



DISTRICT NEWS

SOUTH DAKOTA

MIXED BLESSINGS

Have you thanked God for the blessings in your life lately, even for the mixed blessings? I write this in mid-June, a few days after some softball- and tennis-ball-sized hailstones pounded places in western South Dakota. But much-needed rainfall was delivered by the Lord to other places. That's quite a mixed blessing.



Rev. Scott Sailer
District President

Have you thanked God for your job lately? It's a blessing because it gives you something to do. It helps provide a service that people need. It puts bread on your table. It's the pits sometimes because your boss can be unrealistic, your co-workers can be lazy and you're just plain tired when you get home.

Have you thanked God for your family lately? They're a blessing because they love you and you love them. They give you nice presents and do things for you. They're the pits when they don't carry their own weight around the house, when they leave their socks on the floor and their dirty dishes on the coffee table.

That's life, isn't it? At least, it's "post-Fall" life. That is, it's life since Adam and Eve dreamed about being like God instead of being satisfied with being human creatures, loving and serving a loving and giving God.



Getty Images

Yes, Adam and Eve's fall into sin brought all of us down. The Puritans had this little poem in their readers to describe this:

In Adam's fall, We sinned all.

We all were cursed with sin thanks to that first sin. Paul said it this way:

...sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned. ROM. 5:12

And this way:

...by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners. ROM. 5:19

Yes, in Adam's fall, we sinned all.

And now life is filled with mixed blessings. Food satisfies, but can give us a heart attack when abused. Recreation is good for the body and the spirit, but can make us dissatisfied pleasure seek-



ers when done to excess. Rain waters the earth, but can certainly do more than its share of damage when it comes in certain forms and amounts.

Mixed blessings.

What are we to do in this mixed-blessing world?

Use your blessings well.

Use them as God intended, in a

See **BLESSINGS**, page 3

WELCOME, Pastor Yeadon!

Rev. Jeremy Yeadon was installed as pastor of St. John's, Groton, and Zion, Andover, on June 5 at St. John's. Rev. Tim Rynearson, district second vice-president, served as the preacher and officiant.

Pastor Yeadon is a 2010 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne and has served at St. Peter's, Brownstown, Ind., since 2017. He and his wife, Diane, have three children.

The district thanks the Lord of the church for answering the prayers of the parish.



From left, Revs. Sam Bobby (St. Paul's, Aberdeen), Kevin Moore (Messiah, Redfield, and Redeemer, Doland), Jeremy Yeadon, Tim Rynearson (Peace, Brookings; Redeemer, Flandreau; Zion, White); Bret Biermann (St. John's, Aberdeen; St. Peter's, Stratford; Trinity, Mansfield) and Jacob Smith (St. Paul's, Aberdeen).

Tri-parish celebrates Pastor Greenseth's 40 YEARS IN MINISTRY

The tri-parish of Zion, Presho; St. Paul's, Draper; and Messiah, Murdo, gathered at Messiah for a service on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, to also celebrate the 40th ordination anniversary of its pastor, Rev. Ray Greenseth.

Pastor Greenseth has served in the South Dakota District since 1991, when he was called to serve First, Wall, and Emmanuel, Creighton. He was then called to Messiah, Murdo, and St. Paul's, Draper, in 2007, and in 2019 to Zion, Presho, as it joined the then dual parish.

In his long tenure in central South Dakota, Pastor Greenseth has also served God's people in Milesville, Philip and Midland — a bit like the circuit riders of old. The members of Zion, St. Paul's and Messiah, and the South Dakota District thanks God for the faithful service of Pastor Greenseth, His servant.



◀ Pastor Greenseth is pictured with his wife, Patti.

▲ LWML members perform a skit during the ordination anniversary celebration.

Share your news with us!

Send submissions to Kate Meadows:

- kate@katemeadows.com
- 420 E. Liberty Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

The deadline for the October issue is Aug. 15.

BLESSINGS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

balanced life, looking also to serve others with the bounty God has given you. Life lived in this way tends to lead to work that is more fulfilling and families that are happier.

And get this. Our God is so good that He will not waste those times when life in a fallen world brings hardship through no fault of your own, as when hailstones pulverize your roof in a violent summer storm. Somehow ... somehow, God is working for your good, for something bigger than giving you a new roof thanks to insurance. He promises He's doing something in all of that mess for the good of your faith and to ensure you'll spend eternity with Him when life in this fallen world is over for you.

Listen!:

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. **ROM. 8:28**

And listen to this:

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

ROM. 5:18

How's that for a blessed, refreshing Word in a mixed-blessing world? More refreshing than a good rain!

**Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Scott Sailer**

"Not ashamed of the Gospel"
Rom. 1:16; 16:25-27



Peace welcomes Pastor Erickson

Rev. Donald E. Erickson was installed as pastor of Peace, Alcester, on May 29. Rev. Steven Weispfennig, senior pastor of St. John's, Yankton, and circuit visitor, was the liturgist and Rev. Paul Warnier, Peace vacancy pastor and member, was the lector. Rev. Scott Sailer, district president, served as the preacher and officiant while Pastor Erickson's wife, Jolene, was the organist. Their daughter, Debra, played a piano piece for the service's postlude.

Pastor Erickson, who was born and raised in Kearney, Neb., is a 1986 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He previously served St. John, Germantown, Iowa, for 19 years.

Rev. Don and Jolene Erickson are pictured with their family, from left, Douglas, Debra, Jennifer, Joy and her husband, Zach.



Quilts for kids

The members of the Zion, Rapid City, Dorcas Circle meet weekly to design and create quilts for those in need identified by area service organizations. Using donations of fabric from members, and batting purchased through Thrivent Action Team funds, these ladies create an average of two finished quilts a week for organizations such as the Hope Center in Rapid City and Orphan Grain Train, and for veterans in hospitals in Sturgis and Hot Springs. Pictured are, from left, Barb Jass, Bambi Schweppe, Martha Palmreuter, Coleen Murphy and Judy Charbonneau with their creations for "77 Quilts for 77 Kids," a project of alumni from Rapid City Central High School. Missing from the photo is Cindy Purtell. The ladies donated 13 quilts for the project.

PATTY'S PONDERINGS

New mission goal for a new biennium

What a blessed time I had at the 62nd LWML South Dakota District Convention in Yankton! About 240 people attended the convention. We were in God's Word at the opening communion service, during a Bible study taught by Rev. Andrew Utecht and at the closing service.



Patty Peters
LWML South Dakota District President

It was so much fun to walk across the Missouri River bridge for the Mite Walk, and see the magic show and puppet show performed by the Utecht family as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair.

The new mission grant goal is \$55,000 for 12 grants that were chosen by the voting delegates. The mission goal is \$132,333 for the 2022-24 biennium. May God bless our district as we strive to reach these goals.

Our keynote speaker was former national LWML President Jan Wendorf, who reminded us of our theme, "Walk in Love" (based on Eph. 4:32-5:2). Marie Chow, national LWML vice-president of Organizational Resources, gave us a lot of information about what the national officers do for us. Katy Gifford, former Nebraska South District president, lightened our convention with humor and also talked about Gifts of Love. I am so thankful that these ladies were a part of our convention.

Now it is time to plan our fall activities. I hope that many of you will help at the

Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair (Sept. 1-5 in Huron). It is an easy way to invite people into the building to learn about Jesus.

Many zones will host zone rallies, which provide times for ladies to be together in Bible studies and participate in servant events.

Please consider attending one of two Christian Life Workshops this fall (*see page 7*). One is at Zion, Mitchell, at 9 a.m. on Oct. 8. The other is at St. Paul, Spearfish, at 9 a.m. on Oct. 15. Rev. Robert Hinckley will speak on the topic of "The Tabernacle/Temple in the Bible."

Jesus wants us to talk to our family, friends and neighbors about how He loves them and forgives them. My prayer is that we all read the Bible, be in prayer with God and "Walk in Love."

Convention HIGHLIGHTS

The 62nd Biennial Convention of the LWML South Dakota District was held June 3-4 at St. John's, Yankton. We celebrated 50 years of The Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair with a puppet show by Rev. Andrew Utecht and family, and 80 years of being Lutheran Women in Mission.

Over 240 attendees from across the state met under the theme "Walk in Love," based on Eph. 4:32-5:2:

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefor be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.



▲ The Utecht family gave a puppet show at the district convention. From left, Ethan (holding Ryland), Isaac, Justus, Lori, Pastor Andrew, Donna, Pastor Peter, Kathy and Pastor Ken.

◀ LWML representatives from outside South Dakota who appeared at the convention are, from left, Jan Wendorf, Katy Gifford and Marie Chow.



SIoux FALLS ZONE REPORT

Greetings fellow “Posers!” I pray you had a wonderful experience in Yankton. It was great to see so many sisters and brothers in Christ gathered together in June.

The convention marked the end of Sioux Falls Zone President Tina Lenz’s term and the beginning of my attempt to fill her shoes. My name is Cathy VandeBraak, and I am a member of Eve Group from Zion, Sioux Falls. We are so thankful for the service President Tina provided since October 2020. Her entire journey required mapping out a different path to participate in God’s work during the pandemic. We pray many blessings upon Tina and her family as they “Walk in Love” in Wichita, Kan.

