

# LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



*Travels  
with Elaine*

*"As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:1-3).*

At the October LWML Interdepartmental Meeting in St. Louis, we had the opportunity to celebrate the amazing amount of \$100 million dollars given in support of the mission goal since the founding of the organization almost 70 years ago. What an awesome goal this is as we continue to reach out to share the joyful news of Christ our Lord throughout the world. This amount includes the mission grant goals of the LWML and the 40 districts. The LWML mite goal for 2011-13 is \$1.825 million dollars and next year the 40 districts will be selecting new mission grants and new mite goals for the next biennium. Our spirit for missions has never changed since the founding of the organization.

Have you checked out the resources available from the LWML website? There are a number of items available for free download. For example, online are colorful Mission Power posters for each of the 19 mission grants, a monthly featured grant with a devotion, prayer guide and story for personal or group settings and Mite Marathon flyers that offer fun ideas and ways for supporting the mission goal. These are just a few resources available. On the South Dakota District LWML website, a prayer is available to download for each of the mission grants once it is paid. We currently have two grants remaining to fund.

Did you know that if you use GoodSearch instead of Google, for example, as your Internet search source, and you have selected the Lutheran Women's Missionary League as your organization/charity, the LWML receives a donation that goes toward funding our mission grants each time you connect to the Internet? Also, when you order items online with a number of select companies, GoodSearch has a pop-up window that states your purchase will earn a percentage

*(Continued on Page E.)*



LWML District  
President  
Elaine Hankel

## LWML district convention June 1-2



Mark your calendars! It's time to make plans for the South Dakota District LWML convention. It will be held June 1-2 in Watertown at the Event Center/Best Western Ramkota Hotel.

Come with your LWML friends and "Listen, Laugh, Love"—this year's convention theme.

The Bible reference

is Ps. 126:2, "Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, *'The Lord has done great things for them.'*"

There are so many things planned for this convention. We'll start off with servant events; then comes the first session of the convention and a short tour of the Redlin Center. We'll have a boxed lunch and end the day with a Vesper service at the Redlin Center.

LWML President Kay Kreklau will join us, along with Willa Brinkmeyer, speaker and humorous interrupter. Those who know her say she is just wonderful. I can't wait to hear her.

We will also be electing new officers, voting on bylaw changes and selecting mission grants for the next biennium. There will be Bible study, a mission walk, special guests, an LWML store, an ingathering, young women activities and fellowship with our LWML friends.

We'll be listening, laughing and loving throughout the convention.

Check the April issue of the *Hi-Lites* for your registration form and call to convention. Keep the district officers and convention committee in your prayers as we plan for your arrival. And remember to:

- *listen* to His Word.
- *laugh* with each other.
- *love* one another.

See you at the district convention in Watertown!

*Judy Dockter  
Convention Chairman*



The Rev.  
Daniel  
Deardoff  
LWML District  
Counselor

## Counselor's Corner

*"Behold, I am making all things new" (Rev. 21:5).*

Happy New Year! How often have you said this in the last few weeks?

For many people, the new year is an exciting time. It's a time of hope, possibility and often a time of change. New Year's resolutions are made about

many things: dieting, talking with family more often, doing better at school, drinking less—the list goes on. Most resolutions are made with the hope of improving your life, of changing those things that you don't like about yourself and making yourself a better person. There are things in your life that you think need to be changed, and this is the year you're going to do it. This year is going to be different. This year you will not fail!

And then you fail. How many times have you actually kept a New Year's resolution for the entire year? Compare that number to how many you didn't keep. Why is that? The simple answer is that change is hard. The bad habits we have are so entrenched within us that it is very difficult to do things differently. It's always easier to do the wrong thing, and so it takes a lot of strength and determination to change our ways and do what is right. And even if we can stick with it for a while, even if we hold out for the entire year, it's so easy to slip back into our old bad habits again.

That's why I'm glad that Jesus is my Savior and not me. It doesn't matter how sincere my resolution to quit sinning is, I can't do it. And even if I did, I've got many years of sin piled up in my past that I could never pay for and could never make right. So, if I'm looking to myself to clean up my life, I'm doomed. Quite literally!

But Christ, the almighty and perfect Creator of all things, can actually do something about it. And He has. Through His sacrifice on the cross, sin is wiped away completely from the lives of all believers. There's nothing left for us to take care of, no loose ends that we need to resolve to clean up. We are declared holy, innocent, and righteous in the sight of God, forgiven completely. When Christ comes again in judgment, we are found innocent and carried to heaven.

But we don't have to wait until then! Even here, even while we're still surrounded and plagued by sin, Christ

is with us. Paul writes *"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).

In Christ, we now want to live for Him instead of for our old sinful ways. We know that we can't do it perfectly. We know that our resolutions will fail. But by the power of the Holy Spirit, we joyfully strive to live according to His Word, not to earn salvation, but in grateful response to the free gift of salvation that He has already given us.

This is the glorious message of the Gospel, and it is a message that we want to share with everyone so that they, too, can rejoice. Those trapped in the darkness of their sin, those looking to false gods or their own efforts to be freed from guilt, they are suffering under the devil's tyranny. But Christ has come to set us free, to forgive us and to make us a new creation. In His blood, far more than in a new year, we have real hope, real possibility and real change.



## TRAVELS WITH ELAINE

*(Continued from Page D.)*

donation for the organization you have selected for the items you may purchase. *Now* is the time to select GoodSearch for your Internet search source.

You also may want to pick one or two mission grants to focus on during this biennium, pray for them and give a little extra in your mite box in support of these grants. We have a big challenge ahead of us in reaching our mite goal, but as we work together, all things are possible.

*"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you"* (Luke 6:38).

# LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



*Travels  
with Elaine*



LWML District  
President  
Elaine Hankel

*"Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them'" (Ps. 126:2 ESV).*

Have you marked your calendar for June 1-2 to join us at the Watertown Event Center? The district Board of Directors and the Milbank Zone, as your host, are

busy making plans to welcome you to Watertown. The theme we selected is: "Listen, Laugh, Love."

Events will focus on *Listening* to His word; *Laughing* with one another; and to *Love* one another. The Bible studies will teach us how we can listen to the word of God and show us ways we can share the love of God with others. Willa

Brinkmeyer, our humorous interrupter/speaker, will provide us the opportunity to laugh with one another. There will be special mission speakers and LWML President Kay Kreklau will update us on what is happening at the national level.

Special activities also are being planned for the young women and teens, new mission grants will be selected and new officers will be chosen. As you begin to make your plans for the convention, lift up in prayer your sisters in Christ. Ask God to draw us closer to Him during the convention and especially during the planning stages so that each attendee will have a wonderful and rewarding convention experience.

More information will be in future HiLites issues and on the website. The call to convention will be sent to each society president (be sure Lorraine Mosemann, district secretary, has your updated society information) and pastor to share with your members. Room reservations can now be made at the Watertown Best Western Ramkota at 605-886-8011.

May God give us the expectation that times of sudden refreshment will come from Him. Trust in His power to do the unimaginable.

"Life is full of people who will make you laugh, cry, smile until your face hurts, and so happy that you think you'll burst. But the ones who leave their footprints on your soul are the ones that keep your life going" (*Joy in Friendship* by Natalie Bernot).

## Where is your mite box?

Which mite box do you use? Is your mite box used only by you? Mite boxes have changed in color and design over the years, but what has never changed is the dedication of freely given offerings for the purpose of reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Districts retain 75 percent of mite offerings for the work of the LWML in their district. Throughout the decades, Lutheran women have stepped out in faith, setting goals and trusting God to move the hearts of His people to give generously to LWML to proclaim the Gospel.

