



**2022**  
***Hi-Lites***



## PATTY'S PONDERINGS



**P**rayer may be simple or complex — silent or corporate — memorized or free-flowing from our heart. It is a conversation with God and shows our love for our heavenly Father.

The 2022 LWML Prayer Service, “Lord, Teach us to Pray” is authored by Rev. Robert Grimm, pastor of St. John, Alma, Kan., and former LWML pastoral counselor for the Kansas District). “Lord, Teach us to Pray,” based on Luke 11:1, looks at various forms of prayer used frequently by believers as we seek to honor Christ, the Lord of the church, with our prayers.



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

You can download the service at [lwml.org/prayer-service](http://lwml.org/prayer-service). It is designed to be used at any time by large or small groups. It is an abbreviated worship service with eight sections, each on a different type of prayer. Each section includes Scripture readings, ponderings, a hymn and time for prayer. You can also download the leader's guide, PowerPoint files and publicity materials.

Also at the webpage is a link to prayer services from previous years, including “He Prayed *with Them*,” from 2021.

May God bless your time together in prayer.



**The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League South Dakota District** is to provide women opportunities for spiritual growth and to equip and nurture them to use their God-given gifts to serve the Lord in home, church, community and the world.

[sdlwml.org](http://sdlwml.org)   [lwml.org](http://lwml.org)

## CHAMBERLAIN ZONE report

The ladies of St. John's, Gregory, hosted the 2021 Chamberlain Zone Fall Rally on Sept. 25. Opening devotions were led by Rev. Marcus Ring, St. John's pastor and Chamberlain Zone pastoral counselor.

Eighteen were in attendance to hear Rev. Wade Harr present “Life Together,” based on the book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Harr serves as pastor of Christ/Trinity/Zion, Winner/Reliance/Hamil.

Leanne Zirpel, a member of Zion, Presho, was elected zone vice-president, and Patti Greenseth of Messiah, Murdo, was elected zone secretary/treasurer.

Zion, Chamberlain, will host the Spring Workshop.

**Your servant, Susan Swanson**  
Chamberlain Zone President

## Reports are due

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

Zone secretaries — please compile the group reports and send them to me by Feb. 1.

Zone presidents and secretaries — please compile the zone officer report form and send to me by Feb. 1. I look forward to collecting these reports from you!

You can find the forms under the “Helps and Forms” tab at [sdlwml.org](http://sdlwml.org). Click the “LWML SD District Forms & Helps” link. They are located at the bottom of the Helps page. Please choose the “Society” or “Zone” report, fill it out and email it to me at [heather.m.miller2020@gmail.com](mailto:heather.m.miller2020@gmail.com), or mail it to Heather Miller; 1803 W. 10th Street; Sioux Falls, SD 57104.

**Heather Miller**  
District Secretary

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



CAST AWAY YOUR CARES



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

With the way these last couple of years have gone, you would be justified in wondering just what 2022 will look like. Many people are questioning about the future. Some of you might even be asking, “What should we do? Where do we go from here?”

I certainly do not have any financial or business advice for you, but Scripture tells us in 1 Peter 5 that we should give all our anxieties to the Lord. God cares about you in all aspects of your life. He wants you to have a good, peaceful life and therefore will gladly hear your anxieties and worries.

Give those burdens to the Lord and He will care for you. In Christ, your salvation is assured. God even knows the number of hairs on your head. So don't worry. Instead, as a beloved hymn urges, “take it to the Lord in prayer.”

That takes care of your spiritual concerns, but you might also wonder about your physical and temporal needs. Our Lord has made provision for hard times within the church. That is another reason why we gather together regularly — so that we can share the burdens of this life.

Sin and the world will always make things difficult for us, but that is one of the reasons why God put us together. Through our fellowship we remember that we are never alone. God is always with us and will always provide for us through Word and Sacrament, and even through fellowship.

Now, I understand that asking for help is hard and requires humility. But we are called to watch out for one another. If you need help, ask and the church will do what it can to love and support you. This is one place where the LWML shines brightly — hearing the needs around them and responding in love and with appropriate action.

It is my fervent prayer that 2022 be a blessed year for you all. But should you or your loved ones still struggle from all of the things that have taken place in the last couple of years, please don't remain silent. Ask your loving and caring God for help, and share your burdens with your pastor, the congregation and the wonderful ladies of the LWML so that we may help however we can.

You are not alone. You are God's beloved children. God's peace to you and blessings throughout 2022 and all your days.

Make plans to  
**ATTEND CONVENTION**

The LWML South Dakota District Convention will be held June 3-4 at St. John's, Yankton. The theme is “Walk in Love,” based on Eph. 4:32-5:2:

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God

in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love as Christ loved us.

There will be servant events, a mite walk, Bible study, special speakers, mission grant reports and voting on new mission grants and the mission goal. Marie Chow, national vice-president of Organizational Resources, will be our guest from LWML.

We will have a 50-year celebration for the Puppet Place. Rev. Andrew Utecht and his family will bring their talents for a Friday night party. We have Puppet Place T-shirts that you can order in commemoration of this special event.

You will soon be able to register and make hotel reservations. Please spread the word and encourage the ladies in your groups and churches to attend.

## PATTY'S PONDERINGS

# The HEARTS we celebrate

February is traditionally the month to think about hearts and the color red. We should know our numbers as they relate to the conditions of our hearts — cholesterol and blood pressure — and maintain a healthy diet to keep those numbers in the optimal range. We also think about Valentine's Day — love, chocolates and flowers.



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

In the LWML, we say, "I am the Heart of LWML" and think purple! Our vision is to promote a strong LWML identity among the women of the LCMS.

Our treasure is Christ. Our heart is with Him and we demonstrate that in our service to others. We are **HIS**:

- ▶ **H**eld by His Word;
- ▶ **I**nspired to share His Gospel; and
- ▶ **S**urrounded by His grace

A February celebration in my family centers on my daughter, Sarah. Her birthday is on Valentine's Day, which was a particularly special day for me in 1990 as Sarah was born.

You can find information on how to put HIS into action at [lwml.org](http://lwml.org).

Did you know that LWML turns 80 years old this year? I think that is special, too! You could celebrate that event with servant events or gatherings with "80" as a theme. See what fun you can have with that!

Our district mission goal for this biennium is \$123,573. Please send your mites to Donna Harr, financial secretary, by March 15. We need to reach our



goal so that we can get the funds to our mission grant recipients. We will vote on a new mission goal at our district convention in June.

May your life reflect the love of Jesus that lives in your heart!

## HURON ZONE report

The Huron Zone has been keeping busy in 2021. We were able to meet in person for both the Spring Retreat and Fall Rally. The Spring Retreat was held at St. John, Wolsey, with Rev. Kevin Koester as our Bible study leader. He serves as associate pastor of Mount Calvary, Huron.

Our Fall Rally was held at Mount Calvary, Huron, on Aug. 8. Our guest speaker was Heather Miller, district LWML secretary. She shared with us her experiences with the medical mission teams in Guatemala with MOST (Ministry Opportunities Short Term) Ministries.

Ladies from Messiah, Redfield, along with a few helpers from Pierre and Huron, cleaned the Puppet Place in preparation for the South Dakota State Fair, which was held Sept. 2-6. The Utecht family prepared and presented the puppet show, which was themed "The Good Samaritan." The magic show presented before each Puppet Show was based on the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians.



From left, Beth Brower and Jill Johnsen help assemble kits.

Continued on next page

**COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

# Folly ... or faith?

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **1 COR. 1:18**

The Puppet Place will celebrate its 50th year of sharing the Gospel message in 2022. What a beautiful milestone we all can celebrate through this mission ministry!

The ladies of St. John's, Wolsey, plan monthly mission workdays in which they assemble health kits, school kits and layette sets. Mount Calvary, Huron, sets aside workdays to assemble quilts and pack clothing. A load of these items from these two congregations was taken to Orphan Grain Train. School kits were donated to schools. Quilts and sheet sets were given to Slumberland for their family bed giveaway.

We all are so thankful to be able to gather, be in His Word and continue to serve Him with gladness!

**Ann Cruse • Huron Zone President**



Top, Delores Eichstadt, and below, (from left) Janice Wagner and Vivian Klaschen work on packing items for Orphan Grain Train.



The wisdom of God is not the wisdom of the world. What human wisdom always regards as good, such as wealth and success, God often regards as harmful to man and his faith. And the opposite is true, too. What man regards as failure and loss, God often regards as good. In God's eyes, sickness, poverty and even death can be used for His good purposes.

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints! **PS. 116:15**

Seen from the eyes of man, years of suffering leading to death is evil. Seen from the eyes of God, such suffering may actually be for our good.

This paradox is revealed especially in the "word of the cross," as Paul calls it. From a human point of view, we see in the cross nothing but suffering, weakness, torment, shame, defeat, the triumph of evil and the victory of death. From a human point of view, the events of Good Friday are folly.

But from a faith point of view, we see the power of God at work in the cross. We see that through the evil of Christ's death, Jesus Himself accomplishes the good work of forgiving sins and winning



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

life everlasting. What man regards as the greatest evil actually turns out for our greatest good.

Jesus bids us, too, to take up our cross and follow Him. This may not mean literally losing our lives for His sake, but it will certainly mean suffering. It will mean being

subject to mistreatment, weakness and shame. It will mean being led through the valley of the shadow of death.

Don't be afraid. Bearing our cross is not foolishness. It is, in fact, just the opposite: It is our salvation.