We praise God that the groups from the Sioux Falls Zone have been able to gather together this past year. Our Redeemer hosted the Fall Rally. There we completed a service project

Pictured are the attendees at the LWML District Convention from the Sioux Falls Zone.

with greeting cards for nursing home shut-ins. We also hosted a prayer service, “Lord, Teach us to Pray,” in person at Faith, Sioux Falls. The used jewelry sale was a fantastic way to recycle our jewelry and collect Mite offerings. Zion, Sioux Falls, hosted a mission walk and invited everyone to contribute Mites. All in all we collected \$223, which we gave to the first offering at convention,

designated for the LWML South Dakota District 2022-24 mission grant goal.

Our groups have been busy with various activities. The ladies have made tie blankets for Project Warm-Up, Easter baskets for McCrossan Boys Ranch, care packages for ICU/pulmonary/COVID floor nurses and hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train; served meals and so much more. It is inspiring to see each group being the hands and feet of Jesus.

The LWML Sioux Falls Zone is eager to serve the Lord with gladness (Ps. 100:2).

Cathy VandeBraak • Sioux Falls Zone President



Young Woman Representatives at the district convention were, from left, Jenna Byrd, Jenna Neumayer, Jessica Tisher, Rebecca Darland-Denke, Lauren Penning, Julie Baumann, Grace Tisher and Jessica Smith

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Introducing our new counselor

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want. PS. 23:1

In his book, "I Shall Not Want," Robert Ketchum tells of a Sunday school teacher who asked her group of children if anyone could quote the entire 23rd psalm. A golden-haired, four-and-a-half-year-old girl was among those who raised their hands.

A bit skeptical, the teacher asked if she could really quote the entire psalm.

The little girl came to the front of the room, faced the class, took a little bow, and said, "The Lord is my shepherd, that's all I want."

She bowed again and went and sat down.

Would that the Lord would be all that we want every moment of our lives! Nevertheless, even when that is not the case, still we shall not want for anything as our Lord cares and provides for all our needs.

What a Savior we have! And what a joy to serve the Christians of the LWML South Dakota District who proclaim and walk in the love of the Lord!

At the LWML South Dakota District convention in June, I was elected as LWML district pastoral counselor. I serve as pastor of four congregations: Bethesda, Marion; First English, Parker; Immanuel, Menno; and St. Paul's, Scotland.

I grew up on a farm near White Lake and received a teaching degree from Concordia Teacher's College, Seward, Neb. I graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Long Island, N.Y. After teaching at Martin Luther High School in Queens, N.Y., I served as assistant professor of theology at Concordia University, River Forest, Ill. and Concordia University, Austin, Texas. Next, I hopped the pond and served as tutor (professor) at Westfield House (seminary) in Cambridge, England; then I served as dean of students at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Most recently, I served as assistant professor of theology at Concordia University Wisconsin before returning to South Dakota.

I look forward to walking together with you in the love of our Lord and proclaiming His forgiveness to all whom He puts in our path. We give thanks for the 80 years of blessings the Lord has bestowed on the LWML and pray that He will grant us many more years of blessed service unto Him.



Rev. Brian Mosemann
LWML District
Pastoral Counselor

LWML South Dakota District 2022-24 MISSION GRANTS

At the June convention, the Spirit led us to select these mission grants (below) for the new biennium. We are now looking for new mission grants for national LWML. The deadline for grant proposals is Aug. 31, and will be voted on at the national LWML convention in June 2023 in Milwaukee. A bus will transport us from South Dakota, so start thinking about attending this event.

Jan Larson • Vice-President of Gospel Outreach

1. Black Hills Pregnancy Center
Earn While You Learn Program, Rapid City, \$5,000
2. Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., Food and Clothing Coop, \$5,000
3. Feeding Haitian Children Physically and Spiritually, \$5,000
4. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Making Jesus Known to the World (international students), \$5,000
5. Faith Lutheran Daycare and Preschool, Pierre, Playground Area Upgrade, \$5,000
6. Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Luther's Small Catechism for African Missions, \$5,000
7. LCMS International Mission, Mozambique Sewing Project, \$5,000
8. LCMS International Mission, Faith and Hope Center, Siberia, \$5,000
9. Lutheran Braille Workers, Spanish Braille Bibles for Central and South America, \$5,000
10. LCMS Soldiers of the Cross, \$5,000
- 11a. Jesus Door 2 Door, \$1,000
- 11b. MOST Ministries, Teachers to the World, \$4,000



Providing meals for Haitian children is one of 11 mission grants for the LWML South Dakota District.



From left, district officers include:

- Susan Buxcel**
VP of Christian Life
- Luann Zuercher**
Secretary
- Heather Miller**
VP of Communication
- Melissa Vance**
Treasurer
- Patty Peters**
District president
- Paula Warren**
Financial secretary
- Dianne Hemminger**
VP of Special Focus Ministries
- Jan Larson**
VP of Gospel Outreach

Ladies serve those in need

Those attending the convention participated in servant events.

