

LUTHERAN WOMAN'S

QUARTERLY

WINTER 2018

WINTER BIBLE STUDIES

THE SHEPHERD'S PEACE

SHH! PEACE. BE STILL.

ISHHH! PAZ. QUÉDATE QUIETA.

LORD, I CAN'T HANDLE THIS

ON THE COVER:

**BRINGING PEACE
TO OUR SISTERS
AND BROTHERS
PICKING UP THE PIECES**

SPECIAL INSERT:

**INFORMATION
AND REGISTRATION
MATERIALS FOR THE
2019 LWML CONVENTION
IN MOBILE, ALABAMA!**





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LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY
Knowing Christ & Making Him Known

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LWQ | WINTER 2018

Peace Among the Pieces

FEATURES

- 4 | Bringing Peace to Our Sisters and Brothers Picking up the Pieces
- 11 | Surviving Suicide: Battered but not Broken
- 12 | Finding Peace in the Storms of Life
- 13 | Finding Peace in Midst of Uncertainty
- 21 | A Christmas Poem

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 1 | President's Page
- 2 | Editor's Note
- 3 | Praying the Psalms
- 14 | For Young Women
- 15 | Shop LWML
- 24 | Lutheran Women in Action
- 28 | Grants@Work: Shipping Hope
- 29 | 2017-2019 Mission Grants

BIBLE STUDIES

- 16 | The Shepherd's Peace
- 18 | Shh! Peace. Be Still.
- 20 | ¡Shhh! Paz. Quédate Quieta.
- 22 | Lord, I Can't Handle This!

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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

Call on me
in the day of
trouble; I will
deliver you,
and you will
honor me.

Psalm 50:15



Growing up in New York City, I developed my street smarts early.

As a young woman, I knew to cross the street if I saw the neighborhood flasher coming my way. My mother taught me how to change subway cars if a creepy guy sat next to me: "Do not telegraph your intent, but as soon as the train door opens at the next station, exit briskly — do not run — and when out of sight, run to the next car."

But the streets were not the only places where my safety was challenged.

I was 16. Most of us walked to youth group, except for three guys in their early 20s who finished college or military service, had full-time jobs and cars, and took turns driving the rest of us home. I usually rode with the guy who had been in the Navy (we had the same birthday) or the other guy who was in the National Guard. But one night, their cars filled up, so for the first time, X drove me home.

But he did not take me home. He took me to the abandoned railroad tracks, a very bad part of town — part of the police precinct where my dad had been a patrolman — and turned off the car's engine.

"Oh, great ..." I thought.

I knew I was safer in the car than out. I needed the right words so he would take me home and not hurt me. I prayed to God that the Holy Spirit would guide me. The fellow drove me home, albeit angrily, but I was safe. I forgave the young man and told no one about it.

But it didn't end there.

As secretary of the youth group, my job was to prepare their newsletter. The church secretary usually gave me a couple Gestetner stencils so I could type the newsletter at home and duplicate it at church. But on that evening of the infamous car ride, she had told me (in front of the rest of the youth group) the church's supply was low; could I come instead to church next week about 45 minutes early? She would still be at church, and could I type and run off copies before the meeting began.

My mother walked me to church that following week, saw that secretary would be with me, and left. However, the secretary also left a few minutes after that, saying the

rest of the kids would be there soon, and I should be okay alone in the church for a half hour. I agreed and began typing away.

But I wasn't alone for long. Mere minutes after the secretary left me, X came through the door. I took a deep breath and prayed, knowing the Lord was with me. I tried very hard not to look scared but rather to be matter-of-fact. With my shoulders hunched over the typewriter, I did not make any eye contact with X.

He stood behind the chair where I was sitting, blocking my exit to the church door about 12 feet away. I kept reminding him, "I have to finish this newsletter. I have to concentrate. The rest of the kids will be here soon."

Then I heard the sound of a zipper going down. I felt something touch the back of my long red hair, so I leaned forward a bit more. I prayed again. At this point, I wasn't scared — I was furious that he was doing what he was doing in the House of God.

He now stood along my right side, near my ear. I turned my head to the left, kept typing, and said, "No, X. I can't talk with you right now. No, I can't look at what you want to show me."

I looked at my watch. A few kids usually arrived ten minutes before the meeting, but it was now ten minutes after the time the meeting was supposed to have begun!

Finally, I heard the church doorknob rattle. X spun around and darted into the corner. I made a beeline to the door, and said, "So nice to see you guys!" In true Queens fashion, the boys replied, "What's up wit yoo?" "Ya look like ya seen a ghost."

X left the meeting early that night. During the refreshment time, I went up to the other two guys with cars and told them to make sure X never took me home in his car again. One guy looked confused, so I repeated, "Do not let me ever get in a car with X." The guy standing next to him announced, "I'm taking you home from now on."

He married me six years later.

Nancy

Nancy Graf Peters, Editor-in-Chief



Praying the Psalms

A prayer based on Psalm 65

By Sheila Lutz

O Great God of Peace,

How often has
Your unfathomable
Peace mended
my broken life?
Yet, You have used
my brokenness
to serve You.
I rejoice in all
You do, O my Lord.

When I remember all my eyes have seen, it seems as though I should have lived a life of sorrows, sighs, and tears. In times of my illness or that of one whom I care for, You have heard the cries for healing, sometimes answering speedily, sometimes waiting and letting us learn to trust more, and sometimes giving the heavenly healing only You can give. The memories of shame over my sin have been washed away by Your steadfast love and tender mercy. In all these times,

Your precious peace floods over me. I remember how You pulled me through, how You lifted me up, and how I grew to walk alongside You, as You walked beside me.

Others have had many hardships with physical health, job security, certain stages of life, or detrimental life choices. Why is it Lord, that, for me, those times seem quicker to heal than the times of lies or persecution?

My hardest times were those when others lied about me, when they seemed to want to belittle me with cruel words and actions, and when, because of those lies, I felt abandoned — even by those in my church. When I remember the times of hurt, the old pounding

of the heart returns. I remember how I've cried and how I felt as my energy drained and my bones turn to rubber. I know I put up walls to keep others out and protect myself from their strife — until You once again showed me that You alone are my Fortress, that You alone are my Strength, and that You alone are my Healer and my Peace.

You've seen it all, Lord — all the broken pieces of my life — my shame, my affliction in body and soul, and my

attackers. Lord, let me be quick to forgive and slow to remember those pains. I trust in You, O LORD, my God. Your face shines on my life, and I feel the warmth of Your great love. I know You will answer me when I call. Whatever my path, my life is in Your hands.

Thank You for giving me the abundant life of faith in You. Blessed be You, O LORD, for You preserve me and all Your children so that we can be strong and take courage as we wait for You to answer, to guide, and to open our arms and hearts as You shower us with Your blessings and Your peace. Into Your hands I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God. Amen. *Q*



Bringing P to Our Sisters and Brothers Picking



Peace

up the Pieces

By Becky Wehrspann, Features Editor

Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray, Director of Black & African Ministry LCMS, Office of National Mission, on a post-Harvey reconnaissance trip with NHSC, praying for residents impacted by the storm

The stories on the following pages highlight three special women and two ministries within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) that are helping people find peace through the pieces of their lives. We thank God that the Holy Spirit is moving through these ministries to connect people to the church and help bring physical and spiritual healing.



Nicole Ridley (right), chief executive of LCMS National Housing Support Corporation, standing with the Rev. Dr. Steve Schave, director of LCMS Urban & Inner City Mission and director of LCMS Church Planting; the Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray Jr., director of LCMS Black Ministry, talking with an LCMS pastor who suffered flood damage to his home from Hurricane Harvey. Photos courtesy of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod/Erik M. Lunsford

OFFERING PEACE to Struggling Communities

Homelessness. Fixed incomes.
Abandoned buildings. Poverty.
Crime-ridden neighborhoods.
Working poor. Dilapidated
housing. Unemployment.
Natural disasters.
Altogether, or each one
separately, they crush and
shatter our lives into pieces.

“We see that — all of that. We can offer hope,” says Nicole Ridley, Chief Executive of the LCMS National Housing Support Corporation (NHSC).

“We are offering peace, especially in these struggling communities where there is no hope. The vision for our organization is to restore and revitalize neighborhoods that are anchored by congregations actively engaged in collaborative mercy. It’s all about mercy.

“Imagine not being able to replace your own shower when it’s not working, or having a code citation and a fine but no funds for repair. It becomes hopeless,” Nicole says. “To be able to provide that level of assistance and support to that homeowner who sees no hope — you just can’t imagine how that offers peace to a resident, along with being able to share that God loves

them, especially if they are unchurched. While we are helping repair their homes here, we are also assuring them of a place for them in heaven eternally. That’s offering a lot of peace.”

Nicole has spent much of her adult life working with community development in a myriad of job responsibilities. In the late 1990s, she worked for a secular organization that partnered with Zion Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. That congregation and its pastor — Rev. Matthew C. Harrison — worked to revitalize a 10-block neighborhood.

The effort was so successful it became the foundation for the Housing Corporation under LCMS World Relief and Human Care, led by Rev. Harrison. He recruited Nicole to serve as Project Manager, and about five years later, she became the Executive. “I’ve pretty much worked in every aspect of this, which gives me unique insight instead of just managing it. That is helpful in my day-to-day, because I do understand the detail of it,” Nicole says.

“I’ve developed these quirky skill sets in my period of 20-plus years of work in this area,” Nicole says. “To be able to use my vocation to serve my church, the community, and the social ministries within my church is very rewarding. I live by Matthew 22: ‘Love thy neighbor as thyself.’ There’s no not doing it. My job is my life! Through this work, God allows us to live out His greatest commandment to love our neighbor.

“[The church] is often the one cornerstone or last anchor of hope. To be able to give church members the tools to reach out into the communities and offer hope is amazing to these residents,” Nicole says. “People are desperate and without hope in lots of instances. They really want to know that others care. We lead with mercy, not evangelism; they want to know what inspires us — they don’t understand

the why. So those are very non-threatening, organic conversations, witnessing to them.”

NHSC works directly with LCMS congregations and social ministries in communities around the United States to identify areas of need, project feasibility and planning, and resources for funding and project assistance. “We guide the church members and help them develop the project. They often have a desire to do a project, but just don’t know where to begin,” Nicole says.

