



*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Hebrews 12:1-2

FROM PRESIDENT DEBBIE

## Surrounded and Supported

As we open and read our *Quarterly*, we will be “Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus” making last minute preparations to head to Lexington, Kentucky, for convention. Whether you attend in person or will participate via live-streaming, prepare to immerse yourself in His Word during the worship services, learn from our Mites in Action speakers, and find joy and laughter in the humorous interruptions.

As I prepare, my time is spent on last minute changes to the agenda and preparing my heart to understand God’s will for the LWML as we continue to run this race, sharing His message of salvation. Today, I began reading Scripture in Hebrews, Chapter 12. The first word, “*Therefore*,” made me back up and read Chapter 11, which gave me a greater understanding of God’s message to us: *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for* (Hebrews 11:1). Backing up again, Chapter 10 brought more insight about God’s will for us. I often find I need to hear and know more of His Word. Does this happen to you? The Lord draws me into His Word and assures me with His promises.

I love the “*Therefore*” in Hebrews 12:1 as it allows me to look back and see all those who have kept the faith. Those who have gone before us have finished their race, leaving a legacy of endurance and trust in the Lord for our encouragement.

Life is a race, and there is a finish line, a goal. That goal for me is running into the arms of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, not by my own power, but by the power given me through His death and resurrection. This is our victory, and we will celebrate together as we run the race in Lexington!

Gracious Lord, thank You for surrounding us with a great cloud of witnesses. Their conviction gives us courage and strengthens our faith. Help us to discard all that holds us back from sharing Your light and grant us perseverance to be Your joy-filled witnesses until we reach the finish line. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

***Walking by faith, surrounded by HIS grace.***