Martin Luther wrote, "When God brings to life, He does so by killing."

As we bear our crosses, as we suffer with Christ, we die to ourselves and our conception of what is good. We learn to trust in God to accomplish our good, even as we are being led to the cross. For the cross is the power of God at work among us to bring to us salvation and all the joys of God's heavenly kingdom.

Why should cross and trial grieve me? Christ is near  
With His cheer; never will He leave me.

Who can rob me of the heaven that God's Son  
For me won when His life was given?" (LSB #756:1)

## PATTY'S PONDERINGS



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

## Let's gather for convention!

### What are you doing on June 3-4?

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

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

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

Mission grant reports will be given by



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota District President

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

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

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



## MILBANK ZONE report

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

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

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

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

**Jeanette Gravdahl**  
Milbank Zone President

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

# WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

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



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

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



Getty Images

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

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

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

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

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

## Mission trip is April 2

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

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

**Nyla Jurens**  
VP of Special Focus Ministries

## Mite deadline near

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

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

**Jan Larson**  
VP of Gospel Outreach

## Wanted: YWRs

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

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

fellow sisters in Christ.

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

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

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

**Tina Lenz**  
YWR Chairwoman



## PATTY'S PONDERINGS



## 'As Christ loved us'

"Walk in Love" is the theme for the 2022 LWML South Dakota District Convention, to be held June 3-4 at St. John's, Yankton. The theme is based on Eph. 4:32-5:2:

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us.

How are you doing in being kind and forgiving? It is certainly not easy because we are sinners. But we know that Jesus tells us to love Him with our whole being and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. **1 JOHN 4:16**

John 3:16 gives us the ultimate example of love:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Each day we have the opportunity to show God's love to the world. It starts by loving our family. And this may be the hardest of all because we are with them so often and may see actions or hear words we don't like. How about the person who walks by your house each day or the young man who takes your order at the restaurant? How can you show love to these people?

1 Cor. 13:4 tells us that "Love is patient, love is kind."

May each of you take the time to be in prayer each day and ask God, your Father, to bless you with kindness, forgiveness and the ability to "Walk in Love."

I hope to see you at the district convention in Yankton, where you will hear and study the Word of God and share His love with your neighbor.



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota District President

## Convention candidates

We, the Nominating Committee, are pleased to announce the slate of candidates for the 2022 LWML South Dakota District Convention. We thank these ladies (and gentlemen) for their prayerful consideration and willingness to serve the Lord with gladness. I also thank committee members Nancy Bogenhagen and Pat Reichert. — *Ann Cruse, Nominating Committee Chair*

### Vice-President of Special Focus Ministries

- ▶ Dianne Hemminger

### Vice-President of Communication

- ▶ Heather Miller

### Secretary

- ▶ Janelle Lafrentz
- ▶ Luann Zuercher

### Financial Secretary

- ▶ Nona Muckle
- ▶ Paula Warren

### Nominating committee:

- ▶ Patti Greenseth
  - ▶ Nyla Jurens
  - ▶ Lurene Mogler Denke
  - ▶ Susan Swanson
- Pastoral Counselor**
- ▶ Rev. Bret Bierman
  - ▶ Rev. Brian Mosemann



## Grant proposals

It is with great excitement and anticipation that the LWML South Dakota District Board of Directors announces the upcoming convention mission grant proposals. We will soon vote on which of these grants we will fund in the coming biennium. God has given us so many wonderful grants to help fund. More details about each one will be available closer to the convention date.

The 2022-24 mission grants proposals are:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Jesus Door 2 Door, \$1,000   | 9. Faith Lutheran Health and Wellness Ministry, \$5,000                            |
| 2. Spanish Braille Bibles for Central and South America, \$5,000      | 10. Phil's Friends Blankets, \$5,000   |
| 3. Feeding Haitian Children Physically and Spiritually, \$5,000       | 11. International Students: Making Jesus Known to the World, \$5,000               |
| 4. Trinity Learning Center Playground Upgrade, \$5,000                | 12. Mozambique Dorcas Sewing Project (LCMS International Mission project), \$5,000 |
| 5. Faith Lutheran Daycare and Preschool Area Update, \$5,000          | 13. Soldiers of the Cross, \$5,000   |
| 6. Luther's Small Catechism for African Missions, \$5,000             | 14. Nurturing Spiritual Care (LCMS National Mission), \$3,500                      |
| 7. Teachers to the World—MOST Ministries, \$5,000                     | 15. Serving in Love—Volunteer Engagement (LCMS National Mission), \$3,500          |
| 8. Black Hills Pregnancy Center Earn While You Learn program, \$5,000 |  |

See **GRANTS**, page 8

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

NOT AFRAID

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy Easter!

And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

MARK 16:8

You can't just tell yourself to stop being afraid. That's not how fear works, is it? In fact, the more you think about your fear, the more afraid you will feel.

The only thing that will remove fear from our hearts is a greater fear. You would be afraid to jump off a ship into the ocean. But I bet if someone was charging at you with a knife, the fear of the open water would vanish. Young men are afraid to talk to pretty girls,



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



but the fear of not having a date for the prom is far greater. You may be afraid of traffic at a busy intersection, but you'd dive in front of a car to pull your young child to safety.

The women in the Gospel are afraid after hearing that Jesus is risen. But their fear is no longer of the Jews or the Romans.

Trembling and astonishment had seized them. They are afraid, but it's the kind of fear that accompanies awe and wonder — fear and wonder that Jesus has

truly been raised drives out from them the fear of man. And what about the other disciples, the 11 men who would soon be called apostles? The news of the resurrection fills them with fear too. It fills them with wonder and amazement, but it casts out their fear of persecution and death. They become so bold as to preach to the Sanhedrin and Roman authorities.

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ has truly risen from the dead, promising that sin and death are no more. His resurrection means that you will be raised from the dead. And that fills us with fearful wonder and awe.

Are you afraid of the future? Are you afraid of the hatred of the unbelieving world? Are you afraid of sickness and death?

So were the disciples. So was Mary and Salome and the other women. Remember this: Jesus has conquered death for you. Be filled with the fear of the Lord, and with awe and amazement and faith in His Word. For because Jesus has risen from the dead, you can say with all confidence:

The LORD is on my side; I will not fear.  
What can man do to me? PS. 118:6

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Welcome!

On Feb. 13, Patty Peters, LWML district president, presented a certificate recognizing Eve Group of Zion Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, as an official LWML group. Members enjoyed a nacho bar and many desserts, and worked service projects including tie blankets, quilt squares and sugar scrubs.

The Eve Group has many service projects planned for 2022 with organizations such as Children's Inn, The Furniture Mission and the Ronald McDonald House.

The group looks forward to serving the Lord with gladness!



Eve Group members are, from left, Emily Lafrentz, Suze Frentz, Lori Brunick, Jody Huebert, Jill Powell, Cathy VandeBraak, Sara Francis, Pam Kludt, Renee Lehr, Kim Fitterer, Mary Ann Zinner and Nancy Bott.



62<sup>nd</sup> LWML South Dakota District Convention

June 3 & 4, 2022

St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton, SD

Registration Form

Deadline for registration and meals—April 30, 2022



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church & City \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency contact name & Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

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

- **Holiday Inn Express: \$140** plus taxes  
605-665-3177 *deadline May 2*
- **Kelly Inn: \$129.99** plus taxes (King bed)  
**\$139.99** plus taxes (2 Queen beds)  
605-665-2906 *deadline May 5*
- **Days Inn: \$70** plus taxes  
605-665-8717 *deadline May 18*
- **Comfort Inn & Suites: \$85** plus taxes  
605-689-3400 *deadline May 30*

**Registration Status**

(check one)

- \_\_\_ Voting member of Board of Directors
- \_\_\_ Delegate
- \_\_\_ Past LWML District President
- \_\_\_ Non-voting member of the BOD
- \_\_\_ LWML Member
- \_\_\_ Pastor
- \_\_\_ Deaconess
- \_\_\_ DCE
- \_\_\_ Guest
- \_\_\_ Exhibitor

Please check all that apply:

- First time attending a District Convention
- Young Woman Representative
- Heart to Heart Sister
- Choir Member (please include your email to receive information and music)

**Registration Fee**

	Quantity	Cost	Fee Total
Registration	_____	\$43.00	\$ _____
Pastor gratis	_____	\$00.00	\$ _____
Friday Lunch	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____
Friday Supper	_____	\$12.00	\$ _____
Saturday Lunch	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____

I need my meals Gluten-Free

**\*Pastors please choose gratis meals.**

Puppet Place Gray T-shirt

___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___	\$19	\$ _____
___ XXL ___ XXXL	\$20	\$ _____

Puppet Place White T-shirt

___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___	\$19	\$ _____
___ XXL ___ XXXL	\$20	\$ _____

Puppet Place Gray Polo

___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___	\$28	\$ _____
___ XXL ___ XXXL	\$30	\$ _____

Puppet Place White Polo

___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___	\$28	\$ _____
___ XXL ___ XXXL	\$30	\$ _____

**Total Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **LWML SD District Convention**

Mail check and registration to:

Janice Stone

PO Box 147

Irene, SD 57037

# Time for convention!

I am looking forward to seeing so many of you at our district convention (June 3-4, St. John's, Yankton). The ladies of the Yankton Zone have been waiting to host you for four years, and now we get to pray and sing together, hear mission grant reports and vote on new grants.



