

PATTY'S PONDERINGS

How will YOU celebrate LWML Sunday?

LWML SUNDAY is usually the first Sunday in October, but can be celebrated any month of the year.

The theme for 2022 is “For Us and With Us,” and is based on Rom. 8:31–39.

The apostle Paul writes that we are all faced with challenges that are greater than our own strength can fix. Christ, who is for us and with us, makes us conquerors through Him who loves us. By hearing God’s Word, we are encouraged because we have the victory that is ours through our baptism. We can confidently live each day as we put our trust in Christ.

The author of the materials for LWML Sunday is Rev. Dr. Ryan Peterson, vice-president of Administration at Concordia University, Ann Arbor (CUAA). Dr. Peterson was the campus pastor at CUAA and previously a congregational pastor. At lwml.org/lwml-sunday, you will find many materials that can be printed for use in your church for LWML Sunday. Please let your pastor know! Materials include bulletin bytes, bulletin covers, the full worship service,

a children’s message and a sermon.

I pray that you are gathering again for Bible studies and servant events in your groups and zones. I look forward to seeing you at the Christian Life Workshops in Mitchell and Spearfish. “Walk in Love” as Christ has loved you.



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota
District President

PIERRE ZONE UPDATE

The Pierre Zone has had a lot to reflect on over the past year. The zone hosted its 2021 fall rally in Gettysburg. Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek, LCMS missionary who previously served as senior pastor of Faith, Pierre, shared about his vocation as a seminary professor in Riga, Latvia.

Barb Schneider was elected vice-president and Crystal Kinkler was elected secretary/treasurer. Jan Larson is currently serving as vacancy president.

Eleven members attended the LWML district convention in Yankton in June.

Our zone is well represented in the district:

- ▶ Melissa Vance is treasurer
- ▶ Luann Zuercher is the newly elected secretary
- ▶ Jan Larson is the vice-president of Gospel Outreach
- ▶ Mary Jo Stier is parliamentarian
- ▶ Lurene Denke is district historian

We are thankful that we can serve the Lord with gladness!

GET TO KNOW YOUR Heart to Heart Sisters



Do you remember being the newbie ... new to the neighborhood, school, job, church, LWML group?

Some people find being a new person exciting, but most of us find it hard. Take a moment to re-imagine the feelings you had as a new person and the questions you had. Your heart feels like it will beat out of your chest. You don’t know what to say. You don’t understand what those around you are saying.

LWML? Mite box? Huh?

Now try to imagine feeling that way, but you feel very different from everyone else in the crowd — a crowd of people who don’t look like you, sound like you or

maybe even don’t speak the same language.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is changing as families relocate. In addition, more families are joining our churches through multicultural ministries. As a result, we have opportunities to welcome women from different backgrounds and cultures into the LWML. Sometimes it is as easy as inviting our new sister to our next meeting, but sometimes more planning is required.

The Heart to Heart — Sisters of All Nations district program is an intentional effort to welcome and encourage women of all nations to participate in the life and service of Lutheran Women in Mission.

Being new is hard. Being new, having a different cultural background and speaking a different language can create barriers. Kay Nelson and I are trained to assist your group in motivating, equipping and providing opportunities for multicultural women in your LCMS congregation to serve the church, participate in LWML, witness to the world and

See **HEART**, page 6

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

What's that 'ONE LITTLE WORD?'

If you have a hymnal, I invite you to pick it up and read the hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," written by Martin Luther. At the end of the third verse is the line, "One little word subdues him," referring to Satan. Over the years I have wondered what that one little word was. In college, I did a lot of searching for the answer and was absolutely confounded.

One day I spoke with one of my theology professors about it. He looked me in the eye and said with all love, "Clint! You know that word! That word is 'Baptism!'"

At first, I thought that "Baptism" couldn't possibly be the word. But over the years since then, I realized that my professor wasn't talking about the word "Baptism" itself, so much as the Word

in Baptism. In Baptism we receive the promise, seal and guarantee from God our Father through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, so that through Baptism, God says of you and me, "Mine!"

In Baptism, you are taken from the devil by God. That word uttered by Jesus through water and the Word "fells" Satan and all his schemes. In fact, Luther was so confident in this promise that he wrote a baptismal rite in which he orders Satan to leave this newly baptized child of God alone and to praise the Holy Spirit for taking the child away from his own grasp.

Luther can do this because he knows God's power to save and protect. He knows Jesus defeated sin, death and the devil by His death and resurrection, so He demands that even our ancient

enemy, the devil, praise Almighty God for the entrance of another soul into God's mighty fortress.

We, too, can be this confident in the little Word of Baptism and rely on God's mighty fortress, in which we are now sheltered. We, too, can go forth unashamed and unafraid into a broken and hurting world, sharing God's grace and mercy with those we encounter.

Sheltered by God in His mighty fortress, nothing can harm you or take you from God's gracious grasp. Amen.



Rev. Clint O. Thorson
LWML District Counselor



WHAT'S YOUR 80?

As the LWML celebrates its 80th year (1942–2022), LWML groups across the country are answering this question. Members of the Dorcas Group/LWML at Our Redeemer, Custer, sponsored a baby shower to bless the Black Hills Pregnancy Center in Rapid City. The goal was to collect 80 items between Mother's Day and Father's Day.

The Dorcas Group exceeded its goal, with the help of a Thrivent grant and generous donations from the Our Redeemer congregation. The ladies thank God this agency is available to love and support uncertain mothers and fathers, and praises God that Our Redeemer could love and support the agency by answering "What's your 80?"

MEET THE NEW VP of Communication

Hello. My name is Heather Miller and I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Vice President of Communication. I am a baptized child of God, a preschool teacher, a daughter, sister, aunt and friend. I love to explore our beautiful state, take long walks (especially in the country near my grandparents' farms), read books, garden and crochet. I also love to travel to Guatemala with a medical mission team each summer.



I got started in LWML when I graduated from college. My grandma was involved in LWML and inspired me with the way she showed Jesus' love to others. My mom also showed her faith with the way she lovingly served those around her. LWML has given me many ways to support missions throughout the LCMS and to be a missionary to the people whom God puts in my midst. I have served as secretary for the South Dakota LWML Board of Directors for the past four years, and I look forward to continuing that service in my new role.