

With love from Lisa

Happy New Year!

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins be like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.” — Is. 1:18a



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

Fresh starts, new beginnings. It reminds me of fresh, fallen snow. It is so fun to play in snow, and ski, snowmobile, sled, make snow angels, build snowmen, construct snow forts. It can be beautiful, until it's not. Soon it is icy, dirty and it doesn't seem to want to go away!

Our lives can get like that. The new year brings freshness and a new start on how we live our lives. But that, too, seems to be short lived. Our old habits overtake our good intentions.

The Good News is that God, who gave us our new, fresh start in our Baptism, called us His child and loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross; to be our Savior. We also get a fresh start at the altar when we confess our sins and receive the Lord's body and blood in Holy Communion.

Thank you, Lord, for your gift of forgiveness, that we can live each day with a fresh start! What does that look like in your life? You are free to share His love with others around you. Trust God to be with you always. If you fail at something, don't give up ... try again! God is with you always, in the good times and bad. Learn from your mistakes and thank God for His faithfulness.

In 2019, we have exciting things to look forward to! At the Board of Directors meeting this month, we will make some decisions for the 38th Biennial LWML Convention June 20-23 in Mobile, Ala., including choosing:

- ▶ our Young Woman Representatives;
- ▶ a representative for Heart to Heart leader training;
- ▶ a banner design.

HURRY! ... you have until Jan. 9 to turn in your banner design to your zone president. Make sure you reserve your spot on the bus to Mobile by Jan. 15. Banner design and bus registration information are available at sdlwml.org/conventions/mobile/index.html.

MITCHELL ZONE REPORT



“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace.” — Phil. 1:6, 7a

What comfort this verse brings to a newly elected president! I am excited — excited to serve my Lord and Savior, excited to serve as the Mitchell Zone president, excited to meet and befriend you, and excited to participate in the work that God has blessed us with. I know that I have much to learn but am confident that the Lord will guide me and that He has surrounded me with wonderful people who have a supportive, willing heart.

At the year's end, members of the Mitchell Zone LWML attended the 2018 Fall Workshop and the Fall Rally. The workshop presentation by Rev. Tim Koch, “Serpents, Sacraments, and Salvation,” was based on Numbers 21 and equated the lives of the wandering Israelites to our present day lives. At the Mitchell Zone Fall Rally, Rev. Don McKillop talked about his mission work in Guadalajara, Mexico, and Johannesburg, South Africa.

During our business meeting, we reviewed the goals of the LWML, elected zone officers and discussed upcoming events. Of significant interest was the 38th Biennial Convention, “In Praise to the LORD!” We discussed the bus trip to the convention, an alternate delegate for the convention and banner submissions for the South Dakota District. The Fall Rally ended with the installation of officers and dedication of Gifts from the Heart.

God has been gracious throughout 2018 and we look with expectation to Him for grace and blessings in 2019. On behalf of the Mitchell Zone, I would like to extend our heartfelt wishes for a blessed new year. May the blessings of our Savior guide you, protect you and be with you throughout 2019!

In service to our Lord,
Julie Kaufman
Mitchell Zone President

Report deadline near



Dear zone and society officers,

It's that time of the year again for reports. I look forward to collecting them from you by Feb. 1. I have received a few already, but am still looking for a few more!

The forms can be found at sdlwml.org under “Helps.” Please mail your forms to me at Heather Miller; 1803 W. 10th Street; Sioux Falls, SD 57104. Thanks for your reports!

Heather Miller
LWML District Secretary

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



The Lord loves life

At Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, the song “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” plays on the intercom system every time a child is born. It is a simple way to celebrate the precious gift of life for a newborn child.



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor

I have visited many patients — including those who had extended stays due to injury or

illness — who have talked about how much they looked forward to and rejoiced upon hearing that song. During a time of pain or discomfort, it gave them joy to hear this song because a family was celebrating a new life in their lives.

Think of the joy that the Lord of Life must have with every life that He creates in the womb, and every breath that His precious creations breathe until their final breath. Then heaven rejoices over that faithful one who repents and enters into the joys of paradise! The Lord loves life!

The Lord wants us to enjoy the life He has given us. “Eat, drink, and be joyful” a reflective, wise, old Solomon tells us (Eccl. 8:15). Everything that we have and need to survive and enjoy this life, God gives to us “out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy” (*Small Catechism*, Creed: Article 1). He gives us all things because He loves us and loves life.

Jesus said:

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” — JOHN 10:10B

God wants you to have life and have it fully and completely. That is why He sent Jesus to suffer, to die on the cross to forgive us our sins and to rise again, so “that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31b). The Lord loves life so much that He wants you to have life forever, from the moment of conception to final breath on this earth and into eternity in the new heavens and new earth!

Later this month, many churches will celebrate God’s gift of life with Life Sunday around the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. The LWML has been strong supporters of God’s gift of life by supporting ministries such as Lutherans For Life’s *Y4Life*, which equips youth to witness for life, and Lutherans For Life of South Dakota’s *Life: A Better Choice*, which airs pro-life, pro-family TV advertisements that raise awareness on the sanctity of life.

So we join together with the LWML to rejoice in God’s love for life!

You’ve got mail!

I am requesting from all of the LWML district societies to send a contact email to sdlwmlvpc@gmail.com.



Please include your name, city, church and society name. The society contact will receive updated district information on conventions, mission grants and retreats.

Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

Susan Swanson • VP of Communication

SPRING FLING

- ▶ Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27
- ▶ Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Black Hawk

Lodging: Ramada, Summerset

Scripture reference: “What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me - practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you (Phil. 4:9).



With love from Lisa

2019 Prayer Service

Last fall when I attended the Sioux Falls Fall Rally, the mission speakers — Rev. Paul and Bonnie Haugen — shared about a new ministry called International Friends of Sioux Falls, in which English is taught to immigrants in the area.



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

One of the students came to share of his experience and talked about understanding the way Americans speak. For instance, “I don’t care” is a term that many of us say.

“What do you want for supper?” “I don’t care.”

“What movie should we watch?” “I don’t care.”

He said: “Why don’t you care ... my people care.”

A song based on Ps. 55:22 I learned some years ago comes to mind. The lyrics are: “Cast your burdens, unto Jesus, for He cares for you.”

Jesus loves you! He cares for you and about you! He called you His child on the day of your baptism. He forgives your sins and gives you the promise of eternal life, not because you did enough to earn it, but because of Jesus’ love and care for you on the cross.

The 2019 Prayer Service, written by past LCMS Rocky Mountain District President Rev. Allen D. Anderson, is centered around the acronym “CARES” and based on Ps. 94:17-19:

“If the LORD had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence.

When I thought, ‘My foot slips; your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up.

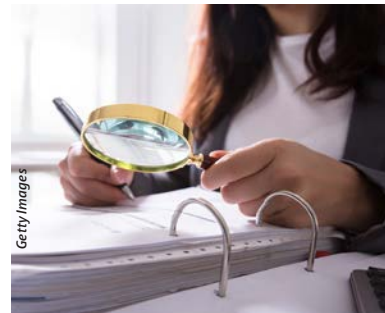
When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.”

You can find the prayer service at lwml.org/prayer-service. I encourage you to use this service at your meetings or in your zone.



Time for Bylaw review

As Structure Committee chairperson, one of my responsibilities is to encourage societies and zones to look at their current Bylaws and see if any changes are needed. If your Bylaws have not been updated in the past 10 years, I would highly encourage you to take some time and go through them.



The Structure Committee is trying a new approach this biennium. As we receive revisions, each member of the committee will take the lead and look at the revisions and then will share it with the other two committee members. By doing this, we are hoping to have a faster turnaround on getting the revisions back to the societies/zones.

Please don’t hesitate to send me an email at Mary.Stier@k12.sd.us if you have any questions. God’s blessings to you all.

Mary Jo Stier

Greetings from the Pierre Zone

Small but mighty — with the Lord’s help! When we hear this phrase, we may be led to remember the story of David and Goliath. Nothing could stop David, for he had the Lord of Heaven on His side.

Here in the center of the state, we too are small but mighty! And the Lord is on our side too. The Pierre Zone consists of just three active societies. We were in the not-too-distant past able to boast of six societies. However, the flow of the population from rural to city has also taken its toll on our congregations, with several closing in our zone and along with them, their LWML societies. But we are still meeting as a zone for our Spring and Fall workshops, rallies and meetings. Trying to get the group together and choosing a date to meet is much easier with just three groups to work through the calendar of events. There is always something to be thankful for — even in small things.

Last spring, we had our Spring Christian Growth workshop set for a Sunday afternoon in April — no need to worry about the weather, right? But God had other plans and we had to postpone the meeting for a week. Unfortunately, President Lisa was scheduled for the original date and could not make the alternate. However, this Fall she was able to attend our Fall Rally in Gettysburg and give us a special greeting and encouragement.

Nick Hill shared his experience of ministering to the needs of the people of Cherry Creek in April and Heather Miller spoke on her recent mission trip to Guatemala this Fall. Both of these speakers helped us to understand the desperate need for Jesus in the lives of people both near and far.

How exciting to be part of the LWML, which shares that wonderful love of Jesus with people throughout the world! Small but mighty — sort of sounds like our mites, too. And we all know what God does with those. Blessings from the Pierre Zone!

In Christ’s love,
Jan Larson, Pierre Zone President

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

THE REVEALING OF CHRIST

At this time of the year, we are right in the middle of the Epiphany season. Epiphany is the Greek word for "manifestation" or "revealing." What a wonderful time this is for us to celebrate the manifestation and revealing of Jesus the Son of God!



Rev. Daniel Grimmer
LWML District Counselor

Bookended by the Baptism of our Lord and Transfiguration, the church during Epiphany focuses on specific ways Jesus was revealed to be the Son of God made man for us so that He could take our sins away.

But February is also a significant month for the church in another way. Its most famous festival is St. Valentine's Day. Though this day has largely become a secular holiday associated with romantic expressions of love and indulging in candy, the church remembers St. Valentine the faithful Christian martyr. Although very little is known about him, one tradition says that on the day

that he was martyred, he wrote a note of encouragement to a young girl who was grieving the prospect of his death. In fact, she was reportedly the daughter of his jailer.

