



FROM PRESIDENT PATTI

Friends and Framily

“There are friends, there is family, and then there are friends that become family.”
Framily. LWML Framily! Do you agree?

This issue revolves around family and framily. I am blessed a thousand times over with a loving, supporting, and ministry-involved family. I have a huge framily because of my association over the years with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, and I hope you do too!

We confront challenges and share joys. We share common goals of sharing Christ's Gospel message wherever and whenever we can. We encourage and lift each other up during hard times and hard work.

We welcome our family members to be alongside us whenever possible. Our husbands, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, cousins, and aunts who support us and join in our mission are so key to staying encouraged and feeling valued.

We welcome our friends. Members of our congregations, children at our church or school, pastors, young moms, neighbors — old and new — can catch our enthusiasm and join our LWML Framily.

This is the year of LWML district conventions. I encourage you to find out the date and place of your convention, grab a friend, and attend! There will be so many chances to add to your framily as you take part in servant events, listen to mission speakers and, above all, engage in Bible study and devotions with new friends you haven't met yet. Feel free to attend any of the district conventions. A schedule of all the conventions is available on the LWML website: www.lwml.org/district-conventions.

As illustrated in the articles of this issue, being a friend, being an encourager, being a mentor is so important. St. Paul, in Romans 1:11–12, writes to the faithful in Rome: *For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you — that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.*

LWML should always work to encourage others through the sharing of our faith. And what better encouragement can we share than what Paul writes later in chapter 8:14–17. *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.*

Now THAT'S a family!



Patti Kess