

2006 LWML Prayer Service

# Let There Be Light!

Join with sisters in Christ to reflect on the light of God poured out to us in Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

Authored by Rev. Larry Krueger, the 2006 Prayer Service includes responsive readings, hymns, prayers and reflections. It is designed to be used in a variety of settings so more people can take part.

The Prayer Service can be downloaded from the LWML Web site or obtained from the LWML Office.



PERIODICALS

# Lutheran Woman's QUARTERLY

VOL. LXIV, NO. 1

SPRING 2006

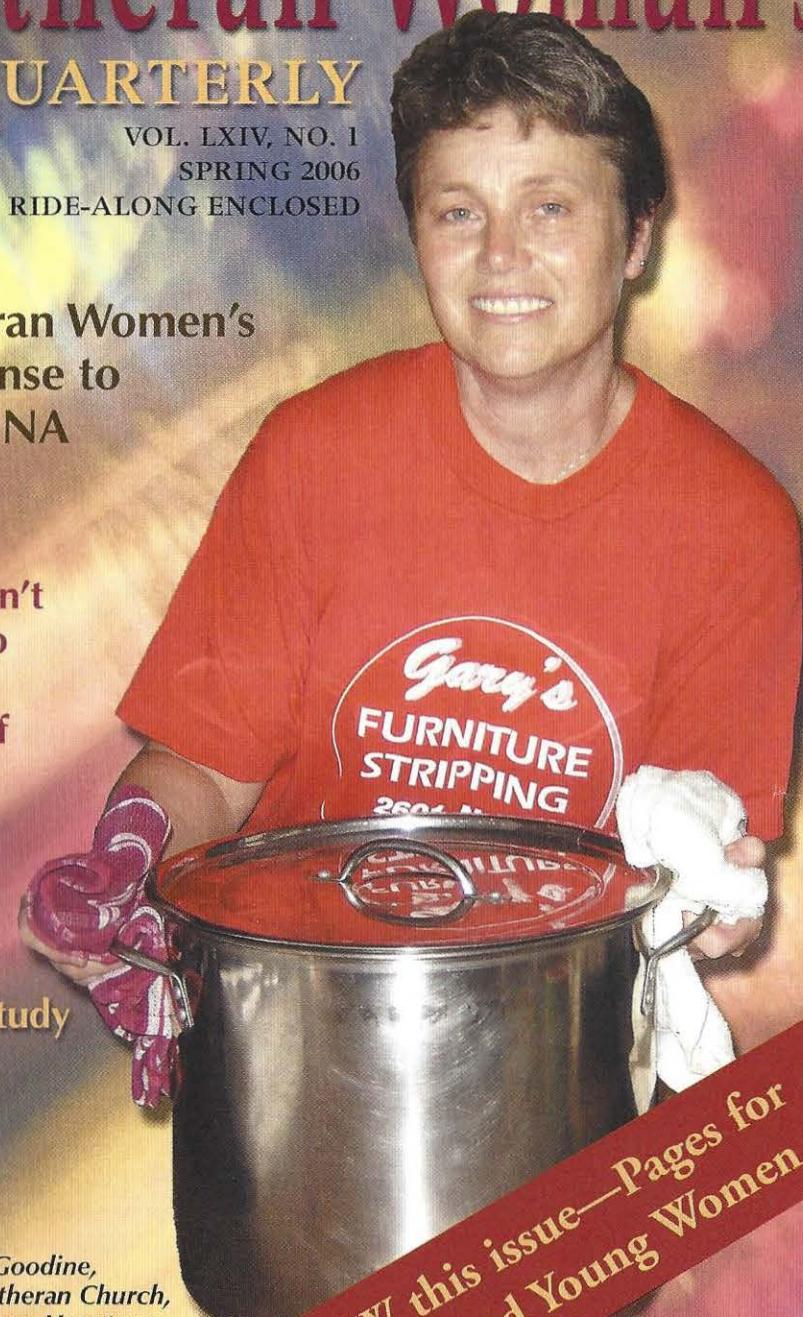
RIDE-ALONG ENCLOSED

## Lutheran Women's Response to KATRINA

You Don't  
Need to  
Forgive  
Yourself

Give it  
a Rest!  
Bible Study

Elizabeth Goodine,  
St. Paul Lutheran Church,  
New Orleans. Her story  
in this issue.



NEW this issue—Pages for  
Teens and Young Women

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**KNOWING CHRIST AND  
MAKING HIM KNOWN**

## From the Editor

"I hope I don't get caught" is what I thought when I picked up my first copy of the *Quarterly*.