St. Valentine brought comfort to that girl because he knew that in His resurrection, Jesus has been revealed as the Son of God and demonstrated His victory over death and hell forever. We too who have been baptized into Jesus will taste that victory when Jesus returns to gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

Epiphany and Valentine's Day really go together. By reflecting on the different ways Jesus has demonstrated Himself to be the very Son of God in the flesh, we also reflect on the reason that the Son of God became a human being like us. Jesus' purpose in revealing Himself was to demonstrate His love for His fallen creation. He became a man so that He could love us to the end by dying on the cross for our sins and rising again on the third day to secure our own resurrection.

Jesus shows His love for us by coming to us and dwelling among us. It's good for us to remember that in Jesus, God's love became manifest in a concrete way. Jesus took on real flesh and blood. He really joined Himself to fallen man.



“It's good for us to remember that in Jesus, God's love became manifest in a concrete way. Jesus took on real flesh and blood. He really joined Himself to fallen man.”

As we work to show His love to those around us, we too should strive to be present among them. Our South Dakota District executive committee has a goal to deliver our mission grant checks during this next biennium in person whenever possible, so that we can show the mercy of Jesus in a real and concrete way to broken sinners. So also, in the various projects we do in our zones and societies, we can look for ways to make the love of Jesus manifest in concrete ways to those we serve.

MISSION GRANT SPOTLIGHT



Preschool and Prekindergarten Karen/Hispanic Interpreters
Mount Calvary, Huron
\$5,000 (paid)

With a diverse population, communication is a difficulty. This grant will provide for interpreters of both languages, Karen and Hispanic, for school, conferences, home visits, activities and in writing letters and other communication.



Mites due

Just a gentle reminder to all LWML societies: The end of the first year of our biennium (2018-20) will be March 15.

All mites should be sent to me by then. Thank you.

Donna Harr
Financial Secretary

With love from Lisa

Christ our LEADER

When I taught preschool, I did a lot of singing with the children. I know that is shocking to many of you who know me. (I have been known to say: "That reminds me of a song" or "We should sing that" during many conversations and Bible studies.)



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

One of the songs we would sing when we would walk in line is "We're following the leader, the leader, the leader; We're following the leader so we know where to go!" It seemed to keep us focused on where we were going.

As we enter the Lenten season this month, we realize that our Leader, Jesus, leads us to the cross where He became the sacrifice for our sins. The hymn "Christ be My Leader" (LSB #861) is another song that I like to use to help keep me focused on whose I am and where I'm going in my day-to-day living:

Christ be my leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness for he is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future his care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting for he is the truth.
Grant me to trust him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for he is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

Spring Retreat

Ladies and some gentlemen from our district will gather April 26-27 at Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Black Hawk, for our Spring Retreat. We will gather under the theme "Follow the Leader." As we follow our Leader, Christ, in worship, Bible study and the Lord's supper, we recognize how He can use us as instruments of His love in our communities.

Susan Swanson, Nyla Jurrens, Rev. Dan Grimmer and I spent some time at the Assembly of Leaders conference in St. Louis in November. We will share with you at our retreat some great tips for serving the Lord with gladness as Lutheran Women in Mission.

Find the registration form on page 5. I hope to see you in Black Hawk!

Items needed for retreat, mission trip

Get your vehicles loaded up with items for the **Spring Retreat** in-gatherings at Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Black Hawk, and with fellow LWML members or friends for a **mission trip to Orphan Gain Train** headquarters in Norfolk, Neb.

We will have two in-gatherings for the LWML South Dakota District Spring Retreat April 26-27. One will be for the Harvest Wind LLC sewing factory in Parmelee. (Please note: Harvest Wind has ordered its new quilting machine with funds from our mission grant and really are excited about it).

The other collection will be for Divine Shepherd Early Childhood Center.

Items needed for Harvest Wind are:

- ▶ At least one yard of cotton or muslin solid color fabric
- ▶ JOANN fabric store gift cards

▶ Quilt batting

Divine Shepherd Early Childhood Center would like gift cards from Walmart and Sam's Club to buy supplies for the school.

The mission trip to Orphan Grain Train will be held May 31-June 1. We will sort items and perform other tasks as needed.

Look for details and registration forms on the South Dakota LWML website (sdlwml.org) and our Facebook page (facebook.com/SDLWML).

Nyla Jurrens

V.P. of Special Focus Ministries

'Well done, good and faithful servant'

IN MEMORIUM: ANNETTE JARRATT • 1929-2018



We give God thanks for life of Annette Jarratt, who served in many areas in our district and nationally, including LWML South Dakota District president (1992-96).

Annette received her Crown of Glory on Dec. 23, which was also her 87th birthday. We thank God for calling Annette His child through her baptism; and because of Jesus' love for her that He showed on the cross, she responded with a life that served the Lord with gladness.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

'A wee bit missionary'



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses ... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

— Heb. 12:1

Every St. Patrick's Day, my wife likes to remind me that she is "a wee bit Irish." We recently took an ancestry DNA test, so we will find out how true that is. But the saying goes, on St. Patrick's Day, we are all "a wee bit Irish."

St. Patrick's Day, however, is not about shamrocks, leprechauns and green beer. It is the commemoration of the missionary to Ireland. Patrick is credited with converting Ireland to Christianity.

The story goes that Patrick was captured from his home in Britain by Irish pirates when he was a teenager and made a slave in Ireland. During this time, he grew in his faith and reliance on God. After six years in slavery, he escaped back home to his family. But his time home was short lived as he believed through a dream that God called him to return to Ireland as a minister of the Gospel. So he began his studies to become a priest.

Patrick returned to Ireland, where he preached Christ everywhere he traveled despite threats of death. With the Spirit's help, Patrick gained the respect of the Druid pagans and many converted. Because of Patrick, Ireland outlawed slavery, quit attacking its neighbors and abandoned paganism. This dramatic cultural and religious change occurred without weapons of war, but solely with the Word of God.



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor

Though Patrick was a Roman Brit, he loved the Irish people and cherished their legends, poems and songs to the point where we might say he was "a wee bit Irish." Patrick's influence on the Celtic people, likewise, made them "a wee bit missionary." Later, after Germanic barbarians conquered Rome and sent Western civilization into the "dark ages," it was Irish Christians who became missionaries to the barbarians. Just think, if it were not for Patrick and Irish missionaries, many of us of central-European decent may not be the Christians we are today. I guess that makes us "a wee bit Irish?"

We are called to share the forgiveness, life and salvation that Jesus gives to a world living in the darkness of sin and evil. We thank God for the "great cloud of witnesses" — like Patrick and Irish missionaries — by remembering them and being "a wee bit missionary" by sharing our faith.



Little mites are mighty!

ALERT: Help needed to fulfill grants by March 31

It is hard to imagine, as we put our coins and dollars in our little mite boxes with a prayer, what will grow from these little seeds. But with faith and the Lord's blessing, we see the many mighty results He continues to give.

The LWML 2017-19 biennium will end on March 31 with many of the 22 mission grants still in need of our mites and care. **At the end of**

December 2018, only 10 of the 22 grants had been fully funded, nine were partially funded and three are still in need of full funding.

Please continue to pray that the remaining 12 unfulfilled LWML South Dakota District mission grants become fulfilled, and that the Lord's will is fulfilled in each of grant recipients' mission fields.

Ann Cruse
VP of Gospel Outreach

With love from Lisa

God loves you!

Fill in the blank with your name:

For God so loved _____
that he gave his only Son, that
_____ believes in him and
should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

This promise is for you! At times it may feel hard to believe. You doubt your importance, your value, your ability to contribute. However, God called you His child in your baptism, sent His Son, Jesus, who loved you so much that He stretched out His arms and died for your sins, and gives you the Holy Spirit who is with you to strengthen you and keep you in the faith. Now you have the opportunity, as God's forgiven children, to bless others with His love.

Here are some great opportunities coming up in our district for just that:

- Join us April 26-27 at Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk, for our **retreat**, "Follow the Leader." We will gather around God's Word and learn about practical ways to share God's love with others. For more information, visit sdlwml.org (link is at the top of the page).



Delegates to the LWML convention in June will have lunch with me on Saturday. If you are a delegate, please plan to be there, or send someone in your place. Pastors and DCEs, we welcome you and are planning a lunch with Pastors (Daniel) Grimmer and (Steve) Weispfennig.

- Join us May 31-June 1 for our **mission trip** to volunteer at the Orphan Grain Train (OGT) distribution center in Norfolk, Neb. What an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus!



Visit ogt.org, go to "What We Do" and select "Special Projects" from the drop-down menu to find out how your group can gather needed items to take with you to OGT. To register, go to sdlwml.org and click the link at the top of the page.

- Registration is underway for the **LWML 38th Biennial Convention**



in Mobile, Ala., June 20-23. I hope you are planning on attending. Here are times you will want to set aside for Thursday: If you plan to sing in the choir, practice is from noon to 2 p.m. Delegate orientation will be at 2:30.

For all attendees: The South Dakota district photo will be taken at 5:10 and please attend our district caucus at 5:35. Please contact your zone president to let her know you are planning to attend so she can share that information with me.

If you are not attending the convention, please pray for the leaders, presenters, delegates, attendees, that God's will be done and His name be praised among the nations! You are welcome to gather offerings for the following:

- ▶ 2019-21 LWML Mission Goal.
- ▶ Expanding Disability Ministry in the Dominican Republic, and Medical Mission Teams.
- ▶ James Storehouse Louisiana and Spiritual Care for Unaccompanied Refugee Children.
- ▶ LCMS Disaster Response/Community Relief.

Know that God is with you in all that you do. He loves you!

In praise to the Lord, we serve the Lord with gladness!

IN MEMORIUM

Ruth Neuberger • 1931-2018

Join me in thanking God for the life of Ruth Neuberger, our past LWML South Dakota president, (1984-88). Born July 17, 1931, she received her crown of glory on Feb. 8.

When I visited with her for the first time while she was at the Dougherty House in Sioux Falls, she struggled to get words out but wanted me to write as she recited Bible verses to me: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart" (Prov. 3:5); "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!" (Ps. 103:1); "Serve the LORD with gladness" (Ps. 100:2) to name a few.

She also said the phrases: "Jesus is coming again," "Prepare the way," "Praise the Lord anyway," and "God is good." She knew whose she was and that her life was in the hands of our loving Father!



On Christmas Day when Aaron and I visited her, to our surprise, she was just returning from receiving a whirlpool spa! She told me that God wasn't finished with her yet. She spent a few more weeks blessing those who visited her with God's love that she had to share.

