

## ANECDOTES FROM ARLENE

**"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying..."**

**Luke 2:13**

**W**hen was the last time you made a snow angel? My grandchildren make adorable snow angels. They are much better at getting up and out of the snow than I am. I guess that has something to do with my age — and their age. An internet search of the Bible in the English Standard Version (ESV) translation revealed the word angel is mentioned 91 times. The above verse is one of my favorite verses mentioning angels. What is yours?

Though our praises might not sound as heavenly as they did at Christ's birth,



**Arlene Naasz**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

we, as a multitude of LWML members, will gather at convention in June. Our convention will be June 3-4 at Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre. Deb Burma will be our keynote speaker. She was raised in the Pierre area and is looking forward to coming back home to her childhood roots. Deb has a passion for sharing Christ's love through the study of God's Word and is the author of several devotional books geared for women. You will want to hear her speak.

We are trying something new at convention — a Mission Moment, via Skype. Jow Boway, founder of Liberia Children's Mission, will talk to us about the work being done in classrooms across Liberia. Classrooms for Children of Liberia is one of our mission grants.

Gifts from the Heart will again be collected. One of our gifts will be to provide sewing materials for the Harvest Winds LLC. This sewing factory in Parmelee helps members of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe have gainful employment where they live. The Rev. Andrew Utecht helped organize the sewing shop and the district Special Gifts Fund helped to purchase commercial sewing machines. Look for more information about exactly what materials are needed in the next issue of the *HiLites*.

Young Woman Representatives from each congregation are encouraged to attend the convention. Special activities for them are being planned, and be on the lookout for a unique photo opportunity.

Start encouraging the young women in your congregation to attend. They will be glad they did. Be an angel and make plans to attend the convention and share this opportunity to grow in your faith and learn about how your mighty mites help spread the Gospel of Christ. To God be all praise and glory.



## News from the **PIERRE ZONE**

**JANUARY, 2016 — ANOTHER YEAR HAS COME.**

When I was a child, I often heard about how much faster time seems to go the older you get. I thought to myself, "Right."

Well as I have gotten older, it does seem like time is going by faster than I would like. In less than six months, we will all be gathered at Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, to join in worship, Bible study, meetings and fellowship at the 2016 LWML South Dakota District Convention. I know



that these six months will fly by faster than I can imagine.

Just last October, I was reelected as the Pierre Zone president at our Fall Rally. The rally was held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, under the 2015 LWML Sunday theme: "Seek First the Kingdom of God."

While our numbers may have been low, all in attendance were inspired by two of our zone pastors, the Rev. Luke Edwards and the Rev. Daniel Tews. Little did we know at that time that both pastors would be leaving us

in the very near future. We were very fortunate that they were able to be with us and help us hear God's Word.

As winter is here, keep in your hearts and minds that summer will be right around the corner. The members of the Pierre Zone are looking forward to hosting the convention and we hope that you will be there with us.

As the theme of the convention says: "We Are the Body of Christ; Each One of You is Part of It."

God's blessing to you all.

**Submitted by Mary Jo Stier,  
Pierre Zone President**

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### 'The Time is Now' FOR CHANGE

**H**appy new year! Many people like to make new year's resolutions — perhaps you're one of them. Some of the most popular new year's resolutions include exercising, eating healthy, losing weight, saving money, getting organized, traveling, reading more, spending time with family, learning something new or getting married. These are all great ideas aimed



**Rev. Steve Weispfenning**  
LWML District Counselor

at improving yourself and your life by making some lifestyle changes.

As a Spirit-filled, baptized Christian, Jesus has changed you.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." **2 Cor. 5:17**

Because of Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the grave, your old sinful self is daily put to death — drowned in your baptism — and daily rises as a newly changed person in Christ, forgiven and washed clean from sin.

But if you're like me, you probably don't always live as though your life has been changed by Christ. You fall back into old sinful habits and live your life as though nothing has changed, just like when those new year's resolutions are broken within a couple of months, weeks or even days. You are no different from the previous year and you haven't changed. Thus the need to be daily reminded of your baptism and remember who you are in Christ — a new creation!

So empowered by the Holy Spirit, the time is now for a change! Consider what it means for you to be a baptized Christian, a member of a Lutheran church or part of the LWML and how it impacts those around you.

Instead of simply inviting someone to LWML, consider asking them what they would like to see the LWML do. Or instead of putting the leftover change from the drive-thru into your mite box, consider putting in an intentional amount into your mites for mission each month. Think about how this changed life in Christ can carry over into all areas of your life as well — at church, home, work and school.

We live in a world that is constantly changing. But thanks be to God that our Lord never changes:

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."  
**Heb. 13:8**

And He changes us daily to live a new life in Him so that we can experience the joys of a changed life in Christ right now.

## DISTRICT CONVENTION

### JOIN US IN PIERRE!

New Year's blessings, dear sisters in Christ from the Pierre Zone — the center of your district LWML!

We are extending a warm invitation to attend the next South Dakota District convention, which will be held June 3-4 in Pierre. The theme for the convention will be "We Are the Body of Christ; Each One of You is Part of it." Convention details will be coming in next month's *Lutheran Witness*.

For the first time, the entire convention will be held at a church, Faith Lutheran, rather than a convention center. We now have a beautiful sanctuary and Christian Life Center which can accommodate the convention. With the central location and a less expensive venue, we are hoping and praying for a large attendance.

Plan now to attend — it will be a great opportunity to build up your part of the body of Christ!

**Jan Larson**  
Convention Chairman



## NATIONAL CONVENTION

### MAKE PLANS NOW!

**Lutheran Women's Missionary League  
37th Biennial Convention**

**Date:** June 22-25, 2017

**Location:** Salt Lake City, Utah

**Theme:** Jesus Christ Above All

**Scripture verse:** "Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name (Phil. 2:9).

**LWML President:** Patti Ross

**Convention Goal:** Empowered by the Holy Spirit, through Word and Sacrament, I will proclaim Jesus Christ above all.

**Convention Objectives:**

Each convention attendee will be

✚ Encouraged through worship and Bible study.

✚ Equipped to share His message of salvation.

✚ Engaged in celebrating God's faithfulness while serving the Lord with gladness.

## ANECDOTES FROM ARLENE

**"Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray."  
Matt. 19:13**

**B**edtime prayers were held daily in our home when I was a child. Now, one of my joys is being able to hear my grandchildren offer their bedtime prayers when they have a sleepover at our home or



**Arlene Naasz**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

we stay overnight at their home. Do you still end the day in prayer? I can't guarantee it will help you go to sleep, but it certainly is a great way to end the day. As you end the day today, please remember the LWML and our mission grants in your prayers.

The 2016 LWML Prayer Service expands on the 2015 LWML Convention theme, "Sow • Nourish • Reap." The theme for the 2016 LWML Prayer Service, written by Rev. John Heckmann, LWML pastoral counselor, is "Wanted: Workers in God's Harvest Field." Whether it's in the thousands of acres farmed in Iowa and other states, our own backyard or the special field our Heavenly Father allows us to tend and nourish through His means of grace, this service offers a time of worship revolving around the various tools needed to bring about a bountiful harvest.

The service offers opportunities for

singing, learning a little bit about farming practices through the ages, confession and absolution, small-group discussion and prayer.

Prayer Service and cover artwork downloads are available now at [lwml.org/prayer-service](http://lwml.org/prayer-service). If you are unable to download the service, please contact the LWML office at 1-800-252-5965 to obtain a paper copy. Please consider using the Prayer Service in your society or zone.

Are you making plans to join fellow LWML sisters across the state at our district convention? The convention will be held at Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, June 3-4. During the convention, we will have an opportunity to worship together, pray together, sing together, study the Bible together, laugh together, serve together and grow in our love of the LWML together. Please come together with us this June!

## REFLECTIONS ON NATIONAL CONVENTION

My name is Marie Louise Mwenda. I now live in Sioux Falls after arriving seven years ago as a refugee from Africa. Now I am a proud American and a proud Christian woman that belongs to the Come and See congregation of Resurrection Lutheran Church. I also belong to the Resurrection LWML. It was my blessing to be chosen to be sent to the National LWML Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, in June. I give all the glory to God.

Nearly 100 South Dakota ladies loaded the bus with our suitcases and headed to Des Moines, with a stop at Mission Central in Mapleton.

At Mission Central, God was opening the skies for all the rain to come at that time. Gary Thies, Mission Central director, led us to the barn where he has set up a church and all the gifts from missionaries and congregations. There were displays from all over the world showing their culture. When I saw the displays, I thought it was showing how we are all God's family and meant to



**Marie Louise Mwenda, center, with friends at the LWML convention in Des Moines in June.**

be brothers and sisters. Gary introduced a young woman that was going to Africa to do missionary work. Some of our members got caught waiting in the downpour and rode to Des Moines while drying off as best they could. No complaints about it.

When we entered the convention hall, everyone was friendly. The workers were in corn-yellow T-shirts so we could pick them out if we needed help with directions. Registration was fast

and then we explored the building where we would be for the next three days. I helped a mobility-limited friend get around in her wheelchair during the convention.

During the opening ceremony, the pastors celebrated our being there and Jesus being with us. The pastors coming into the service by procession was a moving sight. To see 4,000 Christian sisters in one room — praying, singing, laughing — was awesome.

The LWML store and Concordia Publishing House were giving away things. I bought two necklaces with Luther's Rose. (I took them to Africa for two sisters in Christ. They were very happy to receive them.) Talking to some of the vendors and gathering all the giveaways were enjoyable. I remember waiting in lines everywhere.