“We make sure the church is at the center of everything, that the people in the community get to come into the congregation, and that the congregation is making efforts to reach back out in the community. We customize every project. We make sure there is an intentional relationship that is developed.

“Then we work with them to identify their resources, like an LWML Mission Grant, or sometimes there are other grants or funding opportunities locally. We can leverage both — local foundations and the resources we have from NHSC. We bring that expertise to help secure those resources.

“Whatever we do in those communities is Word and Sacrament ministry. We not only want to transform communities and households, but also the people who live inside. We want to make sure they hear the Gospel,” Nicole continues. “These are domestic mission fields right around our altars. There is so much need that we could spend eternity trying to do this work. We just have to do it one partner at a time.”

Those partners include local congregations, Lutheran social service agencies, and other Lutheran agencies within the community.

“We incorporate within that project for other congregants to be mentors to those residents receiving the services. Then we like to partner with Lutheran Social Services, and they can do an intake assessment and determine eligibility.

“We encourage the partnerships within the community — it is comprehensive with a Lutheran identity,” Nicole says. “We want to touch those individuals and make sure they receive that help. We are compelled to do this as Christians — and this is who we are as Lutherans. We do this by God’s commandment, and we want to share that with others. It’s a means to stabilize that community.”

A 2017–2019 LWML Mission Grant launched Helping Hands, a special partnership between congregations, NHSC, and Laborers for Christ, a ministry of Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

continued on page 11 (Nicole)



St. Paul Lutheran Church — College Hill, North St. Louis, Missouri:

St. Paul is the anchor congregation where the NHSC home office is located. The staff made a commitment to being more engaged in the neighborhood, which included creating a vision and concept plan for revitalization. Eight new houses were built, 120 homes were rehabilitated, abandoned properties were demolished, and a new park is being built — increasing the appraised values in the neighborhood and decreasing the crime rate by 40 percent. Since 2007, nearly \$10 million has been raised and invested in this neighborhood.

Great Commission LCMS, St. Louis, Missouri:

The small congregation purchased an old, vacant school building. NHSC has been working with the pastor and members for about four years. There will be 17 units of senior housing, consumer-directed services, adult day care, congregation space, and a gym for the community’s use. It is a \$15 million project. “No congregation is too small!” Nicole says. “They just have to have the desire, stamina, and passion!”



BRINGING PEACE to Broken Hearts

Trish Karpurk was not looking for another program to add to her work schedule at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix, Arizona. And she certainly did not ever expect to be a facilitator of a rehab or recovery program — she made excuse after excuse about her inability and inadequacy for such a job.

She came from a broken family with an alcoholic and abusive father; she grew up in fear and made decisions motivated by that fear. She had walked away from that life. But after attending a worship conference and hearing a woman speak about God's using for good what the enemy meant for destruction, she concluded that Celebrate Recovery was at least worth looking into. She prayed about it for a year, and finally started with eight people meeting in her living room. That was 13 years ago.

The group now meets every Thursday and numbers about 200 men, women, and children. "These are people who have been broken, coming in knowing nothing about God," Trish says.

"They share a meal, worship together, then move to the 12-steps and biblical comparison, and celebrate 'clean from' milestones. At that point the adults separate into men's and women's groups such as chemical dependency, life issues, anger, and abuse."

Trish acknowledges there are many opportunities for people to attend other recovery programs. She also admits those who attend at Christ Church don't always come for the right reasons — they may come for the free food, for the child care, or to see who else is attending. "There's a lot of mixed motives for why they come," she says, "but it's why they stay that's important. The Holy Spirit works on people's hearts right where they are at."

Celebrate Recovery is set apart from other 12-step programs because it is Bible-based. "Every step, every lesson that is taught, points to Jesus. His Word is in all that we do," Trish says. "There are plenty of other 12-step groups, and you can get sobriety in them," she continues, "but what you can't get is healing. Healing only comes from Jesus."

Trish and the volunteers also know not every story ends well. "We always trust God. We know seeds have been planted, but we've walked through more deaths than we ever care to, more suicides, more overdoses," she says. "But we have more victories! This past summer, we had 35 people baptized in one service. Someone else walked in and identified himself as an atheist and left surrendering himself to Jesus Christ."

Celebrate Recovery at Christ Church applied for and received a mission grant from the LWML Pacific Southwest District in 2016, allowing the leaders to attend training in California with

continued on page 10 (Trish)



SHARING PEACE and Celebrating Change

From high school through her mid-30s, Suzanne's life revolved around alcohol, drugs, and an eating disorder. She was the youngest of four siblings, overweight with glasses, and had trouble fitting in. At age 30, she gave her infant daughter to her parents to raise, because she couldn't take care of her.

Her parents never spoke God's Word to her, nor did they ever take her to church. She checked into rehab because she was afraid that if she didn't get clean she was going to die. She relapsed, made more bad decisions, and had no morals. She was broken. When her daughter was seven and Suzanne finished her second round of rehab, they moved into an apartment and started to get their lives back on track. Suzanne was active in Narcotics Anonymous, where she was introduced to Celebrate Recovery, a program at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix, Arizona. Suzanne attended because they

provided a free meal and free day care. She does not remember hearing the name of Jesus spoken, nor did she regard it as a 12-step recovery program — to her it was merely a weekly social outing. "If I had heard the word 'Jesus,' I would have been out of there," Suzanne says. "I wasn't paying attention, I wasn't listening for it. I was very uncomfortable and fidgety. God used that to keep me there, because, suddenly, all we talked about was Jesus!"

After two years, the bad habits resurfaced and shattered her stability. More bad decisions led to shame, regret, and unemployment. Trish Karpurk, Suzanne's mentor and sponsor at Celebrate Recovery, worked one-on-one with her, teaching her about the Bible and speaking truth and life. Suzanne didn't understand any of it and was left with more questions. The two persisted, piecing together God's promises and how they were meant for everyone, even an unbelieving and doubtful addict.

"I questioned Trish," Suzanne says. "I asked her, 'What are His promises to me? What does He say?' I wanted to write them down. It was so new and foreign to me. Romans 8:28 became my life verse: *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* That's when I was totally, so in love with Jesus. I learned God's Word provides refuge. I kept going back to what He says — He loves me! My whole life completely changed."

Looking back, Suzanne can see the Holy Spirit's hand guiding and protecting her. In March 2018, she celebrated 11 years clean, giving all credit to our heavenly Father. "I was a totally lost, in the dark, wandering person," she says. "It was as though I had the veil torn and the scales fell off my eyes. I started rebuilding my life."

continued on page 10

Suzanne's story, continued from page 9

Suzanne was baptized and started volunteering with the Celebrate Recovery team. She is also on staff at Christ Church. "I'm continuously working on myself, letting God rip it all out and start all over again. The Holy Spirit has drawn me into relationships with some amazing people," she says. "I'm very involved and connected with the people. It's such a joy to know that I finally belong."

For many years, Suzanne was finally at peace in her life. She wore the words of Nehemiah 8:10 like a banner: *The joy of the Lord is my strength*. But in 2017 her father passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. She was angry, upset and confused; she felt like a child again — abandoned, lost, and broken. "It's all lies that the enemy is using to attack," Suzanne says. "I have good days and I have bad days. God tells me I am called and chosen and adopted into His family. I could not do one single day if I didn't have Him. I don't know how I did it. I don't know how people live without knowing the Lord."

God's Word continues to provide peace and refuge to Suzanne, as do her co-workers at Christ Church. "It is so remarkable that I'm in a place where praying together is welcome and accepted," she says. "Knowing that God has placed me here is assurance in itself. I know He's equipping me for whatever He has for me next.

"God has given me the gift of being able to recall Scripture verses," Suzanne says. "There are a lot of people I meet who have questions and aren't sure. The Holy Spirit brings me those people, because I've walked that walk. When I talk to someone who doesn't know Christ, I use Jeremiah 29:11: *'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'* And Joshua 1:5: *Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.* Or Proverbs 3:5-6: *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

"I think part of the reason I'm at Christ Church is because people can relate to me — I'm pretty much an open book. I'm not proud of the life I lived, but it is my story. The Holy Spirit will use that. God really does do the miraculous — even for a stiff-armed, non-believer rebel. He pursues relentlessly, even me. I am the living proof." Q



Suzanne and daughter, Vanessa Olmos



Trish's story, continued from page 8

more than 4,000 other Celebrate Recovery leaders from around the world.

"The LWML grant allowed our entire team of women to attend training. It was a huge boost for our team," Trish says.

Celebrate Recovery is a line item in the church budget, and Trish is the only paid staff member. "Our church supports us and also individuals whose hearts are for the broken," Trish says. "There is an incredible team of volunteers who drive, serve in the kitchen, provide child care, and much more," she continues. "It's amazing. They stay committed to it because they see the heavenly Father at work."

"I'm able to identify with all kinds of brokenness and separation," Trish admits. "God has taken the broken pieces of my life and has glued it all together. It's the truth of who He is and the truth of His Word and the power of that Word. It's the same comfort God has given us, that we are able to give comfort to others (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). When we are in that place of His will for our lives, doing what He has planned for us in His design, it gives us more than any paycheck ever could. I have the best job in the world!" Q



Nicole's story, continued from page 7

"That grant enabled the start-up and helped us craft a model that we implement every year in partnership with others. It is a way for our congregations to reach out in the communities and love neighbors and care for their neighbors while transforming their communities," Nicole says.

Helping Hands has been the model moving forward in communities of all sizes. "Fort Wayne has really been a model city for us to do our work and partner with a lot of congregations and social ministries," Nicole says. "We've also done projects in and around St. Louis, Missouri, and Fremont, Nebraska. We are preparing a post-disaster project in Houston, Texas, following Hurricane Harvey. That is our first disaster response initiative. We will help as little or as much as people would like us to. We always customize our services to accommodate the needs of the local congregations and social ministry."

