Gifted Service

In our cover story, Dr. Kari Vo shares her story about receiving gifts from God to be used in His service.

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we can relate. We understand the importance of Gospel proclamation, mission funding, and mission service. We understand equipping women in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to honor God. It is because of God’s precious gift of His Son (John 3:16) that we are compelled to Serve Him with Gladness!

Sometimes, though, we might miss a more subtle gift. John Eldredge said, “The gift of presence is a rare and beautiful gift.” But how do you give the gift of presence? Can it be as simple (and as difficult) as being with someone when they get bad news? When they are hurt or sick or grieving? Is it sitting with someone after they get a difficult diagnosis or are undergoing treatment? I think it is.

But don’t stop there! Even more importantly for us, as Lutheran Women in Mission, is being present with our Savior. We are encouraged to Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! (Psalm 105:4).

What does that kind of presence look like?
- Scripture reading?
- Scripture journaling?
- Scripture scribing (writing out Scripture verses)?
- Daily devotions?
- Receiving His good gifts in the Lord’s Supper?
- Prayer time?
- Praising Him with music?
- Breathing Scripture?

**Inhale** as you say: You keep him (me) in perfect peace.

**Exhale** as you say: whose mind is stayed on you, ... (Isaiah 26:3).

This past Advent and Christmas season we sang about Immanuel “God with us.” He is ever present in our lives as baptized children of God and His Spirit empowers us to serve. Thank You, Lord, for such a gift!

Don’t let His gifts go unused or unappreciated, for Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change (James 1:17).

May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord (2 Peter 1:2).

**Serving Him with you,**

Eden M. Keefer