March 15 is the deadline for contributing to mites for the 2010-12 biennium. Consider doing something extra for mites for all the extra blessings God has given you.







The Rev.  
Daniel  
Deardoff  
LWML District  
Counselor

## Counselor's Corner

### Surprised by love

How many times have you seen a movie where the main characters had almost given up on love and then found it when they least expected it? I know of something like this happening in real life with a pastor. He was working in his garden, sweaty and up to his elbows in dirt, when his beautiful future wife walked around the corner of the parsonage. She was part of a traveling Christian drama troupe, and they were looking for a church where they could stay overnight. More than 26 years and four children later, they are still happily married. That's what I call being "surprised by love."

Love has a way of catching us off guard, and this is especially true when it comes to God's love. There is an old saying that goes, "People need love the most when they deserve it the least." Natural, man-made religions are all about people getting what they deserve, rewards or punishments. False gods can be manipulated. But the true religion of the Bible proclaims a God who does what no one could predict and that no one can fully comprehend. Our God is merciful and compassionate, the God who forgives sin and who does not punish us as we deserve.

An unbeliever would say cynically of this type of love, "Sure, your God loves and forgives you once you've groveled." But our God acts first and we respond, not the other way around. As St. Paul once said, "*But because of his great love for us, God who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you are saved*" (Eph. 2:4-5 NIV).

February is the "love month," the one where we send Valentines and look forward to special events like a meal at a favorite restaurant with our sweetheart. But February also is a good month to meditate on the love of God, who inspires all of our acts of love. It is a good month to remember to do all of our acts of charity and outreach with the right motivation, a Gospel motivation. "*We love, because He first loved us*" (I John 4:19 NIV) is the basis for all of our work in the LWML.

May God bless you this month as you think of all the ways you are daily "surprised by love," His love.



### LWML District Convention June 1-2

Mark your calendars! It's time to make plans for the South Dakota District LWML Convention. It will be held in Watertown at the Event Center/Best Western Ramkota Hotel on June 1-2.

Come with your LWML friends and "Listen, Laugh, Love," this year's convention theme. The Bible reference is Ps. 126:2, *Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."*



Things to enjoy during the convention:

- Servent events
- Tour of Redlin Center
- Vesper service at the Redlin Center
- LWML President Kay Kreklau
- Willa Brinkmeyer, humorous interrupter
- Bible studies
- Mission walk
- LWML store
- Ingathering
- Young women's activities

*Listen* to His Word  
*Laugh* with one another  
*Love* one another

See you at the district convention in Watertown!

# LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



*Travels  
with Elaine*

*"When you fast, do not look somber as hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" (Matt. 6:16-18).*

During the season of Lent, one of the practices many individuals take part in is fasting. According to the *Oxford American Dictionary*, to fast is to go without food or without certain kinds of food, especially as a religious duty. Sometimes it can be an activity that may be given up. In an article printed in a newsletter of First St. John Lutheran Church, York, Pa., a different approach is suggested to welcome Jesus' healing touch:

- 1) Fast from anger and hatred. Give your family an extra dose of love each day.
- 2) Fast from judging others. Before making any judgments, recall how [God forgave] our faults.
- 3) Fast from discouragement. Hold on to Jesus' promise that He has a perfect plan for your life.
- 4) Fast from complaining. When you find yourself about to complain, close your eyes and recall the little moments of joy Jesus has given you.
- 5) Fast from resentment or bitterness. Work on forgiving those who may hurt you.
- 6) Fast from spending too much money. Try to reduce your spending by 10 percent and give those savings to the poor or needy.

Although any type of fasting is not means to salvation, it leads us to study and meditate on His Word and pray for guidance, that the Lord will bless and nourish each of us.

*"Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say, 'Here I am'" (Is. 58:9a).*

Let us never forget the sacrifice given for us during this season of Lent.



LWML District  
President  
Elaine Hankel

## **You are cordially invited**

Are you a young woman between the ages of 22-35 or know someone who is? Are you active in the LWML or not quite sure what it is? If so, this is your opportunity to attend the South Dakota LWML District convention as a Young Woman Representative or, better yet, encourage someone to attend with you!

This year's convention will be held June 1-2 in Watertown with the theme "Listen, Laugh, Love." We will make this theme come alive as we *listen* to wonderful speakers, *laugh* with one another and learn how to better *love* God, ourselves and one another.

We have many activities planned for the Young Woman. We will meet LWML President Kay Kreklau, who will be the LWML representative. There also will be servant events, devotions and, of course, fun!

I look forward to listening to you ... I look forward to having many laughs with you ... I look forward to sharing God's love and the LWML with you!

Melissa Brock  
Young Woman Committee Chairman



## **Where is your mite box?**

Which mite box do you use? Is your mite box used only by you? Mite boxes have changed in color and design over the years, but what has never changed is the dedication of freely given offerings for the purpose of reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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The Rev.  
Daniel  
Redhage  
LWML District  
Counselor

## Counselor's Corner

*"In like a lion, out like a lamb."*

We've all heard that saying about March, haven't we? I still remember an art project I did as a youth with cotton balls for the lamb and Cheerios for the lion's mane; and if you have young people in your life, you probably will be seeing lambs and lions from their art classes as well. If March comes in quietly, it'll go out with a roar.

Oddly enough, lambs and lions are animals that are used quite frequently in the Bible in parables, visions and illustrations. The lamb is the embodiment of peace and serenity. Lambs are quiet and tranquil, non-threatening, meek. Lions, on the other hand, are mighty, fearsome, loud and dangerous. The two are opposites, almost as different as they could possibly be. But in our Lord Jesus Christ, we see both. When we think of His life, we could say "In like a lamb, out like a lamb, back in like a lion."

Christ Jesus came to us at Christmas like a lamb. He was born in humble settings, born as an infant, weak, dependent, defenseless. He did not come surrounded by armies and royalty, but by barnyard animals, shepherds and commoners. His birth was indeed announced by the stars and by angels but in a surprisingly quiet way. There was no worldwide tremor, no roar of power to announce that the Messiah had finally come. To our sinful world, He came in like a lamb.

And He came to *be* a lamb. In fact, not just any lamb, but the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. In His passion, His trial and His crucifixion, He became the sacrificial Lamb to atone for our sins. As Isaiah foresaw, "like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not his mouth." Jesus Christ, the almighty, humbled Himself to be led to His death, to be slaughtered on our behalf so that we could be washed by His blood. At the cross, despite His cries of pain and agony, Jesus went out like a Lamb.

But unlike most sacrificial lambs, Jesus did not stay dead. His power and might is greater than even death itself, and He burst forth from the tomb victorious, giving each of us the victory over sin, death and the devil. His victory is our victory, and we are assured that heaven is ours because He has won it for us.

And when He comes again to take us to be with Him, He will come back like a lion. The whole world will

know, and every knee will bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord, the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He will return with might and majesty, and when His voice roars, the world will tremble and melt. It will be a day of terror for those who do not believe. But for those of us who know the Lion, who know that He comes to give us the victory, it will be a day of unending joy.

This is the message of Christ that we in the LWML and all Christians are given the privilege of sharing with the world. We are given the glorious opportunity to proclaim the Word of the Lamb of God, the one who takes away the sins of the world, and the Lion of the Lord, the almighty judge and Lord of all. We can bring His life-giving message into the lives of people around us and throughout the world so that they too can rejoice in Christ Jesus, both here on earth and forever in heaven. Praise be to the Lion and the Lamb, the Alpha and the Omega, our eternal Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*The Rev. Daniel Redhage  
LWML District Counselor*

## Lutheran Women in Mission

We are so blessed to once again have an opportunity to share our abundance of love for others when we attend the LWML district convention in Watertown June 1-2. We have some exciting servant events planned. One servant event is making sleeping mats for the homeless, while another is making handmade cards. We will send a bundle of the cards to service men and women, enabling them to then have a card to send back home to their loved ones.

