



## Greetings from the Leader Development Committee!

This is the last issue of *The TEAM Leader* for this biennium and from our committee. It is our hope and prayer that this newsletter has been a help to you as you serve as a leader in the LWML. Until the next committee meets, please continue to check the LWML Web site for new information. It has been an honor and privilege to serve on this committee, with Jesus as our TEAM Leader!

*Anne Hartman; Sandra Haugner;  
Nikki Tyrrell; Sharon Goertzen,  
Chairman*

## Do you need wisdom, help and guidance? Ask the TEAM Leader!

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5).*

## The Leader's Final Exam

Teachers use tests to evaluate and to challenge their learners. The evaluation helps the learner discover her weaknesses, and the challenge encourages the learner to work to the best of her abilities.

As leaders, we are constantly being tested by a plethora of instructors, including those who have led before us, those whom we serve, those we serve with, and the Lord himself. We know this. What may come as a surprise is that the greatest challenge for the leader-learner is the test we take *after* we finish our term of service as a leader. How a leader serves after she has stepped down is the final exam of her leadership.

The final exam of leadership starts with this question, "Are your successors succeeding?" A retired leader might ask, "What has that got to do with me? My successor is in charge now — whether she succeeds or not is her business, not mine."

Au contraire, mon Capitain! Her success is greatly dependent upon what you say and do after you retire. Your guidance, sharing of information and

public support for her work (even if you disagree!) is crucial for her success, not only at the beginning of her service, but also throughout her term.

Your final exam as a retired leader may prove to be your greatest challenge of leadership. You may be emotionally and physically drained from your work. You may have mixed emotions about the new leader or her ideas. You may even be a bit jealous; no one may have helped you — or maybe someone did? Very likely, your support for your successor will go unrecognized; she will get the credit for her success.

At that moment, you will be most like Christ.

The Lord knows what you do in secret; He knows the sacrifices you have made and continue to make — He is the one who is at work in you doing the good you do! Nevertheless, He will still reward you with the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." The joy of that moment will be worth it all.

*Written by Rev. Carl Gnewuch, LWML  
Pastoral Counselor*

*Leaders, do you have a district event such as a retreat coming up? One idea is to have a Leadership Quiz available for everyone to fill out. Ask them to also write on this quiz if they are interested in being a leader in your district and what position they feel most qualified for. This will be a great help to your district president to have names of potential leaders when it is time for her to appoint officers.*

### Leadership Quiz

*Leadership requires ...*

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>L</b> _____ | Unconditionally – Matthew 22:37-39         |
| <b>E</b> _____ | Exceptionally – Proverbs 29:18             |
| <b>A</b> _____ | Continuously – 1 Thessalonians 5:11        |
| <b>D</b> _____ | With Determination – 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 |
| <b>E</b> _____ | Others Enthusiastically – Proverbs 3:5-6   |
| <b>R</b> _____ | Faith-FULL-y – Matthew 14:28-32            |
| <b>S</b> _____ | Selflessly – Ephesians 6:7                 |
| <b>H</b> _____ | Relentlessly – Isaiah 40:31                |
| <b>I</b> _____ | Immeasurably – 1 Corinthians 2:9           |
| <b>P</b> _____ | Persistently – 1 Thessalonians 5:17        |

### Leadership Quiz Answers

*Leadership requires ...*

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Love</b> _____       | Unconditionally – Matthew 22:37-39         |
| <b>Envision</b> _____   | Exceptionally – Proverbs 29:18             |
| <b>Affirm</b> _____     | Continuously – 1 Thessalonians 5:11        |
| <b>Discipline</b> _____ | With Determination – 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 |
| <b>Energize</b> _____   | Others Enthusiastically – Proverbs 3:5-6   |
| <b>Risk</b> _____       | Faith-FULL-y – Matthew 14:28-32            |
| <b>Serve</b> _____      | Selflessly – Ephesians 6:7                 |
| <b>Hope</b> _____       | Relentlessly – Isaiah 40:31                |
| <b>Imagine</b> _____    | Immeasurably – 1 Corinthians 2:9           |
| <b>Pray</b> _____       | Persistently – 1 Thessalonians 5:17        |

# The Gospel is Bearing Fruit

*... We have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints — the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth (Colossians 1:4-6).*

My son was all boy. He could not sit still. It seemed the more we got after him the more he would fidget. This sometimes proved challenging, especially when we were in church. He was on the pew. He was on the floor. He was on his bottom. He was upside down. He was a ball of energy.