Nicole and her husband live in Maryland, but her office is in St. Louis, and NHSC supports congregations nationwide. She is one of only three full-time employees, so a considerable amount of travel is required. "I find myself talking about my work or ministering to people I meet while traveling," Nicole says. Whether she is on the road or at home, Nicole appreciates staying connected to God's Word through her daily LWML Mustard Seed email devotions. And she relies on and finds peace from the stress of traveling and being away from home by praying her favorite Bible passage, *Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.* "I say that [verse] to myself all the time — 'Lord, help me and give me strength.'" **Q**



Nicole and her husband are members at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

Surviving Suicide: Battered but not Broken

By Anna Palm



The grief I felt when my husband died by suicide many years ago was overwhelming. All deaths bring sadness and a time of mourning. However, death by suicide brings other issues that families may not otherwise have to deal with. Our family and friends — everyone it seemed — asked, "Why?" That is common after a death by suicide, but it can add an additional element of regret and/or guilt for the family and friends who wonder if they should have seen the signs and been able to prevent this death. After months of questioning and praying for answers, I came to realize that, this side of heaven, there are no suitable answers, just as in many other types of deaths.

My husband was sometimes sad, but he appeared to brush his troubles aside and not dwell on them. To most people, he was a happy, easy-going person who didn't let disappointments or problems bother him. However, it seems there came a day when that was no longer the case. His death was totally unexpected and without warning for me and our family members. Nowadays, the media and physicians are trying to make us more aware of the signs of depression and bullying, issues that sometimes result in a death by suicide. Despite these efforts, family and friends continue to be shocked when a suicide occurs. It seems to me that many of those who die by suicide are very good at hiding their true feelings, perhaps even from themselves.

The months following my husband's death were a struggle, but God comforted me, and He blessed me with a very special family and wonderful friends who offered the support I needed. I was battered but not broken; the dark days ebbed away, and joy returned. The Lord has blessed me with a life that is filled with more love and happiness than I ever imagined possible.

During the good and the bad times, I focus on God's blessings and praise Him for all the joy He brings into my life. As Paul says in *2 Corinthians 1:4 (CEV)*: [The Father] *comforts when we are in trouble, so that we can share that same comfort with others in trouble.* I pray that God allows me to do just that. God's grace is truly amazing. **Q**

Finding Peace in the Storms of Life

By Sara Henry, Sue Barbeau's sister, with Cheri Fish

Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life (Revelation 2:10 ESV). Sue Barbeau could never have imagined the meaning this confirmation verse would have in her life. She had never questioned her faith; life was good with her loving husband, Shawn, and two beautiful daughters, Hailey and Emily. Her world was turned upside down in an instant when she was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She was thrown into a world of tests, doctors, and chemotherapy. From those first moments, Sue's biggest comfort was her faith. In a time where everything was uncertain, she held strong in the one thing she knew without a doubt: God was by her side and was with her in this fight.



Rounds of chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant were required to put her cancer into remission. Sue learned to trust that God was hearing her prayers even though they were not always answered in the time or the way that she would have liked them to be. Her smile, generosity, and caring spirit blessed everyone she met. Many would comment that when they asked Sue how she was doing, the conversation often would turn to how things were going in their own lives. Doctors would later tell Sue that there was no medical explanation as to why she was able to survive past her first diagnosis. She knew the difference in her outcome was that the Ultimate Physician was at her side. Blessed with three years in remission, she returned to work and enjoyed the simple, everyday joys of family life. Sue began to feel tired but, with her busy schedule, wasn't alarmed. She soon learned that she had Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Chemotherapy and a donor stem cell transplant would be required. Her sisters were not a match, but prayers were answered when one donor was found in the

entire database. The transplant was a harrowing process, causing her to lose the ability to walk, but despite all of this, with her faith, she fought on. She stood firm in her faith and knowledge that God had everything in His plan. Unfortunately, a cure was not meant to be; the transplant had failed.

The day after finding out about her grim prognosis, as she left her appointment, the song "Home" by Chris Tomlin came on the radio: "The world is not what it is meant to be. All this pain, all this suffering. There's a better place waiting for me in heaven." At that moment, the sun came out of the clouds, shining down on her, and she had never felt such warmth or peace. Her faith gave her that "peace that passes all understanding."

Sue was still strong in her fight. On October 8, 2017, she enjoyed time at the park with family and was finishing plans for her daughter's birthday. Emily had a photo shoot for her dance studio, so her husband and daughters left Sue with her sisters, kissing her as they went out the door. They sent a picture of Emily in her beautiful costume with angel wings, one of the last images she would see here on earth. A moment later, the angels came and took Sue into the loving arms of Jesus. (Luke 16:22)

Sue was at peace in her heavenly home.

Sue always said that she had wanted to make a difference after beating cancer the first time. She lived and breathed her faith, overcoming one roadblock after another in her five-year battle with cancer. Many — even strangers — noticed there was something special about her in her positivity and approach at life, and she was able to share that it was possible for them too. What a difference she made! She truly taught that with faith it is possible to find peace in the storms of life. *Q*

Finding Peace in Midst of Uncertainty

By Beth Koschmann Quinn



My life changed dramatically in the summer of 2015. Following a trip to the Midwest, my ears still felt plugged from the flight. The feeling did not go away, so I was referred to an ear, nose, and throat (ENT) doctor.

The ENT doctor cleaned my ears and conducted a hearing test. The results indicated that hearing in the left ear was compromised. The doctor prescribed steroids. If that did not work, I would need a brain MRI to rule out acoustic neuroma, which is a slow-growing, benign tumor that wraps around the hearing nerve.

I did some research on my own and found that another symptom of acoustic neuroma is trouble with balance, which I had recently noticed. The steroids did not alleviate my symptoms, so I had the MRI. It showed a 2 cm acoustic neuroma. I did more research on my options — watch it, surgery, or radiation. My husband and I prayed for clarity and had many discussions about which direction I should go.

We saw an ENT surgeon at University of Pennsylvania in early August who recommended meeting with a neurosurgeon. As we waited to set up that appointment, we discussed the options some more, asking God for guidance. We decided to go forward with surgery, so we wanted to get it scheduled quickly. I wanted this tumor gone! Once we made that decision, I was at peace and gave it all to God. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him* (Romans 15:13a).

There was an opening at the end of August. The surgical team would open the back of my skull and have monitors on my face to ensure there wasn't any damage to the facial nerve, since the hearing nerve and facial nerve are very close together. I was blessed to have my pastor join my husband and me prior to the surgery. It was a great comfort. I knew people near and far were also praying for me.

After 11 hours of surgery, they removed as much of the tumor as possible without causing any facial nerve damage. Unfortunately, they had to cut the hearing nerve to remove the tumor so I was 100 percent deaf in my left ear. Oh, well!

Recovery was slow and I needed help to do basic things because I was a fall risk. I had to relearn how to walk — heel down but don't slap the toes — the small things we take for granted. This was frustrating because I wanted to do things on my own. I told myself to focus on being patient and yielding to the staff. Through it all, I continued to lean on God and I felt His peace. My parents lived close by, and we shared daily devotions together. This was a comfort to me and a witness to those around us.

I was unable to drive, so I relied on family and friends to take me to outpatient therapy. Then I was notified that my driver's license needed to be renewed by December. I panicked. Would I be deemed healthy enough to be cleared to drive in time to renew my license? I was not looking forward to taking the driving test.

I shared my dilemma with my therapist and the clinician doctor. They were optimistic. It was another opportunity for God to show me patience and to rely on Him. My favorite verse came to mind: *Be still and know I am God* (Psalm 46:10). The clinical doctor assessed my capabilities and signed the papers to clear me. Thank you, God — no driving test!

I felt blessed to have the support of family and friends throughout my ordeal and recovery. I continue to be at peace with my new normal of no longer hearing in stereo. God be praised! **Q**

Beth Koschmann Quinn is an adjunct professor at Eastern University. She serves LWML through her society, as zone president, and as Eastern District VP of Communication. She is a member of Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, Malvern, Pennsylvania.



Spotlight on a Young Woman

Say hello to Darci Boche. This young woman with a passion for LWML hails from the Wyoming District. Her favorite Bible verse is Colossians 3:12–14: *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

Darci enjoys teaching math and spending time with her husband and three children. She says, "In my life, God's peace is renewed every day through the challenges of raising a family and serving others, knowing His will reigns supreme."

Darci has been involved in the LWML for many years. Of all the leadership opportunities she's had in LWML, she remembers her time as a Young Woman Representative at the 2013 LWML Pittsburgh Convention most fondly.

Darci has specifically known the heavenly Father's peace in her life several times. Once when she was trying to figure out how to pay for school, God provided. Another time, when she was looking for a new job, she saw His plan for her life after not getting a job she had applied for.

Darci advises young women: "Be involved in your congregations and communities. You are a light to the world; through the work of the Holy Spirit, let your light shine brightly to all generations! Take the time to strengthen relationships."

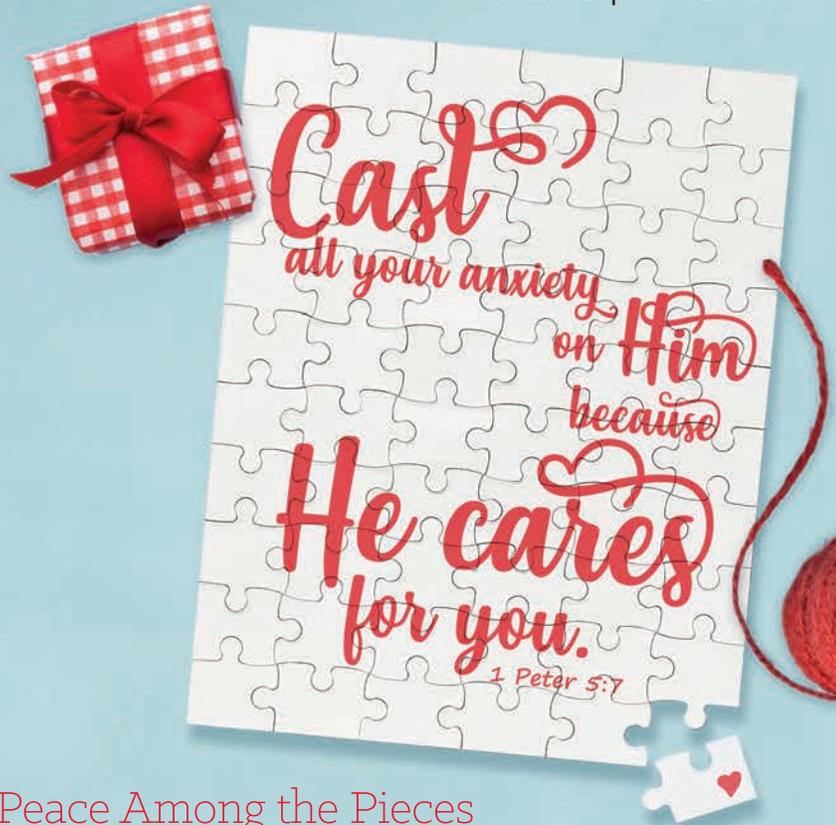


I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart!

