

Moments with Mary Jo

REGISTER FOR RETREAT, CONVENTION

Spring is here — and so is the 2025 LWML South Dakota District Retreat. The retreat will be held April 25-26 at Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma.

This year's theme is "Living God's Praise," based on Psalm 119:175a: "Let me live that I may praise you."

Registration is still available at sdlwml.org/district-retreats. You may also contact your group president. When you call the hotel, be sure to say that you are with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (not LWML) to get the correct room rate.

Registration is also open for the 41st Biennial LWML Convention, to be held June 26-29 in Omaha, Neb. The theme is "Growing in God's Grace," based on 2 Peter 3:18: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

Visit lwml.org/convention for all the details and registration.

I look forward to sharing the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and being in fellowship with you and many more Christ-centered people through these two events.



Mary Jo Stier
LWML District President



Items needed for retreat ingathering

For the district Spring Retreat, to be held April 25-26, please bring any of the following items to help support First Circuit CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and the Missouri Valley Crisis Center (MVCC).

First Circuit CASA is a nonprofit organization that trains volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children. Their mission is to promote safe, permanent homes for these children while also educating the community about their needs.

First Circuit CASA serves communities in the following counties: Aurora, Brule, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Davison, Douglas, Hanson, Hutchinson and McCook.

MVCC serves victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Due to funding cuts, MVCC was forced to vacate its shelter apartments and now provides emergency hotel shelter only.

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THE NEEDS ARE:

First Circuit CASA

- \$10-\$20 gift cards to McDonald's, Dairy Queen, Subway and other eateries
- Monetary donations to support outreach efforts and volunteer recruitment

MVCC

- Storage tubs
- Re-usable bags with handles
- Shampoo and conditioner (full-size bottles)
- Baby soap/shampoo

- Hair detangler spray for girls
- Hairbrushes, hair ties
- Tampons/pads
- Razors
- Toothbrushes (adult or child)
- Makeup (mascara, eyeliner, eyeshadow)
- Lotion (any size)
- Q-tips
- Paper towels
- Kleenex
- Baby wipes (unscented)

- Adult and child coloring books
- Colored pencils, markers, crayons
- Child's toys (small stuffed animals, new or gently used)
- Laundry soap
- Fabric softener
- SOFT Blankets
- Phone chargers for Android and/or iPhone
- Verizon phone cards
- Straight Talk phone cards



As part of a Milbank Zone project honoring area volunteers, the LWML of St. John's, Revillo, collected items needed by the Revillo Volunteer Fire Department. Items collected included bottled water, N95 masks and disinfecting wipes. Pictured are, from left, Anna Neugebauer, Joan Street, Gloria Zempel, Cathy Sieverson, Lone Brehmer, Carol Street and Malinda Word. Missing from the photo are Sheena King and Vicki Leonard.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

CHRIST'S WORK — *for us*



Soon we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Shortly thereafter we will have joy at the Lutheran Women in Mission district Spring Retreat, “Living God’s Praise” (Psalm 119:175a).

Then a hop, skip and jump later, we will rejoice at the Lutheran Women in Mission national convention, under the theme “Growing in God’s Grace” (2 Peter 3:18).



Rev. Brian Mosemann
LWML District Counselor

These three are connected, for there would be no reason or purpose for the retreat or convention if it were not for the resurrection of our Lord! Needless to say, there is much planning and preparation underway for these events.

We are a society of doers. We’ve been told in many different ways that achievement precedes approval. Since we all long for affirmation and validation, we set out to prove our worth by working. Unwittingly, Christians have absorbed this mentality and drawn it into their interaction with God and their understanding of the Christian life. Even when Jesus was asked in John 6:28–29:

“What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” He answered, “This is

the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

What? That’s it? There has to be more work for us to do than that!

Remember the story of Martha and Mary? Mary sat at Jesus’ feet and listened to His teaching while Martha was distracted with much serving (Luke 10:38–42). Just like Martha, we always feel that we have to do something. We support her all the way when she asks Jesus to tell Mary to help her out. We can’t sit still. Achieving, not receiving, has become the mark of spiritual maturity. The hardest thing to do as believers in Christ is to sit down and receive His gifts. So come to the retreat and convention — and sit and receive His gifts.

Christians are drawn to practical to-do lists rather than to the proclamation, “It is finished!” They think they need to hear more than the Good News of Christ’s finished work. We want to be told what to do. We want something applicable! It’s important to remember, though, that **the real application that defines Christians is the application of Christ’s work to them, not their work for Christ.**

John Piper once asked, “How do you glorify a water fountain? Come thirsty and drink!”

Jesus is not glorified by our doing things for Him. He is glorified by our resting in and receiving what He has done for us. Easter joy!

HURON ZONE UPDATE

The Huron Zone keeps busy with many projects in each of our groups. The ladies at Zion, Wessington Springs, continue quilting. St. John, Wolsey, has many workdays throughout the year to assemble health kits and layette kits for Orphan Grain Train (OGT). Messiah, Redfield, assembles kits for OGT, and

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Assembling health kits and layette kits for Orphan Grain Train at St. John, Wolsey, were, from left, Jill Johnsen, Sherri Blaseg, Vicki Hampton, Janice Wagner, Laraine Kahre, Jim Johnsen, Beth Brower, Dolores Eichstadt and Florence Adermann.