For servant events, my friend and I chose to sign cards to be sent around the world. When we went to get food,

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### Look to THE CROSS

**W**e are already approaching the season of Lent! Jesus' journey to the cross of our salvation is our focal point, but let's not forget to see that cross through the empty tomb of our risen and ever present Savior, Jesus Christ.



Rev. Greg Lehr  
LWML District Counselor

So I ask you to consider this question as you have an eye on Lent: What does the symbol of the cross mean to you?

The cross means many things to many people. Some have it displayed on their mantel, others wear it around their neck. What is the cross? To many people, the cross is merely an archaic emblem. To others, the cross invokes feelings of guilt or confusion. Some churches even see it as a hindrance to attracting nonbelievers.

The cross is a great contradiction. Death and life, hate and love, violence and peace, accusation and forgiveness, sin and purity, brokenness and wholeness, all is lost yet everything is gained, destruction and restoration, defeat and victory. Once the cruelest form of execution, yet now it's a symbol of abundant life.

The early believers chose the cross as their symbol for a special reason. There were many symbols of Jesus' earthly ministry to represent them. They could have chosen a manger to represent where baby Jesus was born. They could have chosen a boat, from which Jesus taught the crowd in Galilee. They could have chosen an apron, which Jesus wore when He washed the disciples' feet. They could have chosen a throne

or a crown to represent His divine and supreme rule.

But instead they chose the cross. The cross that proclaims that the wages of sin are fully paid and that the perfect sacrifice has been fully offered. Through the cross we have redemption and life with Christ in heaven. Through the cross we know that sin has been defeated. Through the empty tomb God the Father put His stamp of approval on the perfect Lamb offered on the altar of the cross. Jesus is alive and leads the way to eternal life for all believers.

So many gaze at the cross and hold on to past hurt, pain and problems. They don't belong on your back any longer ... Jesus has taken them on His. The debt is paid. Look to the cross and receive your salvation. Redeemer, Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, He is worthy!

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."  
(1 Cor. 1:18 NIV)

God daily renews His baptismal grace in you and calls you today to live a little more for others than you did yesterday, and to proclaim the love of Christ more powerfully through your service.

Let me encourage you then, whether a woman or a man, to participate in your local LWML organization. Check out the opportunities to share your service. Maybe it's time or talent or treasure (filling a mite box or other gifts?) or a combination of these attributes. You could also support local LWML events with your attendance and participation.

When participating and supporting your local LWML, know you are making a difference where you are ... and know you are making a difference to the ends of the world through the international network of ministries the LWML serves.

May we all together offer our lives to the praise and glory of Christ, who offered Himself on the cross for our salvation. Lord, thank you for the cross!

## CONVENTION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

they put us in groups from different states and we met so many new friends and enjoyed their fellowship.

We got exhausted, but we found a quiet retreat on the ground floor to sit and watch people and see South Dakota members pass by and stop to say hello. We met more new friends there; all of us had so much in common.

We chose a Bible study led by Lutheran Hour speaker the Rev. Greg Seltz. He spoke to us on the convention theme: "Sow • Nourish • Reap." It was very interesting.

The processional of flags showed me that we in America have people from

many countries and are all one in Christ.

The president of the LCMS, the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, spoke about the U.S. Supreme Court decision to allow gay people to marry. He had my attention.

I was impressed with how fast the business meeting went and it was interesting. It helped me learn more of how the LWML operates.

Sunday's closing service was especially moving. We realized we were about to head home and leave all the new friends and sisters in Christ we had met, but it was also a realization that the time is NOW to do the Lord's work of spreading His Word and working His missions.

I am excited to attend more LWML gatherings and plan to attend the district convention in Pierre in June and the national convention in Salt Lake City in 2017, God willing.



## ANECDOTES FROM ARLENE

**"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." Eph. 4:15-16**



**Arlene Naasz**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

Growing up is sometimes hard to do. Did you ever experience growing pains? I actually did, and considering my short stature, it is hard to imagine having growing pains. Aside from physically growing, we also grow emotionally and spiritually. Do you have any memories of being mistreated while you were growing up? Perhaps you were teased about your name or size or whatever. Those accusations are hard to forget. Yet with Christian love, we are to forgive those who taunted us and build them up in Christ. We strive to have our body of believers working together to *Serve the Lord in Gladness*.

As the Lutheran Women's Missionary League South Dakota District, we will have the opportunity to meet together as a body of believers this coming June. Our convention will be June 3-4 at Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre. Our theme is "We are the body of Christ, each one of you is part of it."

Each one of us has a part in our district LWML. We pray for the Gospel outreach of our mission grants. We serve God in our local churches and societies, contributing with our abilities, our time and our mighty mites. At our convention, we will have servant events and the opportunity to bring Gifts from the Heart (see article, below right).

We will grow in our walk with Christ through Bible study, worship and fellowship. We will come to convention with the willingness to allow God to lead us where He would have us go, confident that He is always drawing us closer to Himself. The time is now to plan on coming to convention and to encourage others, especially younger women, to attend with you.

### DISTRICT CONVENTION

## Checklist addition: invite younger women

**D**o you keep lists of things you want to get done? Here's a list that you could accomplish in just a few days at the LWML South Dakota District Convention in Pierre June 3-4.

When you're done, you'll feel rejuvenated and more eager to:

- Become involved at church.
- Give to others with mighty mites.
- Learn about the work of the LWML South Dakota District.
- Have fun with other wonderful Lutheran ladies.

- Enjoy an informative Bible study.
- Work on a service project.

If you'd like to accomplish everything on this list and even more, register for the convention and be sure to mark "Young woman or teen" if you're 35 years old or younger. Societies, encourage your younger women to join us and you can even pay their way.

I hope to see you all in June!

**Angie Robinson**

Co-Chairman of Committee on Young Women

## Gifts from the Heart will help Rosebud Reservation

**Hope Industries in Parmelee on the Rosebud Reservation** has been operating for well over a year, sewing articles for sale to the public. One of their projects is sewing star quilts, which are selling well.

According to the Rev. Andrew Utecht, missionary to the Rosebud Reservation, Hope staff always need good-quality cotton-quilting fabric and other sewing supplies. This will be our focus for Gifts from the Heart at our district convention in

Pierre June 2-4. What a great way for us to help out our brothers and sisters as they work to become more self-sufficient.

Quilting fabric may be two yards of any solid color, of 100-percent cotton and at least one yard in length.

You may furnish material for backing of larger quilts in white or off-white only. The wider backing is made in either 90" or 108" widths; 2½ yards of either width.

Hope Industries can also use the 3,000-yard cone thread in white, off-white or light tan colors.

Hope Industries buys the quilt batting on long rolls, so any donations toward that or other supplies would be appreciated.

May God give us generous and caring hearts as we pray for the industry to succeed and also to supply material needs as well.

**Judy Gies**

Vice-President of Human Care



## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### 'What are you looking for?'

**"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." Luke 24:5b-6a**

These were the first words spoken by the angels to the women at Jesus' tomb on that first Easter Sunday. It's almost as if the angels were asking,

"What are you looking for?" Obviously the women came looking for a dead



**Rev. Steve Weispfenning**  
LWML District Counselor

body that had been hastily prepared for burial. What they did not expect to find was an empty grave!

What are you looking for? People often look for peace and happiness, fortune and fame, answers to their problems and all of life's questions, among other things. But they often look in all the wrong places. They look for these things in their careers, their governments, their education, their families, self-help books, technology, false spirituality or false religions that teach that the answers are found within yourself and what you do. As a result, they don't find what they hoped for or expected to find.

The women at the empty tomb didn't find what they expected to find either. Instead, they found what they needed — a risen and living Savior! The dead Jesus that they were looking for was now alive. He defeated death and triumphed over the grave, just as He said He would. Because Jesus lives, all who believe in Him will live forever, too.

And what did the women do after discovering this good news? They went and told others about it.

"And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest." **Luke 24:8-9**

A living Jesus was the answer to their time of despair.

We live in a world that is hurting and filled with trouble because of sin. People are looking for answers. So the time is now to tell others that Jesus lives. This is the mission of the LWML. Just like the women at the tomb told the disciples and the others that Jesus lives, the women of the LWML use their "lips to proclaim His redeeming love" to people who are looking for something to give them hope, peace and joy.

This is also the mission for all of God's people, that we might shout with joy and tell the world "Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

## News from the YANKTON ZONE

The LWML South Dakota District Yankton Zone had its Fall Rally on Oct. 10 at St. Paul's, Freeman.

The program was "Zion in Delmont— Then, Now and Tomorrow," presented by Jim and Julie Kaufman, members of Zion, Delmont. The Zion building was destroyed by a tornado in May 2015. The Kaufmans shared the story of Zion's history, including the destruction and rebuilding process that the congregation is pursuing. A check for \$500 from the Yankton Zone was presented for the rebuilding fund.

Dianne Diekmann represented the district by presenting a program about the ongoing district projects.

A report on the highlights of the national convention in Des Moines in



**A tornado swept through Delmont in May 2015, destroying Zion Lutheran Church and nearby buildings.**

June was given by Florence Powers, the Yankton Zone delegate.

An election was held for zone vice-president and treasurer. After adjournment, a salad luncheon was served by the hosting society's LWML and the free-will offering proceeds went to mites.

