



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

Follow the Leader

Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a man who is perverse in speech, and is a fool (Proverbs 19:1)

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Mentoring has become a buzzword in recent years and yet it is a concept as old as civilization. In Bible times there were many examples of Christian mentoring – Naomi and Ruth, Jesus and His disciples, Paul and Timothy. Mentoring is a form of teaching in any setting. The hope of a mentor is to pass on insights gained through her experiences to those she mentors.

LWML President Patti Ross sees mentoring in this way, “Leadership is not being perfect! But, it does take being open to suggestions and learning from past or present mistakes. When you mentor someone you don’t tell them how to do it, but it does help to look at your own experiences and what mistakes you made and how they were corrected. This allows you to pass along advice, perhaps helping others avoid the same mistakes in the future, while showing that leaders will not know all the answers but will make an effort to find them. We depend on God’s guidance, His love, and His forgiveness when we mess up. We also depend on our LWML sisters to encourage us, and help us find answers to what we don’t know.”

The LWML Mission Statement has its basis in mentoring as it urges members “to assist each woman ... in affirming her relationship with the Triune God ...” That assisting comes through Bible study and mission service opportunities as well as fellowship and sharing joys and sorrows with other women in Christ. The outcome is a closer relationship with one another and with God. As relationships blossom ministry to others follows.

LWML resources such as [“Woman to Woman Mentoring”](#) and [“Mentoring Resource Kit”](#) have valuable helps for making mentoring more effective.

Note to Districts – when thinking about which LWML resources to offer in your LWML Store at events, be sure to highlight new resources and eliminate old, out of stock items that are no longer available. Many items have been updated or are now available only in downloadable format.

Miss Mentoring Leading



It was my first attempt at mentoring. I wanted to make a good ‘first impression’ for my mentee. I guess even mentors can learn from their oversights.

A young woman from a nearby church expressed an interest in running for a zone LWML office. I was happy to mentor her and our plan was to meet at my church and discuss a vision for our zone activities and officers. I arrived early to be prepared and then waited, and waited, and waited. Had she changed her mind? No. She had been searching all over for me! The front doors were locked. The basement door was open but it was totally dark. The principal in the school building had not seen me arrive. Thankfully he knew I was likely in the meeting room, just inside a side door which was slightly obscured by the large lilac bush. I learned that clear communication is imperative for mentoring (and a humble apology doesn’t hurt either). Just because most church members know where meetings are held, doesn’t mean friends outside the congregation are aware of our routines.

Even if my plans weren’t perfect, God’s plans are. This young woman and I enjoyed a wonderful conversation and she has become a leader in her church group! Thank you, Father, for using me to share LWML.

Note to Self: When hosting visitors for meetings, zone rallies, or servant events, give clear directions. A sign by the door, a bunch of balloons, or a hostess would help visitors find their way.

Did you find this newsletter helpful in your service to God through LWML? Please take a moment to let us know if this resource is worthwhile. Click [here](#) to link your response with the Leader Development Committee. We would love to hear from you!