Also, we will assemble "Mercy Kits" from the items we all bring to convention as our "Gift of Love." Items to bring with you to use at the servant event are:

- ✓ plastic grocery bags
- ✓ scissors
- ✓ double-sided tape

### **Gift of Love items should be:**

- ♥ One bath towel
- ♥ One wash cloth (dark colors recommended)
- ♥ One bath-size bar of soap in original wrapping
- ♥ One adult-size toothbrush in original packaging
- ♥ One tube of toothpaste
- ♥ One sturdy comb
- ♥ Six Band-aids® or similar brand

These items make one Mercy Kit.

*Nancy Duhachek  
Vice-President of Human Care*



# LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



*Travels  
with Elaine*

**LISTEN:** *"He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him'" (Matt. 17:5).*

During the district convention in June, we have the opportunity to listen to the word during our two Bible Studies. We will listen to LWML President Kay Kreklau update us on the business of the LWML. We also will have opportunities to sing our convention hymn "Listen, Listen, God is Calling."

**LAUGH(TER):** *"And Sarah said, God has made laughter for me, everyone who hears will laugh over me" (Gen. 21:6a).*

Willa Brinkmeyer and your fellow sisters in Christ will provide numerous opportunities for us to laugh with each other during the convention.

**LOVE:** *"Because you're steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you" (Ps. 63:3).*

God's love for us on earth is very precious for us but the true gift is the direction it leads us to eternal life. Our mission speaker and grant recipients will share how our gifts of love help others who are in need and eager to hear His word.

So make your plans to join us in Watertown.



LWML District  
President  
Elaine Hankel

of the Sabbath. Mark 16:1 says that on Sunday morning these women "brought spices that they might anoint him." They hoped to unwrap the linen off the body of Jesus and to do a more thorough job of preventing odors when other mourners came to visit the gravesite.

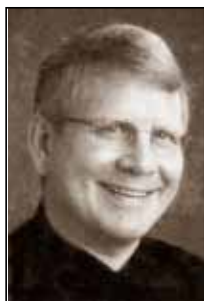
Or did they go to say their last goodbyes? We are told in Matt. 28:1 that the women went "to see the tomb." If so, this would be like a modern day visitation at the funeral home or cemetery that helps people confront the reality of death by viewing the body or burial place.

Whatever the reason they came, they never completed the job. The Bible doesn't say, but I can imagine spices were dropped or spilled as the women ran to tell the disciples the shocking news. There was no corpse to anoint, no dead body to bid goodbye, but instead a very live Jesus who startled Mary Magdalene. I doubt if anyone was ever happier to not complete a task than the women who visited the graveyard that first Easter.

Easter could be called "the job never completed." The world constantly is trying to hold funerals for Jesus by proclaiming Him either dead or irrelevant. Jesus never cooperates with these funerals and stubbornly refuses to attend them, to the great consternation of unbelievers. Our joyous task is to proclaim not only that Jesus died for our sins, but that he rose again for our justification. If we only speak of Jesus dying for our sins, isn't that only telling half the story? Our never completed job is proclaiming a living Lord Jesus. A favorite Easter hymn says, "He lives and pleads for me above"! If you ever feel like complaining, "The work of the LWML is never finished!" be glad, because it won't be done until we see our living Lord face to face.

Happy Easter!

*Pastor Daniel Deardoff Sr.*



The Rev. Daniel  
Deardoff Sr.  
LWML District  
Counselor

## Counselor's Corner

### ***The job never completed***

What were Mary Magdalene, Salome and the other Mary, the mother of James, doing when they went to the tomb on Easter morning? Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus had already done a "rush job" of preparing Jesus for His burial. We are told in John 19:39 that "Nicodemus came ... bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about

seventy five pounds in weight." Undoubtedly, their preparation of the body of Jesus was cut short when the sun set on Friday evening, marking the beginning



### ***Attention young women and teens***

Are you between the ages of 13 to 35? Have you made your plans to attend the district convention in Watertown? We want to encourage you to come and be a part of all the activities. To assist you financially, we will cover the cost of your registration and meal package fees. We still want you to complete and send in the registration form to assist in our planning process.

We pray that you will join us June 1-2 in Watertown. This does also include the societies Young Woman Representative.



## 57th CONVENTION LWML SOUTH DAKOTA

June 1-2, 2012

Watertown Best Western Ramkota  
Hotel and Event Center  
1901 9th Ave. S.W.  
Watertown, SD  
605-886-8011

### REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline for registration and meals

May 4, 2012

*Copy this form before completing*

(Please Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church & City \_\_\_\_\_

Zone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact & Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply:

- ☐ First time attending district convention
- ☐ Young Woman Representative
- ☐ Teen in Friends Into Serving Him®

Servant Events – Friday morning  
(number by your preferences)

\_\_\_\_\_ Sleeping Mats from Plastic Bags

\_\_\_\_\_ Creating cards for Soldiers

\_\_\_\_\_ Packaging Mercy Kits

Registration Status – check one

- ☐ Voting member Board of Directors
- ☐ Delegate
- ☐ Non-voting member Board of Directors
- ☐ LWML member
- ☐ LWML SD District Past President
- ☐ Pastor
- ☐ Guest

\_\_\_\_\_ Mission Pledge Walk, Friday evening

*You will find a pledge form in  
the Call to Convention.*

### Housing Information

You are responsible for making your own hotel arrangements. Rooms have been blocked at Best Western Ramkota Hotel, Watertown—please ask for LWML rates. Deadline is May 4. See the Call to Convention for details.

### Registration Fee

Quantity	Fee	Total
Registration _____	\$35.00	\$ _____
Pastor Registration		
Gratis _____	\$ 0.00	\$ _____
Young Woman/Teen		
Gratis _____	\$ 0.00	\$ _____
Meals		
Meal Pkg. _____	\$36.00	\$ _____
Pastor's Meal Pkg. _____	\$26.00	\$ _____
Young Woman/Teen		
Gratis _____	\$ 0.00	\$ _____
Friday noon		
Soup/Sandwich _____	\$10.00	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED		\$ _____

### Meal Package

The meal package includes:

- Friday evening box lunch,
- Saturday buffet breakfast
- Saturday plated lunch

The deadline for the meal package is May 4. No meals available with onsite registration.

Make checks payable to LWML SD  
Convention and mail check and registration form to:

Becky Bicknase  
Registration Chairman  
706 S. 1st St.  
Milbank, SD 57252





# LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



*Travels  
with Elaine*

Heavenly Father, I thank you that I am Your child. What an honor You've given me! What high expectations You have for me!

That's how I began my term four years ago; I knew there would be many challenges ahead, that there would be quiet days and very busy times. During this time, I have made friendships with fellow sisters in Christ who have become very special to me over the past four years. Prov. 18:24 *"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."* Friends sometimes do stick closer than family, and this is so true of our LWML family. I will always be thankful for your words of encouragement and friendship. Good friends are like stars ... you don't always see them, but you know they are always there.

As my district LWML travels are coming to an end, the journey has been a very exciting and rewarding experience. I continue to be amazed at what can be accomplished by LWML through its dedication to mission work. Even though it all began with one mite it has grown to millions every two years and what a blessing that has been. Over the past four years, we have had no difficulties in reaching our district mite/mission grant goal.

