rally Bible study.

Nominations sought

The district LWML Nominating Committee is seeking women who are willing to serve the Lord as district officers. These positions require a four-year commitment, except for the Nominating Committee, which is a two-year term. Elections for the following positions will be held at the 2024 LWML district convention:

- President
- VP of Gospel Outreach
- Treasurer
- VP of Christian Life
- Nominating Committee

Information on each position can be found at sdlwml.org/structure (click “LWML South Dakota District Procedures Manual”).

For more information, contact a Nominating Committee member:

- ▶ Susan Swanson (chairman): smswanson@midstatesd.net
- ▶ Nyla Jurrens: nylakayj@gmail.com
- ▶ Patti Greenseth: tierrapaz.grnsth10@gmail.com

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Farewell

Dear ladies of the LWML South Dakota District,

In October I accepted a call to serve as pastor of Eternal Savior Lutheran Church, Lafayette, Colo. By the time you read this, I will have already moved on to Colorado and the Rocky Mountain District. I am writing to say thank you.

Thank you so much for almost four years of wonderful memories and allowing me to be your district counselor in the beloved South Dakota District.



Rev. Clint O. Thorson
LWML District Counselor

These past years have been wonderful watching Christ work through you to better your communities and the world. I have been constantly amazed by your faith in and fervor for Christ, your loving care and your magnanimous giving. It has truly been an honor to work with such wonderful Christians, and I have learned so much from you all.

I join Paul, in Philippians 1, in thanking my God for you all because of your partnership in the Gospel. The Lord has filled me with such joy in watching and helping you carry out your magnificent ministry.

I leave South Dakota in full confidence that God will continue to strengthen you in faith and in fervent love toward one another so that you may continue to fortify and strengthen His Kingdom by sharing the gifts and grace that He gave to you in Christ. I look forward to hearing about the great and wonderful things that our loving God accomplishes through you, his servants,

in South Dakota and in the rest of God's creation.

May God fill you all with the same joy that He has given me through you, especially as Christmas is right around the corner. My hope and prayer is that, as you race to accomplish all that must be done before Christmas, God gives you the peace and joy that comes only from Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection. Jesus took on flesh as a little babe to bring forgiveness and therefore peace with God and true joy for you.

Our Savior lived, died and defeated death for your sake, that as you serve in His Kingdom to His glory you might be able to do so with the peace and joy that comes from knowing your future is secure in Christ. Though we are parted for now, I look forward to that time when our joy will be complete and we will, with all of God's faithful, join in singing for the final time "Joy to the World! The Lord is come!" God's richest blessings to you all!

Ladies gather for workshops

The Christian Life Workshops were held at Peace, Rapid City, on Sept. 16 and Zion, Sioux Falls, on Sept. 30. DCE Josh Schmitt of St. John's, Yankton, presented on "The Impact of Original Sin." We learned that God created reality and morality; and that love and morality go hand-in-hand. Morality tells us how to love. We need Christ and His Word to love and help others. Forgiveness comes first, then faith. In the words of retired Concordia Seminary professor Rev. Dr. Robert Kolb, "The root of all sin is the human deafness to the work of God."

Rebecca Scott and Vania Asmus, our Young Woman Representatives (YWR) at the national LWML convention in Milwaukee, spoke about their experience. What a joy to see these young women become involved in LWML and bring their enthusiasm and love of Christ as they serve our Lord!

Forty-eight people attended the Rapid City workshop and 75 attended in Sioux Falls. A silent auction for mites was held at the Zion event, which totaled \$1,102! Mite offerings for both workshops totaled over \$1,500. We praise our loving Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for these generous offerings, which will go toward the district 2022-24 Mission Grants.

Susan Buxcel • VP of Christian Life



▲ From left, YWRs Vania Asmus and Rebecca Scott talk to Patty Peters about their experience at the LWML convention.



◀ DCE Josh Schmitt chats with Myrna Meyer, a member of Bethlehem, Rapid City.