



FROM PRESIDENT PATTI

Letting Go

Once again, our *Quarterly* Publication Staff has put together an issue that brings to the forefront the difficult situations many of us deal with in our lives. Suffering and loss — be it through betrayal, death, health, or unexpected life disappointments — is often seen as something that shouldn't happen to a "good Christian." In fact, some prosperity doctrine religions say that if you are a good Christian, and you do the right things, bad things will not happen to you. All we have to do is study the people God chose to tell us about in the Bible and we will see that "good Christians" do not avoid trials and tribulations.

I would never approach anyone and tell them during a time of trouble that there's a silver lining in every cloud. However, as I age, I continue to see blessings come from suffering. Maybe not for the individual suffering but for others around that person. I believe that suffering has a purpose. I don't like seeing it or experiencing it, but I trust in God's plan and His love for me.

"Letting Go" is the theme of this issue, my last issue to write a President's Page. I'm letting go of having this extreme privilege of speaking to many of you through the *Quarterly*. I'm letting go of being on the inside of all the great things LWML women are doing day to day to spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. I will miss all of that.

What I have loved the most as your President is meeting so many of you and being encouraged in my own faith by your faith, your service, your love of God's Word, and your willingness to serve. I've been privileged to accept awards for you — for you as LWML members. Privileged to hear praises for your work, your diligence in service. Privileged to receive thanks from grant recipients that you have supported through your Mite Box offerings. Privileged to receive encouragement from many of you. So I mean it when I say it's been a privilege for me to serve!

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:8–10).

LWML continues to be the best women's auxiliary of any Christian church ... BECAUSE ... we know we live in grace, we know we have been created by God for good works, and we know that God has that planned out for us!

Let's continue to **Engage, Encourage, and Equip** women in our church to reach out with the message of Grace. I pray that you continue to always **Enjoy** doing just that!

Thanks for the privilege!

Love, Patti

