



FROM PRESIDENT PATTI

One Deep Breath



I know many of you can relate to the articles in this issue of our magazine.

As a nurse, I have waited with families at the bedside of dying patients as they cease breathing. As a mother, I have had to unplug life support machines and watch my daughter take her last breath. As a daughter, I have watched my mother struggle to breathe and say, "All I want to do is take one deep breath."

One deep breath. With one deep breath, we were made in the image of God. *Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life* (Genesis 2:7 ESV). *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them* (Genesis 1:27 ESV).

Our present world does not see man as having any connection to the image of God. Therefore, we don't treasure ourselves or our fellow men as loved sons and daughters, loved beings of God's creation. We take the ownership of our own lives and those of others as ours to control, rather than giving up control to the almighty, all-knowing, loving God, in whose image we were made.

Whether it is suicide, abortion, murder, neglect or starvation, each Lutheran Woman in Mission *must* ask, "What would God have me do about it?" As a Bible study in this magazine examines, first we must go to Scripture for wisdom. LWML — Lutheran Women in Mission — are guided in all we do with the Word of God as found in the Holy Bible. Then, we must put what we learn into action.

One deep breath. Jesus said to them again: *"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on [the disciples] and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit"* (John 20:21–22 ESV). Jon Hus writes about this verse: "[Jesus sends them] to bear testimony to the truth, to preach the word of salvation and, by life and teaching, to show the way of blessedness to the people."

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we should always be ready to take the message of God's peace to those who face death, disappointments, and disasters.

Take that one deep breath, and step out in love! Whether you are confident or uncomfortable, be a Lutheran Woman in Mission! You have God's Spirit and power within you!

What would God have

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do about it?