I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

In Jesus we have peace. In this world we will have trouble. This is a true contrast and shows us where our faith is to be — in Jesus Christ. Jesus has overcome the world! Because of the gift of faith, in times of trouble we already have that peace that passes all understanding. Father in heaven, strengthen my faith and remind me that as this world is in pieces, You give me true peace. Amen



Peace Among the Pieces

Most of us know people who are having a hard time finding peace among the pieces. Cards or handwritten notes can help them know that you are thinking about them. If you're looking for something a bit more unique, try this: Put together a puzzle with the image face down. Paint the back in a friend's favorite color. When the paint is dry, write an encouraging Scripture verse in permanent marker. Take the puzzle apart and deliver or send it to your friend.

Putting the puzzle together and seeing the verse on the back might be exactly what she needs to realize that in the pieces of life, like in the puzzle, there is a message of hope from our Lord.



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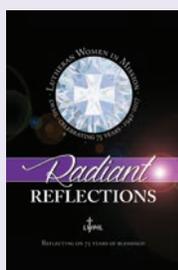
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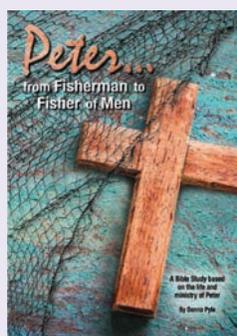
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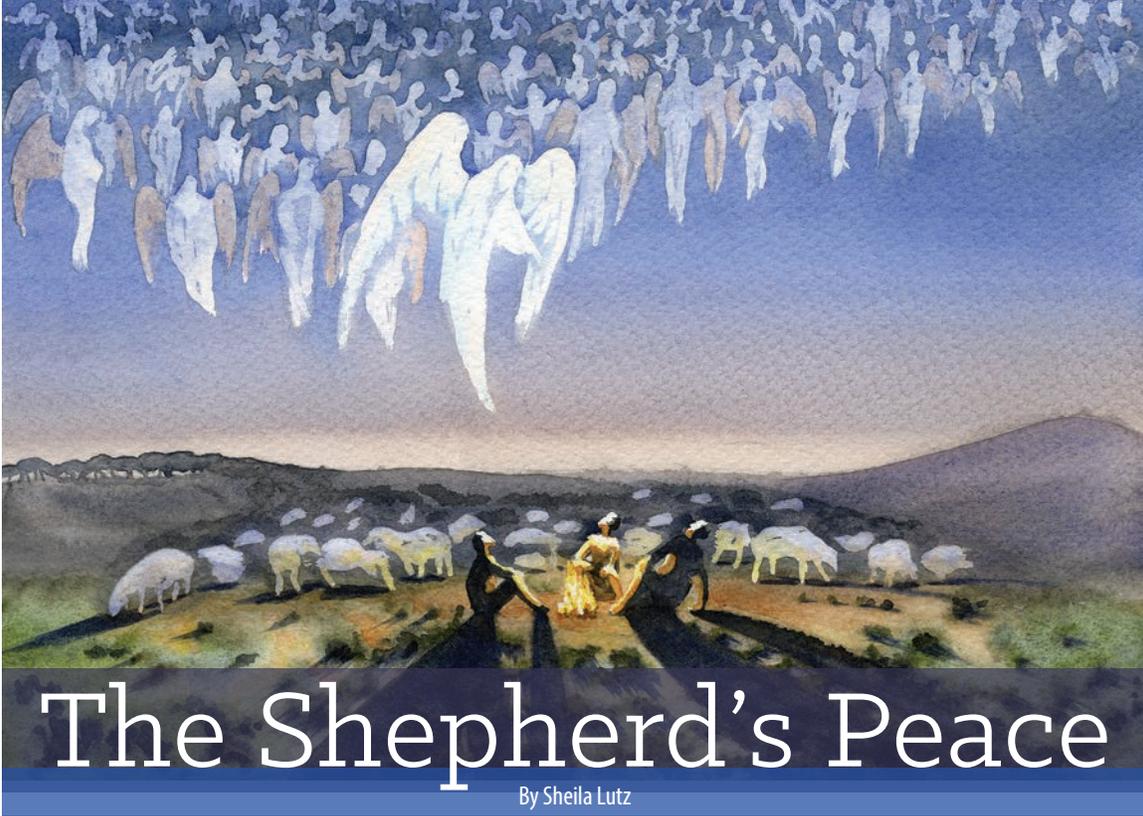
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The Shepherd's Peace

By Sheila Lutz

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” Luke 2:14 (ESV)*

Open with prayer: Good Shepherd, open our eyes to see Your blessing. Open our ears to hear Your voice. Open our hearts that we may love You. Amen. (*Lutheran Study Bible*, Psalm 23, page 866.)

Shepherds of Jesus’ day herded flocks of as many as 1,000 sheep. Their job was to hunt for good food for the flock, keep a watchful eye for poisonous plants, and deter predators who wanted mutton for dinner. They were on call 24/7, caring for animals whose instinct was to follow each other and stick together. Some think sheep aren’t clueless. Sheep know their shepherd’s voice, know who feeds them and finds grazing ground for them, and know who cares for them when they’re sick. They’re meek — usually quiet and gentle — holding themselves aloof from the world. They listen to the leaders ... obediently. (Reading this makes me think I/we need to work on our sheep skills.)

But ... what of those who tended the flocks? What was the status of a shepherd throughout the ages of the Old Testament?

Genesis 13:2–6 _____

Genesis 24:34–36 _____

Genesis 26:12–14 _____

Genesis 30:37–43 _____

Genesis 46:33–34 _____

What other examples in history can you think of that show how hundreds of years of prejudice change status and behavior? _____

Had things changed during the time of David?

1 Samuel 16:11; 17:13–15 _____

How did King David change the status of a shepherd?

1 Samuel 17:34–37a _____

Psalm 23 _____

Some Google sites say the change in status was caused by the fact the Israelites were no longer nomadic. By the time Jesus was born, shepherds had fallen to the bottom rung of the social ladder. They were equated with tax collectors, thieves, and dung sweepers. They could not hold public office, and shepherding became a job for the laboring class. Some shepherds earned their bad reputations, but others were victims of stereotyping. Religious leaders maligned them, and flocks were exiled to desert areas. The Mishnah (Jewish Oral Law) refers to them in belittling terms: incompetent, ones from whom it was forbidden to purchase goods, and ones unworthy of being rescued when they fall.

Leader guide and Bible passages for this study are available online or by calling the LWML Office.

Considering the messy lives of these broken herders, why choose shepherds, of all people? Why were they the first to hear, "It's a boy! Go! See Him!"? Read **Luke 2:1–20**.

Compare the call of the shepherds to the call of Levi in **Mark 2:13–17**.

Some might say the shepherds faded into obscurity after that Christmas night, but, did they? Do you remember the name of the high priest at the time of Jesus' birth? Who remembers the names of Herod's wise men? Or, if we think about them, for what are they remembered? _____

The shepherds on that hillside had a hard life. How did God elevate their lowly status? _____

What were their other gifts of Christmas? _____

How did God give peace to the shepherds? _____

What does God want us to remember about shepherds? **John 10:7–18** _____

1 Peter 5:4 _____

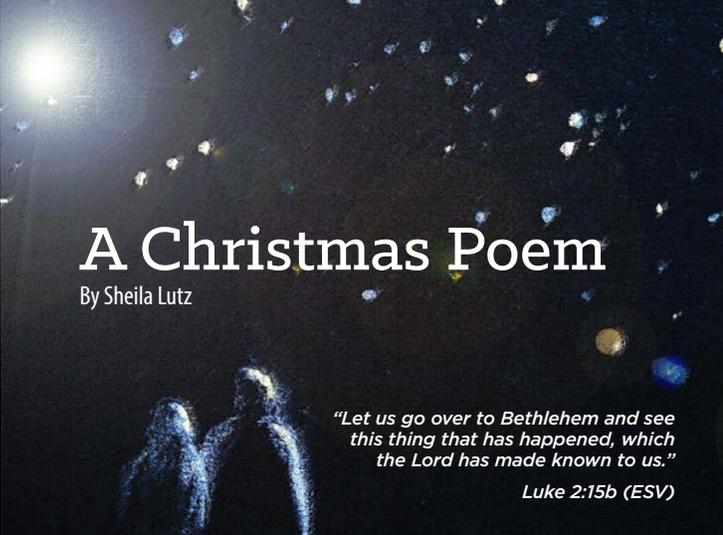
If you could summarize in one phrase or sentence, what would you say God is teaching you today? _____

Pray this benediction together: *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.* Amen. (Hebrews 13:20–21)

Close with singing: "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (LSB #388; LW #504) or "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night" (LW #70; TLH #109).

*All Bible Passages ESV

Sheila loves delving into the background of the things she learns in the Bible and writing in various forms: journaling, poetry, Bible studies, and devotions. She currently serves as the LWML Central Illinois District President.



A Christmas Poem

By Sheila Lutz

"Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

Luke 2:15b (ESV)

A shepherd sat on the cold, dank ground
In the deepest dark of night.
"What a lousy, lonely, unheralded job,"
He mused, bemoaning his plight.

"King David was once a shepherd, too,
But a shepherd-king? Just a tale long ago.
Shepherding was now a menial job
Held in regard so low.

Nothing great would happen to him here
In this quiet corner of the world;
No kingdom to see; no fanfare to hear."
Then, suddenly, the sky unfurled.

An angel spoke. Fear gripped his heart.
More angels came — a throng!
They sang and shouted of a Savior Babe;
One instant proved his thoughts wrong.

