

## 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.



**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)

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