

## Meet the new president

As I write this, it is hard to believe that I will be the LWML South Dakota District president through 2028. I would like to take this opportunity to share a little about my family and me.

I met my husband, Steven, after his father received his crown of glory in October 1988. We were married in 1990. We lived in Minnesota until 1995, when we made the decision to move to my hometown of Onida. Four days after our daughter, Katie, was born, we packed up and headed west, with Katie and our three-year-old son, Michael, in tow. Initially, we thought we would stay in Onida until both our children graduated from high school. But as you can probably do the math, that time has come and gone.

Michael and his new bride, Courtney, were married in September and live in Miller, while Katie lives here in Onida. Both of my children are teachers.

Teaching has been a big part of my life as well. I have served as our school's administrative assistant for the past 26 years.

I am eager to begin this journey as your district president, serving the Lord with gladness alongside all of you.

For the 2023-2025 biennium, the LWML has four primary focus areas:

### Proclaiming Christ

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all peoples! **PSALM 96:3**

### Supporting Missions

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." **MARK 16:15**

### Equipping Women

Now may the God of peace ... equip you with everything good that you may do his will. **HEBREWS 13:20-21**

### Serving Others

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another. **1 PETER 4:10A**

This is a wonderful guide for me as I begin this blessed vocation as your district president. I very much look forward to meeting and working with you over these next four years, and to be able to help you in any way I can. May God bless us, as He always does, as we welcome and encourage each other in serving the Lord with gladness.



**Mary Jo Stier**  
LWML South Dakota District President



Patty Peters, outgoing LWML district president, is accompanied by her granddaughter, Addison Newell, during the Procession of Banners.

## CONVENTION RECAP

The 63rd Biennial Convention of the LWML South Dakota District was held June 7-8 at the Ramkota Convention Center in Aberdeen. The convention's theme was, "Inexpressible Joy + Matchless Savior," based on 1 Peter 1:8-9. There were 240 from across the state in attendance.

Kay Kreklau, 17th national LWML president (2011-2015), was the keynote speaker. Greetings from LWML were given by Arlene Naasz, LWML vice-president of Organizational Resources and former LWML district president. Katy Gifford, past LWML Nebraska South District president shared information on LWML's Gifts of Love. Bible studies were led by author Donna Snow.

Offerings were collected, including \$4,333 for the 2024-2026 Mission Grant Goal and \$3,299 for Mission Central of Mapleton, Iowa. In addition, the Mission Walk raised \$1,080; Mite Bites raised \$77; and the Pastoral Mite Challenge raised \$3,538.

Those attending the convention made 151 diapers out of T-shirts and flannel material for Orphan Grain Train; 300 witness bracelets for MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term); 200 mitten puppets for Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair; and Christian bookmarks and cards for Phil's Friends, which supports cancer patients.

For Gifts from the Heart, a multitude of gifts were brought for Journey Home and Safe Harbor, both of Aberdeen.

Officers elected to four-year terms were:

- Mary Jo Stier, Onida – President
- Kristy Ring, Gregory – Vice-President of Christian Life
- Cathy VandeBraak, Sioux Falls – Vice-President of Gospel Outreach
- Vonda Sturzenbecher, Black Hawk – Treasurer
- Rev. Christopher McCarthy – Pastoral Counselor
- Lori Hoffman, Canistota – Nominating Committee, chairman
- Jan Larson, Pierre – Nominating Committee
- Lurene Mogler Denke, Pierre – Nominating Committee

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

# An arrow in the Lord's quiver

Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. **Isaiah 49:1-2**



LCMS/Rev. M. Lunsford



**Rev. Brian Mosemann**  
LWML District Counselor

Some Christians believe this: “God did His part. He saved me. Now I gotta do my part and get crackin’ and serve Him.” That turns everything that God tells us about Christianity upside-down and on its head.

Imagine that you are an arrow in God’s quiver. If you were to try to do God’s work for Him, it wouldn’t go well. An arrow can’t do any good if it tries to wriggle away from the archer and do the work on its own. Even if an arrow could jump out of the quiver, somehow hop up to hit a target, it would just bounce harmlessly off.

Now imagine an arrow in the hands of a skilled archer. The arrow needs to do nothing but remain in just the form the archer made it. It is the archer who sharpens the arrow and the archer who hides it away in the quiver. It is the archer who takes the arrow out of the quiver and the archer who puts it on the string. It is the archer who uses his strength to pull the arrow back, and the archer who aims. Finally, it is the archer who decides when

to release the arrow. Only then will the arrow hit the target and stick. The arrow needs the strength of the archer to accomplish not its own purpose, but the purpose of the archer.

If I were to ask you who did the work, the archer or the arrow, what would you say? If I tried to tell you that it was the arrow that did the work, you’d call me crazy. The archer is in control at every moment, from sharpening the arrow to sticking it into the target.

How is it then that we are servants of God? How is the arrow the servant of the archer? The way for us to be the servants of God is to realize that He doesn’t need us to do His work at all. He chooses to use us as His instruments. A servant is used by the master — the same way an arrow is used by the archer — to accomplish his purposes. Thankfully for the arrow, it is the archer who does all the work. And thankfully for us, it is God who works in us to bless us, and it is God who works through us as His instruments whereby He blesses others.

## PIERRE ZONE UPDATE

The LWML of Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, with help from others of the congregation, gathered items to assemble 85 health kits for the local Missouri Shores Domestic Violence Center. Each kit contained a bath towel, wash cloth, toothbrush and toothpaste, deodorant, lotion, shampoo and conditioner, lip balm, comb and nail clippers. A small note of encouragement was also included in each package.

**Jan Larson** • Pierre Zone President

## 2024-26 Selected Mission Grants

1. Main Street Living Ministry Outreach TV Program	\$4,998
2. Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat	\$5,000
3. Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch (RSO): Bismarck Chapel Furnishings	\$3,000
4. Lighthouse Preschool, Aberdeen	\$5,000
5. Critical Tools for Body and Soul – MOST Ministries	\$5,000
6. Concordia Seminary International Student Support	\$5,000
7. Mount Calvary, Huron, Learning Center Security Upgrade	\$5,000
8. Faith Lutheran Preschool, Pierre	\$2,500
9. Faith, Pierre, Motor Coach Improvements	\$5,000
10. New Shepherds for South Sudan – Lutheran Heritage Fund	\$5,000
11. Servants of the Gospel Through Dots of Love – Lutheran Braille Workers	\$3,000
12. Faith Health and Wellbeing and Community Outreach, Sioux Falls	\$4,600
13. Theological Libraries and Resources, Africa – LCMS International Mission	\$5,000
14. Haitian Seminarians: Ministry in Mission (RSO)	\$4,000
15. Proclaim the Gospel – Serve in Mercy (RSO)	\$5,000
<b>Mission Grant Goal</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>