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota District President

Under the theme "Walk in Love" (based on Eph. 4:32-5:2), we will also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the

Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair — and the 80th anniversary of LWML! The celebration will be at Riverside Park following the mite walk across the Missouri River. Rev. Andrew Utecht will do a puppet and magic show for us.

Jan Wendorf, former LWML president, will give the keynote address, and Marie Chow, LWML vice-president of Organizational Resources will bring greetings from the national office. Both ladies are looking forward to meeting us and spending dedicated time with the Young Woman Representatives and Heart 2 Heart Sisters.

Please bring your Gifts from the Heart



for MOST Ministries, River City Domestic Violence Center and ZoeCare. We will participate in servant events during the retreat on Friday morning.

Pastor Utecht will lead a Bible study and Katy Gifford, former LWML Nebraska South District president, will provide "comic interruption."

Please join me in praying for a blessed time together as we "Walk in Love."



## Quilters unite!

Ten women who attend Redeemer Lutheran Church, Armour, meet monthly for quilting and other projects. The group, which includes three women who quilt from home, has made two trips to the Orphan Grain Train warehouse in Norfolk, Neb., to deliver 113 quilts, 18 school backpacks, 13 healthcare kits and one teacher school bag. The ladies are thankful to be able to gather for these mission projects. Pictured are, from left, Marlene Silbaugh, Judene Irving, Karen Baier, Priscilla Lau, Carla Gohl, and Judy Wunder.

## Please bring your ingathering items

If you haven't started, please look for and collect items for the LWML South Dakota District convention ingathering.

Most Ministries will appreciate donations of:

- Adult glasses
- Children's glasses
- Non-prescription sunglasses

Please bring only glasses that are in good condition. MOST Ministries cannot use broken glasses.

Gently used eyeglasses can enable an adult to secure a job to support his or her family; a child to succeed in school; a senior to continue to live independently; a mother or father to see their child's face clearly for the first time; and people to hear the Gospel while they are being fitted for glasses.

We will also collect items for the River City Domestic Violence Center in Yankton. The center provides a safe haven to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and child abuse. The center exists to break the cycle of these traumas in our community through survivor empowerment, advocacy, education, awareness and social

See **DONATIONS**, page 8

**COUNSELOR'S CORNER**



**LIVING, MOVING, BEING**  
*(aka screaming, squirming, scared)*

As some of you may know, the Thorson family is about to be bigger by one.

It must be a scary thing, to be born. What a drastic change of scenery! From Mom's warm belly to the big, wide (and often cold) world, not to mention being greeted by a scary person in a mask (the doctor). The infant's existence is turned upside-down. No wonder babies come into this world screaming, squirming and scared.

Thinking about this, the birth of a child should cause us to ponder ancient, important questions about life and existence: Why am I here? What am I going to do now that I am here?

These are the very questions that Paul addressed to the Athenians at the Areopagus (Acts 17:22-34). As the men sat around and pondered the deepest questions of life, Paul stood up and addressed them on their own terms with language about God that they could understand. Paul put it to them that they had all the answers they needed in the God they had labeled as unknown.



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

The God who created everything and sent Jesus to die and rise again was and is the answer to even the oldest questions of men, for it is in Him that all creation lives, moves and has its being. God is the reason we come into this world and continue in it screaming, squirming and

scared. He sustains all His creation and by His Son, Jesus Christ, has given redemption and life for His creation.

Paul assures us that we are more than living, moving creatures that take up space. We are more than screaming, squirming, scared bundles of flesh. Instead, we find our purpose and being in Jesus, who rescued us from screaming, squirming and being scared in eternal death so we could "walk in love" (just as our theme for next month's LWML district convention encourages us to do).

We are therefore God's creation, made alive by the Father, redeemed by Jesus and sustained by the Holy Spirit, that we may testify to God's glory and mercy while walking in love.

**FAREWELL  
AND**



To my fellow LWML ladies ... I cannot believe my four years as financial secretary has already come to an end. I have enjoyed collecting and keeping track of the funds we have brought in together through our gatherings. I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know you. God has blessed our LWML here in South Dakota and throughout the nation.

I pray you will continue to work for our Lord Jesus. Many blessings to you.

**Donna Harr** • South Dakota District Financial Secretary

Saying farewell is harder than I thought, and what a privilege it has been to serve as your VP of Special Focus Ministries. During this term, I have met many wonderful people. I have also learned we can get things done even when we are unable to meet in person. I enjoyed hearing about all the wonderful things we can accomplish as a group. This proves LWML is a strong organization and knows how to get it done by "walking in God's love."

I would like to leave you with my new favorite Bible verse:

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. **EPH. 4:32-5:2**

**Nyla Jurrens** • V.P. of Special Focus Ministries

It has been a pleasure to serve as your VP of Communication for the past four years. I want to thank the LWML district Board of Directors and all the LWML members for your help and support. The past couple of years has made us look at different ways to communicate and serve our Lord. We attended our board meetings, group meetings and even our Bible study via Zoom. But through it all we knew that God was there to guide us.

I am thankful for my four years of God's service in the district and am grateful for the friends and fellowship. God's blessing to all of you!

**Susan Swanson** • VP of Communication



## Preparing for end-of-life

On Jan. 29, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Spearfish, sponsored “Christian Decision Making at Life’s End,” a three-hour presentation that covered the many aspects in which we and our loved ones face at that particular stage. Members of area congregations were invited to attend.

Rev. Tim Rynearson, pastor of Redeemer, Flandreau; Peace, Brookings; and Zion, White, talked about the importance of being prepared for the end of life here on earth and reminded us that earth is only our temporary home. Being in our heavenly home with Jesus is the final and most glorious goal we have been promised, through His death and resurrection.

Tom Muckle, Fidler–Isburg Funeral Chapel director in Spearfish and a member of St Paul, led a discussion on funeral planning and what to expect when preparing for the service.

Eric Nies, an estate attorney with Neis & Karras Attorneys at Law in Spearfish and a member of St Paul, talked about the importance of writing a will and keeping it updated as circumstances can change.

Randy Wombold, Kirk Funeral Home preplanning specialist in Rapid City, informed the audience about insurance products that can cover some end-of-life expenses and make the funeral-planning process easier for a loved one’s survivors.

## The Word at work

“It’s all about the Word,” says LCMS missionary Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek in the Spring 2022 issue of *Lutherans Engage the World*. The issue highlights a few places where the Word of God is at work, including in rural western Kenya, where men and women are being prepared to serve a dozen Lutheran church bodies in East Africa; in Lutheran schools in California and Wisconsin, where the next generation is growing in their knowledge of math, science and the Savior, Jesus Christ; and in Germany, where students who attend online classes through the Luther Academy in Riga, Latvia, recently gathered for a week of intensive studies.

Dr. Rajek recently served as senior pastor of Faith, Pierre.

The issue also includes five stories written by LCMS missionaries about mission work in Brazil, Italy, Taiwan, Germany and more. In addition, you’ll hear from the Rev. James Krikava, director of the LCMS Eurasia region, who is coordinating the Synod’s response to help those who are displaced, suffering or in danger due to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine.

The magazine was slated to arrive in mailboxes in late April. You can read the issue online at [engage.lcms.org](http://engage.lcms.org). To have the magazine delivered directly to your door, visit [engage.lcms.org/subscribe](http://engage.lcms.org/subscribe). Individual and bulk subscriptions (for congregations) are available at no charge.

## KATHY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

“I cried with them,” she says. “That is part of what we did. We all did. God put me there to cry with them and love them.”

What a treasure. A treasure better than gold I’d say. Check out 1 Peter 1:6-8 and you will see what I mean.

Someone is near you who needs your help in the name of Jesus. Have you been blessed to know the difference Jesus has made using your work and witness in His name? I’d enjoy hearing that life story. A fellow worker may need to hear it. Contact me at [pcnavurskis@gmail.com](mailto:pcnavurskis@gmail.com) or 605-352-7121.

Rev. Chris Navurskis serves as pastor of Mount Calvary, Huron, and is life coordinator of the South Dakota District.



## DONATIONS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

change. Their wish list includes:

- Dish-washing cloths
- Laundry soap
- Sports bras
- Gray bath towels
- Food-storage containers
- Bleach
- Non-bleach cleaning solutions
- Cash to purchase meal coupons

ZoeCare is a pregnancy center that aims to meet the needs of couples and women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy. The mission encourages women and couples to choose life, embraces single mothers with the love of Jesus Christ and builds communities where purity in relationships, traditional marriage and strong families are nurtured and valued.

ZoeCare will accept cash donations.

**Nyla Jurrens**

V.P. of Special Focus Ministries

## PATTY'S PONDERINGS

# A heartfelt 'thank you'

Chances are you're reading this after we held our district convention (June 3-4 at St. John's, Yankton, under the theme "Walk in Love"). If you were there, I hope that the Spirit of the Lord filled your hearts as you heard the Word, participated in servant events, learned about the Mission Grants and enjoyed fellowship with your LWML sisters.

This event can't be accomplished without the help of many people. Thank you to the ladies of the Yankton Zone and the members of St. John's, who opened their doors for many to enter.

### Farewell

As the body of Christ we work together to show His love to our neighbor. Praise be to God for everyone who gives their time, talents and treasures to further the kingdom of God. I thank the outgoing officers — Susan Swanson, Nyla Jurrens, Donna Harr, Heather Miller and Rev. Daniel Grimmer. May God bless each of you as you continue to work in His harvest fields.

As we start a new biennium, I pray that you can participate in the many LWML activities and Bible studies in your groups, zones and the district. Please continue to fill your mite boxes. I hope to see you in Milwaukee for the 2023 national LWML convention, "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations," based on Ps. 33:12-13.

