

PATTY'S PONDERINGS



MARCH MADNESS?

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

But more importantly, we are in the season of

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

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

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



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota District President

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

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

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

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

The LWML South Dakota District is

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

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



Down to the wire!

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

Jan Larson • VP of Gospel Outreach

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML)

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



COUNSELOR'S CORNER



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

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

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

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

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

'With one voice'

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



Rev. Clint O. Thorson
LWML District Counselor

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

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

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

Gifts from the Heart

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

Please bring items from the following list:

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



- Tic Tacs
- Mustard Seed Devotions packets

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

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

LWML SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

Spring Retreat

April 21–22, 2023

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

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



Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Email _____

Group _____ Zone _____

Deadline for registration and meals - April 1

Mark which applies:

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

Housing Information - You are responsible for

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

Country Inn and Suites

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

Hampton Inn and Suites

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

Registration Fee

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

Holiday Inn Express and Suites

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

***Pastors please choose gratis meal.**

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

Mail your registration form with payment to:

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