

PATTY'S PONDERINGS

Thank you

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! (Psalm 100:1-2)

All of you know these verses very well, since verse 2 is our LWML motto.

We are blessed to have so many opportunities to serve the Lord, sing His praises and come into His presence. One of those opportunities is the 63rd LWML South Dakota District Convention, to be held June 7-8 in Aberdeen. It is with great joy that we can come together as sisters and brothers in Christ to hear the Word and to love our neighbor with servant events and the ingathering of gifts, and to support mission grants for the 2024-2026 biennium.



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota District President

This is my final *HiLites* article as LWML South Dakota District president. I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and my Lord in this office. God blesses each of us with many gifts to serve Him, and I am grateful that I could use mine for His glory. It was a blessing for me to meet and work with so many ladies from our district and the national LWML, whether at conventions, workshops, prayer services, board meetings, national assemblies or group meetings.

I especially thank the women and the pastoral counselors who served on the district board during the last four years. We started out together unable to meet in person, with meetings held online. I chaired my first board meeting from my car outside the Britton Public Library so I could use the library's internet service! Our first large in-person gathering during my time as president was at the 2021 Christian Life Retreat in Pierre. What a wonderful time it was, celebrating the love we have for Jesus and for each other under the theme, "God's Quilt of Comfort: Wrapping Up in the Psalms."

Over the last four years, we "Walked in Love" (based on Ephesians 4:32-5:2), and sang "With One Voice" (based on Romans 15:5-7), and will celebrate "Inexpressible Joy + Matchless Savior" (based on 1 Peter 1:8-9).

My prayer is that each of you continue in His Word and that the Holy Spirit will guide you to proclaim Jesus' love. Continue to pray that all may come to the knowledge that Jesus loved each and every one of us by dying on the cross and rising from the grave, so that all who believe in Him have eternal life with Him.

To God be the glory forever!



Puppets galore!

The LWML of Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk, had a wonderful time creating about 100 puppets made from colorful gloves. These puppets will be given to children who attend the Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair, to be held Aug. 28-Sept. 2 in Huron. We pray that God would use these puppets according to His will and for His kingdom. Pictured are, from left, (seated) Loretta Rohrbeck, Joyce Bowley, Janell McKinstry; (standing) Leota Quam and Diane Falin.

LWML unveils new Mite Box design

The new design includes a graphic of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4) and the updated LWML logo. The Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites"



— offerings above and beyond support given to congregations and the LCMS.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Inexpressible joy

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. **1 PETER 1:8-9**

Many of you are getting ready to attend the LWML South Dakota District Convention. I look forward to seeing you there! And what a wonderful theme (1 Peter 1:8-9) to gather around.

I've always loved the sound of Peter's "inexpressible" expression of joy. He knows that it's beyond wonderful that our lives are filled with hope from our risen Lord — he just doesn't quite know how to say it. It's too wonderful for words. And that's probably the way it should be! God the Holy Spirit communicates this wonderful joy to your heart and mine by Peter's very inability to express it himself.

This phrase from 1 Peter is often read in our worship services early in the Easter season. This "beyond wonderful joyful assurance of our life with the Lord" springs from the resurrection of Jesus Himself. There is no other way this assurance comes our way. Our Savior is matchless! Only He rises from the dead and guarantees that you and I will rise also. And, as Peter tells us in verse 8, you can believe it!

Ultimately, sharing this inexpressible joy and the news of our matchless Savior is the end goal of the LWML — and all of us who are in Christ. It's our prayer that many will be confident in this "end result of our faith, the salvation of our souls" through our ministry and witness together.

My brief role as interim district pastoral counselor will come to a close at the end of this month's convention. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to have worked together with so many quality leaders and to continue relationships built over the years..

Blessings in Jesus!



Rev. Aaron Asmus

Lutheran Women in Mission MUST-HAVES FOR SUMMER!



It is time to shop!

Lutheran Women in Mission has upgraded the shopping experience in the SHOP. Visit the SHOP at lwml.cph.org to check out new products and resources, all in one convenient place.

Kick off your summer with great new Lutheran Women in Mission products — a purple bistro mug, luggage tags, a rose gold executive pen, and a fun purple pen with purple ink. Stock up on purple sticky notes and note cards.

Looking for a unique gift for a cook or techie in your life? Check out the new purple jar openers and purple charging cables.

New multi-session Bible studies and devotions, including *Oh, Lord I'm Puzzled*, are available for purchase. Free downloadable Bible studies, including *Experience the Joy — Then Share It!*, can also be found in the SHOP.

Farewell

It has been my great privilege to serve as vice-president of Gospel Outreach for the past four years. When I started this position, I felt overwhelmed by the responsibility and doubted my ability to complete the task. But God reassured me that He would be with me throughout the process. He has been more than faithful to that promise.

What a joy and privilege to be on the ground level of what the LWML is all about! Being the person who has the direct contact with our mission grant people has been so humbling. Meeting some of them at the convention was certainly a highlight of my work. Working with Pastor (Andrew) Utecht at the Puppet Place was a delight. It has been fun working with the Utecht family as they continue this wonderful work at the South Dakota State Fair.

Although I am no longer serving as vice-president of Gospel Outreach, I will continue to help in smaller ways at each level of our district LWML.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Jesus in such a unique way over the past four years. God's blessings to each of you, no matter how you serve the Lord with gladness!

Jan Larson
Vice-President of Gospel Outreach