The ladies:

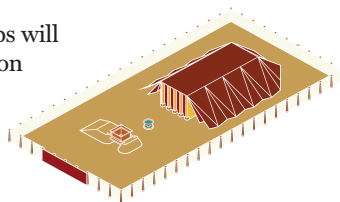
- ▶ Tied 31 fleece blankets for Orphan Grain Train.
- ▶ Collected 692 pairs of eyeglasses and 80 witness bracelets for the MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term).
- ▶ Made finger puppets (456) and pocket crosses (212) for The Puppet Place at the South Dakota State Fair.
- ▶ Donated \$885 for meal coupons for Gifts from the Heart: River City Crisis Center in Yankton
- ▶ Donated 1,527 items and collected \$775 for ZoeCare in Yankton

Convention Offerings

\$3,211	\$2,926
2022-24 Mission Grant Goal	The Puppet Place

Make plans to attend workshop

The Fall Christian Life Workshops will be held on Saturday, Oct. 8, at Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell, and on Saturday, Oct. 15, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Spearfish, Rev. Robert Hinckley, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Chamberlain, will present on “The Tabernacle/Temple in the Bible.” He will talk about how the tabernacle and temple point to Christ and what that means for the church today.



Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the workshop concludes at 1:45 p.m. with a devotion. Both workshops include an hour-long break for lunch, fellowship and shopping at the LWML store.

Bring a friend and your Bible and be inspired to reach out to share with others the life-saving Word!

SCHEDULE

9-9:30 a.m.	Registration/coffee
9:30-9:45 a.m.	Opening devotion
9:45-10 a.m.	Greetings, announcements
10-11 a.m.	Speaker
11-11:15 a.m.	Break/singing
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Speaker
12:15-1:15 p.m.	Lunch break/shopping)
1:15-1:30 p.m.	Singing
1:30-1:45 p.m.	Closing

Coffee will be served following the closing, and along with shopping.



EIGHT DECADES at Emanuel, Sisseton

Claire Arbach played the organ at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Sisseton, for 80 years.

She started playing at age 11, when church services were conducted in German every other Sunday.

Along with church services, she has played for weddings, funerals and baptisms. She was at the organ every Sunday — even on Sundays when she doesn't feel well — except when she is out of town for a spe-

cial occasion for a child, grandchild or great-grandchild.

Clarice married Reynold Arbach, who took care of their children every Sunday while Clarice played.

Clarice and Reynold recently moved to Sioux Falls and they are dearly missed by the Emanuel Lutheran Church congregation. The organ misses her as well — no one knows the Emanuel, Sisseton, organ better than Clarice.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

The **Lutherans For Life** page will be back in September with a story by Rev. Ryan Drevlow about the value of foster care. Drevlow serves as senior pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls.

Have you been blessed to know the difference Jesus has made using your work and witness in His name? I'd enjoy hearing that life story. A fellow worker may need to hear it. Contact me at:
▶ pcnavurskis@gmail.com, or
▶ 605-352-7121.



Rev. Chris Navurskis

Pastor Navurskis serves as life coordinator of the South Dakota District and as senior pastor of Mount Calvary, Huron.

Call Information

Rev. Ryan Drevlow, pastor of Our Redeemer/Sioux Falls, declined a call as pastor to St. Paul's/Central City, Neb., July 8.

Rev. Adam Welton, pastor of St. John's, Wentworth, declined a call to St. Paul, Fairmont, Minn., June 16.

DCE Joshua Schmitt, St. John's, Yankton, declined a call as DCE to St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Westlake, Ohio, March 4.

Rev. Clint Thorson, pastor of St. John, Howard, and Our Savior, Madison, declined calls to St. Peter, Middleburg, Fla., and St. John, Purdy, Mo.; and is prayerfully considering a call to Trinity, Fort Morgan, Colo., June 19.

Rev. Ryan Loeslie, Immanuel, Dimock, declined a call to Zion, Edgeley, and Bethlehem, Forbes, N.D., July 8.

VACANCIES

- ▶ Corona/Wilmot, Trinity/Our Savior
- ▶ Milbank/Emanuel
- ▶ Plankinton/White Lake, St. Paul/Trinity
- ▶ Zion/St. John's, Canistota/Montrose

Every One His Witness expands online access

Every One His Witness® (E1HW), the Synod's resource for equipping Lutherans to share the Gospel with the people they encounter in their everyday lives, is now available to everyone interested in strengthening their witness of Jesus Christ. Access to the resources on the website was previously limited to

people who had completed the core module workshop. Now all of the modules are available at no cost to anyone who requests and receives an access code.

E1HW is available at no cost to anyone. To get a free access code to the video modules, please email support@everyonehiswitness.org.