



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Hidden Self

The morning was white with frost-covered trees and a white vast prairie that sparkled like diamonds rolling across the snow. The farm homes were tucked into the tree belts, all white with frost; the morning was still and beautiful. I am blessed with this scene several times a year as I drive to work.

On my mind, one particular morning, was the meaning of the theme of this *Quarterly*: "The Hidden Self." My thoughts turned to the past months and how my life changes, as a new widow, affected my choices. Some favorite Bible verses came to mind:

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things (Colossians 3:2).

You have searched me, LORD, and you know me (Psalm 139:1).

God's Word tells us that He will not give us more than we can handle with His help, including my grumbling about waking up alone each morning or coming home to a quiet house every evening, among other things! The Christian life is dead to self and is Christ living in us. We don't think about ourselves — our lives are Christ's.

This is faith! The writer of the book of Hebrews states, *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see* (Hebrews 11:1). It is faith that sees the light when our world is dark in sin and fear.

For most of us each day brings joys and fears. One of the first things I learned as a new Lutheran many years ago was to keep my eyes on the cross of Jesus Christ. By the working of the Holy Spirit in my Baptism, the reception of

Holy Communion, and God's Word, He continues to assure me that Christ died for me and, through that cross, all my sins are forgiven.

I can rejoice that all my burdens are carried by my Lord and that the Holy Spirit goes ahead of me each day and guides me as I take care of the details of my life.

Our LWML Pledge illustrates this point well: *We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him.*

Each day, through faith and with the Holy Spirit leading us, we assist others. Most times we do these things without even thinking: stepping aside at the grocery store for an elderly person, opening a door for someone, helping the young mother living next door, or bringing food to those suffering loss or hardship, just to name a few. These are "hidden" ways to show Christ's love to others. Other times, our service is intentional: visiting a nursing home, mowing a neighbor's lawn, showing up at your hurting friend's home to wash her windows. Either way, we serve not because it's required but as a gracious response to all that the Lord has done in our lives.

May our Lord continue to bless you and encourage your hidden self to be intentional in serving all His people through acts of mercy and love!

Kay Kreklau, LWML President

*You have
searched
me, LORD,
and you
know me.*

Psalm 139:1

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Pittsburgh Convention this summer, where we'll be "Quenched! by the Water" and leave refreshed to share the Good News of our Savior!