So stunned he was. "Is this a dream?"
Angels praised, sang, and said,
"Go find the Babe in Bethlehem.
A manger is His bed."

"Could this be true? Angels spoke to me —
God's messengers came to my hill?
It would be crazy to believe my eyes,
But I'll go and do their will."

He ran, and all the angels said
Was true. *This was the Son of God.*
The message came to his dirty crew
— Not to royals or ones whom men laud.

He ran again with joy in his heart
Telling great news — with shepherds few.
"The Messiah's come!" they eagerly shared,
"God's promised Salvation is true!"

We, like the shepherd, in darkness sit
And wonder, "Can God make my life great?"
We worry and fret about what to do
When we should but sit and wait.

He brings joy and salvation into our worlds.
So, with angels and shepherds now sing.
"Salvation He brings! He changes my life!"
Go! Tell the news of our God Baby King!

Shh! Peace. Be Still.

By Shari Miller



Remaining calm in and through stressful situations can be a challenge for most. Share with a partner or your small group methods used by some to strive for that calm during a life crisis. How do you keep calm during crisis?

Opening Prayer: Dear God of Peace, You created us and love us! However, we are by our sinful nature Your enemies. Our sin separates us from You. Our Savior Jesus came to live a perfect life, suffer, die for our sins, and rise from the dead. He is our Peace and restores our relationship with You. Thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit Who works through Word and Sacraments to give us faith in Jesus and continually points us to Your peace, *which surpasses all understanding* (Philippians 4:7). Give us Spirit-fueled wisdom, insight, and calm as we study Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Powerful Peace

In our study, we focus on the account of Jesus calming the storm in **Mark 4:35–41**. As a group, list the reactions and feelings of Jesus' disciples during the midst of chaos and following the storm. _____

List some of the physical and mental storms we face in life — threats to both body and soul. What reactions and feelings do these storms produce in us? _____

Our Savior-God spoke with authority over the wind and the waves. He spoke with power (verse 39) and nature's storm obeyed. Look up the following Bible passages and identify over what or whom God speaks (and acts) with powerful authority.

Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24 _____

Exodus 6:6 _____

Matthew 4:4, 7, 10–11 _____

Matthew 17:22–23 _____

Mark 5:34 _____

Mark 9:25–27 _____

Luke 7:14–15 _____

Luke 7:48 _____

John 19:30 _____

In **Psalm 46:10a**, our Lord gives us the cure for anxiety during stress and crisis. He says straightforwardly: "*Be still, and know that I am God!*" Jesus says to our storms: "*Peace! Be still!*" (verse 39) and we have calm in the midst of chaos. Perhaps this section of Mark (4:35–41) could be subtitled: "*Shh! Keep calm. Jesus is in the boat.*"

Faith Talk: Share with a partner or the small group a time when the Lord through His Word gave you calm in the midst of a personal or physical storm in your life.

Promised Peace

A children's song entitled "I'm in the Same Boat with Jesus"[®] reminds us that the boat ride through life isn't always steady or calm. The song concludes with the refrain: "I'm in the same boat with Jesus and that's where I want to be. I'm in the same boat with Jesus, no matter how rough the sea. 'Cause Jesus won't let me sink, He proved it on Calvary." Read **Luke 2:13–14**; **Romans 5:1**; and **Ephesians 2:13–22**. Discuss how our Savior Jesus is our Peace. _____

As we go through the trials of life, perhaps we sometimes react as the disciples did in the boat. We might think that God is sleeping and inquire, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" (verse 38). We may ask, "God where are You? Why aren't You listening to me?" We forget the peace that God promises to His children. Identify specific promises from God in the following:

Psalms 4:8 _____

Psalms 91:11 _____

Proverbs 16:3 _____

Jeremiah 29:11 _____

John 14:27 _____

Acts 2:38 _____

Romans 8:28 _____

Philippians 4:7 _____

James 1:2–4 _____

Faith Talk: Share with a partner or the small group times when two of these promises of God sustained you through trouble and trials in your life.

Read **Romans 12:18** and **Romans 14:19**. How does our God of Peace want us to live with those around us? _____

Faith Talk: Share with a partner or the small group specific ways to *live peaceably with all* (Romans 12:18).

Perpetual Peace

Shh! *Peace. Be still.* (verse 39). The rough sea obeyed the God of creation and the boat was able to make it safely to the other side. What do the words found in **James 1:12** and **1 John 2:25** promise will be our final destination if we believe in Jesus as our Savior and Lord? _____

What feelings do Jesus' words in **Matthew 28:20b** and **John 11:25–26a** give to us who believe? How do they help us weather the storms we face in life? _____

Faith Talk: Share with a partner or the small group how the hope of eternal life in Christ Jesus can change your outlook even during trials and tribulations.

Shh! *Peace. Be still.* Jesus speaks to the wind and waves. Shh! *Peace. Be still.* Jesus speaks to our fearful and troubled hearts ... and there was a great calm.

Faith Walk:

1. Thank the Lord that Christ is your Peace. He has broken down sin's barriers of enmity and hostility between you and God the Father.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to keep you in faith during the storms of life.
3. Look for ways that God's peace can be shared with a troubled world.
4. Make a list of the promises of God and keep them posted in a place that you read daily.

Closing Prayer: Speak or sing the words of "Be Still, My Soul" (LSB #752; LW #510; TLH #651).

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul, though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in the vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fulness all He takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last. Public Domain

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Shari Miller, wife of Rev. Larry and mother of two grown children, is a freelance author and musician living in Helena, Montana, where she attends First Lutheran Church. Shari is the LWML Montana District President. She has written numerous articles and studies for the LWML.

¡Shhh! Paz. Quédate Quieta.

Por Shari Miller Traducido por Melissa Salomón



Manteniendo la calma en y a través de situaciones estresantes puede ser un reto para muchos. Comparte con alguien o en tu pequeño grupo cuáles métodos algunos usan para mantener la calma durante una crisis de la vida. ¿Cómo mantienes tú la calma durante una crisis?

Oración de Apertura: Amado Dios de Paz, ¡Tú nos creaste y nos amas! Sin embargo, por razón de nuestro pecado somos Tus enemigos. Nuestro pecado nos separa de Ti. Nuestro Salvador, Jesucristo vino a vivir una vida perfecta, sufrir y morir por nuestros pecados, y resucitó de la muerte. Él es nuestra Paz y restaura nuestra relación contigo. Gracias por darnos el Espíritu Santo Quien obra por medio de Tu Palabra y los Sacramentos para darnos la fe en Jesús y continuamente nos dirige a Tu paz, que sobrepasa todo entendimiento (Filipenses 4:7). Danos sabiduría que es informada por Tu Espíritu, y discernimiento y calma a medida que estudiemos Tu Palabra. En el nombre de Jesús oramos. Amén.

Paz Poderosa

En nuestro estudio, vamos a enfocarnos en el relato de Jesús calmando la tormenta que encontramos en **Marcos 4:35-41**. Como grupo, hagan una lista de las reacciones y sentimientos de los discípulos de Jesús cuando estaban en medio del caos y también después de la tormenta. _____

Hagan una lista de las tormentas tanto físicas y mentales que confrontamos en nuestras vidas — amenazas a ambos cuerpo y alma. ¿Qué reacciones y sentimientos producen estas tormentas en nosotros? _____

Nuestro Salvador Dios habló con autoridad sobre el viento y las olas. Él habló con poder (verso 39) y la tormenta y naturaleza obedecieron. Busquen los versos bíblicos siguientes e identifiquen sobre qué o quién Dios habla (y actúa) con Su autoridad poderosa.

Génesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24 _____

Éxodo 6:6 _____

Mateo 4:4, 7, 10-11 _____

Mateo 17:22-23 _____

Marcos 5:34 _____

Marcos 9:25-27 _____

Lucas 7:14-15 _____

Lucas 7:48 _____

Juan 19:30 _____

En **Salmo 46:10a**, nuestro Señor nos da la cura para la ansiedad que sentimos durante tiempos de estrés y crisis. Él nos dice así de sencillo, "Quédense quietos, reconozcan que yo soy Dios." Jesús dice a nuestras tormentas: "¡Silencio! ¡Cálmate!" (verso 39) y nosotras tenemos calma en medio del caos. Tal vez podemos titular esta sección de Marcos (4:35-41), "¡Shhh! ¡Cálmate! Jesús está en el barco."

Hablando de la fe: Comparte con alguien o en tu pequeño grupo acerca de un tiempo que el Señor a través de Su Palabra te dió la calma en medio de una tormenta personal o física en tu vida.

La Paz Prometida

Hay una canción de niños intitulada: "Estoy en el mismo barco con Jesús"® y nos recuerda que el paseo en el barco de la vida no siempre es estable o calmado. La canción concluye con el refrán, "Estoy en el mismo barco con Jesús y allí quiero estar. Estoy en el mismo barco con Jesús, no importa cuán grande sea la tormenta, porque Jesús no me dejará hundir. Lo probó en el Calvario." Lean **Lucas 2:13-14; Romanos 5:1; y Efesios 2:13-22**. Platiquen sobre cómo nuestro Salvador Jesús es nuestra Paz. _____

Mientras caminemos por las pruebas de la vida, tal vez a veces reaccionamos así como hicieron los discípulos en el barco. Podemos pensar que Dios está dormido y preguntar: "Maestro, ¿no te importa que nos ahogemos?" (verso 38). Podemos preguntar: "¿Dios dónde estás? ¿Por qué no me escuchas?" Podemos olvidar que Dios promete paz a Sus hijos. Identifiquen promesas específicas de Dios en los versos siguientes:

Salmo 4:8 _____

Salmo 91:11 _____

Proverbios 16:3 _____

Jeremías 29:11 _____

Juan 14:27 _____

Hechos 2:38 _____

Romanos 8:28 _____

Filipenses 4:7 _____

Santiago 1:2-4 _____

Hablando de la Fe: Comparte con alguien o en tu pequeño grupo de cuándo dos de estas promesas de Dios te sostuvieron a través de dificultades y pruebas en tu vida.

Lean **Romanos 12:18** y **Romanos 14:19**. ¿Cómo nuestro Dios de Paz quiere que vivamos con aquellos que nos rodean? _____

Hablando de la fe: Comparte con alguien o en tu pequeño grupo modos específicos que podemos usar para vivir en paz con todos (Romanos 12:18).

