

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Anecdotes from Arlene

"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" (Deut. 6:7).

Children are truly a blessing; watching them play and using the imagination God has given them is priceless. Recently, our granddaughters were playing at our home and the oldest wanted to play "LWML." Her comment was, "I want to be elected this time!" I pray she still wants to be elected to an LWML position when she is a little older than six. When you talk about the LWML to your family and friends, do you mention the wonderful opportunities we have to share God's love? Do you have your family include the LWML mission grants in your daily prayers? Are you excited about the LWML and how our mighty mites have helped spread the Good News? God has truly blessed our work in the LWML and we need to diligently share our story with all our family and friends. Keep the LWML in your conversations and prayers.

Have you put your dates on your 2014 calendar? Did you mark May 30-31 for the LWML Convention in Mitchell? If not, do so right away. By making plans to come, you will be able to join us as we "Shout for the King." At our convention, we will have Gloria Shaefer of rural Kennebec share with us. For those of you who have not had the joy of hearing her, you are in for a real blessing. We will also hear from former mission grant recipients on how our mite offerings have helped spread the Gospel. Bible studies will be led by our counselors, songs will be sung and friendships will be renewed. There also will be a couple of surprises; you need to be with us to make our 2014 convention the best it can be. Talk it up!

Our current biennium is quickly coming to a close. Be sure to check on how we are doing with funding our mission grants by visiting www.sdlwml.org. See the latest grants paid and download the newest Mite Box devotions. Be sure to diligently talk about our mission grants whenever you have the opportunity.



Arlene Naasz,
LWML South
Dakota District
President



Mitchell Circuit holds Reformation service in Dimock

The Mitchell Circuit Reformation service was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Dimock, on Oct. 28.

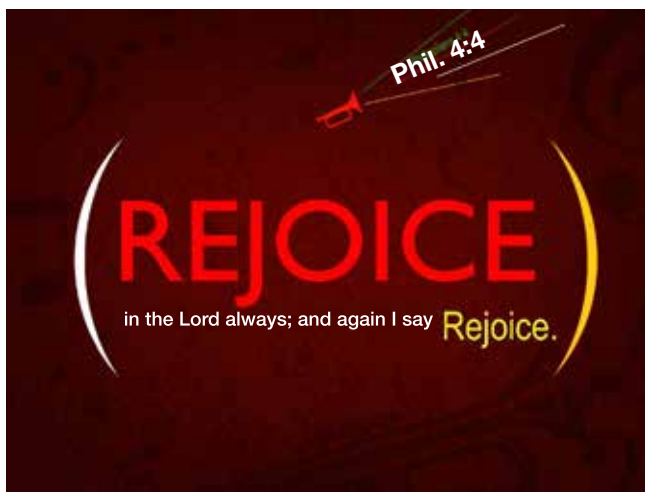
The Rev. Wallace Schultz was the guest speaker.

This service is jointly hosted by the Mitchell Circuit LLL and the LWML South Dakota Mitchell Zone.

2012-14 Mission Grants LWML South Dakota District

- Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Food Bank, \$5,000 (*paid*).
- Black Hills Lutheran Middle School, Rapid City, \$8,600 (*paid*).
- Lutheran Bible Translators — Helping Women in Liberia, West Africa, \$2,000 (*paid*).
- Lutheran Heritage Foundation — Children's Bibles, Southeast Asia, \$5,000.
- Trinity/Hope Lutheran Schools, Haiti — Feed the Children, \$5,000 (*paid*).
- Divine Shepherd Preschool, Black Hawk, \$5,000 (*paid*).
- The Lighthouse Preschool, Aberdeen, \$1,500 (*paid*).
- Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Preschool, Brandon, \$5,000.
- Handicap Institutional Reform, Kazakhstan, \$5,000.
- POBLO Bible and Scripture Resource Distribution in the United States, \$4,000.
- LCMS Training Future Pastors in Uganda, \$3,900.





Rev. Daniel Redhage, LWML South Dakota District Counselor

Counselor's corner

"When do we take the Christmas tree down?" Does your family struggle with this question at all? For many, the tree stays up at least until Epiphany, 12 days after Christmas. For some, it comes down the day after Christmas because family is still there to help. And for some, the lights, tinsel and tree don't come down at all because they're just going to have

to go back up again next year. It's a tricky question, and one that doesn't have any set rule. Hopefully, it isn't something you'll lose friends over.

But what about this question: When do we stop celebrating Christmas? Many stores have their post-holiday clearance sales, trying to squeeze every last dime they can out of Christmas. Personally, once the final Christmas cookie and bit of fudge has been devoured, I consider the Christmas season over. And yet, that doesn't mean that I've stopped celebrating.

Because for Christians, we never stop celebrating Christmas. We never put away the joy that Jesus' birth brings, even if all the decorations and cards have been packed up for months. We celebrate every day of our lives that God humbled Himself to be born in the flesh, to take our place beneath His own Holy Law, to give Himself as the perfect sacrifice we could never give, to pay the price of our sin with His own suffering and death. Without Christmas, none of this would have happened and we would still be lost and condemned creatures. And so we celebrate.

And just like at Christmas, we seek to share our joy

with others. Maybe Christmas caroling in March would just get us strange looks from our neighbors, but we share the joy of Christmas in other ways. We share the Good News of salvation with our friends and family, we invite people from our community to church, we support mission workers with our mites and our prayers. We tell our children and grandchildren, we tell our co-workers, we even tell those who already know Jesus to encourage and strengthen them in their faith. We share our Christmas celebrations all throughout the year!

And because Christ has come to us and redeemed us from sin, death and the devil, our Christmas celebrations will never end. Ever! By the blood of Christ, we are given the free gift of paradise, where we will gather with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, singing God's praises for all eternity. This eternal celebration is one where we want to see everyone, so we share the good news of Christmas, Good Friday, Easter and everything that Christ has done for all mankind.

When do we stop celebrating Christmas? By the grace of God, never. For here on earth we celebrate throughout the year, rejoicing in God's precious gift to us and sharing that gift with others. And there in heaven, set free from sin, we will celebrate perfectly for all eternity, serving God and singing His praise forever.

The mission of the South Dakota Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to provide women opportunities for spiritual growth and to equip and nurture them to use their God-given gifts to serve the Lord in home, church, community and the world.

Mitchell Zone invites you to District Convention, May 30-31

Bring your friends to the Mitchell Christian School campus and get inspired to "Shout for the King" with speaker Gloria Schaefer. We'll enjoy fellowship with Christian women of all ages as we worship, serve and learn. We'll also be deciding our mission grants for the next biennium.

Watch for further details, room arrangements at the Ramada and the registration form in the April issue of the *HiLites*.

Your Sister in Christ,
Dorothy Deinert

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Anecdotes from Arlene

"And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Col. 3:14).

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, February reminds us of love. Have you ever made homemade valentines? Perhaps you have cut out red or pink hearts and placed white dollies on top. Maybe you bake heart-shaped cookies. My sons still like a big, homemade heart-shaped chocolate chip cookie. We tend to give Valentines cards or gifts to those we love in hopes they love us in return, unlike God who gave us His only Son as our Savior from sin even before we loved Him. Our greatest Valentine, Jesus Christ, binds us together as heirs of eternal life. Talk about a gift of love — there is none greater. Responding to God's love for you, try to show God's love to someone outside your normal circle of family and friends.

"This Is What We Are Baptized For" is the theme for the 2014 LWML Prayer Service. The service is designed to help us find out the reason for which we are baptized and to ask for the strength and grace to do it. It includes an original hymn by the Rev. Bernhard Seter based on the words of the LWML Pledge. Both the service and the hymn accompaniment are available as printable downloads from the LWML website. Go to www.lwml.org, and under "Events" scroll down to "Prayer Service." Make plans now to use the prayer service and invite a non-LWML friend to share the love Christ has given us.

While you are at the LWML website, check out the other resources available. You will see articles on disaster relief, updates on mission grants and even have the opportunity to contribute online. Perhaps you want to give a Valentines gift to the LWML.

Are you getting ready to "Shout for the King"? Our 2014 district convention will be held May 30-31, 2014. We will be gathering on the beautiful campus of Mitchell Christian School in Mitchell. We will gather in love and harmony to hear from our national LWML representative, Joy Dougherty, and listen to the uplifting message from Gloria Schaefer, our keynote



Arlene Naasz,
LWML South
Dakota District
President

speaker. The Feast of Victory, Holy Communion, will be celebrated Friday evening at Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell. Bible study, mission grant updates and singing will all be greater if you join us.

Ask your zone president for more details. I can hardly wait to see you and give you a big LWML hug!

2012-14 Mission Grants LWML South Dakota District

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The mission of the South Dakota Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to provide women opportunities for spiritual growth and to equip and nurture them to use their God-given gifts to serve the Lord in home, church, community and the world.



