

## PATTY'S PONDERINGS

# The pure and beautiful words of God



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

**Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.** PSALM 51:7

As I sit in my house and look out at the fresh white snow that is piling up in my backyard, I think of a dear Christian woman from Costa Rica who had never seen snow until she came to South Dakota. She shared this verse with me. It is one of my favorite verses because it tells me that through the death of Jesus on the cross of Calvary, God removed the red stains of sin that are on me. In Isaiah 1:18, God says our "sins are like scarlet ... they are red like crimson."

St. John heard this:

"These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

REVELATION 7:14

What powerful words given to us in the Bible! They

give us assurance that as believers in Jesus as the Son of God and our Redeemer, we receive this free gift of eternal life, which starts at our Baptism. We should be exclaiming this with great joy because we know this is true, and we want the world to know that Jesus died for all.

The Bible verse for the LWML South Dakota District Convention (June 7-8) is:

Though you do not now see Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 PETER 1:8-9

I pray that you are filled with this inexpressible joy as you travel through the penitential weeks of Lent and Holy Week to the glorious Resurrection Day, when Jesus broke the bonds of death and burst forth from the tomb. He did this out of His great love for you and for me. Thanks be to God!

## MILBANK ZONE REPORT



The Milbank Zone held a Fall Rally and Workshop Oct. 21 at Mount Olive, Watertown. The theme was "You Shall Teach Them," based on Deut. 6:7. Rev. Thomas Mueller, pastor of Emanuel, Sisseton, and Zion, Waubay, led an informative and thought-provoking Bible study on the theme. We can teach our children, grandchildren, church family and community in many ways by what we do and what we say.

A representative from Haven Center, a

nonprofit medical pregnancy resource center, spoke about its mission, goals and current needs. Haven Center's mission is to provide men and women faced with unplanned pregnancy the knowledge and resources necessary to make an informed decision that is guided by truth.

District LWML President Patty Peters surprised us with a visit and updated us on the district's activities, missions and mites.

Attendees also enjoyed an informative slide show on the Ark Encounter museum in Williamstown, Ky.

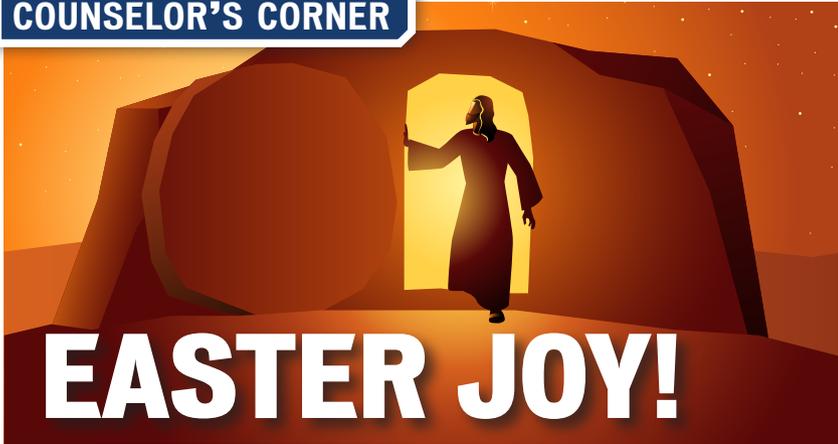
New officers elected were:

- ▶ Joyce Kasuske (Emanuel, Milbank), VP of Servant Resources;
- ▶ Dorothy Bassingthwaite (Mount Olive, Watertown), VP of Human Care;
- ▶ Sue Magedanz (Mount Olive, Watertown), secretary; and
- ▶ Nancy Hanson (Our Savior's, Wilmot), treasurer.

For the ingathering, the zone collected hygiene-kit items for the upcoming Guatemala water outreach mission trip. Two of our district LWML members are among those planning to go on the mission. Our zone assembled more than 60 hygiene kits. The ladies of Mount Olive, Watertown, made six handmade quilts that will be given to those in need.

**Jeanette Gravidahl**  
Milbank Zone President

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



EASTER JOY!

A cemetery is a difficult place to confess. You might weep, reminisce or embrace someone, but it is not an easy place to open your mouth and confess, “I believe in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.”



**Rev. Brian Mosemann**  
LWML District Counselor

Why is that? Is it because our emotions get the best of us? Are we afraid of saying the wrong thing? Perhaps. But more likely is that the cemetery seems like the enemy’s trophy case. Every tombstone appears to be another medal on death’s uniform. No matter how valiantly we fight for life, death always comes out on top.

That is the way it looks to the naked human eye. Looks, however, can be deceiving. The naked human eye sees the cemetery, the coffin and the corpse and is easily deceived into thinking death has won again. But therein lies the problem: the naked human eye. What that eye needs is clothing, the kind that will enable it to see beyond the cemetery, the coffin and the corpse, to the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. That naked human eye needs to be clothed with these words from the mouth of Jesus:

“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone

who lives and believes in me shall never die.” JOHN 11:25-26

With that simple confession, a cemetery is no longer seen as a place of defeat, but rather a place of victory in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Just ask Mary and Martha, whose brother, Lazarus, fell ill and died (JOHN 11:1-53). To Mary, to Martha and to us, who Christ is becomes abundantly clear in that cemetery near Bethany. Mary still didn’t quite understand. She didn’t want the stone rolled back; no need to let loose the stench of her brother’s decomposing body. But at Jesus’ insistence, she relented and the tomb was opened. There, death ceased to matter. Life itself was present. There was no need to wait for the last day for the resurrection of the body, for there stood the One who is the resurrection and the life.

In the midst of that crowd gathered at the cemetery, the one who believed in Christ was the dead man. Mary had heard, Martha had heard and the crowd had heard, yet their hearts were still crowded with doubt and grief. But the dead man, he believed. Lazarus heeded the Word of Christ: “Lazarus, come out” (JOHN 11:43).

The dead man was ripped from the arms of death by the One whom death could not hold in the tomb. He who is the resurrection, who is resurrected, raised Lazarus. He is also the One who is our forgiveness, who is our salvation, and who is our resurrection and life everlasting. Easter joy!

Time to collect  
**FOR INGATHERING**

It’s that time to start thinking about the ingathering at the LWML South Dakota District Convention, to be held June 7–8 in Aberdeen, under the theme “Inexpressible Joy, Matchless Savior.”

For **Safe Harbor**, a domestic violence shelter and advocacy organization that provides services in northeastern South Dakota, we are seeking:

- Ladies’ deodorant
- Brooms and dust pans
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Scrubbing brushes
- Facial tissues
- Floor cleaner
- All-purpose cleaning spray
- Bath towels and kitchen towels
- Zip lock bags of all sizes
- Swiffer starter sets
- Disinfecting wipes
- Toilet bowl cleaner and brushes

For **Journey Home**, a housing support organization which aims to provide for the whole person — physically, intellectually and socially, emotionally, financially and spiritually — based on the love and wisdom of Jesus Christ, we are seeking:

- Peanut butter, coffee, toilet paper and non-perishable food
- Hats, bed sheets (any size) and clothes for babies, children, women and elderly men
- Used pots and pans, silverware and drinking glasses

**Dianne Hemminger**  
VP of Special Focus Ministries

