

## Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Mrs. Lisa Asmus, President



It is a blessing to join with the South Dakota District LCMS in this convention to *Behold Your God* as we respond to the love that God shows to us, especially in sending Jesus to be the Savior to each of us – and the world! LWML seeks to respond by developing and maintaining a greater mission consciousness among women of the LCMS through education, inspiration, and service.

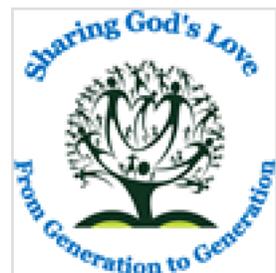
A major emphasis is the support of mission and ministry throughout the world by means of Mite Box offerings. These Mite Box offerings have funded tens of millions of dollars in mission grants since the organization's inception in 1942.

Our primary focus is in the following three areas:

- **Nurturing Faith in Christ.** By God's grace we offer each woman opportunities to be in the Word and use her unique gifts in God's service.
- **Making Our Faith Meaningful.** We equip each woman to make a significant difference in the lives of all people.
- **Sharing Encouragement.** We value each other in Christ and we accept and encourage each woman to grow in her relationship with others.

LWML SD District offers opportunities for our women to be fed by the Word through Christian Life Workshops held every September/October, a district held retreat in April of odd numbered years, and at our district convention held the first weekend in June on even numbered years. As Lutheran Women in Mission we seek opportunities for Bible Study, fellowship, and service at our events.

This year our LWML SD Convention, is June 1-2, 2018 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. Our theme, *Sharing God's Love from Generation to Generation*, is based on Psalm 100:5 *For the Lord is Good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.* During this convention we will celebrate LWML South Dakota District's 75<sup>th</sup> year as being part of LMWL. Guests will include our keynote speaker, former LMWL President Linda Reiser. LWML Representative Leslie Jaseph, and LWML Pastoral Counselor, Robert Mundahl will be our Friday evening worship service proclaimer. We will also have mission moments with the Comfort Dogs, PABLO, Peace Lutheran Educational Ministries, Brookings, and Concordia St. Louis Food Bank. We will *Behold Your God* during our servant events, gathering of mite offerings, mission moments, Bible study, fellowship, break-out sessions, selecting new mission grants to support, Mite bites, and many other activities that will be available. I welcome and encourage you to come and take part.



When we collect Mite Box offerings, they get sent to LWML SD District where 75% of it stays to support our district work, and 25% goes to LWML to support the work of LWML. You can see the list of current LWML Mission Grant recipients by looking at LWML.org. This website has many

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resources including Bible Studies, devotions, and other information about Lutheran Women in Mission. Our South Dakota Mission Grants can be viewed at [sdlwml.org](http://sdlwml.org).

In June, nearly 100 women along with a hand full of gentlemen from South Dakota met at convention in Albuquerque. Among these were ten voting delegates, two Young Woman Representatives, Megan Fair and Pamela Baker, and two Heart to Heart (H2H) sisters. Louise Marie Mwendez was the first Heart to Heart sister from South Dakota to attend an LWML convention. Kay Nelson who attended as her interpreter, was also pinned as a H2H sister. What is the H2H program? The H2H program serves to motivate, equip, and ensure opportunities for multicultural women to serve the church, participate in LWML, witness in the world, and grow in relationships as sisters in Christ.

Two of our ladies from South Dakota are serving on LWML committees on the national level. Former LWML SD President Arlene Naasz is serving as Structure Committee Chairman, and former LWML SD President Janell McKinstry is serving on the Mission Grants Committee. We thank God for the servant hearts of these Women in Mission!

Thank you, pastors, DCE's, and teachers for sharing the love of Jesus each day as you *Behold Your God* with your community. Thank you for your support of LWML in your congregations as you encourage women of all ages to be a woman in mission. If you have any questions about Lutheran Women in Mission, I would be happy to visit with you. I thank God for the opportunity to serve and support the work you all do in your congregations and schools. To God be the glory!