**Florence Powers**  
Yankton Zone President

## District grants: PAID IN FULL!

I am excited to announce that all of the LWML South Dakota District 2014-16 mission grants have been paid. The Lord has truly blessed us in our giving as we were able to fund all 10 of the grants selected at the district convention in Mitchell.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to continue giving your mites. The LWML South Dakota District has ongoing grants, including the Puppet Place at the state fair, *Today's Light* subscriptions for inmates at the women's prison in Pierre and the South Dakota District Student Endowment Fund. A portion of our mites also go to help fund the national LWML grants. You can find more information about the national grants at [lwml.org/mission-grants](http://lwml.org/mission-grants).

Please continue to pray for all of our mission grants as they are used to spread the Good News of our Lord. The deadline for mites for the 2014-16 biennium is March 31.

**Mary Jo Stier**  
Vice-President of Gospel Outreach

## ANECDOTES FROM ARLENE

**"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." Phil. 3:20**

**H**ave you ever bragged about your heritage? Perhaps you are mostly of German ancestry (mine) or Norwegian or Irish or Native American or a combination of the above. We are proud of our lineage and gladly share our family history.

Are we as eager to share our baptismal birthright? Through baptism we are now the daughters and sons of our Lord Jesus Christ and our inheritance awaits



**Arlene Naasz**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

us in heaven. In heaven there will be people from every tribe and race, all our sisters and brothers in Christ. The ultimate family reunion awaits us for all of eternity, for our dearest citizenship is in heaven.

We will have a reunion of our fellow LWML sisters across that state at our LWML South Dakota District Convention June 3-4 at Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre. As with any family gathering, the more the merrier. Please notice the registration from and other convention information located in this issue.

This year the *Call to Convention* packet will be emailed to every society and congregation in the district. Please look for this packet and share all the information with your society.

At our family reunion we will have many opportunities to grow in our relationship with our Lord. Some of our convention highlights include:

➤ **Breakout sessions** on Friday morning. You will have the opportunity to interact with Deb Burma, Shelly

Moeller or the Rev. Scott Spiehs. More information will be in the *Call to Convention* packet.

➤ **Servant events** on Friday morning. A special event is being planned for the Young Woman Representatives. Make sure your society sends a YWR.

➤ **The gathering of two convention offerings.** One will be for our mission goal and the other for the president's Mercy Fund.

➤ **Mission in Action moments.** These will inform us how our mites were used in "Classrooms for the Children of Liberia" and television ads for "Life: A Better Choice."

➤ **A mite walk** that will take us along the shores of the Missouri River.

➤ **Bible studies** that will help us learn how we are part of the body of Christ.

The women of the Pierre Zone and many other willing workers look forward to greeting you at our convention. *The time is now* to prepare to gather together in Pierre.

## LWML South Dakota District mission grant proposals

- LCMS Mission Central Current & Urgent Grant, \$4,000
- Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, \$3,500
- Stronger Pastors for Southeast Asia with the Book of Concord, \$5,000
- LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry/Revitalization (Vitality), \$2,500
- Mercy Medical Team—Chaplain Scholarships, \$3,000
- Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Food Bank, \$5,000
- The Confessional Lutheran Education Foundation E-Reader Project, \$5,000
- Little Lambs Lutheran Preschool, Sturgis, \$5,000
- Gospel Hands—VBS for Deaf Children, \$4,500
- Peace Lutheran Church and Educational Ministries, \$5,000
- POBLO International, \$5,000

## Nominees for district officers

*The LWML is grateful for the following people who have consented to place their names on the ballot.*

### President

**Lisa Asmus**, Sioux Falls Zone  
**Vonda Sturzenbecher**, Black Hills Zone

### Vice President of Christian Life

**Andra Gates**, Yankton Zone  
**Deborah Sattgast**, Huron Zone

### Vice-President of Gospel Outreach

**Bobbie Bierman**, Aberdeen Zone  
**Ann Cruse**, Huron Zone

### Treasurer

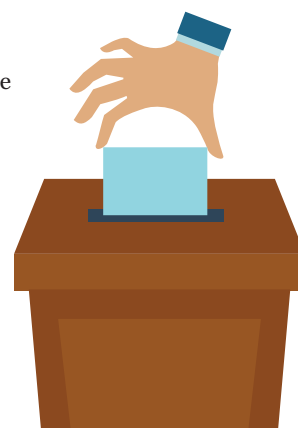
**Tanya Crockett**, Sioux Falls Zone  
**Brenda Drefs**, Mitchell Zone

### Nominating Committee

**Laurie Ascher**, Sioux Falls Zone; **Florence Powers**, Yankton Zone;  
**Janell McKinstry**, Black Hills Zone; **Sharon Falk**, Milbank Zone;  
**Patti Greenseth**, Chamberlain Zone

### Pastoral Counselor

**Rev. Curtis Garland**, pastor, First, Wall, and Emmanuel, Creighton  
**Rev. Joshua Baumann**, associate pastor, Faith, Pierre



# 59th LWML South Dakota District Convention

June 3-4 • Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre



## REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline for registration and meals: April 30

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church and city \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency contact and phone number \_\_\_\_\_

### Please check all that apply:

- ☐ First time attending District Convention  
☐ Young Woman Representative  
☐ Pastor  
☐ Past LWML District President

### Servant Events-Breakout Sessions

(Friday morning, number by your preferences)

**8:30-9:30 a.m.**

- \_\_\_ Deb Burma  
 \_\_\_ Shelley Moeller  
 \_\_\_ Rev. Spiehs  
 \_\_\_ Fleece Blankets  
 \_\_\_ Cards for Shut-ins  
 \_\_\_ Gifts from Heart

**10-11 a.m.**

- \_\_\_ Deb Burma  
 \_\_\_ Shelley Moeller  
 \_\_\_ Rev. Spiehs  
 \_\_\_ Fleece Blankets  
 \_\_\_ Cards for Shut-ins  
 \_\_\_ Gifts from Heart  
 \_\_\_ Delegate  
 \_\_\_ Orientation for all delegates

### Registration Status - check one

- ☐ Voting member, Board of Directors  
☐ Delegate ☐ Past District President  
☐ Non-voting member of the BOD  
☐ LWML member ☐ Pastor ☐ YWR

### Registration Fees

	Quantity	Fee	Total
Registration	_____	\$30	\$_____
Pastor gratis	_____	\$0	\$_____
Friday Lunch	_____	\$13	\$_____
Meal Package	_____	\$27	\$_____

☐ I need my meals Gluten-Free

Walk T-shirt \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 \$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL

**Total enclosed** \$\_\_\_\_\_

### Meal Package

The meal package includes Friday dinner and Saturday lunch. The deadline for the meal package is April 30.

### Make checks payable to:

LWML SD District Convention

### Mail check and registration form to:

Marla Mosiman, Registration Chairman  
 PO Box 414  
 Onida, SD 57564  
 mmosiman@venturecomm.net  
 605-258-2683

### Housing Information

You are responsible for making your own hotel arrangements (ask for LWML rates).

### Rooms are blocked at:

- Super 8 Motel, \$65-70 (605-224-1617)
- Quality Inn, \$85 (605-224-0377)
- Club House Hotel and Suites, \$129-139 (605-494-2582)
- Governor's Inn, \$83 (605-224-4200)
- Americinn Lodge and Suites, \$105 (605-223-2358)

**Deadline for reservations is April 30.**

## ANECDOTES FROM ARLENE

**"God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!"** Ps. 67:7

Sometimes when sleep seems to avoid me, I try to count all my blessings. Like the shining stars in the sky, my blessings are too numerous to count. Serving as your LWML district president is certainly one of my blessings.



**Arlene Naasz**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

Being part of the LWML family in Christ is a great blessing. We can all share this blessing as we come together in convention this coming June 3-4 at Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre. Visit [sdlwml.org](http://sdlwml.org) or the April *HiLites* for registration information.

God has granted us many earthly blessings, and we will have the opportunity to share them by bringing Gifts from the Heart to our convention. Blessings we will enjoy include Deb Burma as our keynote speaker, District President Scott Sailer as our worship proclaimer, Shelly Moeller as our national LWML

representative, Bible studies, Mission Moments, servant events, singing and a few surprises. Please join us — we will be blessed to have you in Pierre.

We in the LWML have been richly blessed throughout our years as an auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Soon our organization will celebrate a significant milestone. The LWML is issuing a special invitation to come to Albuquerque, N.M., in 2017 to celebrate 75 years (1942-2017) of God's blessings. An LWML 75th anniversary logo was created to commemorate this special occasion. The logo represents the many facets of LWML, the faces



of women throughout the ages that have been placed together to reflect the Light of Christ to the world. Celebrating 75 years and going strong, we thank God, our Rock and our Salvation. Come see the 75th anniversary logo at our district convention in June.

Another blessing I have enjoyed these past four years is working with all the wonderful officers and leaders in the LWML South Dakota District. Please read the articles from the outgoing officers in this issue. I thank my God for having had the privilege of serving with all of them. To God be all praise and glory!

## National convention site switched

The LWML has announced that its 37th Biennial Convention next summer will be held in Albuquerque, N.M., instead of Salt Lake City as originally planned.

"After ongoing difficulties finalizing contracts in Salt Lake City, the LWML Executive Committee met in emergency session and voted to change the site of the 2017 convention to Albuquerque, with the same dates of June 22-25, 2017," according to a March 29 news release from the women's auxiliary.

"We are happy this location remains in the hosting districts that are working so hard on our 2017 convention with our 75th anniversary celebration," said LWML President Patti Ross. "The move will not change convention programming. We continue with the exciting business of selecting mission grants, new officers, hearing great speakers and celebrating God's blessings received and shared by the LWML over our 75-year history."

