

Moments with Mary Jo



A **WORD** needed to get through the day

When I agreed to have my name placed on the ballot to serve as the district president for 2024-2028, I thought to myself, “Am I the right person for this?” I have served in many positions within the district but had never imagined myself as president. After much prayer — and “no” often running through my head — I decided to put my doubts into God’s hands and let Him lead me through this journey.



Mary Jo Stier
LWML South Dakota
District President

One of my main concerns about being a leader is that I am a terrible procrastinator, as many who have worked with me know. I am not a writer. I struggle trying to come up with the right words to say the right thing. Each morning as I start my workday, I open my email and there is the LWML Mustard Seed daily devotion. On many occasions, the devotion for that day is exactly what I needed to hear. It reminds me that I am not in control.

The Aug. 9 devotion shared:

God promises to be there and to be our strength to handle everything this world tries to throw at us. Alone, it’s overwhelming; but we are not alone! He is always there guiding, encouraging and sometimes even carrying us through our daily trials.

What a wonderful reminder that I am not alone, and neither are you. We are all God’s children.

If you haven’t signed up for the Mustard Seed daily devotions, I encourage you to do so. You can sign up to receive a daily Mustard Seed email at lwml.org/mustard-seed-devotions. The devotion may just be that one thing you needed to hear that day.



Remember to send your mites

Wow! It’s hard to believe I have been your financial secretary for two years already! I have enjoyed getting to meet a lot of you at conventions, Christian Life workshops, and rallies.

Please remember to send in your mites monthly. This allows the LWML South Dakota District to fund the Mission Grants we selected at convention in June, and also to help fund the 2023–2025 national Mission Grants. To God be the glory!

Paula Warren • Financial Secretary

ABERDEEN ZONE UPDATE

Our zone spent most of the winter and spring months getting ready for our district convention. One volunteer made sure to enter all the personal information into a database so that we could print name tags and register participants. Other volunteers made decorations; signed up vendors and helped them with set-up; coordinated and helped with servant events, Gifts from the Heart and the ingathering; and created convention banners.

There is a lot of work that goes into a convention and we had a fantastic event with a lots of attendees, wonderful speakers and generous donors. The funds and items collected will support our missions and local agencies that help the needy in our area.

The Aberdeen Zone has been planning its Fall Rally, which was scheduled for Sept. 28.

Betty Ochsner
Aberdeen Zone President



COUNSELOR'S CORNER



God does the impossible

October brings many events and much rejoicing in the Word and work of our Lord Jesus. There is LWML Sunday, a Christian Life Workshop (Oct. 12) and the Reformation!

“Ready to Serve,” based on Luke 1:38, is the theme for LWML Sunday. Mary’s response to the announcement that she, a virgin, will conceive and bear a son who will be the Son of God is remarkable. After gently suggesting that such a thing is impossible, and being reassured that with God, nothing is impossible, she agrees:

“Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” LUKE 1:38

Though this reaction seems logical (when an angel tells you something, you agree to it), it is actually unique.

When God told Abraham that Sarah was going to have a child, Sarah, who overheard, laughed! You’ve probably heard the saying, “We make plans, and God laughs.” It seems it is the other way around. “God makes plans, and we



Rev. Brian Mosemann
LWML District Counselor

laugh.” The reason we laugh is because we don’t believe God would ever do what seems so far-fetched for us to imagine.

God’s plans always seem impossible. Giving birth to His Son through a virgin. Bringing John the Baptist into the world through a woman who was barren. Making Abraham and Sarah — an old couple who could no longer have children — ancestors to many nations. Bringing the nation of Israel

out of slavery in Egypt, and not around the Red Sea, but through it. This is what God does! The angel said:

“For nothing will be impossible with God.” LUKE 1:37

God does the impossible in showing us that He is a loving, caring God. God generally grants life through fertile women. Yet God chose to bring a prophet and our Savior out of barrenness and virginity.

God accomplishes the impossible, including saving you, all according to His Word.



PRESERVING OUR HISTORY

How can we out give the giver? On our own, we can’t get more from the Lord than what He has given us. We pass on to the next generation what we have learned from previous generations.

Records of events, pictures of family and saving faith are important things we want to pass down to the next generations. Our Lutheran Women in Mission are on that mission. We want to share the “Inexpressible Joy” we have in the Lord by preserving what is important.

We want to look back and catch a glimpse of a challenging time that our parents and grandparents faced. We want to know how our loved ones handled these situations, both difficult and joyful. Where did they find their help and comfort?

We want to preserve these things, and we want those things that are special to us in the here and now to be preserved as well. Reporting your events and gatherings helps us to see what is working to bring people together as one body of Christ, across the generations. Names are important so we know who has done what in our congregations. Don’t forget the quiet ones who are our prayer warriors!

Please share your history of activities from this past year. Reports are due to me by Nov. 1.

Lurene Denke • Archivist-Historian