In His love and by His grace,  
Lisa Asmus  
LWML SD District President

“We are the Body of Christ! Each one of us is a part of it!” Romans 12:5



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## LUTHERANS FOR LIFE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, INC.

Mrs. Jill Johnsen, President

**Lutherans For Life of South Dakota (LFLSD)** is a state affiliation of the national organization of Lutherans For Life (LFL), organized in 1978 as a non-profit, pan-Lutheran mission. Our purpose is to give witness to, and equip Lutherans to give witness to the truth of the God-given sanctity of human life found only in God's word. Therefore our mission statement is: "**Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices FOR LIFE.**" The message of LFL is the heart-changing truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; the unique, primary message being, "Here is what God has done that gives value and dignity to all human life." LFL desires to pattern its manner after the Apostle Paul and "**speak the truth in love.**" LFL strives to give witness, from a Biblical perspective, to the Church and society on the value and dignity of all human life from the youngest to the oldest, the preborn to the elderly, from the weakest to the strongest.

LFLSD is currently made up of several chapters and several Life Teams. Each group is encouraged to send representatives to an **Annual Meeting** every January to share ideas, nominate and elect a state board and to encourage each other. All friends of Life are urged to attend.

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Education on life issues is our primary purpose. We encourage attendance at National LFL Life Conferences as well as at programs we develop on the state level. In 2017 several LFLSD members attended the Regional Life Conference in Lincoln NE and the organization sponsored **scholarships for young people** in South Dakota who were interested in attending. We have monthly articles in the South Dakota insert of the **Lutheran Witness**.

LFLSD has an ongoing campaign, **Life: A Better Choice**, where For-Life and Pro-Family ads are aired on television. Fundraising is an ongoing mission. Virtue Media produces the tasteful, educational ads. We have been blessed with funds to air ads in eastern South Dakota up to this point. These ads can be viewed on our website **www.lutheransforlifesd.org** where we have capability for on-line donations through Paypal. Nancy Bogenhagen is our webmaster.

**Witness of the Crosses** is an outdoor educational display which consists of 600-700 crosses. With two trailers containing the crosses, your community is encouraged to **use this display at no cost**. These crosses serve as a dramatic memorial to the babies whose lives are taken as a result of abortion in South Dakota each year. Their presence also serves as a reminder to the men, women, and families suffering after making an abortion decision that Jesus died to forgive them. The trailers also serve as a sign telling the most recent statistics of abortions performed in SD.

LFLSD encourages the observance of at least one **Life Sunday** each year in churches. The 2018 theme is Hope for Life. LFL resources are available through Concordia Publishing House (CPH).

New to South Dakota in the past 3 years is an **Essay Contest** on life issues for students 6th-8th grades and 9th-12th grades. Rules are available at **www.lutheransforlifesd.org** and prize money is awarded to first and second place in each age category. State winners are eligible for national competition. Contest is open to Lutheran students or students of SD Lutheran Schools. The **Annual State-wide Diaper Derby** provides friendly competition between Mothers Day and Fathers Day to collect disposable diapers and supplies. They are then delivered to a crisis pregnancy center or shelter, etc in local communities. This shows support for God's gift of life while helping moms and dads in need.

LFLSD appreciates and promotes the annual **Bike for Life** which helps fund the **Ultrasound Ministry** at a local crisis pregnancy center in eastern South Dakota.

**Owen's Mission** is an ongoing program of LFL with a goal of placing *Touch of Life fetal models* in every Lutheran elementary and high school in the United States. We want students to understand the God-given value of each life from the moment of conception. We want students to be motivated by what God has done as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier that gives value to life. We want students to value themselves and to value others as persons because of this God-given value.

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## MAIN STREET LIVING

Mr. Dutch TeSlaa, Director of Operations

This year, 2018, brings about another historic year for the Main Street Living ministry. Having completed 16 years of ministry to South Dakota and areas of bordering states, we now look far beyond the borders of our state to bring the message of love and forgiveness on television. This has been made possible due to the efforts of many dedicated people, area Pastors, countless supporters, and a great and gracious God. The theme of this convention "Behold Your God", is totally illustrated in the success of this program, from the time it was started until now, when the plans are to greatly expand this ministry.