For more information about the convention, visit [lwml.org/2017-convention](http://lwml.org/2017-convention).

## Treasurer writes her final check

As my term as your LWML South Dakota District treasurer comes to a close, I wish to thank you all for the opportunity to serve you. It has truly been a joy to work with the other officers and LWML members of the district these past four years.

As an elected officer, I attended all LWML executive and Board of Directors meetings when scheduled. I received and recorded all money from the financial secretary, received vouchers from the president and paid all expenses.

Each month after I received the check from the financial secretary, I would send 25 percent of all mite receipts to the national LWML office in St. Louis. I prepared a financial report for each meeting and forwarded it to each board member before our meetings. I was a member of the Special Gifts Committee and also monitored the special-gift fund.

I monitored the biennium budget and also helped with the proposed budget for 2014-16 and 2016-18 bienniums.

As our district had funds available, I would keep our vice-president of Gospel Outreach and our district president informed so we would be able to pay our mission grants.

I also organized the treasurer's reports, vouchers and bank statements for a financial review to be done for the district convention

Thank you again for allowing me to serve and God's blessings to each of you.

**Bev Johnson**  
LWML South Dakota District Treasurer

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

# Who you are in Christ

What do you want to be when you grow up? That's a question that we've all been asked at one time or another. It's a question that many students will probably have on their minds this month as they walk down the aisle in cap and gown to receive their diploma. Or to summarize and paraphrase Dr. Seuss — "Oh! The places you'll go! Oh! The things you will be!"



**Rev. Steve Weispfenning**  
LWML District Counselor

As for me? At the earliest age, I wanted to follow in my father's footsteps and be a farmer. But then I was introduced to baseball and dreamed of being a Major League Baseball player. Then reality set it and I went off to college wanting to be a rich businessman. Finally, I heard God's call to be a pastor.

Of course you don't need to be a pastor

or a professional church worker or a career missionary to be a Christian and serve the Lord. In fact, God's Word tells us that:

"He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."

**Eph. 4:11-12**

In another place, He speaks of being miracle workers and having gifts of healing, helping and administration (1 Cor. 12:28). We are all called to be Christian in whatever job or vocation God has placed us.

So perhaps a better question than "What do you want to be?" is "Who are you?" — and, in particular — "Who are you in Christ?"

"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for [God's] own possession."

**1 Peter 2:9a**



You are Christ's!  
You are a baptized child of God! You are forgiven and dead to sin! You are saved and alive in Jesus!

You are the body of Christ!

In a little over a month, the women and friends of the LWML South Dakota District will gather in Pierre to explore this idea of who you are in Christ a little further, under the theme "We are the body of Christ; each one of you is part of it."

Maybe you are a farmer or a church worker. Maybe you're a stay-at-home mom or a student. Maybe you're a successful entrepreneur or a factory worker. But no matter what, in all these things and above all else, you are a Christian, redeemed in the blood of Jesus.

## Pastoral counselor says farewell

As my four-year term as an LWML South Dakota District pastoral counselor comes to a close, I wish to thank you all for the opportunity to serve you. It has truly been a joy to work with the officers and LWML members of the South Dakota District and I will cherish all of the friends and sisters in Christ I have come to know.

I can't express how much I've learned, grown and enjoyed working with all of you — it's been an amazing privilege. Thank you for your prayers, support and patience over the past years. You are a special group of people and I will miss you all.

**In Christ's Love,  
The Rev. Greg Lehr**



## 'I am blessed'

You never know what the Lord has in store for you, and what an experience it has been as your vice-president of Christian Life! Arranging presenters and hosts for our fall Christian Life Workshops has given me an opportunity not only to meet many pastors and LWML sisters across the district, but to experience their dedication to sharing the Gospel of our Lord. You are an awesome bunch of "workers in the harvest fields"!

I extend a special thank you to our district pastoral counselors for their great support and to the other pastors who presented topics during my term: the Revs. Greg Lehr, Daniel Redhage, Randy

Sturzenbecher, Andrew Utecht and Dan Domke (who will present this fall). Our South Dakota District is truly blessed with a talented pool of servants willing to share and teach.

Thanks to my dear friends Ellen Boekelheide and Jean Haselhorst, who have kept our LWML Store stocked and running smoothly; and my committee for your help and input. And thank you all for your prayers and the opportunity to serve the LWML South Dakota District. I am blessed!

**Bobbie Bierman**  
LWML South Dakota  
District Vice-President of  
Christian Life



## ANECDOTES FROM ARLENE

**"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."**

Phil. 1:3-5

**Y**ou have probably all heard the saying "time flies when you're having fun." According to *Medical News Today*, the saying might really be true, with a slight twist: Time flies when you're having goal-motivated fun.

Four years ago, I was elected to serve as the LWML South Dakota District



**Arlene Naasz**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

president. The goal I set was simple: With God's help to *Serve the Lord with Gladness* as your district president. And the time has truly flown by very quickly. There are many things I remember and will hold near and dear to my heart for years to come. One of the greatest things I have received was your prayers and support. They have made the years a joyful experience and I truly thank God for all of you. As I traveled throughout the district during my term, I was humbled by how many of you went out of your way to tell me you have read the articles in the *HiLites*.

What joy it is to know that during these past four years we have fully funded all our district mission grants and made sure we sent our share of mites to national LWML. Recently, in one of the LWML "Time is Now" two-minute Tuesday emails, a woman shared how every day of the week she was able to go to different parts of the world with donations of mites in her mite box. Just like her, we are partners in sharing the Gospel to all the corners of the world.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, our mites help bring others to Christ. Imagine the LWML reunion we will have in heaven.

The LWML is about to celebrate its 75th birthday. The LWML South Dakota District was chartered in 1942. If you look in the convention manual from our recent district convention, you will see our first mission grant was for \$250 to the organ fund of Memorial Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, for the 1944-45 biennium. Take a few minutes to thank God for all the blessings He has poured out upon our organization over these past 75 years. We may not know how many souls have been brought to Christ through our mites, but we do know that God receives all praise and glory.

As His servants, it is our joy to do His work wherever and whenever He has need of us. May your answer to His call always be Yes! With the help of God!

Again my heartfelt thanks to all of you. To God be all praise and glory!

## Fund will help disaster-response teams

The LWML South Dakota District was able to support the purchase of a disaster-response trailer to be used in the South Dakota District.

\$3,000 in matching funds was given to LCMS Disaster Response through the Special Gifts Fund, as requested by the Rev. L Scott Spiehs, South Dakota Disaster Response coordinator.

The trailer will be outfitted with a variety of tools, such as ladders, respirators, generators, saws and safety equipment, and will be easily accessible when a flood, tornado or other disaster strikes.

The trailer will also greatly increase the capacity of the district to respond to disasters. It will be clearly marked with the LCMS' and district's name and contact information.

We are thankful for the gifts made available to our Special Gifts Fund — from various memorials, trusts and the LCMS Foundation — that make it possible for us to support projects like this. To God be the glory!

### Lisa Asmus

LWML South Dakota District  
Special Gifts Fund Chairman



## Pastoral counselor says farewell

As my four-year term as an LWML South Dakota District pastoral counselor comes to a close, I wish to thank you all for the opportunity to serve you.

It has truly been a joy to work with the officers and LWML members of the South Dakota District and I will cherish all of the friends and sisters in Christ I have come to know.

I can't express how much I've learned, grown and enjoyed working with all of you — it's been an amazing privilege. Thank you all for your prayers, support and patience over the past years. You are a special group of people and I will definitely miss you all.

**In Christ's Love,**  
**Pastor Greg Lehr**

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

# Holy concern for others

We often think of the Apostle Paul as a superhero. I have thought of him in this way — I am in awe of him writing in prison about being content in all things, whether well fed or hungry, whether in want or in need. I was reading Philippians the other day and I came across a verse that made me stop and think: “That you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. (Phil. 2:28).



**Rev. Greg Lehr**  
LWML District Counselor

Here is the entire verse in context (19-30):

“I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know Timothy’s proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also. I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you

may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.”

What really resonates with me in this Scripture is that Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus are all highly concerned about each other and the people to whom Paul is writing. Paul’s anxiety will be lessened when he knows that the people have received Epaphroditus and they have all been encouraged.

I realize that Paul’s anxiety isn’t fueled by a selfish obsession with himself and his own well-being. His anxiety exists because he wants his fellow sisters and brothers in Christ to be glad. I think about some of my own experiences as a parent of a teenager and how I have more anxiety for my child than I do for

myself. There are situations with my child that I “wish it could be me rather than her.” Paul was like a father to all those with whom he served. His anxiety would be lessened when he knew that the people were glad and encouraged by one another in Christ.

I have learned that Paul’s anxiety was not the type that people go see a psychiatrist for today. It’s not an uncontrollable anxiety that wraps itself around the neck and chest of those who suffer from it. Paul’s anxiety was fueled by a healthy concern for those who loved God and one another. I am confident when I say that God’s way for us to be freed from an unhealthy anxiety is to engage in a holy concern for others.

The LWML is an organization that is engaged in a holy concern for others. When participating and supporting your local LWML, know you are making a difference where you are. Know you are making a difference to the ends of the world through the international network of ministries the LWML serves ... serving together showing holy concern for others in the name of our risen and ever present Savior Jesus Christ.