As Lutheran Women in Mission, you are truly dedicated to spreading God's Word in the many activities you have done at the society, zone and district levels. It has been a joy and honor to be there with you as your president. As we prepare for the future, we must keep reminding ourselves that God is in control today, tomorrow and always. We remember the wonder and glory of our future home in heaven.

Each of you is very special indeed! I have enjoyed your friendships, your talents and loving fellowship during these four years. I especially want to thank the board of directors and the pastoral counselors. They truly have been a blessing as we worked together to carry out the business of the LWML. My term as president is completed; but the work of the LWML is ongoing.

*"I can do everything through him who gives me strength"* (Phil. 4:13).



LWML District  
President  
Elaine Hankel

## **Four years of blessings**

Four years can seem like a long time when first elected but, in reality, it goes by much faster than you may expect. Serving as your vice-president of Christian Life has been a joy for me. Making arrangements for speakers and host societies for the annual workshops meant that I had contact with many of you these past four years. I was always impressed with the dedication and willingness of the many hostesses who provided special occasions for the women of our district LWML. You have made my service a real joy.

Not wanting to miss anyone, I thank all the women who served at the workshops. Each host pastor also provided a welcome devotion that provided us with worship time to open each workshop. Your messages set the mood for the day. Thank you for spending that time with us.

Our district is blessed with many pastors who are able to share their unique gifts of teaching with us. A special thanks for the pastors who presented interesting and informative topics for our edification:

**Rev. Christopher Boehnke:** "The Bible's Big Story: Our Story"

**Rev. Hyle Anderson:** "Suffering in the Christian Life"

**Rev. Lloyd Redhage:** "Great Beginnings"

**Rev. Darren Olson:** "Come Follow Me"

From the evaluations after each workshop, it was evident that each topic was a blessing to those who attended. To God be the glory!

I encourage each woman of the LWML SD to support the next vice-president of Christian Life and each officer of our district with your prayers. God has truly blessed our district with His guidance, help and care.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you. I was blessed!

*Janell McKinstry, vice-president of Christian Life*

*"Therefore, my beloved [sisters], be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain"* (1 Cor. 15:58).





The Rev. Daniel  
Redhage  
LWML District  
Counselor

## Counselor's Corner

Finally! After two years of putting in my dues, writing every other article for the *Lutheran Witness* insert, attending LWML board meetings around the state, leading prayers and devotions at workshops and meetings—doing all the things the junior counselor does—finally, I am moving on. At the LWML convention in Watertown this June, I will be made senior

counselor of the LWML South Dakota District. The two years of serving as junior counselor are over, and I can look forward to two wonderful years of serving as senior counselor.

As the senior counselor, I will be writing every other article for the *Lutheran Witness* insert, attending LWML board meetings around the state, leading prayers and devotions at workshops and meetings—in fact, still doing all the things the junior counselor does. As it turns out, going from junior to senior doesn't really mean a whole lot, and I'm thankful for that.

Many people would say that that's not right. What's the point of being "senior" anything if you don't have any more power, if you can't exercise control over "junior," if you can't tell the LWML what to do? But being an LWML counselor is not about power, it's about serving. Over the last two years, I have made no executive decisions, no mandates, no ultimatums, nor do I foresee doing so in the next two years. It is a joy simply to serve the LWML as counselor, to lead in worship and prayer, to offer advice when asked and to see the wonderful work of the Lord done by the LWML around the world and right in our own meetings. Being a counselor is not about power, it's about service.

And in the same way, the entire LWML is not about power but service. The LWML is a large, well-funded, well-structured organization. Many people would look at such an organization and say, "With that many members and dollars, the LWML could really tell the church what to do and could really run the Missouri Synod." But that is not something the LWML would even consider, because the LWML is about service, not power.

To the world, that's an alien and demeaning thought. Why serve when you could have such power? But for a Christian, serving is the greatest honor, the greatest privilege. Christ Himself, creator of the universe, King of kings and Lord of lords, taught us this. "For even the

Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). Jesus did not come to reap our praise and honor, but came to give of Himself completely, to sacrifice Himself for us rotten sinners who had nothing to give in return. That's real service, and that's what we as Christians strive to do.

And what better way to serve than to proclaim that message of Christ's service? There is no greater gift that we can give than to share the Gospel message of Christ with those who are in darkness and death. Yes, it takes money, yes it's hard work, and yes, there are times when it doesn't seem like it's working at all. But still, we serve, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we persevere and continue to serve even when it seems like we should just give up, because we are called to serve, not to be served.

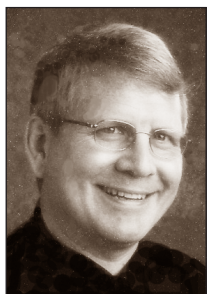
And so, as I finish my two years of service as junior counselor, I look forward to my two years as senior counselor not because the job is going to be any different or more powerful, but because it is a continuing opportunity to serve. And I look forward to seeing all the wonderful ways in which the LWML will continue to serve the church and the world in this next biennium.

*Rev. Daniel Redhage*



**LWML South Dakota District Convention**  
**June 1-2**  
**Best Western Ramkota Hotel**  
**and Event Center**  
**Watertown, S.D.**

# LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



The Rev. Daniel Deardoff Sr.,  
LWML District  
Counselor

## Counselor's Corner

### Thanks for the memories

How do you remember something important? Do you do it the old-fashioned way and write it on the calendar in red ink? If you like more modern methods, you can set your computer or cell phone to do a pop-up reminder. I've seen plenty of people use pens to write reminders on their hands, but that's messy.

Perhaps the best way to remember something important is to have someone agree to remind you in person. I'm positive many LWML members serve as the official family "reminder."

Why do we need reminders? Because we're all so forgetful, and no, it isn't just because of age! By nature, we tend to think that God is like us, and that He has forgotten His promises to take care of all of our needs. We sound like the psalm writer who asked, "Will the Lord reject us forever? Will He never show His favor again? Has His unfailing love vanished forever? Has His promise failed for all time? Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has He, in anger, withheld His compassion?" (Ps. 77: 6-8 NIV).

Thankfully, God's memory is nothing like ours. The Bible reassures us that "not one word has failed of all the good promises He gave through His prophet Moses," (1 Kings 8:56b NIV). At our best, we probably keep about half the promises we make because we forget we made them. We can rest assured that "no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ" (2 Cor. 1:20a NIV).

If you're ever tempted to think God has forgotten to keep His promises to you, remember He kept His promises through the manger, the cross and the empty tomb. You were written in red on His calendar in eternity. If the best reminder of all is a personal one, imagine Jesus showing you His glorified scars. "And this is what He promised us—even eternal life" (1 John 2:25 NIV).

Have you ever thought of yourself as God's reminder to others? That's what your job is as a Christian and as a member of the LWML. You are God's personal "pop up" reminder to the people around you that God is taking care of all of their physical and spiritual needs.

On a personal note, I would also like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as LWML advisor over the last

four years. Thanks for the laughter, the Bible studies, the worship services and for reminding me of God's love. As Bob Hope used to say, "Thanks for the memories!"

*Pastor Daniel Deardoff Sr.*

### Go ye, go ye into the world

As your vice-president of Gospel Outreach, it has been my privilege to oversee the mission grants for the LWML South Dakota District these past four years. God assures us that His Word will bear fruit; our mighty "mites" have funded over \$80,000 in grants during the past two bienniums. With His help, the mites were offered and all of our grants were funded. To God be the glory. Please continue to have mite box devotions at your meetings and pray for the mission grants of the LWML and the South Dakota District. Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to serve Him and all of you.