May the Triune God bless you each day as you "Walk in Love!"



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President



## MITCHELL ZONE REPORT

# Much fun in 2022!

Greetings from the Mitchell LWML Zone! This year started off with an overwhelming feeling. Too many things to do with no promise of getting caught up. That feeling has not diminished or disappeared. As one project is completed, another appears. But I am reminded almost daily of Rom. 8:28:

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

We ended 2021 with our Fall Rally on Oct. 3. Two women from the Mitchell Area Safe House gave a presentation on its history, services and outreach programs, and how to recognize and report abuse. Groups of the Mitchell Zone collected Gifts from the Heart items for the safehouse.

We also conducted a silent auction during the Fall Rally. Initially, we intended to have a small "trial-and-error" auction to raise money for Mites. Each group was asked to provide one or two items for the auction. With eight groups in the Mitchell Zone, we ended up with over 35 items to auction off! Because of God's blessings, the silent auction was a monumental success. With thankful hearts, we were able

to make a large donation to Mites. Praise be to God!

The excitement hasn't stopped in 2022. On April 30, the Mitchell Zone Spring Christian Life Workshop featured Rev. Brian Lemcke, who talked about, "Who Is Jesus-According to the Scriptures," and Carma Popp, president of the Mitchell LWML group, who gave a striking visual presentation, "The Pieces of Jesus' Life in Color and Quilts." Pastor Lemcke serves the dual parish of Emmaus, Tripp, and Zion, Delmont.

Attendees brought donations for the local food pantry and more for Gifts from the Heart.

On Oct. 2, the Mitchell Zone will host the Orphan Grain Train Fish Feed at Zion, Delmont. The Fish Feed is another new experience for us, but we have been told that the food is fantastic! One of the district's two Christian Life Workshops will be held at Zion, Mitchell, on Oct. 8 (see page 5), and plans are once again being made for a silent auction to be held this fall to benefit Mites.

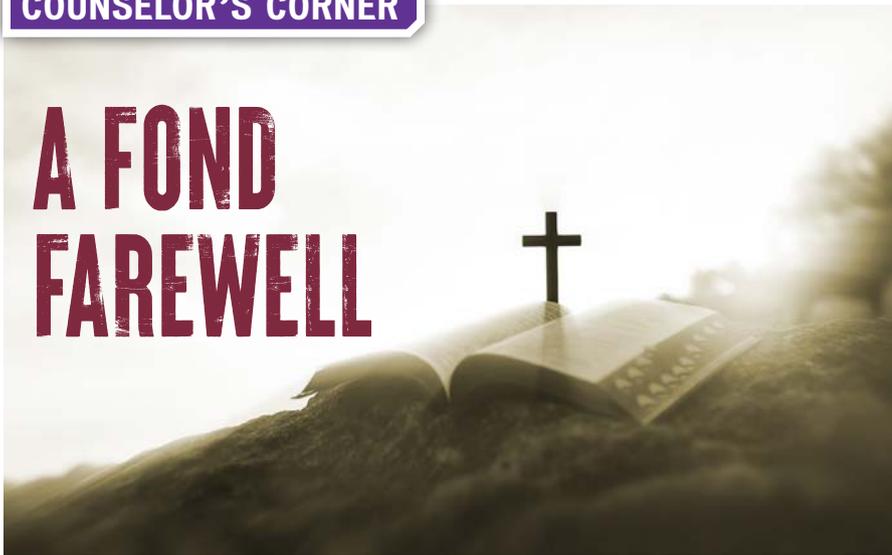
We pray God's blessings on our plans as we seek to do His loving work with our hands.

**Julie Kaufman**  
LWML Mitchell Zone President

As **Lutheran Women in Mission**, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

# A FOND FAREWELL



But now,  
O LORD,  
you are our  
Father; we  
are the clay,  
and you are  
our potter;  
we are all  
the work of  
your hand.

Is. 64:8

**Dear Sisters in Christ of the  
LWML South Dakota District,**

**I**t's been such a joy and a privilege to serve as your pastoral counselor these last four years.

Seminary professors talk frequently about their work in "forming" pastors. And much formation does indeed occur during the years that a man is preparing to serve as a pastor. But in truth, so much shaping and forming continues to come through the years of actually serving as a pastor. I thank you for all the opportunities to serve among you, while continuing to grow and be shaped for future ministry.

If there's one area that I can be certain that the Lord has used my time as LWML pastoral counselor to shape me for His service, it is in my renewed appreciation for the



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

prayers, support, encouragement and leadership of the LWML for sharing the Good News of Jesus to a world in need of His mercy, grace and forgiveness. Though of course I knew of your work prior to my service as a counselor, I failed to recognize how much the Lord has shaped and is using you to accomplish His own mission. Thank you for giving me a renewed interest and passion for sharing Jesus' Word with the lost!

The last couple of years were a "blessed challenge" as together we navigated the disruptions and uncertainties of the pandemic, and the challenges that it brought to our works of ministry and mercy together as a district. Despite the difficult circumstances, our work was blessed as your joy and zeal for Christ's Word and for sharing the Gospel with the world never wavered. You met the challenge head on and prevailed through God's gracious provision.

I have learned so much from my time among you and I will miss having the insider view of your mission work in support of the church's ministry. I will continue to keep you and your work in my own prayers and look forward to seeing you all again.

The Lord bless you and keep you in His service and in His grace!

**With gratitude and appreciation,  
Pastor Daniel Grimmer**

## Make plans to attend workshop

With the LWML South Dakota District Convention now a sweet memory, we are making plans for the Fall Christian Life Workshops.

Rev. Robert Hinckley, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Chamberlain, will present on "The Tabernacle/Temple in the Bible." He will talk about how the tabernacle and temple point to Christ and what that means for the church today.

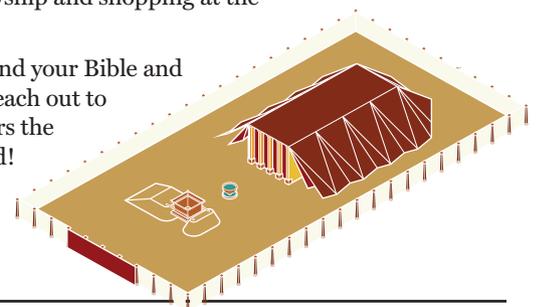
The workshops will be held on Saturday, Oct. 1, at Bethesda Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, and Saturday, Oct. 8, at Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the

workshop concludes at 1:45 p.m. with a devotion.

Registration will be followed by an opening devotion and the main presentation. Each workshop includes an hour-long break for lunch, fellowship and shopping at the LWML store.

Bring a friend and your Bible and be inspired to reach out to share with others the life-saving Word!

**Susan Buxcel**  
VP of  
Christian Life



## PATTY'S PONDERINGS

# New mission goal for a new biennium

What a blessed time I had at the 62nd LWML South Dakota District Convention in Yankton! About 240 people attended the convention. We were in God's Word at the opening communion service, during a Bible study taught by Rev. Andrew Utecht and at the closing service.



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota District President

It was so much fun to walk across the Missouri River bridge for the Mite Walk, and see the magic show and puppet show performed by the Utecht family as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair.

The new mission grant goal is \$55,000 for 12 grants that were chosen by the voting delegates. The mission goal is \$132,333 for the 2022-24 biennium. May God bless our district as we strive to reach these goals.

Our keynote speaker was former national LWML President Jan Wendorf, who reminded us of our theme, "Walk in Love" (based on Eph. 4:32-5:2). Marie Chow, national LWML vice-president of Organizational Resources, gave us a lot of information about what the national officers do for us. Katy Gifford, former Nebraska South District president, lightened our convention with humor and also talked about Gifts of Love. I am so thankful that these ladies were a part of our convention.

Now it is time to plan our fall activities. I hope that many of you will help at the

Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair (Sept. 1-5 in Huron). It is an easy way to invite people into the building to learn about Jesus.

Many zones will host zone rallies, which provide times for ladies to be together in Bible studies and participate in servant events.

Please consider attending one of two Christian Life Workshops this fall (*see page 7*). One is at Zion, Mitchell, at 9 a.m. on Oct. 8. The other is at St. Paul, Spearfish, at 9 a.m. on Oct. 15. Rev. Robert Hinckley will speak on the topic of "The Tabernacle/Temple in the Bible."

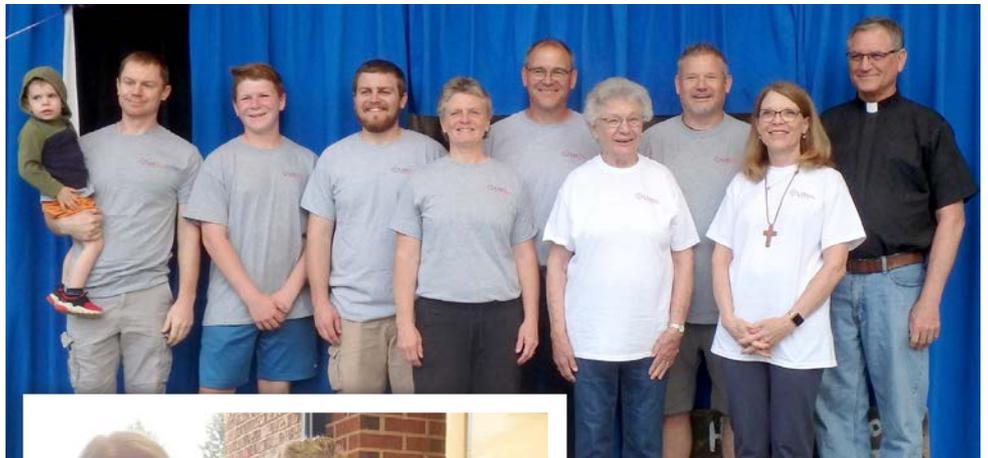
Jesus wants us to talk to our family, friends and neighbors about how He loves them and forgives them. My prayer is that we all read the Bible, be in prayer with God and "Walk in Love."