## A word of thanks...

You never know what the Lord has in store for you, and what an experience it has been as your vice-president of Christian Life! Arranging presenters and hosts for our fall Christian Life workshops has given me an opportunity not only to meet many pastors and LWML sisters across the district, but to experience their dedication to sharing the Gospel of our Lord. You are an awesome bunch of “workers in the harvest fields!”

I extend a special thank you to our district pastoral counselors for their great support and to the other pastors who presented topics during my term: the Revs. Greg Lehr, Daniel

Redhage, Randy Sturzenbecher, Andrew Utecht and Dan Domke (who will present this fall). Our South Dakota District is truly blessed with a talented pool of servants willing to share and teach.

Thanks to my dear friends Ellen Boekelheide and Jean Haselhorst who have kept our LWML Store stocked and running smoothly; and my committee for your help and input. And thank you all for your prayers and the opportunity to serve the LWML South Dakota District. I am blessed!

**Bobbie Bierman**  
LWML South Dakota District  
Vice-President of Christian Life

## ZION HOLDS SPRING WORKSHOP

The LWML Society of Zion, Chamberlain, hosted the Chamberlain Zone Spring Workshop on April 16. The morning session was a very timely Bible study, "The Meditation on God's Word," led by the Rev. Adam Welton, pastor, Zion, Presho, and Trinity, Reliance. After an enjoyable tea luncheon, the video, "The First Rosa" was shown to the group. The morning offering and the free-will luncheon offering were both given to LWML mites.



## Baskets of Promise



Members of the Concordia LWML pictured are, from left, Trish Rausch (with daughters Abigail and Grace), Gwen Braddock, Denise Melius, Michelle Haselhorst, Emily Koch, Kathy Otter and Helen Holsing.

During the 2016 Lenten season, the women of the Concordia LWML, Cresbard, sponsored a Baskets of Promise campaign. Each week, Concordia members donated different items, including combs, toothbrushes, fingernail clippers, soap and towels. Because of the generosity of Concordia's members and a \$250 donation through the Thrivent Action Team project, the women were able to assemble 53 healthcare kits for Lutheran World Relief, to be shared with those in refugee camps or other places that provide safety.



## Youth 'locked-in' at Faith, Sioux Falls

Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls (LHSSF) and Sioux Falls Lutheran School (SFLS) held a joint Basketball Marathon Lock-In from a Friday evening to Saturday morning in April at Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls. There were 23 students in attendance.

During the event, various board and card games were played, as was basketball, dodgeball, volleyball and kickball. At midnight, Resurrection, Sioux Falls, DCE intern Kevin Busch led the students and adults in a Bible

study on what it means to be a gentle servant leader in athletics and life. Busch also talked about how we can give praise to God in every situation.

Not every student was able to stay awake the whole night. Some fell asleep in quiet corners, one even in a high chair. The event concluded with cleanup and breakfast at 6:30 a.m. Everyone was ready to head home, shower and go to bed once the clock struck 7 a.m. Praise be to God for a great evening of fun, food and Christian fellowship.



# Meet the new president

**"Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."**  
Heb. 13:20-21



**Lisa Asmus**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

I am humbled and honored to be your new LWML South Dakota District president. It hasn't been my lifetime dream to hold this position, nor did I see myself serving God in this way. Yet here we are! In Heb. 13:21, Paul tells us that God will equip us with everything good for doing His will. I know that God will use this experience for His glory.

Here is a picture of who I am and what brought me to this place in my life. I was born the youngest of six children in Watertown, Minn., baptized at Zion, Mayer, where I later attended Zion Lutheran School and Mayer Lutheran High School.

I went on to Concordia College in St. Paul, graduating with a teaching degree while also majoring in physical education. After teaching in Eau Claire, Wis., for a couple of years, I took a call to a school in the St. Louis area. It was there that a college acquaintance, who happened to be a seminary student, and I got to be good friends. We always hung around with groups of friends.

It was one Saturday in March when we found ourselves alone, walking to see a movie, when I wondered if it was a date or just two friends going to a movie. I figured that I would let him

pay first, and if he paid for me, it would be a date! Little did I know, he was thinking the same thing. Six months later, he asked me to marry him, and nine months after that, Aaron Asmus and I were married. We were blessed with four children: Andrew (Denver), Alissa (just returned stateside from four years in the mission field in Asia, now working in Sioux Falls as she is awaiting a call to a church), Adam (in Osaka, Japan, with Universal Studios) and Alan, who lived his full earthly life in a short (by our standards) 19 months and is "livin' the dream" in heaven with Jesus.

In our 30-year ministry, we have served in five congregations in Minnesota, Florida and South Dakota. People used to ask, "I can understand why you moved to Florida from Minnesota, but why would you move back?" Thinking mostly of the cold winters, I used to jokingly say that God has a sense of humor!

But God truly knew what He was doing as it eventually led us to South Dakota and to this place in our lives. In our 17 years in Sioux Falls, I was blessed with the opportunity to be on staff at Sioux

Falls Lutheran School for 13 years, be a part of the family at Memorial Lutheran Church and serve as the Sioux Falls Zone president. In my career, I am currently working part-time doing data entry.

My mom was involved in LWML in all levels as I was growing up, and as I became involved in LWML circles where we served, I grew to love the mission of LWML and knew that God had called me to be a part of it.

So here we are! Now is the time to "Serve the Lord with Gladness!" In September, one opportunity is at the Puppet Place at the State Fair in Huron. Here is the schedule for workers:

- › Thursday, Sept. 1 — Sioux Falls Zone
- › Friday, Sept. 2 — Yankton Zone



- › Saturday, Sept. 3 — Aberdeen Zone
- › Sunday, Sept. 4 — Black Hills Zone
- › Monday, Sept. 5 — Brookings Zone  
(Set Up and Clean Up — Huron Zone)

Are you planning to attend one of our district Christian Life Workshops? Here are the dates and speakers:

- › Friday, Sept. 9, Emmanuel, Milbank  
The Rev. Daniel Domke, Mount Calvary, Huron  
Topic: Angels
- › Saturday, Sept. 10, Zion, Mitchell  
The Rev. Dale and Debbie Sattgast  
Topic: Life and Times of Luther
- › Friday, Oct. 7, Holy Cross, Onida  
Saturday, Oct. 8, Our Redeemer, Rapid City

Are you thinking and planning ahead to June 22-25, 2017, for our next national LWML Convention in Albuquerque? At the district convention in Pierre, 49 people showed interest in riding a bus to Albuquerque. I'm guessing there are more!

## LWML Convention Deadlines

Aug. 15: Nominations for LWML Officers and Nominating Committee

Sept. 20: LWML Mission Grant proposals

Oct. 15: Invitation of 2023 LWML Convention host

March 1, 2017: Names of certified delegates and alternates to the LWML Convention

March 31, 2017: 2015-17 Mite donations.

I look forward to serving God by serving others with you!

"We are the Body of Christ! Each one of us is a part of it!" **Rom. 12:5**

“  
I look  
forward to  
serving God  
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you!”

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

# Introducing our new pastoral counselor

Greetings in the triumphant name of Jesus our Lord and Savior!

How very excited I am to serve as pastoral counselor! The phrase that comes into my mind is: "This is the beginning of the end." I am so very thankful for the opportunity to begin service as pastoral counselor for the LWML South Dakota District. I am excited to be a part of what the Lord has in store for us in the next four years of my service together, which will surely end before I know it!

After Christ rises from the dead on



Rev. Joshua Baumann  
LWML District Counselor

Easter Sunday, He begins to inaugurate the "beginning of the end" as the New Testament church spreads the Gospel and awaits Christ's second coming. One would think that Jesus would Himself "stick around" to proclaim the Good News of His Resurrection to all nations longer than 40 days, but He doesn't. He ascends back into heaven, marking the "beginning of the end" with the promise of sending the Holy Spirit, and through His giving the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations by baptizing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In the Spirit of Christ, we carry on His work to all nations and to the ends of the earth. I greatly look forward to partnering in this endeavor with Christ's servants in the South Dakota District. As we grow in our partnership together,

I will learn more about you and you about me, but here are a few highlights about myself I'd like to share: I serve as the associate pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre. This July will mark the four-year anniversary of my ordination. I am married to my faithful and loving wife, Margaret. Together we have three young children: Eliza, 4, John, 2, and Peter, 6 months.

One of my favorite things about being a pastor is being able to be a "grace giver" and having people know that's who you are and what you do. Pastors say "God bless you" when they encounter strangers in the hospital. Pastors love little children and bend down to look them eye to eye and ask their name. Pastors absolve the sins of the penitent in the Divine Service and privately. Pastors get asked to give the grace for meals and other special moments in the lives of God's people.

What a tremendous privilege to be that sharer of God's love and grace in every moment of life, whether with my family or in God's church as junior counselor. The Lord Jesus richly bless you and keep you as together we bring His light to all people.

## Mission grants SELECTED

I have just returned home from the 59th Biennial Convention of the LWML South Dakota District (held in Pierre in June) and am so filled with excitement and awe of being a tiny part of the Body of Christ and sisterhood of the LWML. Our delegates prayerfully have selected these 11 new mission grants to support:

- › Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Food Bank, \$5,000
- › Peace Lutheran Church and Educational Ministries, Brookings, \$5,000
- › LCMS Mission Central Current and Urgent Grant, \$4,000
- › Mercy Medical Team—Chaplain Scholarships, \$3,000

- › Gospel Hands—VBS for Deaf Children, \$4,500
- › Little Lambs Lutheran Preschool, Sturgis, \$5,000
- › The Confessional Lutheran Education Foundation E-Reader Project, \$5,000
- › POBLO International, \$5,000
- › Witness and Outreach Ministry/Revitalization, LCMS Office of National Mission, \$2,500

- › Shephard's Canyon Retreat, \$3,500
- › Stronger Pastors for Southeast Asia with the *Book of Concord* (partial funding), \$4,000

**Total Mission Grant Goal: \$46,500**

Coming soon will be new mite devotions for each of these mission grants for us to share and hold in prayer.