A memorial service was held at Zion, Canistota, on March 3.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Every one a witness

You are a witness of Christ Jesus. Have you ever thought about that before? Maybe you've thought (as I did for many years) that witnessing is the province of an elite group of Christians: Missionaries, pastors and perhaps a few laypeople who have been spiritually gifted for the task. Maybe you've thought that as long as the people were sharing the Gospel, witnessing is something you need not personally engage in.



Rev. Daniel Grimmer
LWML District Counselor

But that's not what Scripture teaches about bearing witness to the grace of God in Christ Jesus. Speaking to the whole nation of Israel, God spoke through Isaiah (43:11-12):

"I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior. I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there

was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses,' declares the LORD, 'and I am God.'"

Every Christian, whether pastor or layperson, is a witness. There is a special form of witnessing limited to the pastoral office (we call it "preaching"), but every Christian does bear witness about Jesus Christ in his or her life in a multitude of other ways.

What does it mean for you to be a witness? Maybe you have in mind young Mormon men knocking on the doors of people they do not know and facing rejection after rejection as they seek to get an audience for their message. Rest assured, that's not really what being a witness is all about. A witness is simply someone who has personal knowledge of something that's in question.

As Christians, we all have personal knowledge of God's mercy in forgiving sinners like us through Jesus Christ, who died for us. In our baptism, we have experienced Jesus' forgiveness personally, and we experience it anew when we are absolved and receive Jesus'



body and blood at the rail. Being a witness of Christ Jesus then is simply telling others about this great hope we have in us because Jesus forgives our sins. It's really that simple.

Of course, there are people who as individuals we simply don't have access to in order to be witnesses, or we don't have the resources individually to go to them and share the Good News of the forgiveness of sins through the death of Jesus on the cross. That's where missionaries come in, and missionary organizations like the LWML. I continue to be amazed at the missionaries and mission projects funded by LWML grants. This organization is truly a blessing to the LCMS and to Lutheran missions worldwide. Every one of us has a part to play. And whether you are telling a neighbor about Jesus, or saving mites to support the LWML, you are witnessing to Christ Jesus, your hope and salvation.

SIoux FALLS ZONE report

The ladies of the Sioux Falls Zone continue to "Serve the Lord with Gladness" in many ways. The children at a Sioux Falls school receive winter coats, boots and mittens as requested from the school's social worker. Residents at the Ronald McDonald House enjoy cookies prepared by LWML members at the house. At the Fall Rally, the ladies brought birthday cake supplies and party favors to be used at the Children's Inn. Church-worker students at our semi-

naries and colleges are supported with gifts of money and treats.

Annette Jarratt, a former LWML district president who received her crown of glory in December, started a Bible study at her senior living center and used the *Lutheran Women's Quarterly* Bible studies. The ladies in that group are so excited to continue this study.

The weather last spring caused a postponement of the prayer service and the cancellation of the spring retreat. The ladies of Resurrection, Sioux Falls, will host the 2019 prayer service. The ladies of the Sioux Falls Zone hosted the LWML district convention in 2018. Highlights of the convention included the former district presidents sharing

funny and meaningful memories of their years as president.

One of the Christian Life Workshops was held at Zion, Canistota. The 70 people attending learned a lot and had a fun time in fellowship. Preparations are being made for the national convention in Mobile, Ala., in June. Emily Murray of Faith, Sioux Falls, was selected as a Young Woman Representative. Those traveling on the bus to Mobile will have fun singing, joking, playing games and getting to know each other.

I thank God for the opportunity to be the zone president and ask Him for guidance for all the zone officers.

Patty Peters
Sioux Falls Zone President



Love 'bears' all things...

Ruby Bemis, a member of Mount Calvary, Huron, makes bears to give to others. On Jan. 2 — her birthday — she donated a few to the LWML of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings.

Bring your friends to the **LWML South Dakota District Retreat**

“Follow the Leader”

APRIL 26-27

DIVINE SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
7308 WEDGEWOOD DRIVE, BLACK HAWK

Friday • 7 p.m.
(registration 6-7 p.m.)

Saturday • 9 a.m.
(registration 8-9 a.m.)

Registration fee: \$25 *(includes Saturday lunch)*
Registration due by April 12

Program presented by members of the
LWML South Dakota District Board of Directors

Gifts from the Heart

Harvest Winds LLC
sewing factory, Parmelee

- Solid color fabric of cotton or muslin in cuts of one yard or more
- JOANN Fabric gift card

Divine Shepherd Early
Childhood Center

- Walmart gift card

Part of Friday night's entertainment will be provided by **Linda Mohagen**, a self-taught ventriloquist, from Reva. She sings with her puppets and does some interaction with the audience.

“What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” **Phil. 4:9**

With love from Lisa

See you in Mobile!

Is it spring yet? As I write this, two more winter storms are in the five-day forecast. It's been a while since we have seen grass, and some wonder if we will see it at all this spring!

The weather seems to be a main topic of conversation, although the chances are that as you read this, the snow will just be a memory and you will be tending to your flowers that are poking out of the ground and planting gardens. Farmers will be working in their fields.

No matter what you thought of the South Dakota 2019 winter, seasons do change, some people like the changes, some like to complain about them, but we can always trust that God's Word never changes and He is faithful to His promise to be with you, no matter what. We just finished the journey to the cross of Lent and Holy Week, celebrated the Resurrection and joined together at our district retreat, "Follow the Leader." As Lutheran Women in Mission, we serve God by serving others out of response to God's love for us. I love the way this is stated in our league pledge:

"In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen."

I welcome you to join us May 31-June 1 in Norfolk, Neb., for our **district mission**



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

trip. We will volunteer at Orphan Grain Train. The details can be found on the district website, sdlwml.org (link is at the top of the page) or ask the LWML leader in your congregation.

Many of us will head to the **LWML 38th Biennial Convention** June 20-23 in Mobile, Ala., to enjoy some time with our LWML sisters from around the country with many opportunities to serve, be fed and inspired, choose a new mission goal, choose new mission grants to support and make some decisions on the future structure of LWML. We will gather under the theme "In Praise to the LORD." We want to thank Jeannie Harms from Sturgis for designing and making our beautiful convention banner. Young Woman Representatives (YWR) Emily Murray and Kristina Van Scharrel and Heart to Heart leader Kay Nelson will join me in the banner procession on Friday.

The following people will be representing the zones of the South Dakota District as voting delegates:

- ▶ Aberdeen—Bev Graham
- ▶ Black Hills—Liz Anderson
- ▶ Brookings—Delorus Limmer
- ▶ Chamberlain—Colleen Swanson
- ▶ Huron—Sherri Blaseg
- ▶ Milbank—Susan Magedanz
- ▶ Mitchell—Julie Kaufman
- ▶ Pierre—Jan Larson



- ▶ Sioux Falls—Patty Peters
- ▶ Yankton—Susan Buxcel

Non-voting South Dakota District attendees who will sit at the delegate table will be Rev. Dan Grimmer, junior pastoral counselor; YWRs Kristina and Emily; and Heart to Heart leader Kay.

Please pray for the people in our voting delegation, that God's will be done and His Name be glorified in all that we say and do! In Mobile in June, the weather is expected to be very hot. So no matter if we are freezing and battling blizzards or baking and battling humidity, let's thank God for life and the opportunities He provides us to serve Him.

In praise to the Lord, we serve the Lord with gladness!

SAVE THE DATE

LWML South Dakota District Convention

May 29-30, 2020

St John's, Yankton

"Set Your Eyes On Jesus"

Heb. 12:2a:

"Looking to Jesus, the founder
and protector of our faith."

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



A woman of God

I owe a great amount of gratitude to my mom. Along with my dad, she was a tremendous influence in raising me in the Christian faith.

A big part of that influence came from her serving the Lord in the LWML. She attended her first LWML convention in 1975 when it was held in St. Paul, Minn., and has attended every national convention since 1989, which was held in Rapid City. For many years, we traveled around the country to LWML conventions for our family vacation. The LWML has been a part of my life for a long time, thanks to my mom. My mom is a faithful woman of God.

Many of us have moms who are faithful women of God and influenced our faith in Jesus. For some, if it wasn't for mom, you may not be a Christian today. For many, it was mom who made sure that you went to worship and Sunday school; it was mom who was faithfully dedicated to serving the Lord at church; it was mom who spent time in prayer; it was mom who read the Bible to the



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor

kids; it was mom who had the compassion to seek and save the lost through the love of Jesus.

“Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.”

— Prov. 31:30

This verse describes a woman of God. She is the kind of woman that a Christian man should desire in a spouse. She loves, cares and manages her family well and is even a shrewd businesswoman. She is praised for what she does, because everything she does is for the benefit of her family and community. She is not concerned about herself, but has the interest of others in mind, mimicking the love of Jesus because Jesus first loved her. Such a woman who loves the Lord is to be praised and honored.

There are many women in the LWML who fit this description from Proverbs. But the praise and honor that should be given to them by husbands, children and fellow Christians is not simply because of these virtues, but because of the One who honored her so deeply that He would die for her to forgive her sins. It's because of Jesus that she desires to be a woman of God.

So here's to all the moms and women of God. Thank you for your faithfulness!

Need funding for your mission project?

Is your mission project seeking God's guidance and in need of funding options to further His ministry?

LWML South Dakota District mission grant proposals for the 2020-22 biennium are due Aug. 31 to Ann Cruse, district VP of Gospel Outreach, at:

1780 Simmons Ave SE
Huron, SD 57350.

Proposal guidelines can be found at sdlwml.org or email Ann at anncruse84@gmail.com.

Mighty Mites with God's Guidance produce Magnificent Measures!

Meet our YWRs



Emily Murray



Kristina Van Scharrel

Introducing our Young Woman Representatives who will attend the LWML 38th Biennial Convention as part of the South Dakota District delegation.

Emily Murray is from Sioux Falls and a member of Faith Lutheran Church; and Kristina Van Scharrel is from Huron and a member of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church.

Please welcome these young ladies. We are excited for them to experience the LWML and the convention.



With love from Lisa

Convention time!

At the LWML convention June 20-23 in Mobile Ala., we will focus on 1 Chron. 16:23-24a:

“Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations.”



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota District President

What is the difference between a convention and a workshop or retreat? A workshop is usually one day and focuses on inspiration from the Word, led by a speaker. A retreat is often overnight and has a speaker. Both of these events may or may not include Gifts from the Heart in-gatherings and servant events.

