

Moments with Mary Jo

READY TO serve

••••• LUKE 1:38 •••••



Greetings on this beautiful day the Lord has made.

My first article had to be completed quickly after I was elected as district president, so I didn't have much time to really think about how I wanted to title my monthly articles. Those who know me well will say I am not very creative, and it takes me a little time to come up with ideas. As I pondered writing my second article, a title for my column came to me: "Moments with Mary Jo."



Mary Jo Stier
LWML South Dakota District President

In this space for September, I am excited to share with you information about LWML Sunday. Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday is traditionally celebrated the first Sunday in October, but it can be celebrated any time. Numerous resources are available at lwml.org/lwml-sunday to help with planning your group's LWML Sunday. I encourage you to take a look at these resources.

This year's LWML Sunday theme is, "Ready to Serve," based on Luke 1:38:

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."
And the angel departed from her.

As redeemed children of God, Lutheran Women in Mission give thanks for the opportunity to serve others as we have been served, to proclaim that Jesus is our Lord and that He came for all nations, and to respond with our mite offerings to support God's mission. Our example has been the widow and her mites. The offering she made was observed by our Lord. Her copper coins, her mites, were "everything she had, all she had to live on" (Mark 12:43).

May our mite offerings be blessed for our Lord's kingdom!

Attend a Christian Life Workshop

My name is Kristy Ring and I am the new vice-president of Christian Life. I am the wife of Rev. Marcus Ring, who serves as pastor of St. John, Gregory. I am mother of Charissa (14), Robby (12) and Christian (10). I teach middle- and high-school computers for the Gregory School District. A deaconess studies background from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, has truly prepared me for this vocation with LWML.

I am eager to meet you all and spend time together in fellowship, worship, learning and service. The 2024 Fall Christian Life Workshops gives us an opportunity for these rich gifts in Christ.

Saturday, Sept. 7

"God Gives Good Gifts in B.A.G.S. (Baptism, Absolution, Gospel, Supper)"

Divine Shepard, Black Hawk (7308 Wedgewood Drive)

Presenter: Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher

Saturday, Oct. 12

"Understanding Mass Media from a Christian Perspective"

St. John's, Yankton (1009 Jackson Street)

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Jacob Bobby

Workshop schedule:

- 9:30–10 a.m. Registration and Coffee
- 10–10:15 a.m. Opening devotions
- 10:15–10:30 a.m. Greetings, announcements and introductions
- 10:30–11 a.m. Speaker
- 11–11:15 a.m. Break/singing
- 11:15 a.m.–noon Speaker
- Noon–1 p.m. Lunch/shopping
- 1–1:45 p.m. Speaker
- 1:45–2 p.m. Break/singing
- 2–2:45 p.m. Speaker
- 2:45–3 p.m. Closing

Please join us and bring a friend for these enriching workshops as we grow together in God's Word with our blessed pastors!

Hello from the new VP of Gospel Outreach

Greetings Sisters in Christ.

My name is Cathy VandeBraak and I am excited to serve the Lutheran Women in Mission South Dakota District as the new vice-president of Gospel Outreach. I am a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls. I am co-president of the Zion Eve Group and vice-president of the Sioux Falls Zone.

My husband, Mark, and I both work for Lutheran Family Service. We have two children, Rebecca (Jake) and Seth, and one beautiful granddaughter, Gwendolyn. She was the youngest first-timer at the district convention in Aberdeen.

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



Who am I?



Rev. Christopher McCarthy

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**

I suppose I should begin by introducing myself. I am Rev. Christopher McCarthy, pastor of First, Wall, and Emmanuel, Creighton, since 2017, having been called as a candidate from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, upon graduation. My wife, Carrie, and I were married in September 2021, and we are blessed with one son, Micah. Carrie is a Lutheran teacher from Baltimore.

At the 2024 district convention, you elected me to be your junior pastoral counselor. I am excited and honored to serve you in this role.

It is an exciting time of year, isn't it? Carrie, Micah and I have been working hard on our garden all year and are looking forward to the harvest from our labors. After harvesting comes canning, storing and jelly-making.

I am sure this is an exciting time of year for you, too! You are looking forward to your own harvest. Perhaps

you are anticipating a new school year or upcoming holidays. You will encounter new initiatives at work, another year on the church calendar, another winter.

I don't know how it is for you, but the end of the summer season always leaves me with a sense of ... *regret* is not the right word ... but *unfulfillment*, perhaps. I think to myself, "We could have done more this summer. We could have done more with the longer hours of the day. We could have done more before winter sets in."

Can you relate? We are limited by the seasons. By work. By school. By routine. The same old, same old sets in and we start to wonder, "What is all this for?" "What am I doing with my life?" "How will I be remembered by my community, or will I be remembered at all?"

I think about these questions often. They all center around this question: "Who am I?"

And that is where the Holy Spirit comforts us. First Peter answers the question for us: "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession..." (2:9). Suddenly, those questions melt away, not because the routine is different, not because the seasons are different or your schedule is different, but because *you* are different. For He has called you by the Gospel, the Good News that Jesus has purchased and won you by His blood. Your sin — what you did that you shouldn't have, or what you didn't do that you should have — is covered by His blood. Death is not the end for you, just as it was not the end of Him. Instead, He is the end of death.

Satan cannot claim you. Why? Because you — you! — have been called out of his darkness and into Christ's marvelous light.

Yes, even as the days get shorter. Even as routine sets in. Even as the seasons change. Yes, even in these things, proclaim His excellencies, for you are a people for His own possession, bought by the blood of Jesus.

YANKTON ZONE UPDATE

The Yankton Zone held its Spring Christian Life Workshop April 20 at Immanuel Lutheran Fellowship Hall in Menno. Thirty-seven people attended the event, co-hosted by LWML groups from Immanuel, Menno; and St. Paul, Scotland.

Rev. Brian Mosemann, senior pastoral counselor, presented on "How to Handle

a Sword," based on 2 Timothy 2:15, and explained how Law and Gospel are hard to define separately and may sometimes overlap.

For the ingathering, the zone collected individually packaged boxes/bags of raisins, microwave popcorn, puff corn, snack crackers, Rice Krispie treats and small cans of soft drinks. These items were then divided and delivered by the host ladies to the Menno-Olivet Care

Center, a food pantry in Scotland, and the Scotland Good Samaritan Center.

The Fall Christian Life Workshop will be held in Yankton on Saturday, Oct. 12. The Yankton Zone is tentatively planning to incorporate a short business meeting that day to conduct our election of officers.

Sandy Brandt
Yankton Zone President