**Ann Cruse**

Vice-President of Gospel Outreach



I look forward to serving God by serving others with you! As we begin this new biennium, I encourage each of us to pray that Christ's saving message of the Gospel is spread through each of these mission grants and that our **Mighty Mites** will produce **Magnificent Measures**.

### Serving in Sioux Falls

The LWML of Zion Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, has been making freezer meals in bulk for a number of years for the congregation, but this year the ladies decided to cook meals for the St. Francis House in Sioux Falls, which serves people in need. They will be able to serve 150 people with the food they made.

This is the first time they have cooked for the St. Francis House, but Illa Biteler said this will not be the last.

From left, Illa Biteler, Marie Kruger and Donna Chrichton.



### Congregation vs. Sunday school



Mount Olive LWML, Watertown, used a Thrivent Action Team grant to purchase supplies to complete hygiene kits that included items collected by Sunday school students and congregation members. LWML members encouraged a competition between the congregation and Sunday school, with expectations that the congregation should at least double, if not triple, what the students collected.

The congregation just barely doubled the Sunday school. The Sunday school brought 13 complete kits and 20 additional items for a total of 111 items. The congregation brought 15 complete kits and 125 additional items for a total of 230.

Children and adults joined together to wrap and tie 63 kits on May 22. These will be distributed by Orphan Grain Train.



### Mercy for the hungry

Chicken flavoring, vegetables, soy, rice — that's the order to put the food into each bag for Mercy Meals. Each bag has enough room for six meals. Seventeen people from Mount Olive, Watertown, traveled to Milbank on May 17 to fill food bags for the hungry. During the 1½ hour packing time, 612 bags were filled for a total of 3,672 meals. The estimated cost per meal is 12 cents.

The LWML applied for a hands-on service grant of \$400 from the Codington County chapter of Thrivent Financial. The total cost of food packaged was \$431. Also, it will cost about \$7 per box to ship the food to the hungry.

Ladies were busy through the winter and took 40 quilts, 20 pillowcase dresses and 15 sleeping mats to Orphan Grain Train that day as well.

### SEND SUBMISSIONS FOR THE DISTRICT SUPPLEMENT TO:

**Vonda Sturzenbecher**

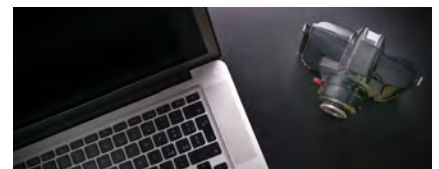
vsturzenbecher@yahoo.com

or

8605 Woodland Dr.; Black Hawk, SD 57718

The deadline for the **October** issue is **Aug. 15**.

Please send photos with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi. Digital submissions are preferred.



# One season, *so many* opportunities

School is back in session for many, or will be soon for others. New clothes, new shoes, new school supplies, crayons with new tops, new backpacks, new bulletin boards, new class lists for teachers, etc.



**Lisa Asmus**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

This also means that if you have school-age children or adults who are teachers or staff at a school, your schedule goes back to “normal” this month.

Many LWML societies will resume activities after a summer break. We all seem to have busy lives, sometimes so busy that we don’t always know if we are coming or going.

What are we keeping busy with? Are we trying to find our identity in the many things of this world that fill our plate and time, or do we find our identity in whose we are, a child of the one true King, Jesus Christ? Know that in your baptism, He has called you His child

and now you are free to live your life glorifying Him in the things you say and do.

This fall we will have opportunities to grow together with our fellow sisters in Christ at our district Christian Life Workshops, zone rallies and local Bible studies. These are all great opportunities to connect with each other and be fed with the Word of God.

Who will you invite to attend with you? How about someone who doesn’t know much about Lutheran Women in Mission. The Time is NOW to one by one invite and encourage each other.

“Now you are the body of Christ



and individually members of it.”

**1 Cor. 12:27**

Let us all *be* the body of Christ as we study His Word, gather for fellowship, welcome and encourage others, and serve together.

To God be the Glory!

## BROOKINGS ZONE report

The Brookings-Sioux Falls Zone Christian Growth Retreat was held at Peace Lutheran Church, Brookings, in April. The topic was “Speak to One Another with Psalms,” with the Rev. Tim Rynearson, pastor, Peace and Redeemer, Flandreau, as our speaker. We had 69 in attendance.

Brookings Zone LWML will have their fall rally Oct. 15 at St. Peter, Wentworth.

**Nyla Jurrens**  
LWML Brookings Zone President

## District has new treasurer

Hi! ... I am Brenda Drefs, your new LWML South Dakota District treasurer. I have been active in LWML for more than 30 years. My mother was a charter member of our local society at Immanuel, Dimock, and we are celebrating our 60-year anniversary this year. I have enjoyed working at two South Dakota-hosted national conventions and attending many others in various states. LWML has been a blessing to me and has strengthened my faith.

I live in Parkston, where I work for Murtha Repair. I was hired as their bookkeeper, but also serve as secretary, parts person and so

much more. I enjoy my job very much and feel God has placed me where He wants me to be. I have five children and 12 grandchildren. I am blessed to have three of my children and eight of my grandchildren nearby in the Sioux Falls and Mitchell area. I also have a daughter living in Italy and a son, his wife and four of my grandchildren in south Texas, so I don’t get to see them as often as I’d like. They will soon add grandchild number 13!

I look forward to serving as your treasurer and ask for your prayers as God leads me in this new venture. I have a lot to learn and pray I am up to the challenge.



## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

# 'Teach me Your way, O LORD'

For me, this time of year has always meant back to school. As the husband of a teacher, I appreciate this time of year even more because of the important role that teachers play in the lives of their students.



**Rev. Steve Weispfenning**  
LWML District Counselor

We all have those teachers that stand out because of their influence on us, whether it was way back in elementary school or a college professor or somewhere in between — maybe even a pastor or DCE. Many of you are that important, influential teacher in somebody's life.

Of course the greatest teacher of all is Jesus! Crowds gathered from all around the country to hear Him teach; and

Mary sat down at the Master's feet to learn from Him. As followers of Jesus, we pray with King David:

"Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name." **Ps. 86:11**

But Jesus is also much more than a great teacher. He is the Savior of the world, whose death on the cross and resurrection from the grave taught Satan a lesson on who really has the power over sin and death, so that we now desire to sit at the Master's feet and learn from Him and His Word.



This is part of Jesus' Great Commission for discipleship:

"All authority on heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

**Matt. 28:18-20**

And not just the rules and commandments, but everything that He has instructed, including that all of Scripture points to Him and God's salvation for you and the world through His blood shed on the cross.

The mission of the LWML is to be a part of Jesus' Great Commission through teaching God's Word and His way of salvation through the cross of Jesus to all the world. Your mighty mite offerings will help to teach the love of Jesus by funding Christian education ministries in Brookings and preschoolers in Sturgis, VBS for deaf children and e-reader resources to students, pastors and professors.

You also have opportunities to sit at the Master's feet in Bible studies and upcoming Christian Life Workshops. The more we learn the truth of God's Word, the more motivated we are to be a part of God's mission of making disciples by teaching them and influencing souls for all eternity.

## LWML 37th Biennial Convention

June 22-25, 2017 • Albuquerque, N.M.

### Theme

Jesus Christ Above All

### Scripture Verse

Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name. (Phil. 2:9)

### Convention Goal

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, through Word and Sacrament, I will proclaim Jesus Christ above all

### Convention Objectives

Each convention attendee will be:

► Encouraged through worship and Bible study.

Jesus Christ  
above all



## Get your proposals in

Sept. 30 is the deadline for mission grant proposals for the 2017 convention in Albuquerque, N.M. Send proposals to Shelley Moeller, VP of Gospel Outreach, at [deppo@lwml.org](mailto:deppo@lwml.org).

- Equipped to share His message of salvation.
- Engaged in celebrating God's faithfulness while serving the Lord with gladness.

# Different season, same message

What comes to your mind when you hear “October”?

LWML Sunday, fall rallies, Reformation, trick-or-treat, pumpkins, leaves falling from the trees, football ... I can add to this list our oldest son was born and we celebrate confirmation on Reformation Sunday.

For me, October can also be remembered for loss. It is in October, 51 years ago, when my dad died; 21 years ago our son, Alan, had an accident that led to his death, and six years ago my stepfather died. But my loss is their gain, as they went to heaven to be with Jesus!

I choose not to be defined by the negative things that have happened in my life. Our society loves to focus on how bad things are and how hard we have it. We



**Lisa Asmus**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

are weeks away from choosing a new president and leader for our country. Just about all we hear on the news these days is how bad things are, or how bad one of the candidates is and why they shouldn't be elected.