Paz Perpetua

¡Shhh! ¡Silencio! ¡Cálmate! (verso 39). Los mares tormentosos obedecieron al Dios de la creación y el barco pudo llegar al otro lado del mar con seguridad. ¿Qué promesa nos dice en las palabras de **Santiago 1:12** y **1ra de Juan 2:25** que será nuestro destino final si creemos en Jesús como nuestro Salvador y Señor? _____

¿Qué sentimientos producen las palabras de Jesús en **Mateo 28:20b** y **Juan 11:25-26a** para nosotros que creemos? ¿Cómo nos ayudan a pasar por las "tormentas" que enfrentamos en la vida? _____

Hablando de la Fe

Comparte con alguien o en tu pequeño grupo cómo nos cambia la perspectiva durante las pruebas y tribulaciones de la vida cuando tenemos la esperanza de la vida eterna en Cristo Jesús.

¡Shhh! ¡Silencio! ¡Cálmate! Jesús habla al viento y las olas. Shhh! ¡Silencio! ¡Cálmate! Jesús habla a nuestros corazones atribulados ... y hay una calma inmensa.

Caminando en la Fe

1. Dale gracias a Dios que Cristo Jesús es nuestra paz. Él ha roto todas las barreras del pecado y enemistad que hay entre ti y el Padre Dios.
2. Pídele al Espíritu Santo que te mantenga firme en la fe durante las tormentas de la vida.
3. Busca formas que la paz de Dios puede ser compartido con el mundo atormentado.
4. Haz una lista de promesas de Dios y manténlos en lugares en tu casa donde puedas verlas diariamente.

Oración de Clausura

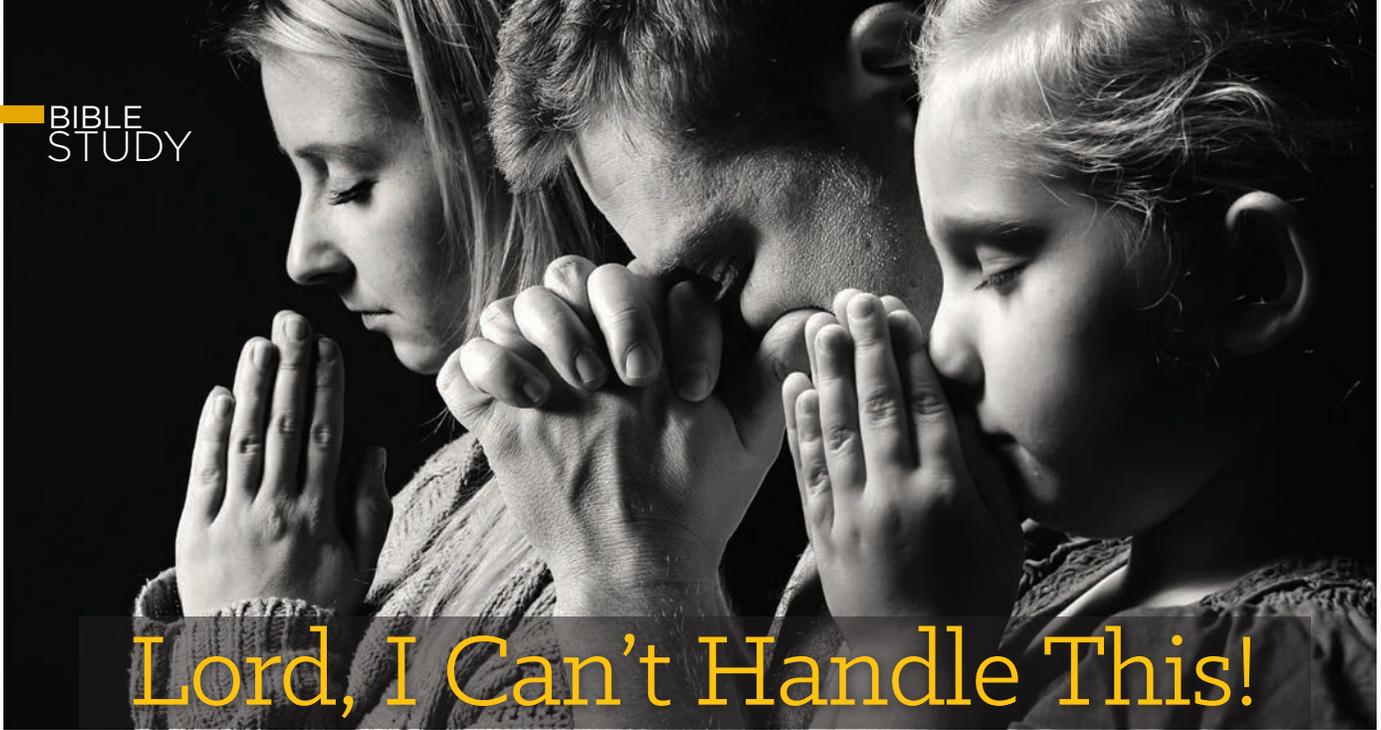
Hablen o canten las palabras de "Cristo, mi piloto sé" (*Culto Cristiano* #158).

Cristo, mi piloto sé, En el tempestuoso mar;
Fieras ondas mi bajel, Van a hacerlo zozobrar,
Mas si Tú conmigo vas, Pronto al puerto llegaré;
Carta y brújula hallo en Ti: Cristo, mi piloto sé.

Todo agita el huracán Con indómito furor,
Mas los vientos cesarán Al mandato de tu voz;
Si Tú dices que haya paz, Cederá sumiso el mar.
De las aguas, Tú el Señor, Cual piloto me guiarás.

Cuando al fin cercano esté De la playa celestial,
Si el abismo ruge aún Entre el puerto y mi bajel,
Quiero oír tu voz decir En tu pecho al descansar:
"Tu piloto siempre soy, Nada temas ya del mar." Amén.

La Sra. Shari Miller, esposa del Revdo. Larry y madre a dos hijos adultos, es un autor y músico viviendo en Helena, Montana, donde asiste a la Iglesia Luterana Primera. Shari es la presidenta de la Liga Misionera de Damas Luteranas, distrito de Montana. Ella ha escrito numerosos artículos y estudios para la Liga.



Lord, I Can't Handle This!

By Jane Fryar

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 5:6–11 ESV)

Opening Prayer: Lord Jesus, we can't handle this — whatever "this" is! We are not wise enough, strong enough, skillful enough, knowledgeable enough, or capable in any way. But You are all-wise, all-powerful, all-mighty, all-knowing. You are capable in every way! Use Your Word to encourage our hearts as we think and pray together now in Your name. Amen.

Getting Started

When people talk about stress in everyday life, they usually are describing "bad" stress, distress. Commonly, "stress" refers to problems like sick kids, overwhelming credit card debt, or arguments with co-workers.

Experts, though, remind us that not all stress is distress. Good stress, or "eustress," gets us out of bed in the morning. It keeps us motivated and moving forward. That rapid heartbeat you experience at the surprise birthday party your friends planned for you is eustress. So is the rush that floods your being when your team wins. So is the feeling when that golden oldie starts to play and happy memories flood your heart, sending a smile across your face.

Write down five to ten positive stressors that have come into your life in the last month or two. How is each a blessing from our Lord? _____

Into the Word

As God's people, we welcome eustress and thank God for the joys it brings. But while we live here on earth, we also struggle with negative stressors, with distress. Listen while a volunteer reads **1 Peter 5:6–11**. Then comment on any insights you gain, particularly about stress. _____

The opening words of this passage zero in on issues of pride and humility. What's the difference between godly pride and sinful pride? _____

How does godly pride create eustress? _____

How can sinful pride lead to anxiety and negative stress?

What examples of each can you cite? _____

Philippians 2:5–8 outlines the humility of our Savior. In utter self-forgetfulness, He died for our sins — even the sins we, in sinful pride, commit. Through faith in Jesus, forgiveness is ours — fully, completely. How does relying on His forgiveness and His love help us in times of anxiety and distress? _____

Many Christians have memorized **1 Peter 5:7**, counting it among their favorite Bible verses. What makes this invitation so comforting? _____

What does the little word “all” add to the invitation? _____

In what ways has God demonstrated His care for you in the past? _____

How does this encourage you to trust Him in the present? _____

How can simple, humble trust that “God’s got this” (whatever “this” is) help turn distress into eustress? _____

Have you ever experienced that? If so, talk about it briefly.

When we’re honest with ourselves, we must admit that oftentimes we create our own distress. Our sinful pride, our neglect of prayer, and our failure to trust our Savior’s promises keep us from experiencing the peace the Lord wants us to enjoy. Praise God for sending Jesus to earn forgiveness for us! Praise God that Jesus died for our sins and was raised again for our justification, as **Romans 4:24–25** recounts.

But there’s another source of distress, too. Read **1 Peter 5:8–9**. What word picture in these verses underscores the dangers Satan poses for us as God’s children? _____

Satan uses three main tactics: deception (lies), temptation, and persecution. Give an example of each. _____

Tell about a time Satan used one or more of these to create negative stress in your mind and heart.

What defensive measures does our Lord recommend in verses 8 and 9? _____

How might these things help? (Remember, as you wield the weapons the Holy Spirit provides, He works in you and fights for you!) _____

The closing verses of this passage contain a beautiful promise. Read **1 Peter 5:10–11**. Which words or phrases stand out as particularly and personally meaningful? Explain. _____

How does remembering that we are “called to [God’s] eternal glory in Christ” help put all earthly stressors — both eustress and distress — into perspective? _____

The phrase, “to Him be the dominion,” echoes the expression, common among Christians today: “God is in control.” Think about that for a moment. If we did not know God as our wise, kind, good heavenly Father . . . If we could not trust in Jesus as the sacrifice for our every sin . . . Then the thought that “God is in control” would be — not comforting — but quite frightening! Why? _____

But we DO know our Father’s kindness, wisdom, and love! We DO trust Jesus as our Savior. And so we pray in confidence, “To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen!”