Rev. Greg Lehr,
LWML South
Dakota District
Counselor

Counselor's corner

February is the month of love with Valentine's Day on the 14th. So as I reflect on love, it takes me to John 13:34 (NIV) where Jesus told His disciples, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Then Jesus said, "By this [loving one another] everyone will know that you are my disciples" (John 13:35). Jesus

knew that the only way to transform lives was to put love into practice in His people's lives. The best way to show people that God loves them is to show them love.

Jesus called love a new commandment. He ranked love in importance with God's other commandments, like do not steal, give false witness or kill. Jesus told His disciples that demonstrating love to others was proof of their relationship with Him. It's a new kind of love. It's a sacrificial love. It's a visible love. Jesus wanted love to be a mark of identification back then, and He still wants that for us today.

It isn't always easy to practice love. Showing love is risky. We risk rejection and make ourselves vulnerable to being hurt. It takes emotional effort and energy to practice and show love. Showing love means we take away a focus on ourselves with no guarantee for anything in return.

If you admit that your love for others needs work and we all can improve ... look to God and Jesus as the ultimate teachers of what it means to love one another. The ultimate expression of God's love was the sending of Jesus into the world. "God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him" (1 John 4:9 NLT).

Love is the most powerful force in the world because "God is love" (1 John 4:8). And because love comes from the heart of God to us, we have the power of God to share that love with others. "Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other" (1 John 4:11 NLT).

Let me encourage you to use opportunities to be with others for occasions to grow and display your love. Let me encourage you to use opportunities to be with others to stir you to a new kind of love, a sacrificial love, a visible love. The LWML bears the mark of showing and practicing love. The LWML is an environment affirming each woman's relationship with Christ,

encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in practicing love in active ministries in their congregations and beyond.

The LWML has thousands of volunteers who are daily dedicating their lives to making a difference in this world by showing and practicing love. As the LWML and each of us as His individual disciples, woman or man, our displays of love help others to know us; and they will want to learn about our source of love. "We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us" (1 John 3:16 NLT).

God gave us an abundance — "my cup overflows" (Ps. 23:5) — of

love. Give it away ... give away love to your husband or wife, give away love to your children, give away love to your parents, give away love to your grandchildren, give away love to your friends, give away love this Valentine's Day, give away love every day. The more we give away love, the more others will know we belong to God.



God grant that we may love one another humbly and sacrificially in Christ until He returns in glory to welcome us all into paradise, where we will know forever the fullness of the perfect love of the saints of God. And there we will know the full measure of the divine love of Christ our Lord for all time to come.

New Year and Mites

The new year has arrived and is going strong. How is your society doing with its Mite giving?

Not so well?

Fair? Wonderful? Outstanding?

Often with the new year, there is a tendency to wait to send in Mites. I would like to encourage all of the societies not to wait. We need your help to reach our Mite goal of \$50,000 for this biennium.

The end of our fiscal year is March 15; all money needs to be sent in to Ann Cruse, financial secretary, 1780 Simmons SE, Huron SD 57350.

I urge you to send them in as soon as they are received. Please don't wait!

Mary Jo Stier
Vice-President of Gospel Outreach

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Anecdotes from Arlene

"And the men marveled, saying, 'What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?'"
(Matt. 8:27)

Living in South Dakota, we have all witnessed the effects of wind. This winter has brought storms and dangerous wind chills. The howling sound vibrates windows and rearranges the landscape. To think of telling the wind to cease and desist would be so unbelievable. Yet, Christ commanded the wind to stop and calm ensued.

Amazingly, He does the same for us. He calms the storms in our lives and wraps us in His unending love. Even more amazing, when you hear the wind blow (and living in South Dakota, it won't be long), remember that God's love for you is more powerful than the strongest winds. He won't let go; you won't be blown about. He is the calm amid life's storms.

An opportunity to learn more about our mighty Savior is coming May 30-31 as we gather in convention to "Shout for the King!" Make plans to join us at Mitchell Christian High School. Our guest speaker, Gloria Schaefer, will encourage and entertain us. We will have Bible studies, hear from Mission Grant recipients, celebrate the Lord's Supper, sing, elect officers and vote on Mission Grants. Make sure the wind blows you to Mitchell in May.

Have you been encouraging a young woman from your church to attend the convention? What a great opportunity to share the LWML and help them catch the joy we share in "Serving the Lord with Gladness." Our 2012-14 biennium is coming to a close. Be sure to look for other articles mentioning Mission Grants that have been funded. More information about the convention is available on our website, www.sdlwml.org, or by asking your zone president.



Arlene Naasz,
LWML South
Dakota District
President

Calling all young women in South Dakota...

"Shout for the King" in Mitchell this May! We want to have as many young women (teens to age 35) at the LWML South Dakota District Convention as we can. Societies, talk to the young women in your church about this great opportunity. We'd love to have someone from every society!

Young women, we have some fun things planned for you and it's a great chance to learn about the LWML first-hand. You will also experience one of the best aspects of the LWML — having a great time with other Lutheran ladies from all over the state.

Angie Robinson

Committee on Young Women Chairwoman

We are princesses!

I am certain you are all aware the 2014 LWML South Dakota District Convention will be held in Mitchell May 30-31, but do you know the convention goal? It is that every attendee will be empowered to "Boldly step out and say YES, we are princesses of our Heavenly King, and we will proudly shout it to the world!"



What does it mean to walk around in regal clothing shouting Bible verses to the world? Of course, that would not be acceptable, so what is our alternative? How about shouting our love and adoration of our Lord by our actions — letting our "regal clothing" be our gifts from the heart for those who have little or no clothing, food, hygiene items or homes.

Let our shouts to the Lord be in the form of our willingness to do "for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matt. 26:40 NIV). Look forward to the next *HiLites*, which will have the list of needed items and servant events.

Nancy Duhachek

Vice-President of Human Care

The mission of the South Dakota Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to provide women opportunities for spiritual growth and to equip and nurture them to use their God-given gifts to serve the Lord in home, church, community and the world.





Rev. Daniel Redhage, LWML South Dakota District Counselor

Counselor’s corner

“But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” (Gal. 6:14)

A pastor asked his catechism class once, “What does Lent mean?” After some thought, one student answered, “It means you have to give it back.” The pastor, not expecting this answer, asked for clarification, so the student explained, “If someone lent me his book, I better give it back when I’m done reading it.”

With April 20 being Easter this year, almost the entire month of March is filled with the season of Lent. Our church paraments will turn to purple, our liturgies will omit songs of joy and shouts of alleluia, and our readings will begin to focus even more heavily on the suffering of Jesus Christ. For many Christians, Lent involves the giving up of something they enjoy as a show of repentance and reverence. In the church, the entire season of Lent has a very somber mood about it, a certain darkness and foreboding. Some claim that this is so that we Lutherans can be properly depressed in order to really enjoy Easter, but it’s much more than that.

All throughout our Christian lives, we focus on the cross of Jesus Christ. But during Lent, our focus involves a keen understanding of why the cross is so important. Why do we leave out parts of our service,



give up things in our lives and put ashes on our foreheads? Because we are sinners, and we know it. That’s what the cross is all about. When we look to the

cross, we see what we deserve for all eternity, what we should have suffered because of the sins we commit and the sinners we are. The somber mood of Lent is fitting as we acknowledge that we are by nature sinful and unclean, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Looking to the cross, we see the pain that

our actions and inactions inflicted on our loving Lord and Savior. When we realize that, 40 days isn’t nearly enough time to properly express our remorse and regret. When we consider our filthy sin, every day should be Lent, and every day should be filled with penance, mourning and sorrow.

But Lent is more than just feeling bad for what we’ve done. If the cross is just a reminder that you’ve fallen short of the glory of God, then it offers no hope, no solution, nothing but more pain. But the cross isn’t just a reminder. It’s a fact! The cross of Jesus Christ does indeed show us the steep price of our sin, but even more importantly, it shows us the even greater love of God for us poor, sinful beings. Willingly, Jesus Christ went to the cross to pay that price. Willingly, He suffered and died in our place. Willingly, out of a love that we will never understand, Jesus took our place beneath God’s perfect and holy Law, paying a penalty that we never could.

That’s why, even in the midst of this season of darkness and sorrow, we rejoice. We tell the world what Christ has done for us and for all mankind. We use our words and our deeds to point the eyes of all to the cross, and then to the empty tomb. For the cross was not the end of Jesus, nor is it the end of our faith. Jesus Christ not only died for us, but rose again from the grave, conquering sin, death and the devil for us. This is the victory that we boldly proclaim through our LWML projects, through our congregational evangelism and through our own personal witness each and every day. Amid the darkness of sin, Jesus Christ, the light of the world, brings salvation to all who believe. Redemption is a free gift from Christ, one that we don’t ever have to give back.