At a convention, items of business are conducted as a voting delegation makes decisions. At the national convention, the delegation consists of members of all LWML districts. The South Dakota District has 10 delegates, one from each zone, plus me as a voting member of the LWML Board of Directors. Some of the business in Mobile will include choosing a new mission goal, new mission grants to support for the next two years and new officers, and making changes to the bylaws and structure.

We're not all about business though. We grow through Word and Sacrament, get inspired by mission speakers and have a lot of fun! This will happen through Bible studies led by Donna Pyle and other early-morning studies; music led by Rev. Dr. Dien Taylor; entertainment

from humorous interrupter Jan Struck (formerly of South Dakota); keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Brent Smith; Mites in Action speakers; and worship.

On-site servant activities will be held, including making Braille books and calendars, cards of encouragement for cancer patients who receive care packages from Phil's Friends, bookmarks for Lutheran Hour Ministries' outreach and fleece blankets, and assembling personal care kits. There will be a bloodmobile on site and a mission pledge walk. We will gather Gifts from the Heart, participate in a "Tee Up 4 Mites" golf outing; along with young woman activities, Heart to

Heart leader training; Camp Insta Friends for children; and hopping at the LWML Magnolia Mercantile and CPH store. Many service organizations will be there with displays. Friendships will be developed and

renewed with LWML sisters and brothers from across the country.

For those of you unable to attend, there will be a link at lwml.org/convention to watch events. Opening worship is 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 20.

For those of you that will attend, remember the special events on Thursday, which include but are not limited to choir rehearsal (12-2 p.m.); delegate orientation (2:30); district photo (5:10, lower level, SE corner); and district caucus (5:35-6:20), when I will share information that will be helpful for you.

Wherever life takes you this summer, remember that you are a child of God, forgiven and redeemed. You are free to live "In Praise to the Lord" as you Serve the Lord with Gladness (Ps. 100:2).



ABERDEEN ZONE report

The Aberdeen Zone has been off to a rather slow start due to all the snow and winds we had this winter. However we did finally hold our Spring Workshop, hosted by St. John's, Britton, on April 6 with 37 in attendance. We collected 22 health kits to go to the LWML Convention in Mobile, Ala., plus \$140 for mites.

Rev. Andrew Wolfram, pastor of St John's, Groton, led our lesson, "Life in Christ-Run with Endurance" based on Heb. 12:1-3. He inspired us with Bible passages to stay on track and keep going forward in our earthly race, to accept the help available from those who lead us and give us nourishment, to keep our



minds on the finish line — Heaven — and receive our "medal," the Crown of Life. Along with Rev. Lloyd Redhage, St. John's pastor, and Rev. Bret Bierman, zone counselor, we had a wonderful, uplifting morning of hearing God's Word and being renewed in our faith. We also enjoyed fellowship and lunch after our long winter confinement.

Since many of our winter activities were canceled, we are making up for lost time by working diligently on our various quilting and sewing projects. Several of our societies work with Northeast South Dakota Head Start, supplying back packs, boots, snow pants and coats for families with children in need. Others are busy making T-shirt diapers, pillow-case dresses and plastic sleeping mats. We are looking forward to warmer weather, going to Black Hawk for the district retreat and to Mobile for national convention.

God is good, and all that we do is to His Glory.

Beverly Graham
Aberdeen Zone President

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Hello Summer

Summer is finally here! For me, it's a summer of weddings. We have several family weddings to attend out of state, including the wedding of my sister and also the wedding of my sister-in-law. We also have a couple of weddings scheduled at our church this summer, and it will be my privilege to be part of them. This summer also marks the five-year anniversary of my own wedding.



Rev. Daniel Grimmer
LWML District Counselor

Weddings are occasions filled with joy. Remembering your own wedding or the wedding of a loved one probably fills you with joy. Perhaps you were

even a June bride! There are so many reasons weddings bring us joy — seeing a man and a woman joined in love and faithfulness for life, taking part in the happiness of the couple and their families, being gathered together with loved ones and friends.

But the greatest joy for me at a wedding is remembering what the wedding portrays for us. In Eph. 5:31-32, Paul tells us:

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”

Every wedding, indeed every marriage, serves as a picture of the love of Christ for His holy bride, the Church. The imagery is inescapable. Christ loved the Church by laying down His own life for her and clothing her in His righteousness. So the husband loves his wife by laying down his life to serve and cherish her. The Church, as Christ's bride, receives the love of Jesus and responds to Him by reciprocating His love as a response of thankfulness and praise. So the wife loves her husband by reciprocating his love, and honoring him with her praise.



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Just as we grow in appreciation and even love for our spouse the longer we are married, so as Christians do we grow in love and thankfulness for Jesus our bridegroom as we grow in faith. Perhaps you will be reminded of the love of Jesus your bridegroom as you attend a few family weddings of your own this summer. If you are going to the convention in Mobile, you will definitely be reminded of it. I pray that wherever you find yourself this summer, it will be a fruitful time for you to receive and treasure the love of your savior.

For your information ...

Our LWML South Dakota District strives to share all important information with its members through zone and society presidents as well as online.

The district website — *sdlwml.org* — shares upcoming event information on the home page along with other resources. Check out these categories on the left side of the page:

- ▶ **About Us:** Who we are, how we're structured and upcoming events.
- ▶ **Missions:** Information about our ongoing grants, and devotions to share as you support those grants.
- ▶ **Special Focus Ministries:** Provides

- information and resources for Heart to Heart Sisters and Young Women.
- ▶ **News:** What's happening in our zones and district, and nationally.
- ▶ **Events:** Christian Life workshops, retreats and convention information.
- ▶ **Helps:** Forms, speakers list, map of district zones and more.

You may also stay connected at facebook.com/sdlwml.

Have questions or suggestions? Send an email to sdlwml@midstatesd.net.

Nancy Bogenhagen
LWML South Dakota District Webmaster

Prayerfully consider

Is your mission project seeking God's guidance and in need of some extra funds to further His ministry? Prayerfully consider submitting a proposal to the LWML South Dakota District.

LWML district mission grant proposals for the 2020-22 biennium are due Aug. 31 to Ann Cruse, LWML district VP of Gospel Outreach, 1780 Simmons Ave SE Huron, SD 57350.

For proposal guidelines, email Ann at anncruse84@gmail.com. Be specific about the need of the project. The Gospel of our Risen Savior is always the center of the mission. Contact Ann if you have any questions.

With love from Lisa



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Guests receive meals from volunteers of Faith, Sioux Falls, at the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House homeless shelter in 2017.

You did for Me

“How do we get people interested in the LWML?”

“How do we get our ladies to want to keep serving?”

“How can we get young people involved in LWML?”

“We always have 10 percent of the people doing 90 percent of the work. I’m tired and don’t want to do it all anymore.”

Does this sound familiar? Maybe you’ve heard it. Maybe you’ve said it. It can be familiar questions in many of our congregations. Sometimes if what we’re doing isn’t working anymore, it is a good idea to re-evaluate and get back to our purpose. What do we want to do? How do we get there? Will change be necessary? Remember, if you always do what you did, you’ll always get what you got.

LWML’s mission is to assist each woman of the LCMS in affirming her rela-



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota District President

tionship with the Triune God so she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world. The vision is that each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

What does that look like in your church? What would you like it to look like? Pray for guidance on how God can use you. Have a brainstorming time when you think about what you would like to see happen with Lutheran Women in Mission in your church. List ways to make that happen. If you want some younger and/or different people to be involved, invite one or two of them to the brainstorming event so you can get some of their ideas. Look at the program helps at LWML.org, where there are monthly meeting ideas that include devotions, skits, mission projects and more for each month to keep your gathering times fresh each time you meet.

As the seasons in our lives change, our service often changes too. But it doesn’t mean that we stop serving. In prayer, ask: “Lord, where and how would you like me to serve?” An LWML devotion and skit that I used in a circle meeting recently, called *Ima Servant*, shared:

Jesus told of the shepherd separating the sheep from the goats, “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the

kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ ... ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me’” (Matt. 25:34-40).

Jesus is telling His disciples that to take care of Him, we only need to take care of those around us — just meet their needs. We begin with prayer, of course, just as Jesus always did. Then we can get busy. There is always something for us to do. Maybe we can’t get to the prison, but we can send cards. Maybe we don’t know any hungry, thirsty or unclothed people, but we can give to a food bank or mission center. Maybe we are unable to visit the sick, the lonely or the strangers in our community, but we can make phone calls to shut-ins each day to check on them and offer encouragement.

We could help staple and sort the church newsletter or fold bulletins. Even when our physical bodies will not allow us to do anything else, we can ask others for prayer requests and pray for those in need. There is always some manner in which we can be a servant for our Lord.

Whatever serving looks like in your life, serve the Lord with gladness (Ps. 100:2) and give God the glory!

GRANT PROPOSALS DUE

LWML South Dakota mission grant proposals for the 2020-22 biennium are **due Aug. 31** to Ann Cruse at 1780 Simmons Ave SE; Huron, SD 57350.

Proposal guidelines can be obtained by emailing Ann at anncruse84@gmail.com. Be specific in the need for the project and make sure the Gospel of our Risen Savior is always the center of the mission.

Ann Cruse
VP of Gospel Outreach

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

'PRAISE TO THE LORD!'

What did you do on your summer vacation? Perhaps you were asked that question when you were a kid. As school starts back up this month, I am sure that is a question that many teachers will ask their students.

What did I do on my summer vacation? I attended the LWML national convention in Mobile, Ala. Maybe you did too. Many of my previous summer vacations were spent traveling around the country to attend the LWML national convention — and I praise the Lord for it! Not only have I had the opportunity to visit many places in our wonderful nation that I might not have ever considered visiting, but I have also heard praises sung to the Lord, His salvation through Jesus proclaimed and stories of His glory at work through missionaries and LWML mission projects all around the world. As the chronicler wrote:

“Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations”

— 1 Chron. 16:23-24a

Even if you did not attend the LWML national convention, I hope that your summer was spent in praise to the Lord. Every Sunday is a “mini-vacation” from the troubles and burdens of this world, when we are given rest in Christ from sin and Satan. We get to sing praises to God for all that He has done for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus that has forgiven us our sins and won eternal life for us.

The Good News of our salvation in Christ is poured out on us as the name of God that was placed on us in Baptism is invoked, and we recall how our sins were washed away in the blood of Jesus.