## Convention HIGHLIGHTS

The 62nd Biennial Convention of the LWML South Dakota District was held June 3-4 at St. John's, Yankton. We celebrated 50 years of The Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair with a puppet show by Rev. Andrew Utecht and family, and 80 years of being Lutheran Women in Mission.

Over 240 attendees from across the state met under the theme "Walk in Love," based on Eph. 4:32-5:2:

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefor be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.



▲ The Utecht family gave a puppet show at the district convention. From left, Ethan (holding Ryland), Isaac, Justus, Lori, Pastor Andrew, Donna, Pastor Peter, Kathy and Pastor Ken.

◀ LWML representatives from outside South Dakota who appeared at the convention are, from left, Jan Wendorf, Katy Gifford and Marie Chow.



## SIoux FALLS ZONE REPORT

Greetings fellow “Posers!” I pray you had a wonderful experience in Yankton. It was great to see so many sisters and brothers in Christ gathered together in June.

The convention marked the end of Sioux Falls Zone President Tina Lenz’s term and the beginning of my attempt to fill her shoes. My name is Cathy VandeBraak, and I am a member of Eve Group from Zion, Sioux Falls. We are so thankful for the service President Tina provided since October 2020. Her entire journey required mapping out a different path to participate in God’s work during the pandemic. We pray many blessings upon Tina and her family as they “Walk in Love” in Wichita, Kan.

We praise God that the groups from the Sioux Falls Zone have been able to gather together this past year. Our Redeemer hosted the Fall Rally. There we completed a service project

Pictured are the attendees at the LWML District Convention from the Sioux Falls Zone.

with greeting cards for nursing home shut-ins. We also hosted a prayer service, “Lord, Teach us to Pray,” in person at Faith, Sioux Falls. The used jewelry sale was a fantastic way to recycle our jewelry and collect Mite offerings. Zion, Sioux Falls, hosted a mission walk and invited everyone to contribute Mites. All in all we collected \$223, which we gave to the first offering at convention,

designated for the LWML South Dakota District 2022-24 mission grant goal.

Our groups have been busy with various activities. The ladies have made tie blankets for Project Warm-Up, Easter baskets for McCrossan Boys Ranch, care packages for ICU/pulmonary/ COVID floor nurses and hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train; served meals and so much more. It is inspiring to see each group being the hands and feet of Jesus.

The LWML Sioux Falls Zone is eager to serve the Lord with gladness (Ps. 100:2).

**Cathy VandeBraak** • Sioux Falls Zone President



Young Woman Representatives at the district convention were, from left, Jenna Byrd, Jenna Neumayer, Jessica Tisher, Rebecca Darland-Denke, Lauren Penning, Julie Baumann, Grace Tisher and Jessica Smith



From left, district officers include:

- Susan Buxcel**  
VP of Christian Life
- Luann Zuercher**  
Secretary
- Heather Miller**  
VP of Communication
- Melissa Vance**  
Treasurer
- Patty Peters**  
District president
- Paula Warren**  
Financial secretary
- Dianne Hemminger**  
VP of Special Focus Ministries
- Jan Larson**  
VP of Gospel Outreach

## Ladies serve those in need

Those attending the convention participated in servant events.

The ladies:

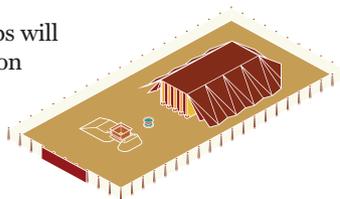
- ▶ Tied 31 fleece blankets for Orphan Grain Train.
- ▶ Collected 692 pairs of eyeglasses and 80 witness bracelets for the MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term).
- ▶ Made finger puppets (456) and pocket crosses (212) for The Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair.
- ▶ Donated \$885 for meal coupons for Gifts from the Heart: River City Crisis Center in Yankton
- ▶ Donated 1,527 items and collected \$775 for ZoeCare in Yankton

## Convention Offerings

<b>\$3,211</b>	<b>\$2,926</b>
<b>2022-24 Mission Grant Goal</b>	<b>The Puppet Place</b>

## Make plans to attend workshop

The Fall Christian Life Workshops will be held on Saturday, Oct. 8, at Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell, and on Saturday, Oct. 15, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Spearfish, Rev. Robert Hinckley, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Chamberlain, will present on “The Tabernacle/Temple in the Bible.” He will talk about how the tabernacle and temple point to Christ and what that means for the church today.



Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the workshop concludes at 1:45 p.m. with a devotion. Both workshops include an hour-long break for lunch, fellowship and shopping at the LWML store.

Bring a friend and your Bible and be inspired to reach out to share with others the life-saving Word!

### SCHEDULE

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 9-9:30 a.m.           | Registration/coffee      |
| 9:30-9:45 a.m.        | Opening devotion         |
| 9:45-10 a.m.          | Greetings, announcements |
| 10-11 a.m.            | Speaker                  |
| 11-11:15 a.m.         | Break/singing            |
| 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | Speaker                  |
| 12:15-1:15 p.m.       | Lunch break/shopping)    |
| 1:15-1:30 p.m.        | Singing                  |
| 1:30-1:45 p.m.        | Closing                  |

*Coffee will be served following the closing, and along with shopping.*

# Tri-parish celebrates Pastor Greenseth's **40 YEARS IN MINISTRY**

The tri-parish of Zion, Presho; St. Paul's, Draper; and Messiah, Murdo, gathered at Messiah for a service on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, to also celebrate the 40th ordination anniversary of its pastor, Rev. Ray Greenseth.

Pastor Greenseth has served in the South Dakota District since 1991, when he was called to serve First, Wall, and Emmanuel, Creighton. He was then called to Messiah, Murdo, and St. Paul's, Draper, in 2007, and in 2019 to Zion, Presho, as it joined the then dual parish.

In his long tenure in central South Dakota, Pastor Greenseth has also served God's people in Milesville, Philip and Midland — a bit like the circuit riders of old. The members of Zion, St. Paul's and Messiah, and the South Dakota District thanks God for the faithful service of Pastor Greenseth, His servant.



◀ Pastor Greenseth is pictured with his wife, Patti.

▲ LWML members perform a skit during the ordination anniversary celebration.

## Share your news with us!

Send submissions to Kate Meadows:

- [kate@katemeadows.com](mailto:kate@katemeadows.com)
- 420 E. Liberty Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

The deadline for the October issue is Aug. 15.



# Quilts for kids

The members of the Zion, Rapid City, Dorcas Circle meet weekly to design and create quilts for those in need identified by area service organizations. Using donations of fabric from members, and batting purchased through Thrivent Action Team funds, these ladies create an average of two finished quilts a week for organizations such as the Hope Center in Rapid City and Orphan Grain Train, and for veterans in hospitals in Sturgis and Hot Springs. Pictured are, from left, Barb Jass, Bambi Schwegge, Martha Palmreuter, Coleen Murphy and Judy Charbonneau with their creations for "77 Quilts for 77 Kids," a project of alumni from Rapid City Central High School. Missing from the photo is Cindy Purtell. The ladies donated 13 quilts for the project.

## PATTY'S PONDERINGS

# How will YOU celebrate LWML Sunday?

**LWML SUNDAY** is usually the first Sunday in October, but can be celebrated any month of the year.

The theme for 2022 is “For Us and With Us,” and is based on Rom. 8:31–39.

The apostle Paul writes that we are all faced with challenges that are greater than our own strength can fix. Christ, who is for us and with us, makes us conquerors through Him who loves us. By hearing God’s Word, we are encouraged because we have the victory that is ours through our baptism. We can confidently live each day as we put our trust in Christ.

The author of the materials for LWML Sunday is Rev. Dr. Ryan Peterson, vice-president of Administration at Concordia University, Ann Arbor (CUAA). Dr. Peterson was the campus pastor at CUAA and previously a congregational pastor. At [lwml.org/lwml-sunday](http://lwml.org/lwml-sunday), you will find many materials that can be printed for use in your church for LWML Sunday. Please let your pastor know! Materials include bulletin bytes, bulletin covers, the full worship service,

a children’s message and a sermon.

I pray that you are gathering again for Bible studies and servant events in your groups and zones. I look forward to seeing you at the Christian Life Workshops in Mitchell and Spearfish. “Walk in Love” as Christ has loved you.



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

## PIERRE ZONE UPDATE

**T**he Pierre Zone has had a lot to reflect on over the past year. The zone hosted its 2021 fall rally in Gettysburg. Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek, LCMS missionary who previously served as senior pastor of Faith, Pierre, shared about his vocation as a seminary professor in Riga, Latvia.

Barb Schneider was elected vice-president and Crystal Kinkler was elected secretary/treasurer. Jan Larson is currently serving as vacancy president.

Eleven members attended the LWML district convention in Yankton in June.