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Even though this effort at ministry is administrated by lay members of the church body, it would not be possible without the cooperation of a forwarding looking District staff and a very cooperative and dynamic group of Pastors that lead the community each week in a television worship service. A service that has become a very important part of the worship experience for thousands of people who can't or don't attend worship with their local congregations. This has become the "church" for many of these people.

In January of 2017 the program was expanded to a television station, KVRR, in Fargo North Dakota. This station brings the broadcast to the eastern North Dakota District and western Minnesota North District. This expansion was feasible due to the generosity of our viewers in South Dakota. A newly formed Lay Leadership Group was formed and they have taken over the administration of the program in their area. Just like South Dakota, they are utilizing Pastors from their districts, are recording hymns with local people, and are generating financial support from parishioners in their area. With all the challenges, they are now self-sustaining, and at this time we look at the Fargo effort as a total success.

The future looks bright for Main Street Living. In December of last year we received a major gift from the estate of Rose Wegehaupt, a viewer of the program who had passed away. The money is to be used to expand the program into other areas. The Board of Directors in South Dakota decided on a multi-point expansion. The first new station added is KJBR in Duluth, Minnesota. They started airing the program on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 using the same structure and format that has worked so well in South Dakota for the last 16 years. It is a structure that will be used for all future expansions. With the receiving of the Wegehaupt gift, the South Dakota Board of Directors has identified another 15 LCMS Districts from Montana to St. Louis where expansion is probable. This will take years to complete, but to minimize the timeline, a new full-time position will be added this year to facilitate in the growth. A very aggressive schedule would have the expansion completed by 2022.

Looking back, the Main Street Living television ministry is a miracle in itself. It began on a suggestion from a television station that was trying to sell time on their station. It was conceptualized by a group of people, none of which had any broadcast experience. It was developed by a very small group of Christians who knew the importance of getting out the Word to the people of the area. It was supported by a generous clergy, willing to give of their time, talents, and training to proclaim an effective weekly message. Now, we have been given the financial resources to expand the coverage to nearly 1000 congregations, serving over 900,000 members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and others of all faiths. So, stand back, take a look, and "Behold Your God" and what He has accomplished.

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## **ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN**

Jeanette Stensland, Chairman, South Dakota Division of Orphan Grain Train

At any given moment there is a disaster occurring in the world and/or poverty and hunger but especially a hunger for the Good News of the Gospel.

For more than 25 years Orphan Grain Train has been working to meet the needs of suffering people both here in the US and around the world. We are shipping to 67 countries, serving 85 orphanages, 7 hospitals and 3 prisons in 5 countries. Our Orphan Grain Train collection center in Milbank, SD has been assisting in this ministry since 2005 but many individuals contributed even before that.

This past year in South Dakota we have continued to send clothing, shoes, blankets, medical supplies, quilts, school kits and hygiene supplies and shipped the Mercy Meals that are packaged in our building. More than 100 palletes of these goods as well as sleeping mats, bicycles, Bibles and cleaning supplies used for the clean-up after Hurricane Harvey were sent. We contributed

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financial help as well as the loan of our disaster response trailer and its equipment to be used in the Houston, TX area after the disaster there. The value of these things was well over \$10,000. But also our volunteers at our warehouse gave well over 2500 hours of service this past year. That's not counting the work done at home sewing T-shirt diapers, pillow case dresses, quilts, crocheting the sleeping mats, caps, mittens and scarves as well as mending, which even a 90+ year-old does for us. The value of this work is priceless and gives an opportunity for retirees to continue to serve their Savior.

At present we have applied for an LWML grant to be able to assist in sending relief supplies to an impoverished area in Peru.

We are outgrowing our facility and with the donation of additional land and financial aid we hope to be expanding within the next year.

We are thankful for all the support given to us and that we are able to contribute in some small way to the extending of God's kingdom throughout the world.