I wonder what our world would be like if sharing the love of Jesus was the focus of everyone's life. That is what we are called to do. Luke 10:27 says:

“And He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and



with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

Let our lives be defined by what Christ has done for us:

“He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised.” **2 Cor. 5:15**

We have many opportunities to connect with our sisters in Christ this month by attending the Christian Life workshop “The Life and Times of Luther” on Oct. 7 at Holy Cross, Onida, or Oct. 8 at Our Redeemer, Rapid City. Many zones are hosting fall rallies, societies are hosting bazaars and dinners. Who is someone new that you will take with you to one of these events?

Let your mission be to share the love of Jesus with all you meet, wherever you are as Lutheran Women in Mission!

## Greetings from the CHAMBERLAIN ZONE

Our zone is made up of societies from Chamberlain, Gregory, Hamill, Murdo, Norris, Presho, Reliance and Winner. We were the donut-breakfast goodies ladies at the LWML convention this past June.

We will hold our fall rally on Oct. 22 in Norris. Ken and Karen Toews from Belvidere will talk about their son who serves as a missionary in Africa. Our board meeting will be held on Oct. 10 in Norris.

It is a blessing to work with these LWML gals in central South Dakota, and we look forward to seeing all our purple sisters from the Chamberlain Zone in Norris in October!

**Deb Faber**  
Chairman

## Get your events archived

Record keeping and gathering the information to keep is the primary duty that keeps us archivist-historians busy. It is helpful that people share the information they received at a convention, retreat, workshop or some special LWML gathering. Anything from pamphlets, old Bible studies and photos with names and locations would be a blessing to receive.

If you have anything you would like to share, please send me an email; the address can be found at [sdlwml.org](mailto:sdlwml.org). Click “Board of Directors” and scroll down to “Special Appointed Personnel.”

Report forms can also be found at [sdlwml.org](http://sdlwml.org); under “Helps,” click “LWML SD District Forms & Helps.” The archivist-historian form is at the top of the page.

Reminder: the Society report form for *officers* goes to the district secretary annually by Jan. 15. My A-H reports from Zone are due in duplicate by Dec. 1 of each year and the Societies are to have their report to Zone by Nov. 15 to give the Zone time to get the report to me. This is so important that it gets done, otherwise we lose so much information that will be gone forever.

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

# Empty

"He must become greater,  
I must become less."

John 3:30 NIV

You might be surprised to hear that I've had what I would call some good "empty" moments this summer. Typically, we think of emptiness as a bad thing, but it doesn't always have to be that way.



**Rev. Joshua Baumann**  
LWML District Counselor

What a joyous feeling when arriving at Circuit Bible Camp and the kids had removed all their gear from the trailer and van. Indeed, it was nice to see an empty trailer! And how good it was to see that the roasters were empty after we served a good National Youth Gathering breakfast. An empty office is a good thing, because it means I'm out and about traveling with our youth, or with family to some destination, or maybe even embarking on one of those world-famous South Dakota pheasant hunts we're so well known for. So there's certainly a number of good forms of "empty" I'm refreshed to see and experience.

And yet in the Christian journey there are undoubtedly those moments when we would admit we feel completely empty and dried up. King David writes about this feeling:

"My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death." Ps. 22:15

Talk about being empty! Ultimately, this psalm points us to the One who was completely emptied for us. Jesus' strength was emptied on the cross, and

everything emptied while He marched the hill to the place of His crucifixion. He was laid in the dust of death. His dignity emptied.

Jesus' life was emptied for us. For those days and moments when you feel completely hollowed out and empty — perhaps when you've got nothing left, emptier than ever — just pause and remember that your loving Savior was poured out unto death for you, poured out to fill you up with God's love for you.

It is the love of Jesus that sustains you. On those hollow days, pray for strength, go fill someone else up who is down, encourage, love, serve, read and live in the Word of God. In your baptism, you are filled with all the promises of Jesus Christ, whose death and resurrection procures life everlasting for you.

The cross of Christ would be a sad and tragic story had death fully won. We know that the body of the Son of God was placed in a tomb, and that tomb was filled with the corpse of a dead Jesus. But three days later Jesus rose, and the grave was ...! You got it! Empty! And Jesus was made alive and lives and reigns to this day.



In your baptism, you are filled with all the promises of Jesus Christ, whose death and resurrection procures life everlasting for you."

"So, pour us out O Lord. Empty us out of all those sinful desires that would pull us away from you. Fill us up with your love so that we may fill others with that same love you gave us through Christ. Amen"

As we once again begin a new academic year, we are a people sent forth by the love of God and by His blessing. We are emptied of who we are so that Christ may fill our lives with His love and ultimately His name be glorified. He must increase, we must decrease! God's blessings as you fully live for the King!

## Greetings from VP for Christian Life

My name is Deborah Sattgast and I am the new vice-president for Christian Life. I was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. For as long as I can remember, my mother went to her Dorcas Society meetings and helped with innumerable activities at the church. Both Grandma Roegge and Grandma Heins in their small town in Iowa were also always very involved in their Ladies' Aid society.

When I went to Concordia Junior College in Portland, Ore., I met the man, Dale, who would later become my husband, and then a pastor, with our first congregations being in Canistota

and Montrose! So, of course, I joined the LWML in those places.

Our second parish was in Albuquerque, N.M., so I am definitely excited about visiting there next year for the national convention.

We then returned to South Dakota, where we served at Mount Calvary, Huron, for 19 years before my husband was elected as the district president.

Recently, I again became a member of the LWML at Mount Calvary. I can truly say that the LWML has always been a part of my life, and I am thankful for the ministry to and with women with whom I have been blessed!

# ThanksLIVING

*Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!*

**Ps. 107:1**

When I was teaching preschool, I used to teach a prayer-song with the words, "Thank you for the world so sweet. Thank you for the food we eat. Thank you for the birds that sing. Thank you, God, for everything!"

God is the provider of all that we have (Father), who came to earth to be our



**Lisa Asmus**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

Savior (Jesus) and lives in us and helps our faith grow (Holy Spirit). That is a reason for giving thanks! In November we celebrate Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving means ThanksLIVING!

What does ThanksLIVING look like for a Lutheran Woman in Mission? ThanksLIVING seeks opportunities to serve. It comes with an attitude of "I get to" rather than "I have to." ThanksLIVING presents an invitation to a lifestyle to see the goodness of our God.

I've been thinking a lot lately about how we can be invitational with the ladies of our churches. It is important to build relationships, starting with being welcoming. Choose someone to visit with after church, go for a walk, pray for them and have lunch together. Simply put, get to know them. Tell them what



you like about LWML and then invite them to your Bible study and even offer to pick them up!

God bless you as you experience ThanksLIVING this Thanksgiving!

## News from the HURON ZONE

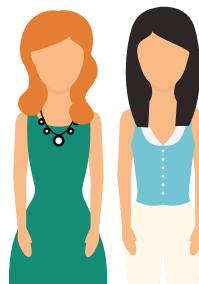
The LWML Huron Zone held its Fall Rally on Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016 at Messiah Lutheran Church, Redfield. The Rev. Peter Utecht led the Bible study.

A new president, Jill Johnsen, and treasurer, Susan Kinsley, were elected at this meeting. Attendees began to make plans to celebrate the 75th anniversary of LWML. The original LWML logo was designed by the late Betty Dennis from the Huron Zone.

The ladies from Mount Calvary, Huron, cleaned the Puppet Place before the beginning of the South Dakota State Fair. Also, some maintenance work was done inside the building and the benches were painted.

Several ladies from the Huron Zone are making plans to attend the 75th LWML national convention in Albuquerque, N.M.

## Young women wanted



Calling all Christ-centered young women! The national Convention in Albuquerque, N.M., will be held June 22-25, 2017, and the LWML South Dakota District will send two young women to join other Young Woman Representatives (YWRs) from across the nation in praise of our Lord and learning more about the LWML.

Women between the ages of 22 and 35 who want to grow in their faith and connect with their sisters in Christ are encouraged to apply. There is very little cost as all travel and lodging expenses are paid for by the district. As you read this, perhaps you are reminded of a young woman from your church. If so, please encourage her to apply and let the Holy Spirit do the rest!

YWR applications can be found at [sdlwml.org](http://sdlwml.org) and are due by Dec. 1, 2016. Mail completed applications to Josie Lorang, 181 31st St., Hills, MN 56138 or [jmlorang@hotmail.com](mailto:jmlorang@hotmail.com).

**Josie Lorang**  
Chairman, Committee on Young Women

## Funds available

Are you aware that there is a fund to help further the mission of the LWML South Dakota District? Friends have donated to this fund either outright or through their estate planning.

If you know of a need in your community, you may apply for these funds. Go to [sdlwml.org](http://sdlwml.org) and under "Helps" click "LWML SD Forms & Helps." In the top section of the page, click "Special Gifts Fund Request Form." Fill out the form and send it to our Special Gifts Fund chairman:

Vonda Sturzenbecher  
8605 Woodland Dr.  
Black Hawk, SD 57718  
or: [sdlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:sdlutheran@gmail.com)

The request will then be brought before the Executive Committee and then the Board of Directors.

**Many blessings,**  
**Vonda Sturzenbecher**

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

# Unthinkable

*(Life without the LWML)*

### Thank the Lord for the LWML!

The cartoon "Maxine" features a grumpy, pessimistic, elderly woman in dark glasses who complains about everything and makes smart-aleck remarks. In one strip, Maxine quips, "I'm starting to wonder how bad four years with no president would be." With this year's election and the candidates we have to choose from, many of us might be wondering that same thing.

