

Time for convention!

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



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota District President

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

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

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

Please bring your Gifts from the Heart



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

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

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



Quilters unite!

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

Please bring your ingathering items

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

Most Ministries will appreciate donations of:

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

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

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

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

See **DONATIONS**, page 8

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



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

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

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

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

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



Rev. Clint O. Thorson
LWML District Counselor

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

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

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

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

FAREWELL AND



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

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

Donna Harr • South Dakota District Financial Secretary

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

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

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

Nyla Jurrens • V.P. of Special Focus Ministries

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

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

Susan Swanson • VP of Communication



Preparing for end-of-life

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

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

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

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

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

The Word at work

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

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

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

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

KATHY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

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

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

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

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



DONATIONS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

change. Their wish list includes:

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

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

ZoeCare will accept cash donations.

Nyla Jurrens
V.P. of Special Focus Ministries