

## AMY GILL -*Graphic Designer*

*I fell in love in fourth grade.* Though I had prayed for as long as I could remember, something clicked one day in Sunday School, and I truly understood who Jesus was and what He did for me. I fell in love with Him and started pouring my heart out to Him every night.

That was also the year I won a poster contest to advertise our church's VBS. Excited, I began to think about art as a career. However, practicality prevailed and I entered Concordia, Seward, in the Lutheran education program (still minoring in art). My professors were amazing Christians. Here were artists who loved God and served Him and the church in artistic ways. A seed sprouted that maybe, even though it wasn't a traditional church-worker role, maybe I could serve the Lord as an artist.

One night in my sophomore year, I was up late working on an art project. I was delving so deeply into my art that I lost track of time and even my own thoughts. When I finally paused, I realized that I had been praying and praising God the entire time! At that moment the struggle was over. I realized I prayed more, praised more, and felt closer to Jesus when I was using the talents He gave me.

The next day I called my parents and, to their dismay, told them I was changing my major to graphic design. I had no idea how God was going to use me, but I was confident that He would lead me in ways to serve Him.

God has been so faithful in this! Every time I've prayed for an opportunity to serve Him, He answers. After joining LWML and serving on the graphics team, I saw the amazing *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and asked God that someday, in His time, I could be the next designer. I was simultaneously praying that God would provide opportunities to work from home, when my youngest began kindergarten, to help supplement our family's income. About a year later, just before Isaiah was to start kindergarten, I was invited to work on the *Quarterly* when the current designer retired. I was blown away by God's perfect timing!

It is a joy and a privilege to use the gifts God has given me to serve the church and my community. When we find our true passion and God gives us the opportunities to serve Him, we discover that our career is not tedious but true, joyful vocation.

*Amy Gill serves joyfully as the LWML society president at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix, Arizona.*