### Thank the Lord for the LWML!

I'm not suggesting that the LWML should replace the president of the United States; nor is the purpose of the LWML to lead the country and make and administer its laws. But the thought of four years (or even one year for that matter) without the LWML, I definitely think, would not go unnoticed in Christ's mission to give eternal life to all who believe in Him.

The national LWML set a 2015-17 biennium goal of distributing \$2 million toward 19 different mission and mercy projects around the world. The LWML South Dakota District intends to add another \$46,500 to another 11 different mission and mercy projects, and the other 39 LWML districts will similarly contribute to the mission effort. In addition to all that, there's the innumerable hours and energy given to additional service projects done by individual LWML societies in their own communities. Without the LWML, the impact would be felt in



**Rev. Steve Weispfenning**  
LWML District Counselor

advancing the Gospel and sharing the love and care of Jesus to a hopeless and hurting world.

So in this season of thanksgiving, I join with the Apostle Paul in saying:

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." **Phil. 1:3-5**

The Christians from Philippi partnered with Paul in His missionary journeys to seek and save the lost with the Gospel. In the same Spirit, the LWML partners with pastors, missionaries, churches and ministries with that same mission zeal that every person would know Jesus

as the Savior of the world, who died to rescue us from sin and who rose to give us life forever with Him.

We may not always be thankful for the efforts of our presidents, but thank the Lord for the LWML and its efforts to partner with the rest of the Body of Christ in fulfilling Jesus' mission to make disciples of all nations.



From left, Shelley Moeller, LWML vice-president of Gospel Outreach, presents Deaconess Grace Rao with a check for a grant awarded to LCMS Deaconess Ministry this year, one of many mission grants adopted by LWML.

## Puppets perform at state fair

A wonderful puppet show was held during the South Dakota State Fair, viewed by many children and adults. The title of the show was "A Hog by Any Other Name" and was performed at the Puppet Place.

The families of the Rev. Andrew Utecht, the Rev. Peter Utecht, Wendy Mealer and her son, John Mealer, ran the puppets and told a story about how God creates each of us for a special purpose. We should not want to be someone else because then we are not using the gifts and talents that God has given us for our service to Him. The visitors were entertained before the show with magic tricks, juggling acts and balloon animals.

Thanks to the Huron Zone workers for cleaning up the Puppet Place before and after the fair. New carpet was donated from a memorial given in memory of Gerhard and Margaret Stegeman. Gerhard was a member of St. John, Wolsey, an active supporter and member of Lutheran Laymen's League and he spent

many years at the Puppet Place. Thanks to God for this gift and the earthly support of this saint who now rests with Him in heaven.

Thanks also to the Sioux Falls, Yankton, Aberdeen, Black Hills and Brookings zones for inviting people to the show throughout the week of the fair. There was a total of 1,215 people who viewed this show. Whistles were passed out at the end of the show in order to praise the Lord and attract more visitors to the Puppet Place.

Devotions and Bible studies were also passed out so that God's Word could be spread after the show and visitors could study His Word in their homes.

It was a great week at the fair. Praise to God for His blessings of wonderful weather, terrific workers and many visitors to hear the story of His saving grace to us.

**God's blessings,**  
**Heather Miller**  
Gospel Outreach Committee

## 'It's about the cross'

If you're like me, you're probably so busy at this time of year that you may not even get to reading this till the new year.

When our lives get out-of-control busy, it is important that we take time to breathe. Give Jesus our first fruits of time. He puts the rest of our life in perspective!



**Lisa Asmus**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President



One of my favorite Christmas songs is "It's About the Cross" by Go Fish. It lists many things associated with Christmas — the Baby in the manger, angels, shepherds, wise men, presents, going home for Christmas, snow, etc. The song goes on to say it's not *only*

about those things. "It's about the cross, it's about my sin, it's about how Jesus came to be born once so that we can be born again. It's about the stone that was rolled away, so that you and I can have real life someday. It's about the cross!" Enjoy this time to celebrate Jesus's

birthday, *and* the reason that He came — to die on the cross and take our sins with Him!

As you hang seasonal banners and Christmas decorations, or prepare the altar for the change of seasons and for celebrating communion, take some time to pray for the people who will be worshiping, that God's Holy Spirit will strengthen their faith as they worship.

As you bake Christmas cookies, thank God for the people that you will share them with.

As you shop for and wrap gifts, pray for the receiver of the gift that they know of Jesus' love for them!

As forgiven children of God, we have a wonderful opportunity to share God's love with those around us — with our words and our actions. Thanks be to God for this wonderful gift. To Him be the glory!

## Serving here and there

**H**ave you ever gone on a short-term mission trip? Have you ever entertained the thought of going on one? Or would you like to hear about experiences of those who have traveled as a team to witness and serve while creating relationships with people of another culture?

Dr. Patty Peters of Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, organizes a 10-day medical mission trip to different areas of Central America each summer. She has a Power Point presentation of the trip that she's willing to show at LWML or church functions. The trip is with MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term).

Krista Erickson, also of Faith, Sioux Falls, leads mission teams in February and October to Hong Kong for a 10-day visit to a high school. The Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher, pastor, Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk, and the Rev. David Schwan, Zion, Rapid City, also lead teams each year. They all would be happy to share information about mission opportunities at LWML or church functions.

Thank you again for the many Gifts from the Heart that you brought to our district convention in Pierre. God bless your efforts in helping people in need wherever you live and work. We are His hands and feet to those who may be in crisis.

"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

—Matt. 25:40

**Judy Gies**  
Vice-President, Human Care

## News from the MILBANK ZONE

We are involved in doing the Lord's work. Emanuel, Milbank, has opened its heart to support an Orphan Grain Train collection center — a wonderful place for quilts, mats, pillowcase dresses, health and school kits collected by our societies to be sent to needy areas.

Also, packaging the Mercy Meals has filled us with joy in serving others. The glue that holds us together is the Bible studies at our fall retreat and in our societies. To God be the glory!

**Dorothy Bassingthwaite**  
Milbank Zone President

## Dates to note

› **THE 2019 CONVENTION** will be held June 20-23 in Mobile, Ala. This is a change; Birmingham, Ala., was previously announced as the host city.

› **BANNER DESIGNS** for the South Dakota District banner for the convention in Albuquerque this summer are due to Lisa Asmus by Dec. 30. The colors and words from the convention

logo can be used, but not the actual logo. The words are "Jesus Christ Above All" and the Bible verse is Phil. 2:9. For more information, go to [LWML.org/convention](http://LWML.org/convention) and scroll down to "District banners — Banner guidelines." Please send designs to 6509 S. Mogen Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57108.

› **THE DISTRICT RETREAT** will be held April 21-22, 2017, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Aberdeen. The theme is "Treasured!"

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

# Earthly promises

“For in Him the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.”  
—Col. 1:19-20



**Rev. Joshua Baumann**  
LWML District Counselor

“Ho ho ho!” ... Not your typical greeting from the LWML South Dakota District Junior Counselor, is it? Thankfully my physique isn’t quite there! No, we know who is supposed to utter those words from the deep recesses of his belly, don’t we? Words that ring out with great joy and promise for most, for the most part. Presents for you ... and presents for you ... holiday cheer for you ... but coal for you Mr. Scrooge!

Such a word from such a body. It’s a word for the here and the now. A word that raises our excitement, at least for the time being or until the shininess wears off.



But we have such a Word that brings joy that lasts to eternity. In Jesus, we have such a Word from such a body. Grace for you ... and peace for you ... and hope for you ... forgiveness and life *for you!* In God, we have the Word Incarnate made flesh. Such a Word through such a baby — a gentle Word through the lowly babe at Bethlehem. This is the Word by which the angels exclaim: “Glory

to God in the highest!” It is truly a Word that brings joy to the world. It’s a Word that declares you are forgiven on account of Jesus’ death and resurrection for you.

It’s a Word by which God forgives your sins, heals your diseases and redeems your life from the pit. In Jesus’ body nailed to that cursed tree, we have promise and everlasting peace with our God. Hope hope hope! That’s the word we celebrate at Christmas. May the joy and hope of Jesus be with you now and always, dear friends in Christ. A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!

Susan Kranach portrait of Luther — on display at Coburg Castle)



**Rev. Dr. Dale and Debbie Sattgast**

## Sattgasts share trip highlights

“What followed after the posting of the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, on Oct. 31, 1517 led to the ‘Reformation’ of the Church and the opportunity to celebrate the 500th anniversary of this momentous occasion in 2017.”

The Rev. Dr. Dale and Debbie Sattgast shared “The Life and Times of Dr. Martin Luther — A Photographic Journey in Germany” during the 2016 LWML South Dakota District Christian Life workshops. Many wonderful pictures were shared of historically significant sites, and attendees were reminded of how grateful we are for how God used Luther to bring God’s Word of grace and salvation to His people.

Dale and Debbie were happy to share the information with the 167 who attended workshops in Milbank, Mitchell, Onida and Rapid City. There were 44 congregations represented, with 16 women attending for the first time. It was exciting to learn more about the man who translated the Bible into German and who wrote the Small and Large catechisms to help all Christians grow in their faith.

The donations to cover the workshop expenses were \$880, and \$352.73 was donated for mission grants. Thanks be to God!

**Debbie Sattgast**  
Vice-President, Christian Life

## Get ready for CONVENTION

Watch for the LWML 2017 convention insert in the winter issue of *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly* for registration forms and details on speakers, activities and events.

Early discounted registration opens Feb. 1. Make your plans now for a “Diamond Dazzling” celebration in June in Albuquerque, N.M. Visit [lwml.org/convention](http://lwml.org/convention).