It was not that Luke intentionally misbehaved. He was not a wild child. He simply could not channel his energy productively in church no matter how he tried. This did not prove to be a problem at home, only in church. Perhaps it was because we felt self-conscious.

What helped us feel better about our son's acrobatics was the realization that when we sat down for Sunday dinner, Luke could relate the main point of the sermon without hesitation. To our great joy, he was paying attention. He was listening.

The challenge of teaching him to sit in church was all worthwhile because he was hearing the Word and taking it to heart. We took the time to love him, be Christian parents and expose him to the Gospel of Christ. The word of God was active within him, just as our Lord had promised.

God's same love comes through us to others when we strive to understand and empathize with them. When we accept and recognize others as precious to God, we are able to grow beyond our own self-conscious concerns and share the joy of Jesus with open hearts!

*Written by Rev. Mark A. Gefaller, St. Paul Lutheran Church - Mount Vernon, Iowa  
Iowa District East LWML*

*All over the  
world this gospel  
is bearing fruit  
and growing ...*



## Product/Resource Promo

### *LWML Pocket Diary*

The purple, vinyl-covered Pocket Diary is perfect for your daily schedule. It includes information about the LWML plus dates of meetings, reminders for submitting mites and a leadership roster. It's the perfect size for your purse or pocket. This is a vital tool for all LWML leaders. Code #19801 \$3.50 each, quantity discounts are also available.

### *LWML Society Starter Kit*

This is an ideal resource for beginning a new society. It includes an application, a sheet on Bylaw Guidelines and a page entitled "How to Conduct a Successful LWML Business Meeting." These two pages are useful resources for any society, especially one that is thinking of updating its bylaws.

The Primary Targets for the 2007-2009 biennium will also be included. Some pages are written in Spanish, too. This is an inexpensive resource that would be valuable for every society to have on hand. Call the LWML Office for pricing.

## Leader Tips

Those visiting the Leader Development Committee booth at the Sioux Falls Convention shared the following leader tips:

- Pray for guidance.
- Listen to those you work with.
- Be strengthened by the Word.
- Be willing to be mentored by those with leadership skills.
- Attend LWML leadership training, and get to know the LWML helps and publications.
- Respect tradition — what has been done in the past — but be open to trying new ways, ideas, etc.
- Utilize those wise older LWML members. Have them share their stories.
- Start every day like it's your first.
- Encourage our younger women in their walk with Christ.
- Tell people what they need to know, at least twice.
- Communicate, by smiling, by e-mail, by phone, by fax, by text message, by prayer.
- Don't get frazzled!
- Start on time ... end on time!!!
- Make reminder calls!
- Take a risk — it's OK, try something new.
- Listen to God's whispers to your heart when given the opportunity to lead.
- Personal invitations are often the best!
- Keep your zone informed. Start a zone newsletter.
- God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called.
- God guides and provides. When you walk with the Lord, you don't get bored!!!
- Share leadership!
- Have a yearly handbook!
- Icebreakers really work!
- Always ask! People are less likely to offer themselves, but will say yes, if asked.
- Invite, inspire and keep positive.
- Be flexible!
- Delegate!
- Lead — do not push!
- Have fun — enjoy what you are doing and let it show to others — smile!
- Encourage and bring out the best in others.
- Communicate with younger members.
- Know when to follow.
- Stay focused!
- Be a worker — neither a shirker nor a lurker!
- Praise in public; counsel in private!
- Publicize what you discuss in your meetings so that your entire congregation knows about the LWML.
- Always use kind words, smiles and hugs!
- Always remember that our TEAM Leader is Jesus Christ, our ROCK!!!