It is **SPOKEN** to us with the words of absolution, it is **READ** and **PREACHED** to us from the Word of God, and **WE TASTE IT** in the body and blood of our Lord, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins in His holy meal. Because of all of this and more, we get to declare His glory with our time, talents and treasures as we serve our church and our neighbor in our daily lives with gladness.

So every day of our lives is a day that we get to praise the Lord for everything His has done for us through Jesus!



Rev. Steve Weispfennig
LWML District Counselor



LCMS/Errik M. Lunsford

Two kingdoms, ONE mission

In a world that is increasingly hostile to Christians and God's Word, we will have the opportunity during our Fall 2019 Christian Life Workshops to learn more about how to exercise our temporal liberties for the sake of proclaiming the eternal salvation of Christ.

Rev. Dr. Gregory P. Seltz, executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C., will be our presenter.



Seltz

Bible studies, giving highlight retreat

Under the theme “Follow the Leader,” the LWML South Dakota District Retreat was held April 26–27 at Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk. There were 120 in attendance, including six pastors and one deaconess.

All activities and presentations were based on information gathered from the 2018 LWML's Assembly of Leaders (AOL) training event. President Lisa (Asmus), VPs Susan (Swanson) and Nyla (Jurrens), and Counselor (Rev. Daniel) Grimmer attended the AOL event and shared what they learned at the district retreat. Topics explored included engaging and retaining volunteers, reaching different cultures and generations, structure, podium protocol, communications and sharing leadership techniques.

Members of the LWML South Dakota District Board of Directors helped

in presenting sessions.

A highlight of this event was Bible study. Our LWML district counselors, Revs. Grimmer and Steve Weispfennig led studies based on the disciples' following of Jesus and on how we follow Jesus.

Special entertainment was provided by Linda Mohagen, a self-taught ventriloquist from Reva.

Gifts from the Heart were gathered for Harvest Wind LLC sewing factory in Parmalee and Divine Shepard Early Childhood Center, Black Hawk. Harvest Wind gifts included 242 pieces of fabric, batting and more than \$500 in cash and gift cards. The early childhood center gifts included more than \$600 in cash and gift cards.

Participants also opened their hearts to gifts for missions, with a collection of more than \$945 in mite offerings.

Nancy Bogenhagen
Webmaster

With love from Lisa

Women in mission – all year!

This first week in September, we are thankful for the opportunity to serve God at the South Dakota State Fair along with Rev.



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota District President

Andrew Utecht and his family, who put on a puppet show at the fair. What a joy it is to offer a Gospel message through puppets!

LWML Sunday is coming next month. Did you know that the mite offerings happen all year long? You can take them home and fill them up again and again! Lutheran Women in Mission is more than a once-a-year event. We are women and men who are in mission to share the love of Jesus. We grow in our faith by gathering together to study the Word of God. We serve God by serving others in the church and outside its walls. We collect mite box offerings to help spread the love of Jesus all around the world through our mission grants.

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz will help us understand God at work in our lives while living in this world at our **Christian Life Workshops**, “God at Work: Two Kingdoms – One Mission.” I hope to see you at one of the workshops! (*See information at right.*)

“Faith Like a Mustard Seed” is the theme of this year’s **LWML Sunday** and is based on Luke 17:6. Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, Minnesota South District



Nadasdy

president emeritus and author of the LWML Sunday materials writes:

“Faith like a grain of mustard seed’ says that I can forgive not so much because I have enough faith to do it but rather because I live and make decisions inside a strong relationship with Jesus Christ. ‘Faith like a grain of mustard seed’ says I already have what I need to live my Christian life and witness: I have Christ, or better, Christ has me! The One who came and died for me, the One who broke through death and came to life for me, the One who called me in Baptism and made me His own — He makes seemingly impossible things possible. So, in Christ, I confront the person who has wronged me, and I offer forgiveness. I do the hard thing and share my faith with my neighbor. I make time to pack food for the hungry when I thought I was too busy. I drop a quarter in an LWML mite box, believing it will make a difference. I hold the hand of a neighbor in the hospital, maybe not my favorite neighbor. I phone a friend who has become distant.”

God takes ordinary people like you and me, cleanses us through Jesus’ death and resurrection and guides us to live in joy, serving Him with our words and actions. I pray that you find joy in your service, including collecting your mite box offerings! Each time you put a coin in your mite box, say a prayer that God would use it to help someone know of Jesus’ love for them.

Please find LWML Sunday materials at lwml.org/lwml-sunday.



2019 CHRISTIAN LIFE WORKSHOPS



God at Work TWO KINGDOMS – ONE MISSION

Presented by **Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**, executive director of the Lutheran Center For Religious Liberty



Sept. 20
Emmanuel
601 E. Logan Ave.
Gettysburg

Sept. 21
Zion
4550 S. Mount Rushmore Rd.
Rapid City

Oct. 4
Zion
S. Seaman St.
Delmont

Oct. 5
Mount Olive
715 2nd St. NE
Watertown

Registration: 9:30-10 a.m. • Workshop: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Morning Offering will help cover expenses
(excess donations will be used for the mission goal)



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Back to the Word



Now that it is September, our summer is coming to an end. For many of us, that can be a bit sad as we say goodbye to outdoor activities, fun trips to see family and friends — or even fellow LWML members from around the country who gathered in Mobile, Ala., for convention in June — and, of course, the nice, warm weather. But there's something really rejuvenating about September as well. The cycle of the seasons has brought us back to the time of the year when many of us get back to our usual routines.



Rev. Daniel Grimmer
LWML District Counselor

For me, one of my favorite parts of the fall is getting back into the Word of God through Bible studies. While we continue to read and study the Scriptures in the summer too, many of our regular Bible studies, confirmation and Sunday school at our church take a break. It is

always exciting when we all get back into the Word when they start up again.

An aspect of LWML that I sometimes forget about is the opportunities and encouragement it gives to Lutheran women so that they can study God's Word. In fact, I sometimes forget that this is a stated goal of the LWML in its mission statement:

“The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.”

In fact, you could say that growing in faith through the Word of God is the first goal of the LWML. Sometimes we're quick to jump to the end and think about all the ways the women of the LWML use their gifts in ministry to the people of the world, through mites, gifts of love, quilts, Orphan Grain Train and others. But we sometimes forget that in order to share our gifts in ministry to the world, we first receive the gifts

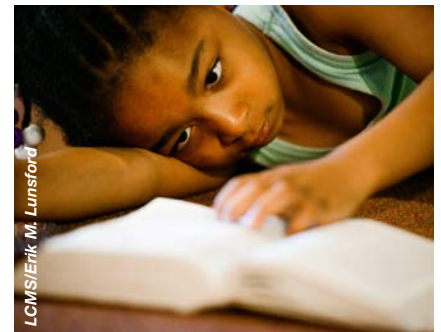
for ministry from our Triune God as He works to strengthen our faith in His promises through His Son Jesus.

God's Word reminds us in Rom. 10:17: “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

Jesus is active in His Word to call us to repentance and faith in His promises given to us in Holy Baptism, the Lord's Supper and whenever His Word is taught, read or proclaimed.

The LWML has a wealth of devotional resources that can help you pay close attention to God's Word. The *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* Bible studies and Mustard Seed Devotions are two quick examples. Of course, the fall Christian Life Workshops will dig deep into God's Word as well.

As your fall begins and you get back into your regular routine, it is my prayer that you dig deep into the Scriptures so that, affirmed in your relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, your faith grows so that you can continue to use your gifts in ministry.



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

BROOKINGS ZONE report

The Brookings Zone has had a slow go of it this year with all the rain and flooding. As a zone, we have not had any activities.

Our societies, however, have been busy with their local mission projects — providing hygiene kits for the local shelters,

collecting diapers, wipes and clothing for Option 1 and the Alpha Center.

Ice cream socials have been held. Rev. Adam Welton led the lesson on the Apostle Paul and his tour of spreading the Good News. The St. Peter's Bell Choir provided entertainment.

Now that we have dried out some, the Brookings Zone is focusing attention on the Fall Rally, to be held Oct. 19 at Peace Lutheran Church, Brookings. An

ingathering Option 1 will be announced soon. The theme is from Ps. 139: 13-14: “Wonderful are His Works.”

A spring retreat for the Brookings and Sioux Falls zones is in the planning stages.

We truly are blessed with the wonderful women and men in this organization. God is good.

Delorus Limmer
Brookings Zone President

In Praise to the LORD!

LWML 38th Biennial Convention
June 20-23 • Mobile, Ala.



Standing from left, Young Woman Representatives Kristina Van Scharrel and Emily Murray, Lisa Asmus (LWML district president), and Kay Nelson (Heart to Heart leader, seated) joyfully display the South Dakota District banner.



From left, Ann Cruse, Heather Miller, Susan Swanson and Mary Jo Stier have fun being "purple peeps."



The newly elected national officers are, from left, Karla Koehler, treasurer; Marie Chow, VP of Organizational Resources; Debbie Larson, president; Deaconess Betty Napp, VP of Special Focus Ministries; and Rev. Brian Noack, junior pastoral counselor.



The men and women of the LWML South Dakota District traveled to Mobile by bus.