Taking It Home

Think about a stressor that is causing distress for you. With that stressor in mind, what one verse, thought, tool, or practice will you take with you as you leave today? When and how will you use it? _____

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, we can’t handle this — whatever “this” is! We are not wise enough, strong enough, skillful enough, knowledgeable enough, or capable in any way. But You are all-wise, all-powerful, all-mighty, all-knowing. In the hours and days ahead, remind us of Your ever-present help and teach us to trust Your promises more and more fully. We pray in Your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Sing or say together one or more verses of “Entrust Your Days and Burdens” (LSB #754; LW #427) or “O Thou from Whom All Goodness Flows” (TLH #515).

Jane L. Fryar has written dozens of books and curricular materials, including the *Today’s Light* devotional Bible. She lives in a St. Louis, Missouri, suburb with Tolpel, the wonder dog.



Flood buckets are 5-gallon buckets filled with supplies that enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood or hurricane.



Relief in Action

In August 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall, dropping more than 40 inches of rain and triggering catastrophic flooding that resulted in more than an estimated \$125 billion dollars in damages to the Houston Metropolitan area. What happens when LWML hears there are people in need? They respond!

As soon as Hurricane Harvey cleared the Greater Houston area, the **Disaster Care Ministry of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Arlington, Texas** (Texas District) loaded a trailer with 350 flood buckets and 100 quilts handmade by their LWML Quilting group. They drove to a warehouse set up and run by Salem Lutheran Church in Tomball and St. John's in Cypress. A week later, they made another delivery of 350 flood buckets and 25 quilts to Trinity Lutheran in Port Arthur. A third delivery of 350 flood buckets and 25 quilts were delivered to Hope Lutheran in Winnie, Texas.

Laurie Holleway, Disaster Relief Coordinator of Salem Lutheran Church, has been overwhelmed with the response to the continued relief efforts. When Laurie saw the beautiful quilts, she decided to pair them with new beds that would be delivered to disaster victims.

Relief efforts continue. Currently, Laurie is responsible for organizing more than 250 volunteers, managing the delivery of materials to the jobsites, and caring for the volunteers' needs as well. Salem's Disaster Response Team is using Salem's Easter offerings along with a matching grant from LCMS to purchase furniture at cost for Harvey survivors. If you are interested in supporting the Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief efforts, please visit Salem Lutheran Church's website at www.salem4u.com.



What beautiful smiles! These smiles are reflecting the joy in these children's hearts as they completed the assembly of 44 Mercy Kits for Orphan Grain Train (OGT). **St. Paul Lutheran LWML of Lester Prairie, Minnesota** (Minnesota South District), uses a Mission Central Rotation program to inspire their 3rd and 4th grade Sunday School children to do mission projects. The children learned about LWML, Orphan Grain Train, why we do this, and where their kits would go. Great job kids!



The women of **King of Kings, Roseville, Minnesota**, were busy this past May assembling 46 baby kits for the LWML Minnesota South District convention. The kits were donated to a pregnancy and family services center located in Rochester, Minnesota, and included items such as outfits, a blanket, baby shampoo and wash, combs, and wipes. Everyone involved would like to thank the members of their congregation for the donation of many of the items and the receipt of a \$250 Thrivent Action Team grant that made this project possible.



All glory, honor, and praise be to our Lord Jesus Christ who moves the hearts of the **Faith Lutheran Women's Guild in Adel, Iowa** (Iowa West District), to strive continually to fulfill God's mission of helping people in need. Every month these dedicated women assemble hygiene bags for their local crisis center that provides help to those in abusive and/or homeless situations. Through contributions from their congregation, as well as a Thrivent Action Team grant, the hygiene bags contain a variety of toiletries and a Bible. The crisis center is thankful that the guild has reached out to fulfill the needs of those in difficult situations.

Sewing Peace by Piece

When the LWML women of **Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Lake Havasu City, Arizona** (Pacific Southwest District), decided to reach out to the community with sewing projects, they asked the church council for seed money to purchase sewing machines and initial supplies. That's when Piecemakers was born.

Piecemakers is a sewing ministry, stitching together all different types and sizes of fabrics as well as women of all ages and skill levels. Each Piecemaker session opens with devotion and prayer. The day's goals are introduced as sewing machines, ironing boards, irons, cutting mats and fabric are set up.

Some women give instruction for the current project, others lay out fabric, and some cut fabric and put together kits for others to sew. Women from other churches have joined us! The raucous camaraderie has even encouraged non-sewers to join just to be ironers!

Patsy Bock shared, "Our group size ebbs and flows as we excitedly welcome the return of winter visitors. Our friendships have expanded into the community to include people in the organizations we serve. As word of mouth spreads, people call us and ask for help to make things for them. "When we found out that children removed from their homes and put in foster care were given garbage bags in which to pack their belongings, I designed a pattern for a duffle bag with outside pockets embroidered with children's interests, like sports, cartoon characters, or animals. We filled the bags with personal care items and a stuffed animal or gift card. The pattern has been shared across the country."

Not only has the desire to be of service been met by all the women attending Piecemakers, but also the fellowship with sisters in Christ has developed into deep friendships and awesome respect for the sewing knowledge and skills of everyone involved.



Piecemakers projects include:

- Quilts, personalized with an embroidered Bible verse for family members serving in the Armed Forces
- Fidget quilts for dementia patients
- Comfort pillows for dialysis centers
- Adult bibs for nursing homes
- Pillow beds for shelter animals
- Changing pads, baby quilts, burping cloths, and hats for pregnancy care centers
- Special seat belt pillows, with words of comfort and a Bible verse, for breast cancer patients
- Christmas gifts, hooded towels, handmade purses, and more.



When a Lutheran Woman in Mission sees a need, she figures out a way to fill it. That's exactly what happened at **Immanuel Lutheran Church, Schleswig, Iowa** (Iowa West District). The church's well-used cloth children's books needed to be replaced, so the women purchased bags and filled them with coloring pages, crayons, a book, and a soft toy. A husband even got on board and installed a rack on which to hang the bags at just the right height! These bags have been a hit with the children and parents who attend church. Peggy Wunschel says, "This project shows our children how important they are to us and our congregation, our future."



Twelve dedicated women used a Thrivent Grant to fund a Baby Box program for their community. The Baby Box Project provides a specially designed box — a safe place for a baby to sleep — along with a large number of much-needed items to care for a new child. The women of **Mt. Calvary, Polson, Montana** (Montana District), made their boxes extra special by including handmade receiving blankets, sleeper gowns, baby sweaters, and hats. Additionally, they purchased socks and onesies. These boxes will be used for children born in hospitals located in Polson and Ronan.



Every month LWML members of **St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Columbus, Indiana** (Indiana District), anticipate serving the Lord with gladness by volunteering at Orphan Grain Train's Indiana Branch in Jonesville. They sort and pack donated clothes and household items to be distributed throughout Indiana, surrounding states, and overseas. These dedicated ladies love serving the Lord because Jesus first loved and served all of us.



The **LWML Atlantic District** recently sent a mission grant donation of \$5,000 to the Concordia Seminary Food Bank, St. Louis, Missouri. The food bank provides free groceries and household items to all seminary students and their families. Students may shop twice a month during the academic year and once a month during the summer, free of charge. This allows students and their families the opportunity to stretch their resources by reducing their out-of-pocket grocery expenses.

"I'd like to let those who donate to the food bank know how meaningful their contributions are to the student body, and I'm sure I speak for all the students when I say that," says Ryan Anderson, a fourth-year Master of Divinity student and president of the Concordia Seminary Student Association. "The food bank gives us great peace of mind in knowing that we don't have to worry about food. It's a great blessing."

"It's remarkable how so many people in the Synod care about the students and their families," another student, Werner, adds. "We students are so thankful that so many people [who donate to the food bank] give to us so selflessly — it truly helps a lot. We're thankful for how they care about us as students and as future workers in the church — it's truly wonderful to see."

Please visit www.csl.edu/campus-life/food-bank/ if you would like to donate to the Seminary Food Bank.



A set of communion ware from the 1991 LWML 50th Anniversary Convention in Cleveland was given as a thank you gift to Marlys Taege Moberg for writing the LWML history book,

WINGS. She displayed it in her home until last year when she moved to a smaller home in a care facility. Marlys hoped the communion ware could be used again. This blessing found a new home at Holy Ghost Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. Delegate Esther Ndon accepted the gift when it was presented to her at the LWML South Wisconsin District Convention in June.



Do you know? Have you heard?

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League Office has moved!

Make plans to visit the newly decorated LWML Offices, located in Loeber Hall on the beautiful campus of Concordia Seminary. Our new address is 801 Seminary Place, Suite L010, St. Louis, Missouri 63105.

"We've had more visitors stopping by in the past few weeks than we have in the past few years!" remarked LWML Digital Media Specialist Eva Koeller. "This is a wonderful opportunity to improve our exposure to the church workers studying on campus, and to raise awareness of LWML missions and resources!" Eva continues, "It's a very scenic campus! There are flowers all around campus, and Dr. Meyer, the Seminary President, even had yellow mums planted outside our windows!" Carol Ianelli, LWML Development Coordinator/Convention Registrar, adds, "We are blessed to be part of this beautiful campus!"

Karen Andersen, LWML Administrative Coordinator, concludes, "Having a presence on the campus of Concordia Seminary allows our office staff to attend chapel, eat in the cafeteria, and visit with students and their families. We have had many opportunities to welcome people and talk to them about the work God is doing through the LWML. To God be the glory for bringing the LWML to this place!"



Aloha! Members of **St. John's LWML, Moore, Oklahoma** (Oklahoma District), were recently treated to a delicious Hawaiian feast to highlight LWML Mission Grant #18—Restoration Programs for Native Hawaiians — Lutheran Indian Ministries (LIM). LWML member Karen Karner used a mission grant resource poster to remind the group of the the grant and the mission of Clarence DeLude III — a student at Concordia University, Irvine, California, and native Hawaiian, who will work to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to his fellow Hawaiians after his ordination.

The delectable meal consisted of Kalua Pig, Hawaiian salads, King's Hawaiian® dinner rolls, and a delicious coconut cake. Pictures depicting the work of LIM on the Hawaiian Islands were placed on each table to encourage discussion about the work being done.

Walking away from those dishes, we remember the tastes and, perhaps, the struggle. Indeed, attendees of the meal were grateful for the mission focus and talked of repeating the idea of emphasizing a particular mission grant through a meal at future events.