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Anecdotes from Arlene

"And the inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews'" (Mark 15:26).

How many of you played dress-up when you were a child? Did you ever dress up as a princess? What did you use for your tiara or magic wand? Mine was usually made from cardboard and fake jewels. But have you ever stopped to realize you really are a princess? It isn't make-believe. Your Savior is the King of kings and as His heir you are a real, live princess! The palace being prepared for you will outshine any Hollywood set. And your crown will be the Crown of Life. In May, all of us LWML princesses and, hopefully, a few princes will gather to "Shout for the King!" Our state convention is a marvelous opportunity to gather with other royalty from around the state to worship, grow in our study of His Word, sing His praises and learn



Arlene Naasz,
LWML South
Dakota District
President

how our mighty mites are helping spread the Gospel. Please register and bring a friend or two along with you. More information about the May 30-31 convention is available in *HiLites* and in the *Call to Convention* letter being sent to each society.

If your society has not found someone to be your Young Woman Representative (YWR) at convention, please prayerfully consider whom God might want you to talk to about being a YWR. Special activities for the YWRs are being planned. In addition to sending a YWR, how about a special invitation for your pastor and his wife to attend the convention?

We are making plans to attend the 2015 LWML national convention in Des Moines, Iowa, June 25-28 under the theme "Bountiful! Sow • Nourish • Reap." A table with more information will be at our district convention in May. Start making plans for 2015.

Please continue to pray for the LWML, our mission grants, officers at all levels and the pastors involved in helping us serve the Lord with gladness. Updates on paid grants and other information may be found at www.sdlwml.org or www.lwml.org.

Mission grant proposals for 2014-16

The following 2014-16 South Dakota District LWML mission grant proposals will be placed on the ballot at convention:

1. Classrooms for the Children of Liberia	\$5,000	8. Rural and Small Town Mission	\$5,000
2. Missionary Workshops for Sharing the Gospel	\$5,000	Worker-Priest Retreat	
3. Life: A Better Choice	\$5,000	9. Divine Shepherd Preschool, Black Hawk	\$4,870
4. Standing Firm in the Face of Islam: Lutheran Books for Turkey	\$5,000	10. Deaconess Ministry in the Mission Field	\$5,000
5. Graduate Studies for International Lutheran Leaders	\$5,000	11. Trinity HOPE, Inc. Project to Feed Hungry Children in Lutheran School in Haiti	\$5,000
6. Lutheran Braille Workers	\$4,000	12. Black Hills Lutheran Schools Association, Inc.	\$5,000
7. Nigeria Seminary Support	\$5,000	13. Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Food and Clothing Co-op	\$5,000
		14. International Lutheran Electronic Reader Project	\$5,000
		Total Mission Grant Proposals	\$68,870

Officer candidates for district LWML state convention

The following women have consented to have their names placed on the 2014 district convention ballot.

Vice-President of Communication

Melissa Brock, Pierre • Kathy Olson, Vermillion

Vice-President of Human Care

Dee Erickson, Yankton • Judy Gies, Fairfax

Vice-President of Servant Resources

Carissa Naasz, Pierre • Roseanne Spiehs, Wolsey

Secretary

Muriel Chamber, Menno • Susan Swanson, Pukwana

Financial Secretary

Rebecca Bicknase, Milbank
Jeanette Smith, Northville

Pastoral Counselor

The Rev. Jeff Kalb, Emanuel, Sisseton
The Rev. Steven Weispfennig, St. John's, Yankton

Nominating Committee

Jan Bohling, Aberdeen • Paulette Gross, Yankton
Jill Johnson, Wessington • Sue Magedanz, Watertown
Paula VanScharrel, Hitchcock



58TH CONVENTION • LWML SOUTH DAKOTA MAY 30-31, 2014

Mitchell Christian School, Mitchell

Registration Form

Deadline for registration and meals:
April 30, 2014.
Copy this form before completing.

(Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Church and City _____

Zone _____

Emergency contact and phone number

Please check all that apply:

- First time attending district convention
- Young Woman Representative (Age 13-35)

Servant Events – Friday morning
(number by your preferences)

- Off-site
 - ____ Painting at the Mitchell Area Safe House
(just bring your painting clothes)
 - ____ Helping at the Salvation Army
- On-site
 - ____ Making cards for the military
 - ____ Wonderful event for women of all ages, TBA

Registration Status – Check one

- Voting member, Board of Directors
- Delegate Guest
- Non-voting member, Board of Directors
- LWML member
- LWML district former president
- Pastor Former district president

____ Mission Pledge Walk, Friday
(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 Ramada Mitchell Hotel and Conference Center, 1525 West Havens Ave., Mitchell, SD 57301. The rate is \$65 per room, and the deadline is April 30.

Call 605-996-6501. See the *Call to Convention* for details.

Registration Fee

	Quantity	Fee	Total
Registration	_____	\$50	\$_____
Pastor registration gratis	_____	\$0	\$_____
Young woman/teen	_____	\$50	\$_____
Meal package	_____	\$25	\$_____
Pastor's meal package	_____	\$25	\$_____
Friday noon soup/sandwich	_____	\$10	\$_____
Total Enclosed			\$_____

Meal Package

The meal package includes a Friday and Saturday buffet. The deadline for the meal package is April 30. No meals will be available with on-site registration.

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

Diane Sullivan, Registration Chairman
604 S. Isadore St.
Mitchell, SD 57301
navillus605@hotmail.com
605-996-1064



LWML provides gift for mercy grant fund

The South Dakota District LWML, through its Special Gifts Fund, has given a gift of \$5,000 to the district president's Mercy Grant Fund. With this gift, the fund has reached its initial goal of \$40,000 and now is able to consider requests for help.

The Mercy Grant Fund was established by the district's Board of Directors in 2013. Its purpose is to assist rostered professional church workers such as pastors, teachers or directors of Christian education who may be faced with "extraordinary or catastrophic" circumstances not covered by the Synod's regular benefit packages and that involve financial hardship to the workers and their families.

Financial support for this fund comes from special gifts from individuals, congregations and groups

such as the district LWML. Several congregations and individuals throughout the district have given generous gifts toward the initial \$40,000 goal. As grants are given, additional appeals will be made to provide for ongoing funding.

The \$5,000 gift from the South Dakota District LWML is over and above the ongoing mite offering projects that the LWML adopted at its last convention. In 2008, the district LWML also provided a generous gift to the South Dakota District to help with the purchase of two passenger vans for use by our missionaries serving the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The South Dakota



Lisa Asmus, district LWML Special Gifts Fund chairperson, presents a gift of \$5,000 to District President Rev. Dr. Dale Sattgast at the district office.

District is grateful for the Gospel partnership it shares as together we serve the Lord with gladness.

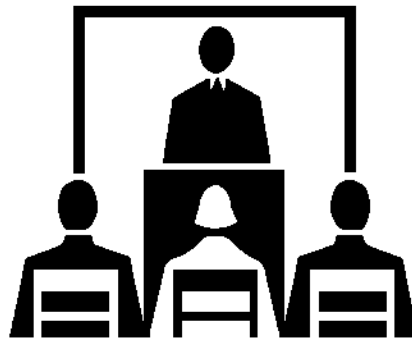
Learn how you can 'speak'

The following excerpts are from *How You Can "Speak,"* a booklet available from Concordia Publishing House (item no. LFL100B). The booklet has many more ideas on how you can share the "for life" message.

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy" (Prov. 31:8-9 NIV).

Speaking with/through children/teens:

- Show pro-life DVDs to your junior high and high school youth groups. (Available at CPH and through our LifeFlix program.)
- As part of a Christmas program, have children bring in a new baby item (clothing, diapers, toy or formula) as a gift for Baby Jesus.



Donate these gifts to a pregnancy center or a needy family in the community.

- Give each Sunday school class an empty gallon milk jug nine months before Life Sunday and challenge the children to fill it with pennies (a full jug is supposed to weigh about as much as a large newborn). Each month, they will keep track of the "baby's" progress (size, weight, length and activity)

through pictures brought in by the teacher. The children should "name" their baby. If the class fills more than one jug, they will have twins or triplets! The babies are to be "born" on Life Sunday. (This project could also be done using the *Watch Me Grow* posters and brochure.)

- Plan and hold a youth seminar on chastity.
- Hold a Life Sunday coloring contest for kids.
- Offer scholarships to students to attend the Lutherans For Life national conference.
- Hold a "Children's Day/Kid's Day Picnic" with fun, games and food — all with a "Celebration of Life" emphasis.

—Submitted by Lynn Auch, president of the National Board of Directors, Lutherans For Life

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Anecdotes from **Arlene**

"Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established" (Prov. 16:3).

