

## PATTY'S PONDERINGS



## Our 'Inexpressible' Easter joy

On Resurrection Sunday, did you have a different joy or excitement in your heart and mind than you did just three days prior on Good Friday?

Singing "Alleluia!" and hearing the trumpets sound with beautiful choirs that almost lift the roof off the church is the mountaintop experience of Easter morning. How did the women respond when they saw the empty tomb outside of Jerusalem on the first Resurrection Sunday? They responded with fear and bewilderment, and they ran to tell the other disciples what they saw (an angel), and what they didn't see (the body of Jesus). The disciples hid behind closed doors because they were afraid of what the Jews would do to them.

God blesses us with the New Testament writers who tell us His true and inspired Word through which we learn about Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension into heaven. He submitted to His Father's will to suffer and die in our place so that we who have faith in Jesus as our Savior will have eternal life with Him in heaven.

Jesus said to her (Martha), "I am the resurrection and the life.



**Patty Peters**  
LWML South Dakota  
District President

Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." JOHN 11:25-26

St. Peter expresses our joy in 1 Peter 1:8-9:

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.

This is why we have resurrection joy. We know that Jesus defeated sin, death and the devil, and we have the victory!

Under the theme "Inexpressible Joy + Matchless Savior" (based on 1 Peter 1:8-9), we gather for the 63rd LWML South Dakota District Convention June 7-8 in Aberdeen. We will celebrate with inexpressible joy because we know that Jesus won the victory for us. We will share in His body and blood, study His Word, learn about mission grants, work on servant projects and participate in a mission/mite walk.

May God bless us as we walk in love with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

## Officer farewells

I've had quite a journey these past four years as the vice-president of Christian Life for our LWML South Dakota District. Our loving God led me into a sisterhood of mission-minded Christian women who wrapped their arms around me and shared how our LWML uses "our hands to work for Him and our feet to go on His errands and our gold and silver to extend His Kingdom."

Along my journey, I've made many new friends in Christ. These ministers joyfully prepared biblically inspired programs for our Christian Life Workshops and LWML groups throughout our state. They have welcomed our sisters in Christ to each special retreat.

I appreciate all the women who assisted me with sales at the LWML store and those who helped set up and then pack up all the materials at each workshop. It's been a joy to be part of the district LWML Board of Directors. I've received guidance and share a special friendship with every board member as we worked together to spread the Gospel of our loving Lord and Savior, and worked on the district Women in Mission projects.

I send a loving thank you to all the LWML women and pastors who have guided me in the past four years.

**Susan Buxcel • VP of Christian Life**

Wow ... four years already! How is that possible? It seems like yesterday that I was collecting all the boxes filled with years of bank statements and financial records from the previous treasurer.

I am so grateful for the continued encouragement and guidance I have received, from both past and current board members, as I muddled my way through the world of QuickBooks, paying vouchers and reconciling bank accounts. These past four years as your treasurer have definitely been a learning experience and I truly appreciate the confidence you have all shown in me.

As my time on the Board of Directors comes to an end, I would like to thank each and every one of you for making my experience a memorable one.

**Melissa Vance • Treasurer**

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



LCS/Errik M. Lunsford

# LIBERATED TO LOVE

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? JAMES 4:1

We often shift blame for our problems from ourselves. It goes like this: “It’s not me; it’s him (or her or this or that).” That is why the passage from James seems incredulous. Many of us have been taught our whole lives that we can do and be anything we want. In short, we’ve been told that we are wonderful and just have to overcome these outside obstacles frustrating our inner awesomeness and limitless potential.



**Rev. Brian Mosemann**  
LWML District Counselor

So when confronted with James’ words that we are the problem, we recoil. James’ words might strike you as offensive, but they are true.

His words hit us hard by revealing that the breakdown of our relationships has everything to do with what is going on inside of us. When we don’t have what we want, we will kill for it. When I’m not getting from you what I think I need, I’ll fight you. Once James puts this into words, it couldn’t be more obvious: Our main problem in life is ourselves.

The Bible is God’s Word, revealing that we’re all sinners in need of a Savior. It also reveals that our heavenly Father sent His Son to die and rise again for the sins of whole world. In church each Sunday we hear the Good News that things between us and God are forever made right.

In the proclamation of the Gospel and through Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, God declares to us concretely that the debt of our sin has been paid, the ledger has been put

away and that, in Christ, everything we need we already possess. His Word of forgiveness produces humility because we realize that, through Him, our needs are fulfilled.

We don’t have to worry about ourselves anymore. This, in turn, allows us to stop looking out for what we think we need and liberates us to love our neighbor by looking out for what they need. Our standing before God is secure, freeing us to think about the needs of others. What comes next is a peace we could not attain on our own.

Once we understand and believe that Christ’s saving work for us is finished and that we have everything we need in Christ — that He provides for all our needs — we are strengthened in faith toward Him and in fervent love toward one another. This you will hear and see at the LWML South Dakota District Convention June 7-8 when we will rejoice with inexpressible joy in our matchless Savior, Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:8-9).

## Convention offering service opportunities — and lots of fun

Make plans to attend our district convention, to be held June 7-8 at Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Aberdeen. The ingathering items needed for Safe Harbor and the Journey Home were listed in last month’s issue.

This month, I’m excited to tell you about our planned servant events, which include making items for Orphan Grain Train, including diapers out of



T-shirts and flannel, and making mission bracelets with string and beads. We will also make mitten puppets to give to children who visit Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair, and we will color cards to send to Phil’s Friends, which provides support and

hope to those affected by cancer.

We are excited to have our mite walk at Storybook Land. The route takes us on a trail of nursery rhymes that many of our parents taught us and through the Land of Oz. It is sure to bring back childhood memories. A longer walk includes opportunities to see live animals. Be prepared to participate in a scavenger hunt as you walk! And don’t leave Storybook Land without a ride on the train.

The Aberdeen Zone is excited to host this year’s convention. Attend and enjoy!

**Betty Ochsner**  
Convention Chairman