Some may ask why use food to draw attention to a mission grant. It has been said that food is a universal language, one that crosses boundaries allowing people to experience an important facet of any culture. Tasting the dishes of another region, we realize a bit of the life of its people.

New LWML Resources



In March, the Fellowship Hall of **Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wentzville, Missouri** (Missouri District), was filled to overflowing with towels, soap, toothbrushes, nail clippers, and combs to be used for personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. The Women in Mission LWML of Immanuel Lutheran Church worked with 21 students from Immanuel Lutheran School to assemble the kits. The dedicated women and students packaged the items received, thanks to the generosity of local businesses, Thrivent, and the school. Everyone had a great time! Working together, our churches and schools make a positive influence in our congregation, our community, and the world!



From mid-September until April, about 15 women gather at **St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Batavia, New York** (Eastern District), and make the most beautiful quilts from small and large pieces of material, blankets, and any donated items for Lutheran World Relief. The quilts are prayed over as they adorn the pews before they are boxed and shipped. This year, women also assembled 24 school kits to go with the 212 quilts sewn. What a blessing and remarkable way to use those individual gifts and talents!

SUMMER 2019 THEME: LETTING GO

Please share stories and photos of joyful, mission-minded service with News Editor Linda Guteres:
newseditor@lwml.org or
3 Timber Trail, Medford, NY 11763

Deadline: February 15, 2019.

Include: name, address, phone, and email.



New Heart to Heart Sisters Resource

By Melissa Salomón, Chairman, Heart to Heart Sisters Committee

The Heart to Heart Sisters Committee has published a manual to help LWML Districts start their own Heart to Heart Sisters Programs. This easy-to-follow manual is found

on the *lwml.org* website (under the “Fellowship” tab). The manual provides ideas and options on how to connect with the multicultural ministries in your districts and the women leaders in those ministries. We hope it will inspire you to reach out to women who share your heart for the Lord and the mission of the church.

We are encouraging LWML women to seek out women from a multicultural ministry to mentor and help introduce her to the LWML mission and fellowship that are so important to the LWML experience. Buddy up with someone and visit one of the multicultural ministries in your district. Stepping out of your comfort zone to serve others is a beautiful way to grow in your faith. Your friendship also helps women who may be new to the church to feel a part of the larger church fellowship and the unique work and life of the LWML.

If you want additional information from our Heart to Heart Sisters Committee, please contact anyone on the committee who might be close to you. Check out the website to meet our committee.

What an adventure it will be. What a blessing it will be. What a beautiful rehearsal of the picture of Revelation 7:9.

LWML Program Resources

As the snow falls, why not fall into God’s Word with these program ideas and devotions from the 2017–2019 LWML reSOURCEs planning manual? These resources are available for free on the “Program Helps” web page at *lwml.org*.

December 2018

Theme: The Perfect Gift (Romans 3:23–24)

Devotions: “The Perfect Gift,” “It’s a New Day,” and “God’s Perfect Gift.”

January 2019

Theme: Working with Joy (1 Corinthians 10:31b)

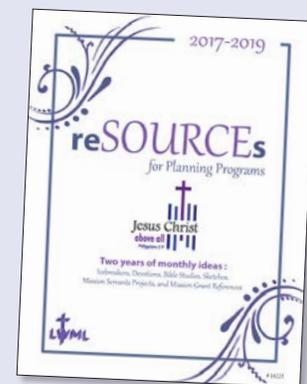
Devotions: “Working for His Glory,” “How, Lord ... Can I Work with Joy?” and “Working with Joy.”

February 2019

Theme: Overflowing Love (1 Thessalonians 3:12a)

Devotions: “Joy in God’s Love,” “Begin with God ... So We Can Love Others,” and “Abounding in Love.”

Sketch: “Overflowing Love”





Shipping Hope

By Melanie W. Gibbons, Quilt and Kit Ministry Manager, Lutheran World Relief, with Cheri Fish, Mission Editor

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 1:2–3).

Every year, countless Lutheran groups and individuals, including many Lutheran Women in Mission, join their hearts and hands in a labor of love: sewing quilts and assembling personal care, baby, school, and fabric kits to be distributed to people in need through Lutheran World Relief (LWR). This faithful labor turns ordinary items into tangible symbols of God's extraordinary love for people all over the world who may feel they have been forgotten.

Making the quilts and putting together kits is the first step in this ministry that has been the hallmark of LWR since 1945. The next step is delivering these important materials to the person who needs it most, a long and sometimes complex path.

LWR's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund helps to ensure there are funds available to navigate that path. Thanks to the generosity of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, the \$80,000 mission grant is supporting the ministry of extending Christ's love to vulnerable people through the tangible gift of a quilt. This mission grant provides the necessary funds, over the next two years, to deliver more than 35,500 quilts, valued at nearly \$675,000, to our neighbors in need around the world.

Since receipt of the first portion of the mission grant, LWR has sent shipments of quilts and kits to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Peru. In the DRC, we partner with Hope for Angola, which serves the population in and around Angola that lives on an estimated one U.S. dollar per day, per family.

In Peru, a large shipment of quilts and kits is split between local partner CARITAS and LWR's country office. CARITAS provides basic necessities as well as other social services to people struggling with poverty in Lima and in remote areas. LWR's staff distributes items to families participating in ongoing long-term projects, working alongside farming communities to move them from a place of subsistence to a place of sustainability. This shipment will assist nearly 37,500 women, men, and children across Peru.

In 2016, Sabina Carranza received a quilt through LWR's projects in Peru. Sabina lives high in the Andes mountains, where temperatures can drop to below freezing. She is a weaver, and receiving an LWR quilt from a fellow fabric artist meant so much to her. On average, a blanket takes her up to three weeks to weave, leaving her little to no time to make anything for herself. At the time she received her quilt, it was terribly cold, and she needed five covers to keep warm at night. She particularly loved the leaf pattern in some of the squares on her new quilt, and hoped to find a way to work that design into one of her blankets! You can see more about Sabina and some of her neighbors in our Quilt and Kit Pipeline video at lwr.org/videos/quilt-kit-pipeline.

In every instance, the quilts and kits you help make and ship around the world are a tangible expression of God's grace and love. Together, each stitch in a quilt, each dollar in a Mite Box is part of God's kingdom bursting forth in the world every day. Thank you to the LWML for your faithful work, your labors of love, your hopeful endurance that make this ministry vibrant. We truly thank God for all of you! *Q*

MISSION GOAL: \$2,075,000

2017–2019 MISSION GRANTS

Mission Grant updates are frequently posted at www.lwml.org.



● 1. Providing Food and the Gospel to Starving Children	\$40,000
2. Mercy House for Women and Children	\$100,000
3. Christ for Veterans and Their Families	\$27,750
4. Tanzanian Sewing Center	\$25,000
5. Current Missionary Need	\$100,000
● 6. Lutheran Children's Books for Families Worldwide	\$100,000
7. Christian Hope Through Mass Media in Egypt	\$100,000
● 8. NOLA 4H: Hearts for the Hungry, Homeless, and Hurting	\$100,000
● 9. Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund	\$80,000
10. Christian Eldercare Home in Haiti	\$100,000
● 11. Training Lutheran Middle Eastern Missionaries	\$93,000
12. Completion of Lutheran School Buildings in Uganda	\$48,000
13. Equipping Youth to Witness for Life—Y4Life	\$25,000
● 14. Laborers of Love	\$100,000
15. Sharing Jesus with People with Disabilities	\$100,000
● 16. Education Loan Repayment Assistance Grants	\$100,000
17. Nursing Students Serving with Mercy Medical Team	\$25,000
● 18. Restoration Programs for Native Hawaiians	\$75,000
19. RECONNECT to the Body of Christ, Circuit 28	\$50,000
20. Prison and Jail Ministry 2018 Synod-wide Conference	\$36,500
● 21. Family Scholarships for Short Term Mission Trips	\$60,000
22. Raising Pastors and Deaconesses	\$97,000

●—grant partially paid; purple highlight—grant paid in full



CURRENT MISSION GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund — \$80,000

This mission grant to LWR'S Quilt and Shipping Fund ensures the ability to deliver more than 35,500 quilts each year to our neighbors in need around the world and sustains the ministry that so many LWML members have been a part of for generations.

Prison and Jail Ministry Synod-wide Conference in 2018 — \$36,500

In addition to offering the Word and Sacrament to those incarcerated, the largest need is assisting individuals in prison to return to the community when released. The Prison and Jail Ministry Conference enables over 200 lay and clergy participants from 30 LCMS districts to learn about the importance of prison and jail ministry as well as networking with one another for best practices and support of each other in a very difficult mission and ministry. Mission grant funds help pay for the expenses involved in hosting a conference.

RECONNECT to the Body of Christ, Circuit 28 — \$50,000

A plan was developed to assist the struggling congregations of the Rio Grande Valley of Texas in reaching out to communities to bring the Word to high risk, unchurched, Hispanic families. The plan is to assist in the training by leaders within thriving congregations in a mission and ministry model. They will build relationships with local colleges and conduct community mercy projects. The grant will assist in the startup costs, training materials, scholarships, and expenses of the training program.



www.lwml.org | Winter 2018

LWML PRAYER SERVICE 2019

GOD CARES FOR YOU!



Concern,
Celebration,
Calm, Cleansing

Attention

Regard,
Responsibility

Efficient,
Enigmatic

Salvation



The 2019 Prayer Service, written by past LCMS Rocky Mountain District President Rev. Allen D. Anderson, is centered around the acronym for "CARES" and based on Psalm 94:17–19: *If the Lord had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence. When I thought, "My foot slips," your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up. When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.*

Reverend Allen D. Anderson, a graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, was ordained in 1981. He currently shepherds Mt. Zion Lutheran Church and Preschool in Boulder, Colorado.

Throughout his ministry he has served the Rocky Mountain District in every capacity, most recently as District President. He has been active in national and international missions throughout his entire ministry.

Pastor Anderson's passion, as a servant of the Lord, is in his mission efforts to touch the lives of people to help them know forgiveness, life, and salvation through the only means possible ... Jesus!



Find the 2019 Prayer Service online at lwml.org or by calling the LWML Office at (800) 252-LWML(5965).