What things in your future are you looking forward to experiencing? Are you preparing to go on a vacation or awaiting the birth of a child or grandchild? Many times, part of the joy of an event is looking forward to the experience. Though you may have had some apprehensions about going through labor, you were anxious for the birth of your child. For all of us, the LWML South Dakota District Convention is an event we are planning to attend and looking forward to attending. Praying for our plans is something we as Christians do regularly. We know that God is the author of all things and without His guidance, our plans fall short.



Your LWML officers and zone hostesses have been praying and planning for our convention for many months. "Shout for the King" will be held at Mitchell Christian School, Mitchell, May 30-31. Are you coming? Have you registered? Have you found a roommate and are you bringing a friend? Please join us in sharing this opportunity with your fellow sisters and brothers in Christ from across the state. As a society, please work at bringing a Young Woman Representative (YWR) to the convention. Plans are being prepared and prayers given for the YWRs' experience at convention.

Looking forward to fall and beyond, our Christian Life workshops are being planned and organized. Further details will be shared at our convention.

Are you ready to "Sow-Nourish-Reap?" The national LWML convention will be held June 24-28, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. Commit those days to your future plans and pray for a great convention and, God willing, the opportunity to attend. Information on district buses will also be shared at our May convention.

Continue to check on mission grant updates on our district and national LWML websites. Prayer cards for our national grants will be given to all attendees in Mitchell. May God continue to bless our work for Him.



Arlene Naasz,
LWML South
Dakota District
President

Farewells

Melanie Kludt

Vice-President of Servant Resources

I have been a member of LWML since 1965 when many of the groups were referred to as the "Ladies Aid." My mother, several of my aunts and cousins were — and some still are — members of this wonderful organization.

At convention four years ago, I was elected as vice-president of Servant Resources. I have been privileged to serve under the guidance of two excellent leaders, Elaine Hankel and Arlene Naasz, plus the members of the Executive Board and Board of Directors. The Lord has truly blessed LWML South Dakota with many dedicated Christian women.

One of the many high points of the past four years has been to work with the Young Woman Representative committee. These young women paint a bright future for the LWML.

I thank you for allowing me to serve.



What a blessing!

Ann Cruse

Financial Secretary

It has been an honor, a blessing and a privileged adventure to serve our Lord and all the LWML South Dakota members as financial secretary for the past four years. I cannot begin to tell you all the many things I have had the opportunity to learn in this short time. The Lord has put many mentoring sisters into my path and I want to say thank you for all the guidance, support, love, prayers and advice. This sisterhood is a precious gift that we all need to continue to share.

The Lord has a plan for each of us and for the mission of the LWML. I pray that each of you take the opportunity to serve the Lord with the time and talents that He has blessed you with.

Make the most of every opportunity to serve Him.

May God bless each of you. See you in Mitchell as we gather together and "Shout for The King!"





Counselor's corner

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever"
(Heb. 13:8).

It is so hard to believe how quickly time flies by. It seems like just yesterday I was living a care-free life of hanging out with friends in high school. Now I'm about to celebrate my 15th wedding anniversary, I have five children, one of whom is in middle school, and a friend just let me know that our 20th class reunion is coming up (whassup, Jody!). Where does the time go?

Why all this nostalgic waxing? Because after four wonderful years, this is my final article as district counselor for the LWML. It has been such a great experience and I will truly miss so much of it. And yet, even though my time as counselor comes to an end, I will continue to hold dearly the friendships that I have made over the years, the experiences that I had and the wonderful memories. I may not be the district counselor any longer, but the LWML will always be with me. And you in the LWML will be blessed by Pastor Greg Lehr's service as senior counselor, and the brand-new (to most of you) face of your newly elected junior counselor.

Through these and all the many changes in each of our lives, though, God is there, steadfast, immovable, unchanging. Our vocations may change, our locations may change and our hairstyles may change drastically. Our lives may be turned upside down on a weekly basis, and we may wonder where the time went and how so many things could happen in our lives. But through it all, God is there, guiding us, supporting us, forgiving us. Though everything around us changes so quickly, His steadfast love endures forever.

Have you ever read Psalm 136? I noticed something as we were reading it responsively at a church service. When reading half-verse by half-verse, the congregation says nothing except *"for His steadfast love endures forever."* Twenty-six times that refrain is repeated. For some, it might seem like a tedious mantra, repeating the same words over and over and over. But in faith, knowing what it truly means for us, we can never repeat those glorious words too often: *"For His steadfast love endures forever."* No matter what changes we may experience, no matter how far we



Rev. Daniel Redhage, LWML
South Dakota
District Counselor

stray, no matter how quickly our time on earth seems to zip by, His steadfast love endures forever. God is with us always.

This has been the message of the LWML since it began in 1942. This has been the message of the LCMS since its organization in 1847.



This has been the message of God Himself since the very beginning of time. What a joy it is to be a part of that message during our walk on this earth. What a joy to share that message with others through our mites, our mission work and by just living out our faith. What a joy to know that by the cross of Christ, we will indeed know the steadfast love of God for all eternity!

I thank each of you for all that you've done for me as counselor over the last four years. I thank you for putting up with all my shortcomings. I thank you for your prayers, your delicious treats and your friendship. I thank you for the privilege of being your counselor and for the honor of being able to call you my sisters in Christ. And whatever the next biennium, triennium and millennium may bring ... *"Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever"*
(Ps. 136:26).

Farewell

Nancy Duhachek

Vice-President of Human Care

As your vice-president of Human Care, it was my privilege to work with the "Gifts from the Heart" and the servant events throughout this term but especially at district convention and retreats. I am always amazed and humbled at the response to our requests for much needed items and workers, so thank you to all who have made this job so easy and such a blessing.

It goes without saying how much I have enjoyed working with each and every one of you. Sometimes, it is a bit of work to do a "job" in the LWML, but I have received remarkable blessings in return. So again, I say thank you for that opportunity. I certainly don't know what the Lord has in mind for me next, but I do know with absolute certainty that He does.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jer. 29:11).

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Anecdotes from **Arlene**

"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" (2 Peter 3:18).

How many different types of growth can you mention? Your garden grows, at least the weeds. Your children will have grown out of their shoes and pants by the end of the summer. Your waistline may have experienced some growth since your teenage years. Your earthly wealth might have grown over the years. What about your spiritual growth?

Do you know someone whose spiritual growth you admire? Perhaps it is a parent or grandparent. How did they become strong in their faith? They continued to feed on the Lord. My grandparents read from the Bible every day at suppertime. Consider how you might help your faith and knowledge of God to grow. We may have stopped growing taller and even become shorter as we age, but our growth in the Lord is a lifelong journey, be sure to feed it daily.

The LWML website has mite box devotions you can receive daily via email. Check it out at www.lwml.org. Also, read about "The Time is Now" for LWML.

This fall, we will have Christian Life workshops at four different locations throughout the state. Gathering together to study God's Word is a great way to help your faith and knowledge of God to grow. Information about the workshops was shared at our recent convention; ask your society or zone president about it.

Recently, we gathered in convention to "**Shout for the King!**" The grants we selected need your prayers and support. Please remember to pray for the grants at all of your circle, society and zone events. Thanks for your support of the LWML. To God be all the glory.

Corn grows tall in the Midwest. Next summer, we will have the opportunity to attend the national LWML convention in Des Moines, Iowa. Start planning now to attend on June 25-28, 2015, as we "Sow-Nourish-Reap."



Arlene Naasz,
LWML South
Dakota District
President

Farewell from our secretary

As your secretary for the past four years, I have been blessed to be a part of the LWML South Dakota District Board of Directors to carry out the Lord's work using our mites in South Dakota and in many places around the world. My job as secretary has been to record the minutes of all of the meetings, as well as the minutes of the conventions. I prepared a new directory of the state, zone and society officers each biennium, documents for the conventions and miscellaneous reports.

It takes many willing hands to accomplish our goals and I am grateful for the support and encouragement of the board members and the many wonderful LWML ladies in our state. Thank you for the honor of serving as we all "serve the Lord with gladness."

Lorraine Mosemann

LWML South Dakota District Secretary, 2010-14

2015 National Convention

Des Moines, Iowa
June 25-28, 2015



The convention theme is based on the following Scripture passage: "*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work*" (2 Cor. 9:8 NIV).

Convention Goal Statement

Through Christ's bountiful love and blessings of Word and Sacraments, I am equipped by the Holy Spirit to work in my Father's harvest field.

Convention Objectives

Attendees will be fed by God's Word and Sacrament; nurtured through worship and fellowship; and equipped to sow, nourish and reap in the Father's field.