LCMS South Dakota District Congregational Year-to-Date Report of Mission Receipts for the six months ending July 14, 2019, compared to the six months ending July 14, 2018

City, Congregation	Comm. Members	2019 Intention	6 months 2019	6 months 2018	Avg/Per 2019	Comm. 2018
Circuit 1 – Aberdeen						
Aberdeen, Our Savior	321	10,000	4,220	3,075	13.15	9.58
Aberdeen, St. John	86	12,500	8,780	10,663	102.09	123.99
Aberdeen, St. Paul	831	47,000	26,005	23,726	31.29	28.55
Andover, Zion	106	–	–	930	–	8.77
Britton, St. John	153	–	–	6,000	–	39.22
Columbia, St. John	108	7,750	–	3,800	–	35.19
Cresbard, Concordia	53	2,100	525	3,023	9.91	57.04
Doland, Redeemer	43	–	1,500	1,000	34.88	23.26
Ferney, St. Paul	170	4,000	–	–	–	–
Groton, St. John	293	15,000	6,307	12,646	21.53	43.16
Leola, St. Paul	69	–	–	–	–	–
Mansfield, Trinity	276	23,500	22,460	10,703	81.38	38.78
Redfield, Messiah	152	–	–	–	–	–
Stratford, St. Paul	46	–	1,000	2,000	21.74	43.48
Wecota, Immanuel	83	6,630	4,599	6,966	55.41	83.93
Circuit 1 Totals	2,790	\$128,480	\$75,396	\$84,532	27.02	30.30
Circuit 2 – Watertown						
Aurora, First English	32	1,000	317	380	9.91	11.88
Brookings, Mount Calvary	362	36,000	19,042	18,198	52.60	50.27
Brookings, Peace	216	–	660	–	3.06	–
Corona, Trinity	147	2,000	979	1,707	6.66	11.61
Flandreau, Redeemer	44	–	1,500	1,500	34.09	34.09
Milbank, Bethlehem	61	500	–	–	–	–
Milbank, Emanuel	591	24,000	9,025	11,364	15.27	19.23
Reville, St. John	130	6,000	1,791	2,461	13.78	18.93
Sisseton, Emanuel	161	–	1,050	784	6.52	4.87
Watertown, Mount Olive	373	30,700	17,908	15,350	48.01	41.15
Waubay, Zion	118	–	1,689	3,614	14.31	30.63
White, Zion	87	–	700	855	8.05	9.83
Wilmot, Our Savior	174	4,500	2,568	3,193	14.76	18.35
Circuit 2 Totals	2,496	\$104,700	\$57,229	\$59,406	22.93	23.80
Circuit 3 – Pierre						
Blunt, Trinity	38	–	1,000	1,500	26.32	39.47
Draper, St. Paul	21	–	–	250	–	11.90
Gettysburg, Emmanuel	240	6,500	1,739	3,003	7.25	12.51
Harrold, Immanuel	19	600	–	–	–	–
Lebanon, Christ	23	300	–	–	–	–
Midland, St. Peter	40	–	1,540	1,782	38.50	44.55
Murdo, Messiah	78	3,000	1,007	–	12.91	–
Norris, St. John	64	2,500	110	290	1.72	4.53
Onida, Holy Cross	110	1,630	1,600	–	14.55	–
Pierre, Faith	1,499	45,000	22,500	22,500	15.01	15.01
Presho, Zion	97	1,000	1,500	–	15.46	–
Reliance, Trinity	39	–	–	–	–	–
Rosebud, Rosebud Mission	–	–	602	674	–	–
Circuit 3 Totals	2,268	\$60,530	\$31,598	\$29,999	13.93	13.23
Circuit 4 – Black Hills						
Black Hawk, Divine Shepherd	378	–	8,400	–	22.22	–
Creighton, Emmanuel	53	500	439	450	8.28	8.49
Custer, Our Redeemer	196	–	–	3,000	–	15.31
Deadwood, Grace	109	–	1,300	1,517	11.93	13.92
Hill City, Our Savior	29	–	–	–	–	–
Hot Springs, Bethesda	301	7,000	3,500	2,927	11.63	9.72
Phillip, Our Redeemer	50	–	–	–	–	–
Rapid City, Bethlehem	460	29,214	17,042	15,966	37.05	34.71
Rapid City, Our Redeemer	119	1,800	1,050	1,020	8.82	8.57
Rapid City, Peace	514	20,000	9,300	9,184	18.09	17.87
Rapid City, Zion	949	9,500	4,750	4,250	5.01	4.48
Spearsfish, St. Paul	365	40,500	40,500	40,000	110.96	109.59
Sturgis, Blessed Emmanuel	27	600	2,095	1,985	77.59	73.52
Wall, First	221	2,100	–	2,686	–	12.15
Circuit 4 Totals	3,771	\$111,214	\$88,376	\$82,985	23.44	22.01
Circuit 5 – Mitchell						
Armour, Redeemer	220	8,000	4,000	3,750	18.18	17.05
Chamberlain, Zion	407	–	3,141	5,595	7.72	13.75
Delmont, Zion	155	16,000	8,000	8,000	51.61	51.61
Dimock, Immanuel	171	19,000	3,394	10,452	19.85	61.12
Emery, St. Peter	72	5,000	2,848	4,245	39.56	58.96
Gregory, St. John	264	–	3,895	–	14.75	–
Hamill, Zion	34	–	–	–	–	–
Huron, Mount Calvary	775	70,000	39,138	29,271	50.50	37.77
Mitchell, Zion	655	29,350	14,670	14,690	22.40	22.43
Parkston, Faith	195	–	5,100	3,400	26.15	17.44
Plankinton, St. Paul	177	8,000	2,000	4,000	11.30	22.60
Tripp, Emmaus	127	–	3,000	2,500	23.62	19.69
White Lake, Trinity	123	8,000	5,950	4,790	48.37	38.94
Wessington Springs, Zion	78	–	650	650	8.33	8.33
Winner, Christ	68	–	1,000	1,000	14.71	14.71
Wolsey, St. John	216	–	3,541	3,961	16.39	18.34
Woonsocket, Mount Olive	11	–	–	–	–	–
Circuit 5 Totals	3,748	\$163,350	\$100,327	\$96,304	26.77	25.69
Circuit 6 – Freeman						
Alexandria, St. Martin	81	5,000	–	–	–	–
Canistota, Zion	225	–	–	1,060	–	4.71
Emery, St. John	51	–	–	–	–	–
Freeman, St. Paul	271	9,000	6,402	6,115	23.62	22.56
Hartford, Trinity	100	–	1,250	–	12.50	–
Howard, St. John	118	–	–	–	–	–
Madison, Our Savior	237	3,600	1,500	600	6.33	2.53
Marion, Bethesda	65	–	1,500	–	23.08	–
Menno, Immanuel	92	–	1,752	2,007	19.04	21.82
Montrose, St. John	86	–	–	–	–	–
Parker, First English	37	2,200	1,810	388	48.92	10.49
Scotland, St. Paul	37	–	300	300	8.11	8.11
Spencer, Trinity	71	–	1,000	220	14.08	3.10
Wentworth, St. Peter	182	–	4,170	4,520	22.91	24.84
Circuit 6 Totals	1,653	\$19,800	\$19,684	\$15,210	11.91	9.20
Circuit 7 – Sioux Falls						
Brandon, Blessed Redeemer	302	13,200	5,500	7,700	18.21	25.50
Sioux Falls, Christ	98	1,500	750	375	7.65	3.83
Sioux Falls, Faith	593	–	21,000	21,000	35.41	35.41
Sioux Falls, Lord of Life	173	–	6,000	6,622	34.68	38.28
Sioux Falls, Memorial	718	33,000	13,311	11,537	18.54	16.07
Sioux Falls, Our Redeemer	317	23,617	5,617	7,567	17.72	23.87
Sioux Falls, Resurrection	230	10,000	5,000	7,500	21.74	32.61
Sioux Falls, Trinity of The Deaf	35	–	–	–	–	–
Sioux Falls, Zion	653	43,000	30,400	35,000	46.55	53.60
Tea, Risen Savior	92	8,900	3,676	3,888	39.96	42.26
Circuit 7 Totals	3,211	\$133,217	\$91,254	\$101,189	28.42	31.51
Circuit 8 – Yankton						
Alcester, Peace	126	3,000	2,349	1,751	18.64	13.90
Avon, Zion	180	–	2,550	2,535	14.17	14.08
Centerville, First English	101	2,000	590	938	5.84	9.29
Dakota Dunes, Holy Cross	163	24,000	8,923	11,286	54.74	69.24
Fairfax, Trinity	74	4,500	4,500	–	60.81	–
Hurley, Zion	40	2,750	685	1,428	17.13	35.70
Springfield, Our Savior	26	–	–	–	–	–
Tyndall, St. John	169	2,000	–	–	–	–
Utica, Martinus	65	–	423	408	6.51	6.28
Vermillion, Concordia	73	–	3,600	3,000	49.32	41.10
Wagner, St. John	259	–	4,500	4,500	17.37	17.37
Yankton, St. John	1,096	53,000	22,083	26,500	20.15	24.18
Circuit 8 Totals	2,372	\$91,250	\$50,203	\$52,346	21.16	22.07
GRAND TOTALS						
	22,309	\$812,541	\$514,067	\$521,971	23.04	23.40

Comm. Members: Communicant membership, as of Dec., 31, 2017 per LCMS Rosters and Statistics

With love from Lisa

Joy in the journey

“Set your mind on things that are above.” — Col. 3:2

By Lisa Asmus

LWML District President

I did a lot of traveling during the past summer, some alone and some with my husband, Pastor Aaron. Many road and airline miles were traveled for service, business and enjoyment.

One of these trips took us to the Wisconsin Dells, where we had the opportunity to see our son, Adam, perform at the Tommy Bartlett waterski show. The weather report threatened rain most of the afternoon and evening. While we enjoyed the afternoon show, watching Adam play the part of Aqua the Clown, the evening show was cancelled because of thunderstorms.

While it was disappointing not to see him ski again, it gave us an opportunity to spend time with him a different way. Find joy in the journey ... God uses situations in our lives and blesses us in ways we can't imagine. His faithfulness is new each day and his mercies are constant.

What about those days when you find

it tough to smile because your body hurts, you feel sick, you lost a friend, or just because. Some days Aaron will ask me, “Are you OK?,” as it's just a down-in-the-dumps kind of day for me. I can't always identify to him or myself what has me down, but I just don't feel happy.

However, I know that even on a day like that, I still have joy. Neh. 8:10 says the joy of the Lord is my strength. Even if I am not perky, happy or smiling, I know that I still have joy. I am a child of God — always, every day, in every situation. He has called me His own at my Baptism. That joy cannot be taken from me — or you. Your joy is in the journey because of Jesus' love for you and as you set your mind on things above.

At the LWML convention in Mobile, Ala., in June, more than 3,000 men and women gathered in praise to the Lord.



Rev. Aaron (left) and Lisa Asmus with their son, Adam, who was performing in a Tommy Bartlett waterski show.

One convention highlight always seems to happen when Jan Struck enters as our humorous interrupter.

We laughed as “Gloria Mae” came on stage. One time she called her friend “Martha Lee,” concerned that those attending from the north were at the casinos gambling because they kept saying “you betchya.”

Our district had our first participant in the Tee Up for Mites fundraiser, Pastor Aaron.

What a joy to journey to Mobile in praise to the Lord! My prayer for you this month is that you find joy in your journey, wherever you are, because of Jesus' love for you.

Ahart family provides district with memorial

Rev. Neal K. Ahart, who entered the Church Triumphant on April 26 at the age of 95, was a strong advocate for the LWML South Dakota District.