*Arlene Naasz*

*Vice-President of Gospel Outreach, 2008-2012*

### What a blessing!

Four years certainly go by quickly! It has been a joy and a blessing to be a part of the LWML South Dakota District as your treasurer. Our LWML ladies of all ages are truly mission-minded people. As your treasurer, I felt very grateful to the Lord each time that I paid one of our mission grants. This past biennium, the LWML South Dakota District paid a total of nine mission grants, so ladies please continue to fill those "little but mighty" mite boxes. We all know the true joy that comes from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in supporting our many mission projects.

As my term comes to an end, I want to thank all the LWML board of directors of the South Dakota District and also all of the LWML members for your help and encouragement the past four years. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you. Blessings to all!

*Judy Boetel*

*LWML South Dakota District Treasurer*





## Mitchell Zone Workshop

The LWML Mitchell Zone Spring Christian Life Workshop was held on Saturday, April 14. The Faith Lutheran Church LWML of Parkston hosted the event. The topic was "worship and the Divine Service." The presenter was the Rev. Brian Bucklew, pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Delmont, and Emmaus Lutheran Church, Tripp.

The opening devotion was led by the Rev. Ken Soyk, pastor at Faith. The closing devotion was led by the Rev. Nabil Nour, the LWML Mitchell Zone counselor from Armour.



The Rev. Nabil Nour, the Rev Ken Soyk and the Rev. Brian Bucklew



Nancy Bogenhagen, LWML South Dakota District webmaster, explains changes to LWML on the national and district levels.



## Ministry at the South Dakota State Fair

The women of the South Dakota LWML assist the Utecht family each year at the South Dakota State Fair, helping to spread the Gospel message to fair-goers.

The district's Lutheran Laymen's League helps keep the building in good shape, providing man power for upkeep to the structure.

In 2007, the Puppet Place received a new sign.

The Rev. Robert Utecht began this ministry over 30 years ago, using wooden marionettes, cloth puppets, music, magic, juggling, balloon sculpting and ventriloquism. What a fun way to share the Good News that God loves us, even in our sin, and sent Jesus to die for that sin so that we may one day have the promised gift of eternal life!

Over the last few years, Pastor Bob's sons, the Rev. Andrew Utecht and the Rev. Peter Utecht, have continued this wonderful ministry.



# LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



Arlene Naasz,  
LWML South  
Dakota  
District President

## Anecdotes from Arlene

In Ecclesiastes 3:1, the Bible tells us: *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven."* A time to serve: Now is my time to serve you as your LWML South Dakota District president, a responsibility that, with God's help and guidance, I will do to His glory. Please keep all of LWML South Dakota District in your prayers.

As your new LWML district president, I would like to tell you a little about myself and hope to have the opportunity to listen to your story in the future. I was born in rural South Dakota—in Wolsey, S.D., to be exact. My parents brought up my two brothers and me in the LCMS. Elementary school was completed at St. John's Lutheran Parochial School in Wolsey, then I went on to Wolsey High School and SDSU, where I obtained a degree in education.



Both my grandmother and my mother were active in the LWML. Some of you may remember my mother, Edna Haeder. As a girl I remember going to LWML meetings with my mom and playing with girlfriends. Mom encouraged me to go to Gamma Delta, the college LCMS youth group, to meet a good Lutheran boy. Mom certainly knew best, and after meeting on a hay ride sponsored by Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings, Terry and I were married a couple of years later. Terry is now serving as the pastor at the same church where we met. God has blessed us with two sons, two wonderful daughters-in-law and three adorable granddaughters. The first LWML society to which I belonged was at Peace Lutheran Church in Rapid City, S.D. When Mom learned we were moving to Rapid City after time in the Army, she contacted her LWML sisters there and I was invited to an LWML meeting. The LWML at Peace allowed me to be their delegate (I was 7 months' pregnant) to the district convention in Aberdeen. This was before Young Woman Representatives. Then Terry, Matt and I went to Fort Wayne, Ind., while Terry attended the seminary. With Micah now a part of our family, we journeyed to Terry's first call in Avon and Tyndall, S.D. I joined the LWML there and have been a member of the LWML in South Dakota ever

since, in three different congregations depending on where my husband was serving.

God calls all of us to serve Him; we in the LWML say: *Serve the Lord with gladness.* How does God want you to serve Him? Give serving some serious thought and prayer. You may be surprised to see what opportunities God will place in your path.

Be looking for information on the upcoming Christian Life Workshops that will be held across the state. The topic will be "The Blessings of Holy Communion" with the Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher as presenter. These workshops are a great opportunity to learn more about God's great love for us. It is also a good way to introduce the LWML to someone who has not been to an LWML event.

*President Arlene Naasz*

## \$50,000 in Mission Grants approved

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Lord has truly blessed the LWML of the South Dakota District with an overabundance of mite offerings throughout the 2010-12 biennium. With this outpouring of giving and love, the mite goal for the 2012-14 biennium was increased to \$50,000. At the district convention, your delegates voted to accept the increase in mites. Also at the district convention, the following 11 mission grants were selected for the biennium:

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Food Bank	\$5,000
Black Hills Lutheran Middle School, Rapid City	\$8,600
Lutheran Bible Translators –	
Helping Women in Liberia, West Africa	\$2,000
Lutheran Heritage Foundation –	
Children's Bibles Southeast Asia	\$5,000
Trinity/HOPE Lutheran School in Haiti	\$5,000
Divine Shepherd Preschool, Black Hawk	\$5,000
Light House Preschool, Aberdeen	\$1,500
Blessed Redeemer Preschool, Brandon	\$5,000
LCMS—Handicapped Institutional	
Reform in Kazakhstan	\$5,000
POBLO—People of the Book Ministries	
Bible & Scripture Resource Distribution in the US	\$4,000
LCMS—Training Future Pastors in Uganda	\$3,900

May the Lord continue to bless the South Dakota District LWML as we help to spread His Word through our mite giving.

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





The Rev. Daniel Redhage, LWML District Counselor

### Counselor's corner

*"Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him" (1 Kings 19:18).*

You are not alone. That's such a comforting thought, isn't it? That's the comfort that God gave to Elijah as he was hiding in a cave lamenting the fact that he was the only one standing up for what was right.

Elijah was so overwhelmed, feeling so helpless and useless, that he prayed that God would just kill him and get it over with. Instead, God refreshed him with water and bread, spoke words of comfort and solace, and reinvigorated Elijah to get back out there and fight the good fight.

Sometimes we feel just like Elijah did. Sometimes we feel overwhelmed when we read the paper and see all the opposition and mockery heaped upon our Christian values and beliefs. Sometimes we feel like we're the only ones left who believe in God and think that living out our Christian faith is actually important. Sometimes we're ready to throw in the towel, tell God to just take us away from this valley of tears and get it over with. But when we feel this way, God comes to us with those precious words of comfort: "You are not alone."

As I'm writing this article, we just finished the district LWML convention, where more than 270 people from across the state came together in the name of Christ to hear His Word and decide how best to proclaim it through our mission grants. It was a sight to see all these mighty women (and men) of faith singing God's praise and speaking His Word. It was invigorating and a solid reminder that we are not alone. We are united in faith and purpose with every one of those people at that convention.

And then we realize that the convention was but a small portion of the total number of LWML members around South Dakota. Each representative came from their individual society, which consists of more than one person. If we take a ridiculously low number and say that each person there represented five others, we still have a force over a thousand strong! And then we consider that our district is but a small part of the national LWML body, which has over 250,000 members. But the LWML is only a part of our Synod, which is

only a part of the church worldwide. You are not alone, but you are surrounded by brothers and sisters in Christ boldly proclaiming His Gospel of forgiveness to a world trapped in darkness.