Convention Logo Explanation

The single line represents mankind as a newly plowed field, open to receive God's bountiful blessings. As God nourishes His people with His Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit nurtures faith in Christ Jesus who, by His death on the cross, gives salvation and forgiveness to all believers and empowers them to serve as His light (depicted by the sun) to the world. The double-line represent the abundant fruits produced through His grace by God's people. The three lines together depict an open Bible. In response to His grace, mercy and bountiful blessings, we thank, praise, and share our Father's love.





Counselor's corner

People plant gardens for a variety of reasons, and I imagine most gardens are well on their way in the growing season. I'm not a gardener, but I can remember visiting relatives who had large gardens. Some people plant gardens because they depend on the produce a garden provides. Other people plant because they enjoy the beauty of flowers and shrubs in bloom. Some may enjoy the exercise of gardening. Some find it relaxing. Reasons for gardening could fill a wheelbarrow, but there's always a reason. And that reason often gives us insight into the gardener's character.



Rev. Greg Lehr,
LWML South
Dakota District
Counselor

Why did God plant the world's first garden? From Gen. 2:8-9 (NIV): *"Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food."* If you want to step further into Eden's garden, read the entire account, Gen 2:8-25.

God, the very first gardener, plants His garden with love. In your mind's eye, see how the Lord kneels to create flowers that will delight us with wonderful colors and intricate designs. Watch as His gentle hand sows the seeds that will grow into plants for His people's nourishment and delight.

Now fast-forward to a different garden. This garden is dark with sorrow yet filled with love and purpose. From Matt. 26:39 (NIV), *"Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.'"* It's the Garden of Gethsemane. In this garden, a loving God continues to provide for His people in His Son, Jesus. In this garden, Jesus willingly submits to His Father's will and sets His eyes purposefully on the cross.

God plants both gardens with love. Peek into the paradise that is Eden and see a beautiful first home. Look into the garden named Gethsemane and you'll see God's love personified in Jesus, His Son.

And we know how Jesus loved us ... He gave His life unto death on the altar of the cross to pay the penalty of sin for all people once for all. He was placed in a grave that was sealed and guarded. But He didn't stay in the tomb. Jesus is the grave breaker! And the empty

tomb, the angel's announcement, the disciples' witness of Jesus alive proves that He is the leader for you and me and that in death comes everlasting life.

God takes great joy in gardening. The LWML takes joy in gardening as well. The LWML helps women find avenues to use their God-given talents as they joyfully sow the seed of the Good News of Jesus Christ with people far and near. One of the LWML's primary means for carrying out this gardening is through mite offerings collected by members. This money funds mission grants ... for the national LWML and also the South Dakota District LWML.

I ask you to plant this image in your heart and mind today. God, the Gardener of all that has lived and is living, loved you before your beginning and loves you still today! May you 'bloom' in His grace today!

Peace and Joy in Jesus!

Pastor Greg



VP of Communication farewell

I have a confession to make. I didn't attend the convention held in Huron. I was preparing for the graduation of my son. I wasn't even waiting by the phone to hear if I had been elected. I was the only one running for Vice-President of Communication.

I really felt overwhelmed. The rest of the "team" seemed so much wiser than I was and so much more prepared for what projects lie ahead. Yet every time I had a question, an LWML sister had the time to help me, the knowledge to guide me, the encouragement and prayers that I needed.

The last four years have been a blessing that I could never have imagined. The friendships made will be treasured.

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 1:2-3).

Vonda Sturzenbecher

LWML South Dakota District
Vice-President of Communication, 2010-14

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Anecdotes from Arlene

"But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14).

Have you ever been really thirsty? According to *howstuffworks.com*, you may survive three to five days without water. If you are in exceptional health, perhaps six days. If we have to go without water for six hours during the day, we are very thirsty. What do you drink to quench an extraordinary thirst? My beverage of choice when I am extremely thirsty is iced tea. I can drink glasses, mugs, cups or any other way you serve tea. I like tea and usually you will find many different flavors of tea in my cupboard.

But do we really thirst after the living water Christ gives us? In September, we will have the opportunity to gather together at our Christian Life workshops and help quench our thirst with the message of our Savior. Please read the article for more information about our workshops in the current issue of the *HiLites*.

Are you still shouting for the King? In May, 280 of us, including 16 Young Woman Representatives and 14 pastors, gathered together at the Mitchell Christian School under the theme "Shout for the King." We selected Mission Grants, elected officers, learned from Bible studies, dedicated a bench in memory of the Rev. Robert Utecht, tied quilts, made cards for servicemen, heard about mission opportunities and how our Special Gifts funds are used, worshiped, sang and laughed together, hugged each other and missed you if you weren't with us. Our newly elected officers are Melissa Brock, vice-president of Communication; Judy Gies, vice-president of Human Care; Carissa Naasz, vice-president of Servant Resources; the Rev. Steve Weispenning, pastoral counselor; Susan Swanson, secretary; Jeanette Smith, financial secretary; Jill Johnsen, Nominating Committee chairman; and Paulette Gross and Susan Magedanz, Nominating Committee. Read about the newly chosen Mission Grants in a



Arlene Naasz,
LWML South
Dakota District
President

future article. To all our outgoing officers: to God be all praise and glory for your work in "Serving Him with Gladness."

LWMLers, look forward to opportunities to gather. April 24-25, 2015, is our district retreat at St. John's, Yankton. June 25-28, 2015, is our national convention in Des Moines, Iowa. South Dakota buses will depart from Sioux Falls on Wednesday, June 24, with a stop at Mission Central for a tour and lunch. Continue to pray for the LWML and our efforts to share the Good News.

Plan now for fall Christian Life workshops

The excitement mounts! Fall Christian Life workshops are just around the corner and waiting to have you in attendance. Sites and dates have been finalized as follows:

- ▶ Sept. 12: Mount Olive, Watertown
- ▶ Sept. 13: Zion, Hurley

The Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher, pastor at Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk, will present "God's Sacrifice for You, The Ties from the Tabernacle to the Table of the Lord." (Sturzenbecher presented this topic in Spearfish and Murdo in 2013.)

- ▶ Sept. 19: Bethlehem, Rapid City
- ▶ Sept. 20: Zion, Chamberlain



The Rev. Greg Lehr, pastor at Zion, Sioux Falls, will present the topic "We the People — Citizens of Two Kingdoms." (Lehr presented this topic in Aberdeen and Sioux Falls in 2012.)

All workshops will follow the same schedule, beginning with registration at 9:30 a.m., lunch at noon, maybe a little LWML shopping and finish at about 3 p.m.

Invite a friend, pick up your Bible and join us for a great day learning more about our Lord from these talented presenters.

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





Counselor's corner

Greetings in the name of Jesus! I'm Pastor Steve Weispfennig, associate pastor at St. John's, Yankton, and the newly elected junior counselor for the LWML South Dakota District.

I'm honored to serve the ladies of the South Dakota District as the LWML has been a part of my life for a long time. Growing up in west-central Minnesota, my family attended numerous Minnesota North District and national LWML conventions for family vacations. The LWML also supported me financially while attending Concordia University, St. Paul (graduated in 2004) and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (graduated in 2008).

My wife, Hannah, and I met and were married at Concordia, St. Paul. We have been blessed with two children: Hope, 3, and Timothy, 1.



Rev. Steve Weispfennig,
LWML South Dakota District Counselor

Report from LWML district financial secretary

Greetings LWML Sisters in Christ,

It was truly an honor to be elected as financial secretary at the LWML South Dakota District Convention in Mitchell May 30-31.

As your financial secretary, I will receive all monies from the societies for Mites, Quarterlies, HiLites, Special Gifts, etc., for the next four years. Your society treasurer should be able to access the financial secretary remittance forms on the website, www.sdlwml.org, to submit any payments that you make to the LWML South Dakota District.

I will also strive to be available to all societies for help as needed. You may contact me via email at jeanette@creeksidefarms.biz, by phone at 605-887-3455 or by postal mail at P.O. Box 94, Northville, SD 57465. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help in any way.

I wish the very best to Ann Cruse, who has just completed her four-year term as financial secretary. She has set a wonderful example for me to follow in filling this position.

Now may God bless all of us as we continue to "Shout for the King" every day in every way!

Jeanette Smith, LWML South Dakota District financial secretary



Utecht family members are shown with the bench purchased for the Puppet Place in memory of the Rev. Bob Utecht for his years of service to our Lord.

Puppet Place schedule set for state fair

The LWML mission outreach project has been blessed to have the Utecht family and friends present five puppet shows daily at the South Dakota State Fair. The LWML zones are asked to have five or six volunteers to invite people to come to the puppet shows. Two people need to be at the Puppet Place at all times (even between shows). Please invite all women, men and youth to volunteer on your assigned day. Also, if you are attending the state fair, please volunteer to spend part of the day at the Puppet Place.