Our zone is well represented in the district:

- ▶ Melissa Vance is treasurer
- ▶ Luann Zuercher is the newly elected secretary
- ▶ Jan Larson is the vice-president of Gospel Outreach
- ▶ Mary Jo Stier is parliamentarian
- ▶ Lurene Denke is district historian

We are thankful that we can serve the Lord with gladness!

## GET TO KNOW YOUR Heart to Heart Sisters



**D**o you remember being the newbie ... new to the neighborhood, school, job, church, LWML group?

Some people find being a new person exciting, but most of us find it hard. Take a moment to re-imagine the feelings you had as a new person and the questions you had. Your heart feels like it will beat out of your chest. You don’t know what to say. You don’t understand what those around you are saying.

LWML? Mite box? Huh?

Now try to imagine feeling that way, but you feel very different from everyone else in the crowd — a crowd of people who don’t look like you, sound like you or

maybe even don’t speak the same language.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is changing as families relocate. In addition, more families are joining our churches through multicultural ministries. As a result, we have opportunities to welcome women from different backgrounds and cultures into the LWML. Sometimes it is as easy as inviting our new sister to our next meeting, but sometimes more planning is required.

The Heart to Heart — Sisters of All Nations district program is an intentional effort to welcome and encourage women of all nations to participate in the life and service of Lutheran Women in Mission.

Being new is hard. Being new, having a different cultural background and speaking a different language can create barriers. Kay Nelson and I are trained to assist your group in motivating, equipping and providing opportunities for multicultural women in your LCMS congregation to serve the church, participate in LWML, witness to the world and

See **HEART**, page 6

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

# What's that 'ONE LITTLE WORD?'

If you have a hymnal, I invite you to pick it up and read the hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," written by Martin Luther. At the end of the third verse is the line, "One little word subdues him," referring to Satan. Over the years I have wondered what that one little word was. In college, I did a lot of searching for the answer and was absolutely confounded.

One day I spoke with one of my theology professors about it. He looked me in the eye and said with all love, "Clint! You know that word! That word is 'Baptism!'"

At first, I thought that "Baptism" couldn't possibly be the word. But over the years since then, I realized that my professor wasn't talking about the word "Baptism" itself, so much as the Word

in Baptism. In Baptism we receive the promise, seal and guarantee from God our Father through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, so that through Baptism, God says of you and me, "Mine!"

In Baptism, you are taken from the devil by God. That word uttered by Jesus through water and the Word "fells" Satan and all his schemes. In fact, Luther was so confident in this promise that he wrote a baptismal rite in which he orders Satan to leave this newly baptized child of God alone and to praise the Holy Spirit for taking the child away from his own grasp.

Luther can do this because he knows God's power to save and protect. He knows Jesus defeated sin, death and the devil by His death and resurrection, so He demands that even our ancient

enemy, the devil, praise Almighty God for the entrance of another soul into God's mighty fortress.

We, too, can be this confident in the little Word of Baptism and rely on God's mighty fortress, in which we are now sheltered. We, too, can go forth unashamed and unafraid into a broken and hurting world, sharing God's grace and mercy with those we encounter.

Sheltered by God in His mighty fortress, nothing can harm you or take you from God's gracious grasp. Amen.



Rev. Clint O. Thorson  
LWML District Counselor



## WHAT'S YOUR 80?

As the LWML celebrates its 80th year (1942–2022), LWML groups across the country are answering this question. Members of the Dorcas Group/LWML at Our Redeemer, Custer, sponsored a baby shower to bless the Black Hills Pregnancy Center in Rapid City. The goal was to collect 80 items between Mother's Day and Father's Day.

The Dorcas Group exceeded its goal, with the help of a Thrivent grant and generous donations from the Our Redeemer congregation. The ladies thank God this agency is available to love and support uncertain mothers and fathers, and praises God that Our Redeemer could love and support the agency by answering "What's your 80?"

## MEET THE NEW VP of Communication

Hello. My name is Heather Miller and I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Vice President of Communication. I am a baptized child of God, a preschool teacher, a daughter, sister, aunt and friend. I love to explore our beautiful state, take long walks (especially in the country near my grandparents' farms), read books, garden and crochet. I also love to travel to Guatemala with a medical mission team each summer.



I got started in LWML when I graduated from college. My grandma was involved in LWML and inspired me with the way she showed Jesus' love to others. My mom also showed her faith with the way she lovingly served those around her. LWML has given me many ways to support missions throughout the LCMS and to be a missionary to the people whom God puts in my midst. I have served as secretary for the South Dakota LWML Board of Directors for the past four years, and I look forward to continuing that service in my new role.

## PATTY'S PONDERINGS

### Fall fellowship — and fun

**O**CTOBER HAS MANY ACTIVITIES for the women of the LWML. I hope that you have or will celebrate **LWML Sunday**, which is traditionally held on the first Sunday of October. The theme this year is "For Us and With Us." You can find information about it at [lwml.org/lwml-sunday](http://lwml.org/lwml-sunday). We also have the **Christian Life Workshops** on Oct. 8 at Zion, Mitchell, and on Oct. 15 at St. Paul, Spearfish. The theme is "The Tabernacle/Temple in the Bible." For more information, visit [sdlwml.org/district-workshops](http://sdlwml.org/district-workshops).



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota District President

Many zones host rallies or other gatherings in the fall. What a wonderful time to meet for Bible study, plan servant events, gather Mite offerings and support community organizations! Many zones elect **new officers** in the fall, so please keep Luann Zuercher, our district secretary, aware of any changes. May God bless your fellowship time. Thank you to all of you who work so diligently to have these meetings.

It is now time to put the **LWML 40th Biennial Convention** on your calendars. The event will be held June 22-25, 2023, in Milwaukee. The theme is "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations," based on Ps. 33:12-13. We are hoping to have many from our South Dakota District in attendance for worship and to be in fellowship. Keep up with the latest information about the national convention, and download materials and order shirts at [lwml.org/2023-convention](http://lwml.org/2023-convention).

As you go about your daily life, please remember to "**Walk in Love**" (our June 2022 district convention theme, based on Eph. 4:32-5:2). Let us be imitators of God as His beloved children.

Let us be kind, tenderhearted and forgiving of one another. Be in the Word of God. Be in prayer daily, and the Lord will guide you in all your ways.

## FROM THE HISTORIAN

### 80 years of LWML ... how did you celebrate?

**H**appy birthday to you, dear Lutheran Woman in Mission!

We are mighty in numbers and in purple and gold. Hope you all saw the newly painted Puppet Place — including purple doors — for its 50th birthday at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron.

How do we celebrate significant events, like the LWML's 80th birthday and the Puppet Place's 50th? And how can we preserve the memories of these celebrations, so that they can be shared with future generations?



**Our historian zone reports are due Dec. 1.** It would be great to see how each group celebrated LWML's 80th birthday at their rallies, retreats and at the district convention.

While it would be easy to store our files on computers, there is still something special about holding a paper historical document. For more information and forms, go to [sdlwml.org/forms](http://sdlwml.org/forms).

God bless your life in Christ.

**Lurene Mogler Denke**  
Archivist/Historian

## ABERDEEN ZONE UPDATE

### The "heart" of our congregations

Our groups have been busy with ongoing projects this year, and I would like to highlight some of the creative ideas and events taking place to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the LWML.

We chose to use "80 for 80" as a theme, working toward collecting 80 items for missions and an extra \$80 for Mites, and volunteering for 80 hours. The ladies of **St. Paul's, Aberdeen**, gathered hats, mittens and socks to donate to Journey Home and Safe Harbor shelters, and collectively contributed 80 hours of reading their Bibles and quilting.

**St. John's, Britton**, held food collections and posted "80 Acts of Kindness" as outside-the-box ways for members to show kindness to others in their midst. Members made cookies for local first responders and health care workers.

The ladies of **Trinity, Mansfield**, set a goal of collecting 80 baseball caps, which was met sixfold. They sent over 500 baseball caps to the Orphan Grain Train branch in Milbank.

**Immanuel, Wecota**, delivered 80 quilts and laundry products to Orphan Grain Train. Six members helped pack these items for shipping throughout the United States and overseas.

See **ZONE**, page 6

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

# Forever loved by Jesus



**Rev. Brian Mosemann**  
LWML District Counselor

October brings many events and much rejoicing in the Word and work of our Lord Jesus.

Mark your calendars for LWML Sunday, the Christian Life Workshops ... and the Reformation! "For Us and With Us" is the theme for LWML Sunday. The apostle Paul tells us that even though we face difficulties in life greater than our own strength, "we are more than conquerors through him who loved us," for God "did not spare His own Son but gave him up for us all" (Rom. 8:31-39).

Knowing this, we have the absolute certainty that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (v. 39). When we know that we are forever loved by Jesus, we are free to love others regardless of

the risk because our deep need to be loved has already been satisfied.

The fear that our love toward others will not be reciprocated can hinder us from loving our neighbors. We arrive at the paralyzing conclusion: "I will love you only to the degree that you love me." This attitude enslaves us. But forgiveness in Christ and His love

toward us frees us from that.

We all enjoy receiving love from others. Something inside us comes alive when we feel loved. In Christ we have learned this freeing truth: in Him, we have received all the love we need and more. This in turn frees us to love others without fear or reservation. We revel in our neighbor's enjoyment of our love without needing anything from them in return. We receive love from Jesus, and His love flows from us to them. Thus, we love not to earn God's love, but because of His incredible and "unlosable" love that we have been given.