And as impressive as that might be, it's not even the best part. No matter how many fellow believers stand with us, no matter how large or small that number might be, Christ Himself is with us always. He refreshes us with the eternal waters of Baptism, with the bread that is His very body, with the power of His holy Word. He has suffered and died for us, has risen from the grave for us, and will never leave us or forsake us. In all of our mission efforts, in all of our trials and tribulations, in all of our day-to-day dealings, we are not alone because God Himself has provided His Church and His very presence. No matter how discouraged we may become or how hopeless things may seem, we are not alone. God is with us, and He has given us the eternal victory through Jesus Christ!

*The Rev. Daniel Redhage*

### Puppet Place State Fair

The Big Show is coming to the South Dakota State Fair Aug. 30–Sept. 3. The Utecht family and friends will again present the puppet show for LWML and LLL at the Puppet Place during the fair. The Puppet Place ministry at the state fair is one of the mission outreach projects of the LWML South Dakota District. You have a special opportunity to invite people to hear the Gospel through the puppet show. Five or six volunteers are needed each day of the fair. Everyone is encouraged to volunteer—women, men, youth.

The 2012 schedule for LWML zones to furnish workers is:

Thursday, Aug. 30	Mitchell Zone
Friday, Aug. 31	Pierre Zone
Saturday, Sept. 1	Sioux Falls Zone
Sunday, Sept. 2	Yankton Zone
Monday, Sept. 3	Aberdeen Zone

You are encouraged to come to the puppet show while at the fair. Bring your family. The show is for everyone. Being a volunteer at the puppet place is fun. If you are able to volunteer, please notify Susan Kinsley at 605-352-4639 or [dkinsley@hur.midco.net](mailto:dkinsley@hur.midco.net). Please remember the fair ministry, the Utecht family and friends, and the volunteers in your prayers as they prepare for and present the Puppet Show.



# LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



Arlene Naasz,  
LWML South  
Dakota  
District President

## Anecdotes from Arlene

*"I love the house where you live, O LORD, the place where your glory dwells" (Ps. 26:8 NIV).*

Do you remember the first time you celebrated the Lord's Supper? For many of us it was the Sunday we were confirmed. If you are one of our Teen LWML members, your first communion may have been recently. If you are one of our current or former Young Woman Representatives, your first time at the Lord's Supper may have been within the last few years. But for many of us in the LWML South Dakota District, your first communion was several years ago. What excitement did you feel as you approached the communion rail for the first time? Did you wear a robe? If you were like me, you wore a white dress and your first pair of high heels. This month our Christian Life Workshops will consider "The Blessings of Holy Communion" with the Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher as the presenter. Please plan to attend the workshop that best fits into your schedule. Consider inviting a friend and enjoy the time studying God's Word.

The heat of summer is hopefully behind us and fall activities are gearing up. As you attend your LWML Fall Rally, keep in mind the Pittsburgh LWML Convention June 27-30, 2013. The theme for the convention is "Quenched by the Water." Registration for this convention will begin earlier than in the past, and your zone will want to select your delegate this fall. Hopefully, you are planning on attending the convention. If you want to ride the South Dakota District bus, make sure your name is on the list. Check out the LWML website at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) or the South Dakota website at [www.sdlwml.org](http://www.sdlwml.org) for more information.

LWML Sunday 2012 material was sent out earlier this summer. How does your society observe LWML Sunday? Perhaps this year you might consider doing something you haven't done in the past. The packet lists several ideas you may not have tried previously. Ask God's guidance and the counsel of your pastor and see how you can share our LWML mission with your congregation and community.



Share God's Word

President Arlene Naasz

## Fall Christian Life Workshop schedule

What! Fall already? School's starting, harvest is upon us, hunting season just around the corner, summer's almost a memory *and* it's time to plan to attend one of our district LWML Christian Life Workshops!

What a great time for us to study with our sisters around the district the wonders of God's Word in our lives. Pastor Randy Sturzenbecher will present the topic: "The Benefits of Christ's Very Body and Blood for Us!"

The format will be the same at each site across the district, with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m. and opening devotions at 10 a.m. We will have a noon lunch and finish by about 3 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 7—Faith, Pierre

Saturday, Sept. 8—Zion, Rapid City

Friday, Sept. 21—Our Savior's, Aberdeen

Saturday, Sept. 22—Faith, Sioux Falls



Choose a workshop that fits your schedule, bring your Bible and a friend, and join us! I'm new as vice-president of Christian Life, and I look forward to meeting many of you this fall. Please check our website at [www.sdlwml.org](http://www.sdlwml.org) for complete information regarding the workshops.

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



The new LWML South Dakota District president, Arlene Naasz, speaks with the 2012 convention humorous interruptor, Willa Brinkmeyer.



The Rev.  
Greg Lehr,  
LWML District  
Counselor

## Counselor's corner

What an honor and privilege to be elected to serve the South Dakota District LWML as a pastoral counselor for the next four years. I attended my first LWML convention in Watertown, S.D., on June 1-2. The theme was "Listen, Laugh and Love."

What I experienced, as I hope all who attended did as well, was a powerful reminder of our part in the greater fellowship of LWML as we work together to accomplish things we could never do apart. There are times when together we discover that we make up a single body, that we belong to each other and that God has called us to be together as a source of life for each other. I look forward as we join our hearts and minds to serve our Lord as we "Listen, Laugh and Love" together, always realizing we are privileged to receive and to pass on the light of our risen and ever present Savior Jesus Christ.

*Peace and Joy in Jesus!*  
*Pastor Greg Lehr*

## Scenes from the 2012 LWML South Dakota District Convention



Counting ballots at the convention



So many opportunities!



Media table at the convention



Past President Elaine Hankel pinning Arlene Naasz



# LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



Arlene Naasz,  
LWML South  
Dakota  
District President

## Anecdotes from Arlene

*"Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous!" (Ps. 33:1a).*

Fall activities are in full swing; you can hear the fans shouting at football games, cheering as the band marches by, rooting for the last baseball games of the season or yelling at whatever their favorite sport might be. But shouting for the Lord is not something we LCMS

Lutherans typically do. Yet of all the things we have to shout about, the fact that the Lord has secured our righteousness is certainly at the top of the list. Perhaps you aren't comfortable shouting. Think about other ways you can show your faith enthusiastically with those in your life. The LWML website has some great resources to help you and your society show joy. Check out [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) under the "Resources" tab for many free downloadable articles to assist you in your joyful service to Him.

Remember, there are also ways to quietly serve. One of the best is to spend time in prayer with your Lord and Savior. Please add to your prayer list the LWML South Dakota District, the LWML throughout the United States and our work all over the world. Follow which mission grants are paid on the LWML website.

As you attend your fall zone rallies, make sure your zone plans to send a delegate to the 35th Biennial Convention in Pittsburgh, Pa., June 27-30, 2013. The theme is "Quenched by the Water." Even if you aren't the delegate, plan to attend the convention; you will definitely find something to shout about while there.

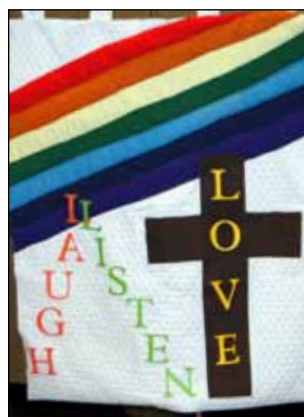
Hopefully, your society has made plans for LWML Sunday and will be sharing the joy the Lord has shown the LWML with others in your congregation. If you still need ideas, check out the website. In all you do, continue to serve the Lord with gladness.