The dates for the 2014 South Dakota State Fair are Thursday, Aug. 28 through Monday, Sept. 1. These are the LWML zones furnishing volunteers for the Puppet Place at the fair:

- ▶ Thursday, Aug. 28, Pierre, Mary Jo Stier, president
- ▶ Friday, Aug. 29, Sioux Falls, Lisa Asmus, president
- ▶ Saturday, Aug. 30, Yankton, Deanna Erickson, president
- ▶ Sunday, Aug. 31, Aberdeen (a short church service is held at 10 a.m. before the shows begin), Jeanette Smith, president
- ▶ Monday, Sept. 1, Black Hills, Diane Jacobsen, president

Please pray that the Gospel message presented during the puppet shows will lead people to know Jesus as their Savior. Also, we ask that you activate your church's prayer chain during the five days of the South Dakota State Fair.

Susan Kinsley,
Gospel Outreach Committee Chairman

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Anecdotes from **Arlene**

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you" (Is. 43:2).

Recently, my husband and I drove to the eastern United States. On our journey, we viewed all of the Great Lakes. Driving on the bridges, all you could see was water and more water until the curvature of the earth allowed you to see no further.

Due to all the recent rain, every stream and lake was overflowing, sometimes on to the roads. From the above Bible verse, we know that God is always with us as we travel the waters and rivers of life. Some of our South Dakota communities have been hard hit with excess water. Our heartfelt prayers go out to all concerned. If you have the



Arlene Naasz
LWML South
Dakota District
President

opportunity to help in other ways, please strive to do so.

Schools have begun classes, and along with school come fall activities. The LWML South Dakota District will be holding our Christian Life workshops at four different locations throughout the state. Take advantage of these Bible studies and

invite someone not in the LWML. More information concerning the workshops is in the latest issue of the *HiLites*.

In your society meetings, remember to pray for the Mission Grants, voted to be funded during the next biennium. Mite box devotions for all of our South Dakota mission grants will be distributed at the Christian Life workshops. Zone presidents will also have copies and they will be available at www.sdlwml.org. At our district convention in May, prayer cards for the

national mission grants were given to all attendees. Contact me if you would like more prayer cards.

How is your society going to observe LWML Sunday? This year, most of the resources for LWML Sunday are available for download at the LWML website, www.lwml.org. If you are unable to use the site, call the national LWML office for assistance at 1-800-252-5965.

Next June, we will travel to Des Moines, Iowa, for the national convention under the theme "Sow • Nourish • Reap." Our district will need a banner for the processional; please send your suggestions to me. Encourage your young women to apply to be a Young Woman Representative to the convention. Attending a national convention is an excellent way to learn about the LWML and our privilege to "Serve the Lord with Gladness." Information about transportation- to Iowa is on our website or available from your zone president. Hope to see you at an LWML event soon.

Convention blessed with YWRs

The Young Woman Representatives were very busy at the LWML South Dakota District Convention in Mitchell this past May. There were 16 YWRs at the convention — perhaps the most ever at a South Dakota District convention!

The ladies worked hard to make more than 40 tied blankets. Thanks to the massive amount of fleece that was donated, several YWRs took fleece home to make blankets to donate in their communities. Some of the blankets the YWRs made during convention went to the Madison women's shelter; the rest went



with the Rev. Andrew Utecht for distribution at Rosebud.

The YWRs also got to hang out with Joy Dougherty, LWML recording secretary, share a devotion with everyone at the convention and show off their music skills by marching through the convention playing music with teapots. What an awesome experience!

Now it's time to start thinking about applying to be a YWR at the 2015 LWML Convention in Des Moines. Young women between the ages of 21 and 35 ... look for more information about how to apply soon!

Angie Robinson
Chairwoman,
Committee on Young Women



Counselor's Corner

The Lord has brought us to a new time as we look back in time. Sometimes we look back to know what to do in the present. But I wonder if we need to look forward to know what to do in the present. We are living in a time when major shifts have occurred in our culture ... in our time ... shifts that have reshaped the present and future for a long time to come.



The Rev. Greg Lehr
LWML District Counselor

As we look forward to find what to do in the present, we find Jesus inviting us out into His way, His truth and His life. These cultural shifts present possibilities for you and me to live out our faith in Jesus in word and deed as God is inviting us to serve in mission. He is inviting you to serve the heart of God, seeking and saving the lost. We live out these possibilities in this new time as we bring to each other, our families, our circle of friends, work acquaintances and those in our congregations and outside our church family hope, compassion and community of Jesus.

In this new day, Jesus invites you and me along with the LWML to live and serve with Him in mission, seeking and saving the lost, centered in the sin-forgiving cross of Jesus where He paid for all sins, for all people, for all time. And then three days after arriving in the grave that was sealed and guarded, He walked out alive. Victory over sin and death was God's stamp of approval of Jesus' perfect sacrifice on the altar of the cross and by faith you, too, have victory over the grave ... you live the resurrection way, truth and life in this new time of opportunities, today ... tomorrow ... forever!

So we celebrate today and every day. We make a joyful noise before the King. We shout for our King a new song! Stepping out and saying *yes*, we are princesses and princes of our heavenly King.

So proudly shout to the world all the wonders of God's love.

Don't forget about our workshops

Fall Christian Life workshops are right around the corner! Workshops begin with registration at 9:30 a.m. and end at about 3 p.m.

The Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher, pastor, Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk, will present "God's Sacrifice for You, the Ties From the Tabernacle to the Table of the Lord" Sept. 12 at Mount Olive,

Watertown, and Sept. 13 at Zion, Hurley.

The Rev. Greg Lehr, pastor, Zion, Sioux Falls, will present "We the People—Citizens of Two Kingdoms" Sept. 19 at Bethlehem, Rapid City, and Sept. 20 at Zion, Chamberlain.

Bobbie Bierman
Vice-President,
Christian Life



MISSION GRANTS for the 2014-16 biennium

At the 58th Biennial Convention in Mitchell on May 30-31, the delegates of the LWML South Dakota District prayerfully considered their Mission Grants for the 2014-16 biennium.

The following Mission Grants were selected from the ballot:

- ▶ Life: A Better Choice\$5,000
- ▶ Trinity/HOPE, Inc. Project to Feed Hungry Children in Lutheran School in Haiti.....\$5,000
- ▶ Lutheran Braille Workers.....\$4,000
- ▶ Divine Shepherd Preschool, Black Hawk.....\$4,870
- ▶ Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne Food and Clothing Co-op.....\$5,000
- ▶ Black Hills Lutheran Schools Association, Inc.\$5,000
- ▶ Standing Firm in the Face of Islam.....\$5,000
- ▶ Classrooms for the Children of Liberia.....\$5,000
- ▶ Rural and Small Town Mission Worker\$5,000
- ▶ Graduate Studies for International Lutheran Leaders (partially funded)\$1,130
- Total Mission Grants\$45,000

As we begin our new biennium, please keep these grants as well as those not selected in your prayers. They are all doing God's work and, along with our mites, need our prayers.

Mary Jo Stier
Vice-President,
Gospel Outreach

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Anecdotes from Arlene

In 1 Cor. 12:17, we read: "If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?"

Smells are all around us. Autumn aromas fill the air. Do you have a favorite smell? Bread baking, chocolate chip cookies, laundry dried in the sun? Perhaps certain smells remind you of a particular event, be it pleasurable or otherwise. My father-in-law was reminded of his time in the war every time he was in a dirt cellar.

The Bible often talks about the sweet-smelling fragrant offerings and sacrifices to God. God has given us a sense of smell. The LWML Sunday materials for 2014



Arlene Naasz
LWML South
Dakota District
President

are based on Eph. 5:2, "Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

Make sure you promote LWML Sunday in your church. Consider using one or more of the bulletin bytes found on the LWML website: www.lwml.org. Part of one reads: "Our LWML looks

forward to a special time of sharing with you the exciting missions of the LWML."

Be sure to share our story with your congregation. Share about all our mission grants. Your new poster should be prominently posted in your church. This is a marvelous opportunity to encourage others to catch our mission commitment and participate with us as we help spread

the Good News of salvation. Ask all in your congregation to pray for the LWML mission grants as all of us strive to gladly serve our Lord.

This month, most of the LWML zones throughout South Dakota will have a fall rally, retreat or gathering of some sort. These events are a wonderful opportunity to gather with fellow sisters and perhaps a couple of brothers in Christ. Learn from each other and encourage one another to share our love of Christ.

It is never too early to make plans for 2015. Our district retreat will be April 24-25 in Yankton, and the national LWML convention will be June 25-28 in Des Moines, Iowa. Our district is taking a bus — or maybe two — to Des Moines. Ask your zone president about more details or visit our website, www.dlwml.org. To God be all the glory.