## 'REELING IN' THE CATCH

St. John's, Yankton, LWML members met for their summer event with a theme and skit, "Who Will Go and Fish Today?" Instead of trying to catch their limit of fish from the Missouri River, the ladies "reeled in" needed food items for the Yankton Contact Center to celebrate 80 years of LWML. The "fishing" trip was a success, and the ladies praise our Lord for the blessings they were able to share with their neighbors in need. Pictured are, from left (seated) Trish Roskeland, KC Rogat; (standing) Susan Buxcel, Dorothea Merrill, Bonnie Pinkelman, Becky Neuhalphen, Ellen Schmit, Sharon Ehrhart, Bea Diede, Hannah Weispfennig, Tammy Johnson, Dianne Diekmann, Corrine Casey and Ellann Petersen.

# Puppet Place gets facelift

Fifty years ago, Rev. Robert Utecht started performing puppet and magic shows at the South Dakota State Fair. The show began on an outdoor stage, then moved into a tent and eventually a building. Today, his sons, Rev. Andrew Utecht and Rev. Peter Utecht, and many in his family carry on the unique ministry of Puppet Place.

The handmade stringed puppets are a memorable way of sharing the Gospel with state fair attendees. Each year, a play written by Pastor Bob, Pastor Andrew or Pastor Peter is performed by the family members five times each day. A fun and interactive magic show precedes each play. This is a great way to introduce the love of Jesus to all ages.

In celebration of the 50-year anniversary, the building was freshly



Painted, the awning replaced and new furnishings were purchased for the outside of the building. Nine volunteers came together to paint the building in time for the state fair, which was held Sept. 1-5 in Huron. God blessed them with a cool day and they were able to complete two coats by noon. New mats and a new table and chairs for seating

outside the building will complete the facelift.

The new purple doors are a real eye catcher, and the district LWML is excited to celebrate this special year for the Utecht family.

**Jan Larson**  
VP of Gospel Outreach



## A word of thanks

A huge thank you to all the dedicated women and men in Yankton Zone who worked so hard to host the district convention in June. God blessed the convention and each of us!

With the convention, my term as zone president ended on a high note! A new president will be elected at our upcoming

The Yankton Zone is pictured at the district convention.

Fall Rally. I know she will be blessed in her service to God and the LWML.

It has been a privilege and a joy to serve these last four years. I'll see you around as we make more wonderful memories in LWML!

**Dianne Diekmann**  
Yankton Zone President

## ZONE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

The members of **Concordia, Cresbard**, helped sponsor and promote a community blood drive.

**Our Savior, Aberdeen**, has continued work on sleeping mats and collecting Mites in honor of members' 80th birthdays.

**St. John's, Groton**, is collecting

non-perishable food items and paper products for a new community food pantry.

Our LWML groups are the heart of our congregations! We will continue to be thankful and offer our love and praise as we "Serve the Lord with Gladness" in this 80th year of celebration and for years to come!

**Beverly Graham**  
Aberdeen Zone President

## PATTY'S PONDERINGS

# WANTED: Banner designs for LWML convention

“CELEBRATE THE LORD OF THE NATIONS” is the theme for the LWML 40th Biennial Convention, to be held June 22-25, 2023, in Milwaukee. The theme is based on Ps. 33:12-13:

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man.



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

The Lutheran Women in Mission of the North Wisconsin, Northern Illinois and South Wisconsin districts are hosting the convention. All of you who have attended an LWML national convention know what a blessing they are to each of us — not to mention how much fun they are.

The banner procession is part of the convention pageantry, and it's also a way to artistically represent the theme. Our beloved South Dakota District is filled with talented ladies. I know, because I saw beautiful banners they made for our district convention in Yankton. Perhaps the zone presidents can encourage their talented members to create another design based on the theme.

Please send your ideas to me at [lwmlprespatty@gmail.com](mailto:lwmlprespatty@gmail.com) by Jan. 3. The Board of Directors will meet in January and we will decide on the design that will then be made into the banner. Banner instructions can be found at [sdlwml.org](http://sdlwml.org). Thank you very much for helping with the banner design.

May God bless your time as you “Walk in Love” with your family and friends in this season of Thanksgiving. May we be thankful for the most precious gift of all — the Christ, Jesus, who came to live among us, to be a sacrifice on the cross, to rise from the dead and to reign forever at His Father's right hand.



# PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL at the state fair

The 50th anniversary of the Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair was a fantastic celebration! All of Rev. Andrew Utecht's family was there to help with the puppet show, including his brother, Rev. Peter Utecht, and his mother, Donna. It was wonderful to be back to pre-pandemic numbers again this year. In all, 945 people attended a show. The Black Hills, Brookings, Chamberlain, Milbank and Mitchell zones each had volunteers that were happy to help. Several of these women were first-time helpers and were so excited about the ministry.

Pastor Andrew loved the little hand puppets that LWML members from across the state had made. We handed them out to the children, and the children loved them, too! The puppet booth that Pastor Andrew featured at the district convention was there. The booth, placed by the front door, fascinated children walking by and provided another opportunity to invite them to the shows.

Pastor Peter wrote the Bible story, “Fishers of Men,” for the show. It was excellent, as Puppet Place

stories always are. We especially enjoyed the music.

To carry out the theme, Pastor Andrew purchased wooden fish necklaces that were given out to 244 adults. Volunteers also handed out 298 “Cross in your Pocket” gifts, some of which were made by women who attended the district convention, while others were donated by the Sioux Falls Zone. Women from the Pierre Zone made an additional 300 puppets to be added to those made at the district convention. In all, we handed out 476 puppets! It was so fun to watch the puppet show attendees choose the perfect hand puppet to take home.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Puppet Place, the exterior of the building was repainted, complete with some LWML purple to set it off. Those purple doors really stand out! Nine volunteers completed this task on a Saturday morning in July. Thank you, volunteers! We also purchased a new awning, table, stools and indoor and outdoor mats. Pastor Andrew was pleased with all of the changes.

Continued on next page

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

# Count your blessings, and share them!

November is a month to be thankful. It begins with All Saints Day — and it ends with Thanksgiving, for crying out loud! Both days are times to gather with loved ones and remember God's rich blessings in our lives. First, we remember the blessing of faithful people who have gone before us and who have inspired us in our own faith. Weeks later, we celebrate Thanksgiving for the many blessings that we enjoy.

So now is also an opportune time to think of all the ways you're blessed. But go a step further ... share those blessings! Remember that believers in Christ are rich in blessedness, even when we don't feel all that blessed. In 2 Cor. 9:8, we learn that grace is abundantly given to us at all times — and not just the times when it is easy to thank God for what He has done — so that we can share those blessings with others.

Grace is abundant, even in times of distress and pain, because Christ came to overcome the world — all distress, all pain and



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



all sin. While we were still enemies of God, He showed us His love in giving up His Son, that we might be His heirs. He didn't just reconcile us to Himself so we could be friends. No, Jesus died to make us heirs with Him. Since He can make enemies into heirs, He can use any circumstance (yes, even distress and pain) in our lives to bless both us and those around us.

So in this season of Thanksgiving, don't forget to give thanks for and share the abundance of blessings that God gives you, even during the hard times. As you can see, God is so gracious that we could never begin to count all our blessings! But we can be thankful. We can have grateful hearts that turn to God in every circumstance. We can be generous and share our blessings with those around us.

Therefore go, be thankful. Go, bless others. Go, tell of Christ's abundant blessings of grace, all the while sharing in the countless blessings you have from our gracious and giving God.

## STATE FAIR (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

A special thank you to John Koch from Pierre for building the new table. These improvements were purchased with an offering we collected at the convention. We will be adding some signage to Puppet Place for next year, and we may do a bit more painting. It seems there are always things to be done!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped in any way to make this a special year for the Utecht family and Puppet Place. God is working in wonderful ways.

**Jan Larson** • Vice President of Gospel Outreach



Information on bus transportation to the national LWML convention in Milwaukee in June will be posted soon. Please contact Colleen Keiser with a text message at 605-209-2098 or with an email at [colleen.keiser@gmail.com](mailto:colleen.keiser@gmail.com) with questions. — **Colleen Keiser** • Bus Chairman

## Meet our new financial secretary

As your new LWML district financial secretary, I want to thank all of you for voting, and for electing and entrusting me with your finances.



en's mission work of the church.

My husband and I are newly retired from a business that we ran for 36 years, in which I was

the financial officer. We have three married daughters and five grandchildren.

Please remember to send your monthly Mites! I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you.

To God be the Glory!

**Paula Warren**  
Financial Secretary

My parents, whom a lot of you already know, are the late Rev. Juraine and Lorene Hornig. I am a member of Peace, Rapid City, and treasurer of our LWML group. With the encouragement from my mother, I have always enjoyed and been heavily involved in the wom-

## WANTED:

### YWR applicants for Milwaukee convention

Hello to all the young women of the LWML South Dakota District. My name is Laurel Schamber and I am the chairwoman of the Young Woman Representatives (YWR) Committee. I am encouraging all women ages 22-35 to consider applying as a YWR to represent our district at the LWML 40th Biennial Convention June 22-25, 2023, in Milwaukee.

I served as a YWR for the South Dakota District in Pittsburgh in 2013. It was a life-changing experience for me. While I could describe everything you get to do as a YWR, the focus is bigger than that. As young women, we strive to find our purpose and how to best serve the Lord with gladness. Sometimes this is a struggle as we are still learning who we are and what difference we can make in the world around us.

Attending a national convention gives you an opportunity to experience the power of generous hearts giving, the joy of serving those in need and feeling the love of God pour out of thousands of women of all ages, races and backgrounds. Attending a national convention helped me cement my purpose and better understand how to seek opportunities to serve.

