



FROM PRESIDENT PATTI

Peace Among the Pieces

One of my favorite pastimes is doing a jigsaw puzzle. I can count on my son, David, and his wife, Sarah, to pitch in whenever one is on the table, usually when we're at the lake. My friends Teresa and Lynne provide a ready supply of different puzzles.

I like to do the outer edge pieces first and work in from there. To me, it adds the structure from which I can work. When finished, I feel accomplishment and enjoy the whole picture.

In this issue we see people take the pieces of their lives and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, put them back together. Perhaps we could say that their trust in God forms the outside borders within which they can piece their lives together as a whole. The peace they find in depending on their heavenly Father helps them see the full picture of what their lives can be.

In the mission grant pages, we see pieces in a different way — in a way many of you can relate to — as quilts sewn together, like jigsaw pieces, by hundreds of women and given to people through the work and distribution of Lutheran World Relief. You are supporting this mission grant as you put your Mite Box offerings together with those of other LWML districts. What a joy to see the whole picture of how this work covers people whom Jesus loves!

A feature article relates how Lutherans can take houses and neighborhoods that may have “gone to pieces” and build them up into whole structures that shelter people and put families in safe housing. This restoration leads to amazing relationships built as the people of the church model God’s peace to their neighbors.

And in the middle of this issue we see the pieces of the next LWML Convention coming together. I pray you will consider attending the Mobile, Alabama, convention June 20–23, 2019. We have put together speakers, worship, and entertainment that, when pieced together, will make the theme, “In Praise to the LORD!” come alive and unite us all in one unified, beautiful picture of praise.

Based on 1 Chronicles 16:23–24a, *Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations,* this convention will look at LWML’s support of worldwide missions as well as our involvement as our church becomes a multicultural church. You will want to be part of this uplifting event.

Come and see the beautiful picture that you are all a piece of!

Patti Ross