Greetings from Chamberlain Zone

As the Chamberlain Zone is preparing for the fall rally, I would like to share with you what some of our zone societies do throughout the year. Every society will take a turn making cookies (40 dozen every two months) for Pastor Andrew Utecht's ministry in Rosebud. They collect mites, and many societies contribute to various groups and organizations, such as Main Street Living, Lutheran Bible Translators, Women's Prison Ministry, Concordia Food Bank in St. Louis, "A Word from the Word" radio ministry heard daily on KWYR, South Dakota seminary students or by sponsoring a Compassion Child.

In their communities, they contribute to local food

banks and women's shelters, and they make and deliver cheer baskets to shut-ins and nursing home residents. Societies continue to use their talents by making plastic mats, snuggle blankets for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Sioux Falls, and quilts for Lutheran World Relief and high school graduates. They also lead Bible studies in their churches.

Whether the societies meet monthly or quarterly, the LWML women continually use their God-given gifts to "serve the Lord with gladness."

The societies in the Chamberlain Zone are from Zion, Chamberlain; St. Paul, Draper; St. John, Gregory; Zion, Hamill; St. Peter, Midland; Messiah, Murdo; St. John, Norris; Zion, Presho; and Christ, Winner. It has been my pleasure to serve with ladies of the Chamberlain Zone as their president for the past four years. The friendships I have made will continue to grow, along with our willingness to serve our Lord. Thank you and God bless you all.

Susan Swanson,
Chamberlain Zone president





Counselor's Corner

I love a good deal. A few years ago, my wife and I got a good deal for a Disney World vacation that included airfare for two, a week at a Disney World resort, daily park admissions including extended hours, complimentary shuttling and a \$200 Disney gift card to spend on anything we wanted. The deal got even better on my wife's birthday with yet another \$50 Disney gift card. All this for one low price. What a deal!

We all love a good deal. During the summer, my wife goes to garage sales to fill our kids' wardrobes for just a few dollars. People rummage through the clearance racks and clip coupons all in search of a good deal. But of course, nothing beats free!

That's what we get with the Gospel. By God's grace, He has a deal for us that can't be beat. **"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"** (Rom. 6:23). What a deal!

But this deal still came at a great cost; it cost our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, His life. Out of His great love for us, Jesus paid for our sins, "not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death" (*Luther's Small Catechism*, The Creed—The Second Article). Jesus' death on the cross gave us the deal of a lifetime.

But about 500 years ago, Christians thought they were getting a good deal when they were being offered heaven for the price of a few small coins. This deal was known as an indulgence. Later this month, Lutheran churches will celebrate the Reformation that began when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany, on Oct. 31, 1517. Luther's little article pointed out that an indulgence was no deal at all, but that God's gift of salvation and eternal life cost us nothing — it's free!

That's too good of a deal not to share. But various circumstances prevent many people from getting this deal. Through the mites and efforts of the LWML, this free gift is being given across the country and throughout the world.

Yes, everybody loves a good deal, especially if it's free. **"The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"** because of Jesus' love for us through His death on the cross. What a deal!



The Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor

LWML National Convention

Des Moines, Iowa • June 25-28, 2015

The convention theme is based on the following Scripture passage: **"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"** (2 Cor. 9:8 NIV).



Convention Goal Statement

Through Christ's bountiful love and blessings of Word and Sacraments, I am equipped by the Holy Spirit to work in my Father's harvest field.

Convention Objectives

Attendees will be fed by God's Word and Sacrament; nurtured through worship and fellowship; and equipped to sow, nourish and reap in His field.

Convention Logo Explanation

The single line represents mankind as a newly plowed field, open to receive God's bountiful blessings. As God nourishes His people with His Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit nurtures faith in Christ Jesus who, by His death on the cross, gives salvation and forgiveness to all believers and empowers them to serve as His light (depicted by the sun) to the world. The double lines represent the abundant fruits produced through His grace by God's people. The three lines together depict an open Bible. In response to His grace, mercy and bountiful blessings, we thank, praise and share our Father's love.

Opportunity for young women

Young women ages 21-35, it's time to start thinking very seriously about applying to be a Young Woman Representative at the 2015 LWML Convention.

The application can be found at <http://thelc.ms/lwml/doc> and is due by Dec. 1. Send your completed application and recommendation letter to Angie Robinson, 116 3rd Ave. SE, Warner, SD 57479, or to angela.robinson80@gmail.com. Being a YWR is an experience that could change your life, so please consider applying!

Angie Robinson

Chairwoman of Committee on Young Women

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Anecdotes from **Arlene**

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good” (Gen. 1:31).

As you look over the countryside, what evidence of God's goodness do you see? The many colors displayed on trees, livestock grazing on the hillside, a rainbow against an azure sky, the varied shades of pink and purple as the sun sets. Or perhaps sounds remind you of God: the laughter of a baby, saints singing anthems of praise, the wind whistling across the plains, your own prayers as you talk to Your Heavenly Father. God's creation gives testimony to Him.

God wants us to give testimony to Him and His gift of redemption. We are to make disciples of all nations. Mission work is the central emphasis of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Through our mites, we are able to help in sharing the gift of salvation to others in places we individually may not be able to go. Our LWML South Dakota District has recently completed a packet of mite box devotions for our current and ongoing mission grants. Copies of these devotions are available at our Christian Life workshops and also at your fall zone event, or they may be downloaded from the website. Please use these devotions at society or circle meetings and even during your own personal devotion time. As grants are funded, your zone president and the website will keep you informed. Remember to also pray for our national Mission Grants and read about them in the *Quarterly*.

Do you know where you will be June 25-28, 2015? Hopefully, gathering with thousands of other LWML sisters in Des Moines, Iowa. South Dakota is taking a bus! Our bus mom, Maxine Boxdorfer, is coordinating the travel plans. The bus will stop at Mission Central on the way to convention. Please pray for the convention and make it a goal to attend. The winter issue of the *Quarterly* will have registration information for the Des Moines convention.

Also make plans to attend our LWML South Dakota retreat. We will gather April 24-25, 2015, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Yankton. Our theme is “Always Changing, Always the Same,” based on Heb. 13:8: **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”** More information will be included in future issues of the *HiLites*.



Arlene Naasz
LWML South
Dakota District
President

Special Gifts Fund

The Special Gifts Fund of the LWML South Dakota District is another tool that God uses to share the love of Jesus and help carry out the Great Commission. When special gifts come to the district, we are able to use them to support special needs that are not part of our regular budget.

The following is a list of what we were able to help fund the past two years.

- ▶ Purchased computer software for communications in our LWML South Dakota District.
- ▶ Sent our archivist to a training workshop in St. Louis.
- ▶ \$1,250 for South Dakota District Mites.
- ▶ \$2,500 for National Mites.
- ▶ \$3,000 to help zones send their delegate to the Pittsburgh convention (\$300 per zone).
- ▶ \$1,600 to send a second Young Woman Representative to the national convention.
- ▶ \$465 each year to provide 20 subscriptions of *Today's Light*, a devotion study guide, for ministry at the women's prison in Pierre.
- ▶ Up to \$750 for a memorial bench at the puppet place in memory of the Rev. Robert Utecht.
- ▶ \$5,000 for the president's Mercy Grant Fund, requested by South Dakota District President Rev. Dr. Dale Sattgast, to be used by rostered church workers in the district who are experiencing financial burden.
- ▶ \$4,500 to the Parmalee Progress Project – Sewing for Christ, to purchase two sewing machines and extra supplies needed for a new sewing factory. Training began before Easter and production began in May.
- ▶ \$150 to Camp Minneboji for supplies to make witness bracelets in June 2014. The bracelets were given out at the puppet place in August 2014.
- ▶ \$7,500 to Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls toward the purchase of a van to transport students to classes and athletic and music events.
- ▶ Up to \$1,500 to send a second Young Woman Representative to the national LWML convention in 2015.
- ▶ \$600 to Sioux Falls Lutheran Preschool for outside and inside equipment.

Money for this fund comes as special gifts from estates, endowments, trusts and memorials. Financial gifts can be given to this fund by sending a check (write “Special Gifts Fund” on the memo line) and

(See Gifts, next page)



Counselor's Corner

“What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” (1 Cor. 4:7).



The Rev. Greg Lehr
LWML District Counselor

When a little boy returned from a birthday party, his mother asked, “Did you thank Mrs. Johnson for the party?” He answered, “I was standing in the line at the front door when the boy in front of me thanked her, and she said, ‘Don’t mention it,’ so I didn’t.”