But don't just take my word on the benefits of becoming a YWR. Videos of past YWRs describing their experience are available at [lwml.org/ywr](http://lwml.org/ywr). Here you can also read convention tips from former YWRs and find the application to apply.

Applications are due to the YWR Committee or the district president by early December.

I hope many of you will apply for this opportunity, and I look forward to reading your applications.

God's Blessings, Laurel Schamber

## BLACK HILLS ZONE UPDATE

The Black Hills Zone has participated in multiple activities over the past year. In September 2021, 17 of our zone ladies traveled to Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, for the district Christian Life Workshop. A week later, we held our Fall Retreat at Zion, Rapid City, with 52 ladies in attendance. The theme was RESTORE, based on 1 Peter 5:10.

Our zone officers were re-elected and installed by Rev. Thomas Brown, pastor of St. Paul, Spearfish. They are President Casey Harvard (St. Paul Spearfish) and VPs of Christian Life Kathy Roling (Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk) and Vickye Hoffman, Bethlehem Lutheran, Rapid City.

In February 2022, several zone members attended the pre-Lenten prayer service at Peace, Rapid City. Rose Mason from Hot Springs volunteered to make our convention banner. The banner was carried at the convention by Casey Harvard.

On June 2-4, several ladies from our zone traveled to Yankton for the district retreat. On Sept. 1, five ladies from our zone assisted the Puppet Place ministry at the South Dakota State Fair. Three of them were first-time helpers for that ministry, and it was an amazing experience.

The fall retreat was Sept. 24 at Bethesda, Hot Springs. The retreat theme was "Our Father." Rev. Peter Utecht led us in opening and closing devotions, and Rev. Thomas Brown conducted the Bible study. In the afternoon, our guest speaker was Mary Culverson, coordinator of the VA Vets Craft Program. Zone members donated gift cards to help with the program.

St. Paul, Spearfish, hosted the Christian Life Workshop on Oct. 15.

Casey Harvard • Black Hills Zone President

## Call Information

### PENDING

Rev. Nathan Neugebauer, St. John/Bethlehem, Revillo/rural Milbank, is prayerfully considering a call to St. Paul, Ogallala, Neb., Sept. 22.

Rev. John Fries, Grace/Blessed Emmanuel, Deadwood/Sturgis, is prayerfully considering a call to St. Paul/St. Paul/Redeemer, Alta Vista/Junction City/Wabanssee, Kan., Sept. 11.

### DECLINED

Rev. Jason Wolter, pastor of St. Mark, Benson, Minn., has declined a call as pastor to Emanuel, Milbank, Oct. 2.

### VACANCIES

- Emanuel, Milbank
- St. Paul, Plankinton, and Trinity, White Lake
- Zion, Rapid City (*lead associate*)



## PATTY'S PONDERINGS

### Join us in Milwaukee for 40th convention

The theme for the 40th Biennial LWML Convention is "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations," based on Ps. 33:12-13:

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man.

The convention is scheduled for June 22-25, 2023, in Milwaukee, and I am sure that many of you will attend. Understanding that we are all His children, at convention we will:

- ▶ Celebrate our Lord through Word and Sacrament;
- ▶ Honor God by serving our neighbors; and
- ▶ Proclaim His message to the nations.

The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Gregory P. Seltz, executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty. The Bible study leader will be Kaye Wolff, national LWML Nominations chairman. Dr. Dina Vendetti will lead us in song. Throughout the convention, Jan Struck and Abby Goehring will provide comic relief.

The conference will include Mites in Action speakers, servant events and an ingathering. On Saturday night, hosts of the Lutheran Ladies Lounge podcast will put on a show for us.

One of the traditions of the convention is the banner parade. The district Board of Directors will decide on our banner design at its January meeting. There is a lady in our South Dakota LWML District who will have a wonderful idea for a banner that represents South Dakota and the convention theme.

Please send your banner ideas to me at [lwmlsdprespatty@gmail.com](mailto:lwmlsdprespatty@gmail.com) by Jan. 10. I am looking forward to seeing your ideas!

May God bless you as you prepare for the coming of the Christ child. God loved us so much that He sent His only begotten Son to us as a poor baby in a manger. That baby is our Savior, who now sits at the right hand of His father.

Let us celebrate with much joy and thanksgiving the coming of the Lord of the nations.



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota District President

## BLACK HILLS ZONE UPDATE



Rachel Aamold, a parish nurse, presented at the Brookings Zone Fall Rally.

The Brookings Zone has recently had many opportunities to meet, gather and serve the Lord with gladness, including attending the South Dakota District convention and volunteering at The Puppet Place ministry at the state fair in Huron.

The Brookings Zone Fall Rally was held Oct. 8 at St. John's,

Howard. Rachel Aamold, parish nurse at Zion, Sioux Falls, spoke on the role of the caregiver, basing her presentation on Ps. 61:1-2. Elections for secretary and treasurer were held.

We are excited to host the LWML South Dakota District Retreat April 21-22, 2023, at Peace, Brookings.

## SPECIAL MINISTRY FUND

### Supporting district missions

Hello! I am Vonda Sturzenbecher and I am the chairman of the Special Gift Fund for the LWML South Dakota District. The purpose of this fund is to receive and distribute gifts and bequests for designated uses, projects and programs that support the mission and ministry of the LWML South Dakota District.

One of the annual uses for this fund is the Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron. This helps pay the energetic crew that creates the puppet show and "plays" the actual puppets, as well as those who help with the actual show.

Other items that have been purchased through the fund include vans for the ministry at Evergreen Lutheran Church on the

Pine Ridge Reservation, and vans for our Lutheran schools.

We have also helped to send young women to LWML conventions and with projects for various congregations. For a form to request funds, visit [sdlwml.org](http://sdlwml.org), go to the "Resources" tab and select "Special Gifts/Subscriptions" from the drop-down menu.

You may donate to this fund via a direct contribution, through your will, through a trust and/or via gifts in memory of a deceased person or in honor of someone.

If you have any questions, contact me at [sdlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:sdlutheran@gmail.com) or 605-391-0429 (if I don't answer your call, please, leave a message and I will get back to you). You may also mail your question to Vonda Sturzenbecher, 8605 Woodland Dr., Black Hawk, SD 57718.

I would also love to come to your rally or meeting to explain more about our Special Gift Fund!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

CHRISTMAS IS FOR YOU



During Advent we await the coming of our Lord Jesus, who was born on Christmas Day! During this busy time of preparation between Thanksgiving and Christmas, my prayer is that Advent and Christmas may be a time of rest and renewal for those of you who are weary and heavy laden. May it be a time of peace and comfort for those who feel the weight of trying to make it on their own.

For those who feel the sharp pressure of thinking you have to change your spouse if you are going to have any joy, that



Rev. Brian Mosemann  
LWML District Counselor

you have to be on top of everything if you are going to make your mark in life, that you have to do everything correct with your children if they are going to turn out fine, that you have to control what others think about you if you are going to feel important, that you have to be the best if your life is going to be worth anything, that you have to be successful if you are going to satisfy the deep desire for parental approval, and so on ...

Christmas is for you.

The birth of Christ gloriously teaches us that God's willingness to clean things up has overcome our stubbornness to mess things up. The arrival of God Himself in the flesh sets us free from the pressure we feel to save ourselves from loneliness and lostness, despair and dejection. Jesus came to release us from the pressure of having to fix ourselves, find ourselves and free ourselves.

He came to rescue us from the slavish need to always be right, rewarded, regarded, respected. He came to relieve us of the burden we inherently feel to trust in ourselves to get things done right. Because Jesus came to accomplish for us what we could never accomplish for ourselves, life ceases to be a tireless effort to establish ourselves, justify ourselves or validate ourselves.

You have been set free. Rest in the joy of Christmas.

Special Focus Ministries has new VP

I am Dianne Hemminger, newly elected VP of Special Focus Ministries. I have lived in Belle Fourche for 16 years, but I go to church at St. Paul's, Spearfish.

I am a retired teacher, having taught in Wolsey (my hometown) and Creekside Elementary in Spearfish. I have worked with preschoolers and third through fifth grades as a teacher/librarian. Now many of my days are spent in community volunteer positions.

I have been a member of LWML for many years. In my local LWML, I lead Bible study. Many years of teaching Sunday school has given me much joy. My hobbies include reading, word puzzles and crocheting.

My husband and I enjoy attending national LWML conventions, including in Albuquerque, N.M. (2017); Mobile, Ala. (2019); and Lexington, Ky. (2021). After the conventions we go sightseeing through the states. We love to turn the LWML conventions into our vacation!

I am looking forward to learning what my new position entails as my faith in Jesus will help me understand my duties and responsibilities ahead.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

PHIL. 4:13



From the tabernacle to Jesus

Rev. Robert Hinckley, pastor of Zion, Chamberlain, delivers his workshop presentation.



The LWML South Dakota District Christian Life Workshops were held in Mitchell on Oct. 8 and Spearfish on Oct. 15, with Rev. Robert Hinckley presenting "The Tabernacle/Temple in the Bible."

In Matt. 12:6, Jesus says to the Pharisees:

"I tell you, something greater than the temple is here."

Jesus fulfills and replaces the tabernacle/temple of the Old Testament. The temple priests were anointed with oil, but our High Priest, Christ, was anointed with the Holy Spirit. The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16) is no longer needed, as Jesus was the sacrificial lamb who died in our place for the forgiveness of

See **WORKSHOP**, page 8