



# Gifts of Love

## Blessed to be a Blessing

by Linda Gage

I first met Chris at an LWML Pacific Southwest zone event in San Diego where I was a guest speaker for Gifts of Love Ministry. She was one of many women who warmly greeted and welcomed me as a sister in Christ. I was fortunate to sit next to Chris during lunch, which provided the opportunity to visit and get to know her more.

Chris, originally from Illinois, graduated from Concordia River Forest, for teaching. Her first call was to Faith, Inglewood, California, and she subsequently taught at Bethlehem, Berkeley; Our Savior, Sacramento; Trinity, Fairfield; and St. Paul's, San Diego. She retired from teaching in 2011 and, shortly thereafter, her husband, Terry, also a retired educator, went to be with the Lord. Chris shared she is grateful for the blessings of family and friends and for the joy of ministry in beautiful California.

Chris currently serves in many ways, including leading Bible study, serving with LWML (most recently on the hospitality committee for their district convention), and volunteering through a local food pantry to distribute food to those in need. She also recently hosted two middle-school girls from China who were visiting the United States. The experience left her exhilarated because she got to share with them about our Savior Jesus!

In my ongoing conversations with Chris, she shared how blessed she has been during her lifetime with faith-filled parents, loving husband, wonderful children, delightful grandchildren, meaningful career, Christ-centered friends and more. She shared that all these blessings have come from the Lord. Overflowing with thankfulness, Chris wanted to give back to the Lord's ongoing ministry. She really liked the idea of engaging her family in giving and providing ongoing gifts to ministry for lasting impact. After a few personal visits with Chris, she decided to put in place a Family Gift Fund that will involve her children and grandchildren in helping to select the ministries that the Gift Fund will benefit. They will also decide the amounts and the timing of the gifts.

Chris is equally passionate about ensuring the future of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its ministries. She recently received an inheritance from her mom and dad's trust and decided to put in place a Family Endowment Fund that will give gifts perpetually to LCMS ministries, including LWML. Chris shared, "All these blessings have come from God. I believe we are blessed to be a blessing. It is a great privilege to be able to work with Linda Gage to put these gifts in place that will bless ministry now and in the future."

As I thanked Chris for the opportunity to work with her, she shared how happy she was to be able to return God's blessings and said, "How can we not desire to give back when God has been so generous to us?"

Blessed to be a blessing indeed!



For more information contact [lwmlgiftplanner@lwml.org](mailto:lwmlgiftplanner@lwml.org) or call 1(888)482-8425. Please consider naming LWML in your estate plan. Our legal name is Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

## LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY

SPRING 2015 VOL. LXXIII NO. 1

KNOWING CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

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LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY (USPS 322-660) is published quarterly — spring, summer, fall, and winter — by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 411993, St. Louis, MO 63141-1993. Periodicals postage paid at St. Louis, MO, and additional mailing offices. Canada #R129889093. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY, P.O. Box 411993, St. Louis, MO 63141-1993. Annual subscription rates: 10 copies or more to one address, \$5.00 per year; individual subscriptions (paper and/or electronic), \$6.50 per year. Single issues available for \$1.75 plus postage. Call office. (Available in Braille, large print, or on cassette tapes, free from Lutheran Braille Workers, P.O. Box 5000, Yucaipa, CA 92399, 800-925-6092).

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