When he first moved to South Dakota to serve as pastor for the Northwest Mission, the LWML helped purchase the trailer house that served as the Arpan Chapel. During his service in the Northwest Mission (1964–69), he brought the Word of God to those — who didn't have a church home — at Arpan Chapel and other locations, where he held services, Bible studies and Sunday school.

Later on, the LWML South Dakota District was able to help Pastor Ahart as he attended Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to become an ordained minister. The district helped with tuition and living costs

for the summer of 1978.

Ahart was ordained at Peace Lutheran Church, Alcester, on Oct. 22, 1978. Throughout his ministry, he served as a counselor for the LWML South Dakota District. He was able to form many friendships and minister to many over the years.

It was Pastor Ahart's fervent wish that his memorial be given to the district LWML to continue making a difference in South Dakota.

Bonnie Noteboom and Betsy Knodel, daughters of Rev. Neal K. Ahart, presented the memorial for the LWML South Dakota District. From left, Heather Miller (district secretary), Lisa Asmus (president), Noteboom, Knodel and Patty Peters (Sioux Falls Zone president).



‘It is written’

When Jesus was tempted by the devil, He quoted from the written Word.

The things that have happened in our societies are written and recorded.

When did we start? Who was the first LWML district president, or president of your society? Who designed our mite box? Who were the first state mission grant recipients? Who were the first delegates and what did they have in mind for the mission of LWML?

We go to history to find these answers. We go to the paper copies, those with no staples, rubber bands and folds in the paper, filed by years in a Banker Box or gray archivist box.

We keep notes of meetings, rallies, conventions and special events so we can read who was there, who was making decisions on our behalf and who was motivated to carry on the mission.

Yearly reports are written and saved by local, zone and state historians. Forms can be found at sdlwml.org/sd_lwml_forms.htm and are sent in a flat envelope. Be sure to date and sign all reports. Your job matters to the next generation. Thank you for preserving our history.

For more information, contact me at lmnden.3840@juno.com.

Lurene M. Denke
South Dakota Archivist-Historian



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Small packages

We are often told “Good things come in small packages.” A diamond ring may come to mind! It has tremendous value, but comes in a small package and fits in the palm of your hand.

But what about faith? Have you ever thought about faith in that way? The theme for LWML Sunday this year is “Faith Like a Mustard Seed.” That sounds like a good thing that comes in a small package!

The Bible tells us that faith is a gift from God:

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”
— Eph. 2:8

Faith is obviously a good thing that has tremendous value in that it saves us by the grace of Christ from the temptations and evils of this world, to give us the eternal treasures of forgiveness, life and salvation.

But this good gift of faith can come in a small package. Jesus speaks of faith the size of a mustard seed:

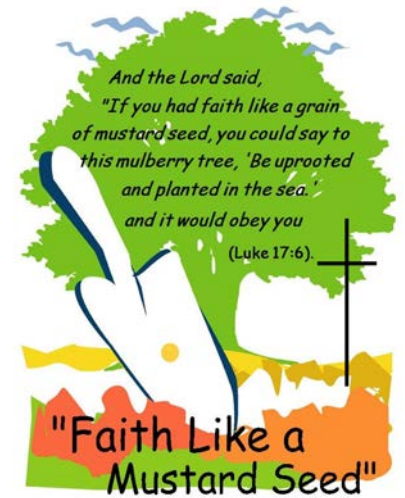
“If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.” — Luke 17:6

Elsewhere Jesus says:

“For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move.” — Matt. 17:20



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor



LWML Sunday 2019



I don't know about you, but I haven't been moving too many mountains or mulberry trees lately. Oh me of little faith! But that's the amazing thing about God's gift of faith in Christ Jesus. Even the tiniest amount of faith, that's not even big enough to move mountains or trees, is enough to overcome sin and Satan. This good thing in a small package is “not a result of works” (Eph. 2:9) — at least not ours. It is the work of Christ on the cross and in the empty tomb for us that overcomes sin and Satan.

But it has also made us “his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works” (Eph. 2:10). Because of faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit works through us so that even our small gestures can have tremendous value. God uses the pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollar bills that come in the small package of an LWML mite box to give His eternal treasures that comes through faith in Jesus to people all over the world.

LWML sets \$2.1 million mission goal

Delegates at the **LWML convention June 20-23 in Mobile, Ala.**, adopted a \$2.1 million mission goal for the 2019-21 biennium. This goal, by the grace of God, will fund 21 mission grants as men and women respond in prayer and offerings during the next two years. LWML chose to support the following mission grants, pledging their support with prayers and mites (offerings) given over the next biennium:



Among the 2019-21 mission grants selected by LWML delegates were **Water and the Word for Rural Schools in Kenya** and **LCMS Deaconess Ministry**.

1. Water and the Word for Rural Schools in Kenya, \$80,000
2. Teach Me Too - Preschoolers with Learning Needs in Austin, Texas (LSEM), \$100,000
3. Mission Outreach for At-Risk Young Women in Africa (LHM), \$100,000
4. God's Grace for This Generation (LAMP), \$100,000
5. God's Word Changes Everything (LBT), \$95,000
6. Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus in Guatemala, \$100,000
7. Restoring Hope for Detroit Children and Families - Camp Restore Detroit, \$100,000
8. Lights for Christ Scholarships in Guatemala, \$95,000
9. Wind River Indian Reservation Transportation in Wyoming (WRLM), \$40,000
10. Ministry in Motion at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mobile, Ala., \$58,000
11. Touching the Living Word (LBW), \$100,000
12. Women's Witness and Mercy in Asia (Mission Central), \$100,000
13. Digital Media Development (LFL), \$30,000
14. Hope and Healing Hub of Downtown Lincoln, Neb., \$50,000
15. Pre- and Post-Seminary Training for Local Church Workers in Africa, \$62,650
16. Preparing Leaders for Tomorrow (LCMS School Ministries), \$80,000
17. Christ for You, Anytime, Anywhere (KFUO Radio), \$60,000
18. Sri Lanka Multipurpose Building Construction (LCMS Office of International Mission), \$50,000
19. Making Jesus Known in the United States Ethnic Communities at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, \$100,000
20. Music Outreach, Classes, and Resources on the Border in El Paso, Texas, \$98,400
21. LCMS Deaconess Ministry (LCMS Office of International Mission), \$39,523

YWR CONVENTION REFLECTIONS

The people you meet

The LWML convention was a wonderful opportunity to hear from so many brothers and sisters in Christ. We heard how they are sharing their faith and offering mercy to their neighbor!

The first LWML woman I met was on the shuttle from the airport. She had come to the convention to represent POBLO ministries, but how she came to be involved was quite the incredible story. She left her comfortable career as a Shariah law professor in the Middle East after discovering the truth of the Gospel. Her family despised her and her father took her to the Mosque where they raped her and attempted to kill her because of following Jesus.

Thanks to POBLO, she was able to escape to freedom, receive



Emily Murray

See EMILY, page 8

Honored, blessed and equipped!

I was sincerely honored to have been selected as a South Dakota District Young Woman Representative (YWR). The LWML convention in Mobile, Ala., was truly an amazing experience. I practically had front row seats during the main sessions as I studied with Donna Pyle, listened to missionaries share their passion and waited for voting results.

I was blessed to have packed boxes for the Gifts from the Heart and to walk alongside Heart to Heart Sisters carrying flags from all the countries where LWML mites have been used.

I praised the Lord with over 3,000 LWML members. It wasn't



Kristina Van Scharrel

See KRISTINA, page 8

With love from Lisa

Joy in serving

“Serve the LORD with Gladness.”
— Ps. 100:2

We have seen these words for many years as the motto for the LWML. Sometimes saying it is easier than doing it.

Have you ever planned an event including all the details, made your list and arranged for volunteers, only to receive phone call after phone call of people canceling, not able to help? You were really looking forward to this event running smoothly, and now much of the weight of the event will rest on you.

Your attitude changes from “We get to do this” to “We have to do this.” You ask “How am I going to get this done now?” Thoughts of regret toward the people who canceled begin to set in. Your heart is not in it anymore. It becomes a chore instead of an opportunity.

“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow springs of life.”

— Prov. 4:23

We are called to serve one another from our heart and not out of duty. We serve God by serving others, not so that God will love us and forgive our sins, but because He already does. It is a response to His love for us. No matter what disappointments happen as we serve, when we serve from our heart, good will flow from it.

This month, as we give thanks for all the ways God has blessed us, remember to give thanks for the Lutheran Women in Mission leaders in your church, zone, district and nationally. One way to do this could be that after you give your regular offering to your church, feed your mite box with a gift and say a prayer of thanksgiving for these leaders.

Also say a prayer for the women in the pew, that they may know of Jesus’ love for them and have an open heart to grow in God’s love through Bible study and the mission work we do as Lutheran Women in Mission locally and globally. Let your prayers and giving be an offering from your heart and not out of obligation.

Let us live our lives in praise to the Lord! To God be the glory, great things He has done!



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

What is the Heart to Heart sisterhood?



Kay, left, is pictured with Louise at the LWML convention in Albuquerque, N.M. in 2017.

By Kay Nelson
District Heart to Heart Leader

In 2017, I, along with Louise Mwenda, who is Congolese, became part of the national LWML Heart to Heart (H2H) sisterhood (my heritage is German/Norwegian). For 2019, I applied with the South Dakota District LWML Board of Directors to be chosen for the national Heart to Heart Sisters leadership training. The district chose me, and for that I was extremely thankful.

When I found out I was chosen to go to Mobile, Ala., for the Heart to Heart Sisters leadership training: I first thanked God for answering my prayers. I also prayed for God to help me with the process of starting this program in our district. The national H2H Committee served as instructors and the training was very informative. The 14 women attending became very close friends.

In the next few months, I will share articles about the Heart to Heart program, and what it will look like in the South Dakota District. Your prayers for success are welcomed.

If you are interested in learning more about Heart to Heart Sisters, go to lwml.org/heart-to-heart-sisters. If you

are interested in mentoring a woman in your area, invite her to a congregation, zone or district event.

The Heart to Heart Sisters program is designed to provide:

► **Access:** We share the LWML mission with women who are not familiar with the LWML, or have cultural or language barriers. We share the message that the LWML welcomes all LCMS women.