*President Arlene Naasz*



Share God's Word

## Banners from the LWML South Dakota District Convention







The Rev. Daniel Redhage,  
LWML District Counselor

## Counselor's corner

*"My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips" (Ps. 63:5).*

Do you know any children who are excited about an upcoming holiday in October? Is it National Stamp Collecting Month that they can't wait to celebrate? Is it Columbus Day, Canadian Thanksgiving or the anniversary of the launch of Sputnik?

Probably not. Chances are, they're excited about Halloween, a chance to dress up in costumes, go door to door in the neighborhood and, of course, collect loads of candy. It's exciting to think about all the sugary sweets that they'll have, the chocolate, candy bars and Pixy Stix that will last them for weeks (or one glorious night, if mom and dad aren't watching!).

And why shouldn't they be excited? Candy is good! It's fun to indulge yourself every now and then on some sweets, to treat yourself to a glut of sugary goodness. But could you imagine eating nothing but candy for every meal, every snack, every bite of your food? How good would you feel after even a week? How healthy would you be in a month? It wouldn't be long before you'd be craving meat, potatoes and even vegetables.

This brings us to an even better holiday in October: Reformation Day. It just happens to fall on the same day as Halloween, but it's not at all about candy. Just the opposite. When Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses, he was not sugar-coating anything. He saw the errors that the church was proclaiming—the "candy" that was making God's people spiritually sick despite its outward appeal—and he wanted to do something about it. So he spoke up, challenged the false teachings that were widely accepted, and brought some meat and potatoes into the church's diet. He was not seeking to break away from the church, but to bring good doctrinal nutrition to all so that they could grow properly in their faith, knowing the life-giving, satisfying truth of Jesus Christ.

And still today, we walk in the steps of Martin Luther, seeking to bring the fullness of Christ to everyone in our communities and across the world. Our mission work is not just candy that pleases people for a little while but really offers no nutritional value. We proclaim Christ crucified for the forgiveness of sins, the message

that brings real life to all. We do not fill the ears of people with the sweet, fluffy nothingness of this world, leaving them continually hungry and never satisfied. Instead, we give the fullness of God's Law and His Gospel, nourishing them and helping them to grow. And as with any bountiful feast, they will hunger for more. Not because God's Word does not fill and satisfy, but because of the great goodness and mercy it brings into our lives every time we hear it.

God's Word is not like the candy fluffiness of this world's empty lies. His Word fills us, satisfies us and nourishes us for the many challenges ahead. His Word instills and strengthens our faith, changes our lives and helps us to grow each day. It is the most important thing in our lives, and the most important thing that we can share with others in our families, our communities and throughout the world.

*The Rev. Daniel Redhage,  
LWML South Dakota District Counselor*

## More convention banners



# LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



Arlene Naasz,  
LWML South  
Dakota  
District President

## Anecdotes from Arlene

*O, give thanks unto the LORD for He is good,*

*For His mercy endures forever. Amen.*

How many times have you said the "Thank You" prayer written above at the end of a meal? Do you say both your blessing and thank-you prayer at the start of the meal? Did you ever learn the above prayer or something similar in German or another language? My grandparents taught me to pray along with them in German. But if you don't use it, you lose it and I don't remember the German words anymore. Perhaps you say another prayer or even alter your meal-time prayers. For special occasions do you have a special prayer or sing your blessing? What is important isn't when or what prayer is used but to thank God for all our blessings.

Later this month we will celebrate Thanksgiving. Perhaps as part of your family celebration you might share the ways you said your table prayers with those feasting with you. You may even have a humorous incident involving past meal-time prayers you can divulge. Or if by yourself, reflect on your prayer life.

We in the LWML have many things for which we offer prayers of thanksgiving and praise to God. First and foremost is the gift of grace won for us by our loving Savior. As you thank God for all His blessings, literally from A to Z, remember to pray for the LWML and our mission grants. The Fall Mite Marathon is available at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

Continue to make plans to attend the 2013 LWML convention in Pittsburgh. The winter LWML *Quarterly* will have registration information. Registering by or before March 14, 2013 will save on your registration costs. Did you know select articles from the LWML *Quarterly* are now available on line? Make sure you check [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) for all the latest LWML news.

Keep the LWML in your prayers.

*President Arlene Naasz*

## WANTED: Banner designs

With the approach of the LWML convention in June 2013, LWML South Dakota is asking the talented ladies of the district to design a banner that President Arlene Naasz will carry. Specifications for the banner are as follows:

1. Finished banner size is 3 x 5 feet. Add fringe, if desired, to make the banner longer.
2. The convention logo may *not* be used on the banner, but do base your design on the theme "Quenched by the Water." You may use the convention colors of blue and red if you desire. Heavy fabric or bulky items are discouraged as the banner should be relatively easy to manage.
3. The district's name *must* be on the front of the banner though it can be abbreviated. Any size letters may be used.

If possible, a color drawing would be best. The LWML South Dakota Board of Directors will make the final selection at the January 2013 meeting. Please indicate if you the designer will construct the banner, have someone else make it or want the BOD to select someone to make it.

Please send your design or designs by Dec. 15, to either your zone president or to:

Arlene Naasz  
621 9th Ave.  
Brookings, SD 57006

*Melanie Kludt*

Vice-President of Servant Resources

## Attention young women

Be "Quenched! by the Water" and get a true LWML experience at the 35th Biennial Convention of the LWML held in Pittsburgh June 27-30, 2013. If you are between the ages of 22-35, you could go as one of two Young Woman Representatives (YWRs) from South Dakota. It's a great way to learn what Lutheran Women in Mission can do, plus you will learn what LWML is and experience God's love with thousands of other Lutheran women. The mission work LWML does around the world is amazing. It will be an experience you will never forget. You'll find the YWR application at [www.sdlwml.org](http://www.sdlwml.org). Applications are due by Dec. 15 so print yours today.

*Angela Robinson*

Committee on Young Women Chairman





The Rev. Greg  
Lehr,  
LWML District  
Counselor

## **Counselor's corner**

### ***A time of giving and receiving***

What is your most prized possession? When asked this question, I first think of material things such as my house or car. Pondering a little longer, I realize that my wife and daughter are of much greater importance. Thinking even deeper, I realize that my most prized possession

is my faith and the object of my faith who is Jesus Christ. It's the only thing I cannot do without.

In Hebrews 11, we read about famous biblical heroes who walked by faith. I often wonder what Mrs. Noah said and thought when Noah began the tremendous undertaking of building the ark on dry land. I marvel at the faith Abraham had to take his only son up to the mountain to be sacrificed. By faith, the Israelites walked through the Red Sea.

I encourage each of you to think about your faith in this season of thanksgiving. I ask you to choose to be thankful for your faith in the risen and ever-present Savior Jesus Christ. I urge you to go one step even further and envision where your faith will be one year from now ... Where is God leading you to live by faith in the next year? Let me remind you of Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Jesus' love is not only the pattern and example, but it also provides the power and motivation to do what God asks and the strength to put that resolve into practice.

As sisters and brothers in Christ, we can see the faith of our fathers and mothers instilled in our lives and the faith we instill in those we love now, today. Don't be afraid to reach out in faith, giving to others who need love and the assurance of salvation. Invite someone to come, see and experience Jesus at your church so they, too, can receive the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. You see ... Thanksgiving is a time of giving and receiving all to the glory of God!