Thanksgiving Day comes to Americans as a yearly opportunity to count our blessings, to recognize from whom they come and to express our thanks in prayer and song. It’s an appropriate and helpful exercise because we have a tendency from day-to-day and week-to-week and month-to-month to take our enjoyment of abundance for granted, so we “don’t mention it.” There may be many reasons for this, but it should be obvious to all of us that we need to learn what I am calling the “grace of receiving” as described in 1 Cor. 4:7.

But shouldn’t it be the “grace of giving”? Who needs to learn to receive? From childhood on, we so naturally focus on what we want and how we might get it. How often are we focused on what we think we don’t have instead of on what we have already received! We don’t need to be taught about receiving ... we need to learn about generous love and giving.

But there’s a real principle of our life in faith here. We won’t learn

about gracious, God-pleasing giving until we learn about gracious, God-pleasing receiving. The “grace of receiving” focuses on and values the giver. It doesn’t focus nearsightedly on self and on the desired gift.

Maybe we should have Thanksgiving Day every week instead of only once a year, but don’t we? Isn’t one of the purposes of our worship on the Lord’s Day to give Him thanks and praise for His blessings? It’s why we recount the Good News of Jesus’ life and death and rising so regularly, so we will not be thoughtless but rather learn the life-giving grace of receiving ... the life-giving grace of receiving His forgiving love and all that goes with it. If that doesn’t move us to express our gratitude in word and deed, really in all of life, what will?

On Thanksgiving Day, our nation has set aside a time to “mention it” to the Giver of all. More than anything else, thank God for the Gospel. Thank God for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation that is ours because of the sacrificial death of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. He knew that after the darkness, there would be light; after defeat, victory; after sorrow, joy; after death, resurrection.

By the resurrection of Jesus, we know that God our heavenly Father has accepted the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins. And we know that we, too, will rise from the dead and be with God the Father forever and ever.

Remember to give thanks and praise to God for all of this! As you do so, you will find that the Lord has blessed you with growth in the “grace of receiving.” And all of God’s people said ... Amen!

Time to apply!

Young women ages 22-35, it’s time to get your applications in to be a Young Woman Representative (YWR) at the LWML 36th Biennial Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, June 25-28, 2015. If chosen to represent the LWML South Dakota District as a YWR, you will learn more about the LWML, experience wonderful Bible studies, meet other amazing Lutheran women, see the work done around the world because of our mighty mites and so much more.

Find the YWR application at www.sdlwml.org. Mail completed applications to:

Angela Robinson
116 3rd Ave. SE
Warner, SD 57479

or angela.robinson80@gmail.com. Completed applications are due by Dec. 1, 2014, so get yours in as soon as possible.

Angela Robinson
Chairman of Committee
on Young Women

Gifts

(Continued from Page D)

naming the South Dakota LWML Special Gifts Fund as a beneficiary in your will or insurance policy.

Forms to request a grant from this fund may be found at www.lwmlsd.org and sent to:

Lisa Asmus
6509 S. Mogen Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

You may also email it to Lisa at lsasmus@yahoo.com.

To God be the glory ... great things He has done!

Lisa Asmus
Special Gifts Fund Chairwoman

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Anecdotes from **Arlene**

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God...”

(Luke 2:13)

Singing Christmas

carols — one of the joys of the season. Hearing them sung by your grandchildren, priceless! Listening to “Away in a Manger” sung by the little children can bring tears of enjoyment to my eyes.

How about you? God gives us the opportunity to praise Him in many



Arlene Naasz
LWML South
Dakota District
President

ways. Martin Luther said, “Next to the Word of God the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.” Look for ways you can share this great treasure of music with those around you.

Are you a banner maker or designer? We need designs for the LWML South Dakota District banner for the 2015 convention in Des Moines, Iowa. If you have any ideas, please send them to me by the end of this month. My contact information is on our website, www.sdlwml.org

Have you used any of the Mission Grant devotions at your society meetings? They are available on our website. We have devotions for all of the 10 current Mission Grants, and also for the three ongoing district grants. Please use these resources to help you learn more about our mission outreach endeavors.

Keep your Mission Grant poster current by coloring in when a grant is paid. And it is very important to pray for our district and national grants.

Are you signed up for the bus to Des Moines, or are you driving there on your own? Registration information for the June 2015 convention is available in the *Quarterly* or at www.lwml.org. Our district bus will leave on Wednesday, June 24, and stop at Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa, for a tour and lunch. The bus will also provide shuttle service for those paying for rides during the convention.

In April, we have the opportunity to gather together for a district retreat. “Always Changing, Always the Same” is our theme, based on Heb. 13:8. Mark your calendar for April 24-25 and we will see you at St. John’s, Yankton.

Milbank Zone greetings

Happy Holidays from the Milbank Zone in Northeast South Dakota!

Every year, Milbank Zone has a retreat either in the fall or winter. The retreat was always held at Blue Cloud Abbey, but we had to find a different place last year because it closed. The Abbey has new owners and a new name, so in November we went back to the same location, now called the Abbey of the Hills.

The ladies met at the Abbey of the Hills for Bible study and fellowship Nov. 7-8. The Rev. Caleb Schewe presented the study “The Liturgy of Life” to help us carry the liturgy every day and use it to glorify our Savior. After the first part of the Bible study Friday evening, there was fellowship with board games, dominoes and cards. Saturday, there was more Bible study, singing, fellowship and, of course, several skits. Angie Meseberg came to share information about The Beacon Center, formerly the Women’s Resource Center. Our ingathering was items for The Beacon Center.

Everyone enjoyed the fellowship, laughter, the atmosphere and, especially, learning about living their life for Jesus!

Jeanette Gravdahl
Milbank Zone president



From left, Bobbie Biermann, Arlene Naasz, Lisa Asmus and Bev Johnson.



From left, Laurel Schamber, the Rev. Greg Lehr, Susan Swanson and Melissa Brock.



Counselor's Corner

We've all seen the commercial where a nicely dressed husband leads his nicely dressed wife outside with his hands covering her eyes to reveal her surprise Christmas present: a brand-new, luxury car with a giant red bow on top.

I don't know about you, but that's not what Christmas morning looks like at my house. We groggily make our way downstairs in our pajamas and "bed-head" hairdos, with crusty eyes and Kleenex in hand for wiping giant boogers from the kids' noses to sit on the floor around the Christmas tree. Yet we parents sit there with smiles on our faces as the kids rip off the wrapping paper into tiny pieces on the floor and get so excited about the relatively inexpensive gifts they open.

I think our family's Christmas morning is similar to the Holy Family's first Christmas morning. Joseph frazzled from trying to find a place for them to stay and then trying to play nurse. Mary exhausted from giving birth in a dirty ol' cattle stable. Yet they rejoice in this gift from God to the world, not wrapped in pretty paper and bows, but wrapped in human flesh and swaddling clothes — this Jesus, God's gift of a Savior to save the world from their sins.

This gift of a Savior isn't first announced in the luxury of palaces, but to many shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night. *"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord'"* (Luke 2:10-11).

In the LWML, this "good news of great joy" — the gift of the Savior Jesus — is gifted to people all throughout the world, often to people who are like those shepherds — people who are not living a life of luxury, but to people who rejoice in the simplest of gifts. Your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and maybe even the occasional dollar bill that is wrapped up inside a tiny purple box is a simple gift that can bring great joy to a person who needs the gift of the Savior Jesus Christ and all that He gives. The mission of the LWML is that the whole world would glorify and praise God, like the shepherds, for His gift of a Savior wrapped up in human flesh.

A blessed and merry Christmas to you all!



The Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor

You are CHOSEN

Among the many Bible verses I learned as a student in confirmation class, the following seems to pop into my head on occasion:

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light"

(1 Peter 2:9).



What a blessing it is to be given the privilege of sharing the joy and excitement of our faith with others! There are opportunities every day to be God's witnesses. God wants us to reach out to those who are craving the love of a merciful God.

The following are short-term mission opportunities which might interest you.

- ▶ The Rev. Andrew Utecht could use extra help with VBS in June. Also, during Lent, he hopes to have a Bible school in Parmalee on a Sunday evening and continuing on Monday and Tuesday after school. He welcomes volunteers to help. Call Utecht at 605-828-2695.
- ▶ There are several opportunities for Bible school ministry throughout the summer in Alaska. The Rev. David Sternbeck and his wife, Rosemary, facilitate those trips out of Fairbanks. There is an application as a first step at www.lutheranindianministries.org. More information will be forthcoming.
- ▶ There are three exciting scheduled trips to Hong Kong in 2015. Refer to Krista Erickson's article on Page C.

Mission trips are so rewarding as you build relationships with those you witness to, and they sometimes lead to return trips to continue those friendships. Of course, even if you can't participate in one of these opportunities, your prayers would be so appreciated. As your new vice-president of Human Care, I will continue to pass new opportunities on to you as I learn of them.

Judy Gies
Vice-president, Human Care