► **Inclusion:** As we are intentional about including every woman in the LCMS from every culture and language, our organization reflects the rich diversity of heaven. We make a personal commitment to welcome all LCMS women and to go the extra mile to invite women to be a part of the LWML journey.

► **Active participation:** We encourage each woman to use her God-given gifts to serve the mission of the Church. We can do this through the local, district, and international mission reach of the LWML.

► **Joyful service:** We invite women to the LWML sisterhood so that we encourage each other and together we serve the Lord with gladness.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

GIVING THANKS *when we worry*

A few years ago, when we were new to South Dakota, my wife and I were in Sioux Falls during a snowstorm. We stopped at a store and as I returned to the car, I tried to unlock the door and my keychain broke, and the key went flying into the snow.



Rev. Daniel Grimmer

LWML District Counselor

We spent the next several hours searching for the key, but couldn't find it. I called the dealership in Sioux Falls and discovered that they had no keys for my car in stock. I was panicking. How would we get home? Where would we stay that night? We didn't even have proper footwear to trudge around in the snow as we had been doing.

What's the answer to worry? How can



we trust that God will provide for us everything we need? The answer is thanksgiving. The Apostle Paul wrote in Phil. 4:6-7:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Thanksgiving is the answer to worry because it points us to Christ Jesus. Thanksgiving reminds us that God hears us and cares about us. Paul also wrote in the letter to the Philippians:

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (4:19).

Jesus conquered sin and death on the cross, in which He endured all of the

suffering that we worry will be in store for us if we don't fix what we're afraid of. If Jesus died to save us from sin and death, He also will care for us in the trials of this life, both big and small.

We know that we are secure in Christ Jesus. We know that absolutely nothing can separate us from the love and care we have in Him. The Holy Spirit replaces the worries of our hearts with thanksgiving for the many ways God is caring for us, even in difficult situations.

As my wife and I faced the prospect of being stuck in Sioux Falls without a car, I was worried and upset. But after a while, I was at peace because I knew that Jesus has promised to care for all of my needs. I was thankful that we were safe and warm and that we had wonderful Lutheran friends in Sioux Falls who came to help us. And I was especially thankful when, after one more search effort, we finally found the key in the snow.

Whether we face plenty or want, whether we experience peace and security or many terrible tribulations, we know that we have all that we need, because we have Jesus. We can do all things through Him who strengthens us, and for that we give thanks.

**Giving thanks with you in Christ,
Pastor Grimmer**

HURON ZONE report

On March 31, the ladies and several of their husbands — a total of 31 — met at Messiah, Redfield, for our annual Christian Growth Workshop.

Rev Chris Navurskis, senior pastor of Mount Calvary, Huron, showed pictures and talked about his trip to Washington, D.C., in January for the 2019 March for Life. His wife, Miriam, and their three children also were joined by eight Mount Calvary members. Pastor Navurskis reported on the sense of unity of being there with tens of thousands of others who affirm life. He also talk-



ed about Vice-President Mike Pence's well-received address.

Pastor Navurskis visited with a woman carrying a sign which said that 16 million babies are aborted in India every year. He also expressed frustration that the media largely ignores the up to 300,000 people who march respectfully and politely in the cold every January. He strongly urged everyone to either attend these annual marches or sponsor someone else to go and support life.

The Huron Zone is responsible for cleaning the Puppet Place before each year's South Dakota State Fair. St. John's, Wolsey, was in charge this year and received help from some Mount Calvary, Huron, members.

Jill Johnsen
Huron Zone President

‘Wonderful witness’

State fair attendees learn about Ten Commandments

The Puppet Place story this year during the South Dakota State Fair was on the Ten Commandments. It showed us the good way to live — God’s way to live.

Moses narrated the story with his “Pet Rock” (the speaking commandment tablets). The show had two different families meeting at the rock and sharing their stories. The first family showed us the materialistic world of wanting more and not being content with what we have. The second family had a rock-solid foundation and lived for our Lord.

The show at the Puppet Place, in its 47th year, was presented by Rev. Andrew and Lori Utecht and their sons, Isaac, Titus and Amos; Titus’ wife, Rianne; Amos’ girlfriend, Katie Wrege; Rev. Peter Utecht (Andrew’s twin brother) and his daughter, Kyra; and Donna Utecht, Peter and Andrew’s mother. Isaac was the illusionist before each show and provided a wonderful witness!

Juggling was done by Pastor Titus, Amos, and Kyra. Balloon animals were made by Pastor Andrew.

Ann Cruse
VP of Gospel Outreach

Young women ... district convention has much for you!

As we look forward to the South Dakota District LWML Convention May 29-30 at St. John’s, Yankton, we encourage young women from across South Dakota to join us! An early-morning hike, Bible study at The House of Mary Shrine, and servant event at the Cramer-Kenyon Heritage Home are some of the activities that are waiting for you.

Start planning and encouraging young women (teenagers to age 35) in your congregation to attend!

Melissa Brock
YWR Chairman



▲ Rev. Andrew Utecht was the “balloon master” for young visitors.

▲ Isaac, Pastor Andrew’s son, was the illusionist during the puppet shows.

▼ Special greeters made guests feel welcome to the Puppet Place.



With love from Lisa

The value of a penny

Recently, before the snow fell, I was walking in a HyVee parking lot and looked down and saw this penny. As I picked it up, I was reminded of two things: Full Value and our Mite Boxes.



Lisa Asmus
LWML South Dakota
District President

Full Value is a program I was introduced to when Aaron and I were part of Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI). It was based on Luke's account of the woman who was bent over and crippled for 18 years. Jesus laid His hands on her and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God (Luke 13:13).

A penny in the road seems like it has no value. It is all beat up, stepped on, weathered, and you often just want to leave it there. You can't buy anything with it. Our lives can be like that penny. We get beat up and stepped on with circumstances in our lives. Sometimes



we feel as if we have no value to others or in the world.

But Jesus loves each of us so much that He came to earth as a baby on Christmas, died on the cross on Good Friday, rose again on Easter, and forgives our sins so we can be free to glorify Him. In doing so, we love and serve others. If we took that penny to any bank, the deposit into our account would be one cent. No matter how beat up it is, it is still worth full value.

It is also like that for us because of Jesus. No matter how beat up we are, He loves us and gives us full value too!

It's easy to want to give ourselves credit or look for credit from others for things we have done, but let's not find our value in that. Too often we are let down and disappointed. You are a child of God because He called you His child in your Baptism. Let's find our value in what Christ has done for us.

Pennies on the road are often overlooked, but if all the pennies would be picked up and put into your Mite Box, they would add up to plenty! These messed up coins can be gathered to help fund our mission goal, which in turn will help many learn of Jesus' saving love for them.

Next time you see a penny on the road, pick it up and remember that you are worth full value because of Jesus, then pray that it will bless someone with His love as you put it in your Mite Box.

We are now in the Advent season, making our preparations for Christmas. Putting up decorations, de-tangling lights, baking cookies, wrapping presents, getting together with family and snowfall are all great things to associate with Christmas. However, let's remember that the reason for Christmas is not for all those things, but for the one who gives us our full value, Jesus, who went from the manger to the cross and rose again so we can have eternal life with Him!

Merry Christmas from my family to yours.

MILBANK ZONE report

The Milbank Zone has five active societies that meet regularly for Bible study and fellowship. Our spring and fall zone meetings include Bible study and some type of servant event.

We have labeled lip balms with the Human Trafficking Hotline phone number on them, to be distributed across the state for those in need of help.



We have collected food for pantries, assembled hygiene kits, layettes and packed Mercy Meals at the Milbank Orphan Grain Train site.

Our ladies enjoyed using their talents and being useful for the Lord during these events. In addition, our ladies continue to make quilts, sleeping mats and pillow-case dresses.

We are so thankful for each one who serves the Lord in their congregations, our zone or district.

Susan Magedanz • Milbank
Zone President

SAVE THE DATE

LWML South Dakota District Convention

- May 29-30, 2020
- St. John's, Yankton

Theme: "Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." (Heb. 12:2a)

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

CHRISTMAS PEACE

In honor of my friend and retired colleague, the Rev. Dave Gunderson, please enjoy finding 15 references to Christmas song titles in this article.

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

While true for many, for others it's the most nerve wracking-time of the year. Many nights and weekends are consumed rockin' around the Christmas tree at parties with family and friends. We run around in a frantic frenzy trying to find the perfect gifts to wrap in pretty paper and pretty ribbons for everyone on our list — and spending way more than we can afford.

Parents threaten their misbehaving children because Santa Claus is coming to town — and we all know he's making his list and checking it twice. Yes, anxiety can run high this month and feel like a wild sleigh ride through the holidays.

Even the silent night of the first Christmas was likely not all that serene. We can imagine gentle Mary screaming in pain at Joseph, while he's sweating bullets trying to play doctor in a barn of friendly beasts. Then away in the manger, the baby Jesus' cries came upon a midnight clear, waking up His exhausted mother for His midnight feeding and a change of His soiled swaddling cloths. The silence out in the



Rev. Steve Weispfenning
LWML District Counselor



fields near the little town of Bethlehem were broken by the shepherds' shrieks of terror at the sight of angels from the realms of glory.

But "fear not!" the angel exclaims. Then there was joy to the world and "on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased" (Luke 2:14).

"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**

"And you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." — **Matt. 1:21**

"And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." — **Is. 9:6**

What child is this? He is the child who was born to die and rise for you, to give you peace now and into eternity. Jesus is our peace during this hectic time of year because from heaven above to earth He comes to bear your sins upon the cross to forgive you and give you life.

Throughout all the hustle and bustle, we find peace with Jesus — Immanuel, God with us — in where He promises to be — in His Word and Sacrament with those gathered in His Church.

Merry Christmas!

Seltz visit highlights workshops



Seltz makes his two-kingdoms presentation Oct. 4 at Zion, Delmont.

The 2019 Fall Christian Life Workshops were attended by 250 people in Gettysburg, Rapid City, Delmont and Watertown.

In conjunction with the South Dakota District, we were inspired and educated by Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, who is the executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C. We were reminded that God's work is done in two kingdoms, the Kingdom of the Right (the Holy Christian Church) and the Kingdom of the Left (the government and the world), and we have many opportunities to serve in both kingdoms.

The offerings collected for workshop expenses were \$1,831. The extra money from the lunch offerings was about \$600, which was designated for Mites. The LWML Store sold \$824 of LWML items.

Debbie Sattgast
VP of Christian Life