*Peace and joy in Jesus!*  
*Pastor Greg Lehr*

## **2012 Puppet Place state fair report**

The year was 1972. Pastor Bob Utecht and family presented a Christian magic and puppet show in a tent at the South Dakota State Fair. Forty years later, the Utecht family continues to present a puppet show at the state fair. The puppet show is given five times daily for the five days of the fair. This year the show was "Bible Olympics." Adam and Eve were the first competitors in America's game of baseball. They were in the Big-inning. Some of the other competitors were Noah in the rowing competition, Sampson in weight lifting, Moses in basketball and Paul running the race. All the competitors were disqualified at the medal stand for the bad things they had done. One man — Jesus — came to their rescue and took their bad things upon Himself. By believing in Jesus, the competitors were given the crown of righteousness. The crown of righteousness lasts longer than any Olympic medal. We also can receive the Crown of Righteousness by believing in Jesus Christ. The Bible study "Prayer" was given to 235 adults after the puppet show. LWML zones furnishing volunteers at the Puppet Place were Mitchell, Pierre, Sioux Falls, Yankton and Aberdeen. There were thirty-four adults and one youth who volunteered and invited fairgoers to the shows. The puppet show was viewed by 1,495 fairgoers. Thank you to the Utecht family members, June Ring and Dorothea Geidel, for preparing and presenting the puppet shows. Please pray that God will use this ministry to bring people to the true faith in Him.

*Susan Kinsley*  
*Gospel Outreach Committee Chairman*





# LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



Arlene Naasz,  
LWML South  
Dakota  
District President

## Anecdotes from Arlene

Matthew 3:3 states: For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, *"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"*

Advent is upon us and the new church year has started. We are all in the whirlwind of preparing for Christmas and looking to the coming of the Christ Child but also looking forward to the second coming of Christ. As you look at the list of things to do before the holidays take a few minutes and reflect on the joy of Christmas. Do you remember your excitement as you said your part and sang those joyous Christmas hymns during your Sunday school years? How eager and perhaps nervous were you? Did you, like me, say your part over and over again to make sure you had all the words right and the Bible quotation correct? I even remember acting out the Christmas program with my dolls. (My brothers didn't want to follow my directions. I wonder why?) Whatever your early memories of sharing the Christmas story try this year to recapture the excitement and anticipation you had back then. Be a child at heart as you prepare for the gift of the baby Jesus.

As you continue to do your preparations, there are a few LWML dates to remember. Applications for Young Woman Representatives are due Dec. 15, 2012 to Angela Robinson. Encourage someone in your church or zone to consider applying to be a YWR. The application form is available at [www.sdlwml.org](http://www.sdlwml.org).

The district is looking for banner design ideas for the LWML convention next June. You may use the theme "Quenched by the Water" but it must be a different design from the convention logo. The banner is to be 3 feet by 5 feet and have LWML South Dakota District on the front. If you have a design idea send it to me at [naaszta@mchsi.com](mailto:naaszta@mchsi.com) by Jan. 1. Also indicate if you are willing to make the banner. A color sketch would be helpful.

Continue to make plans to attend the LWML South Dakota District Retreat April 26-27, 2013, at Memorial Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls and the LWML convention in Pittsburgh, June 27-30, 2013.

May the true joy of Christmas be with you this year and throughout the year to come.

*President Arlene Naasz*

## Christian Life workshops enjoyed

One more year of Christian Life workshops is in the books. What wonderful studies we enjoyed!

Due to a family emergency, the Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher was unable to conduct the workshops as planned, but our LWML South Dakota Counselors just jumped at the chance to help out! The Rev. Daniel Redhage, senior counselor, led us in a study "Minor Prophets, Major Messages" at our Pierre and Rapid City Workshops. We were reminded that the Minor Prophets are just shorter books but they carry the same proclamation of God's Word to people of old and to us today. We gained more insight into the prophets Jonah, Amos and Hosea and how they each speak to our lives today, each a foreshadow of Christ, bringing His love ... law and gospel to us all.

The Rev. Greg Lehr, junior counselor, presented a study entitled "We the People ... Citizens of Two Kingdoms" at the Aberdeen and Sioux Falls sites. Based on a video Bible study hosted by the Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, Pastor Lehr led us in the study reminding us that our dual citizenship cannot be separated. We must submit to our government, obey its laws unless they are contrary to God's Word, serve our neighbor in love guided by the law of God and yet remember that all our trust and hope is in our King, Jesus Christ, and we are ultimately citizens in His Kingdom.

Two-hundred-twelve attendees (including 14 pastors) thank our presenters and also our host societies: Faith, Pierre; Zion, Rapid City; Our Savior, Aberdeen; and Faith, Sioux Falls. Special thanks to Liz Lorang and Doris Mitchel, LWML South Dakota District resource committee for setting up the LWML store and manning it at each site, giving our members a chance to do some 'shopping' during breaks.

If you were unable to attend one of our workshops, I encourage you to make an effort and set aside a day next fall to enjoy a great study, great fellowship, and of course, great food with your fellow LWML sisters in Christ.

*Bobbie Bierman  
Vice President Christian Life*





The Rev. Daniel Redhage,  
LWML District  
Counselor

## Counselor's corner

### A time of giving and receiving

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight paths for him"*  
(Luke 3:4).

Have you finished all of your Christmas preparations yet? I know, it's a silly question, because Christmas preparations are never completely done. There's always something else to think of, something else to get ready, something else that has to be done. It seems as if we happen to find a spare minute anywhere, we instantly fill it with another project or task. Sure, the cookies are all set, but we could always make one more flavor. Yes, our calendar is jam packed, but we can always try to squeeze in one more open house. We can write out one more Christmas card, go shopping one more time, add one more item to our Christmas menu ... you know how it goes.

And in all the hustle and bustle, in all the frantic preparations, where do we usually find that "extra" time for all these preparations? What do we clear off the calendar to free up our schedule? Sadly, for many of us, it's church. We get so caught up in the earthly trappings of Christmas that we lose sight of the real reason to celebrate. We tell ourselves that we have so much to do and we've heard the message so often, we just don't have time for an extra church service this week. And there are so many projects that need to be finished that we just can't afford to go to church on Sunday. And that vacation time with family is so precious; we don't want to waste it by going to church on Christmas Day. In all our preparations, Jesus is often the first thing to be taken off our list.

Was this the way that John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord? Was he so busy putting up garland and planning parties that he had no time for God's Word? Sure, his chocolate covered locusts might have been the talk of the town, but what was always at the core of his preparation? It was Christ and Christ alone. John put aside all the earthly fanciness and put God and His Word first in his life. John didn't concern himself too much with making sure the china was spotless because he was busy telling people about Jesus. This doesn't mean that it's wrong for us to have Christmas

parties or cookies or any of the wonderful things that we associate with Christmas. Not as long as we remember that all of these things should glorify God rather than replace Him.

As members of the LWML, our mission is to proclaim Christ to the entire world, and what better time than now? And by the grace of God, that same life-giving message of Christ is proclaimed to us this Advent season. We need not see Advent services as yet another thing to mash into an already full schedule. Instead, we can give thanks to God for another opportunity to be refreshed and nourished by His Word, another opportunity to put this whole season back into a proper perspective and put the focus where it belongs. We can rejoice that, by our God-given faith, Jesus isn't just another part of a too-busy season; He is the very center of everything that we do, and He is the reason for it all.

*Rev. Daniel Redhage*



### It's a matter of the heart

Have you ever thought about the word heart? It is one of those words that is used to describe everything from an essential organ that keeps our earthly body functioning, to what is fluttering in our chest as we realize a certain person is very special. Our heart not only leaps, it breaks, it pitter patters, it jumps, it throbs, some are warm and some are cold, we can win our heart or lose it or even leave it in San Francisco. Mostly when our heart is full of love for our Lord it is also full of love for our fellow man, and that love was never more evident than at the LWML convention when the rooms were full of Gifts from the Heart brought by our women for distribution to those in need. And that, my friends, warmed my heart.

*Nancy Duhachek*  
Vice President Human Care