On a break from a youth group gathering at a neighboring Lutheran church, I had wandered into the hallway outside the kitchen and was drawn to the handouts on a tract rack. "There's actually a magazine for Lutheran women? Wow! When did that happen?"

As I thumbed through a copy, I was careful not to crimp the pages, since I figured those magazines belonged to the women of that church...and were not intended for me to take home. I had just enough time to read the President's article (it was short, after all) before I had to return the magazine to the rack and get back to my meeting.

Our youth group continued to meet at that church twice a month, and each time I would return to the tract rack to read the *Quarterly*, bit by bit. One day, I even got brave enough to take home an outdated, well-worn copy, after the church secretary told me I didn't have to stand there reading it.

But I continued to wonder why I never saw this magazine at my home church, especially since we had very active day and evening LWML groups. Perhaps copies were handed out only to those women who attended the society meetings?

*continued on back inside cover*

## The Love Whisperer

*The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper (1 Kings 19:11-13).*



By Beth Foreman

Whispering is an effective way to communicate. According to a popular film it even works with animals. *The Horse Whisperer* is the story of a man who tames wild stallions and calms their troubled spirits with a gentle word. He relies on a whisper instead of a whip, a quiet word instead of a shout.

And it seems to work, which is surprising in our society where noise gets our attention. Television commercials shout at us with loud colors and fast beats just so we won't turn away. Cell phones ring, pop artists scream and jets blast off. Do you remember when librarians used to say, "shush"? Today's libraries have a coffee shop atmosphere and whispers are rare.

Think about it. Our society admires those who scream instead of whisper. Stockholders love it when the new CEO declares he will whip the management team into shape. Ever hear a football fan whisper at the quarterback? How does the coach get his team to win? How does mom get her kids to clean their rooms? Whispers?

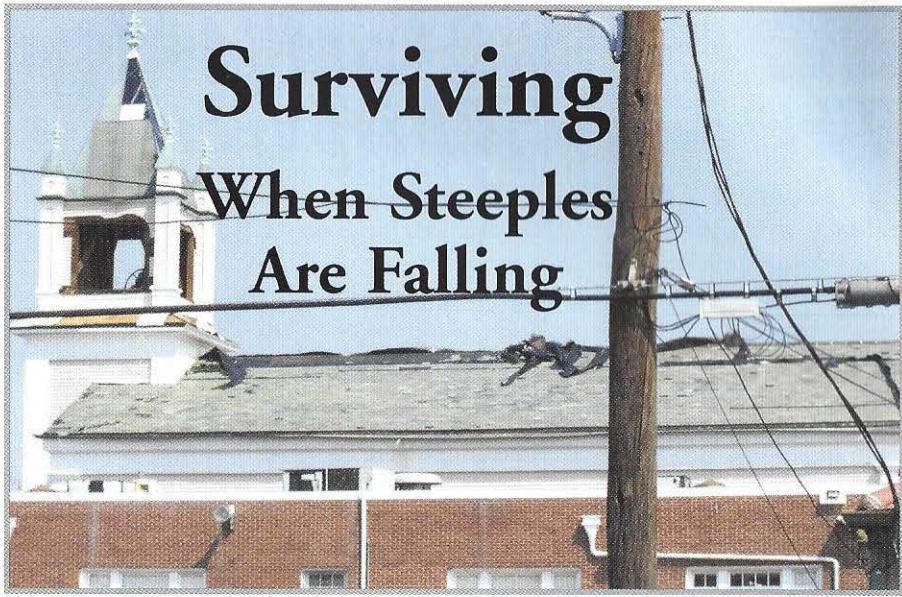
Shouting certainly gets our attention. Yet oftentimes a whisper is more effective. It's like a gentle breeze that lifts the ripples on a calm lake ever so slightly, just enough to refresh a tired soul. A whisper speaks gentleness, love, peace, patience, joy, goodness.

I was blessed to have love whisperers for parents. Throughout their fifty plus years of marriage, they have managed to tame the wild beast that marriage can sometimes be—not with sharp words and vicious attacks, not with bitter stabs or biting insults, but with whispers of encouragement, faith, love. They do this with kind words, home-cooked meals, a soft touch, a prayer.

The Lord came in a gentle whisper. He was born in a manger. He calmed the seas. He wept. He healed. He prayed. And when He walked to the cross and died for you and me, He conquered our beastly natures—not with a whip, but with a whisper. *When He had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit (John 19:30).*

Even now—especially now—He continues to whisper to us in His Word. Have you paused to hear His whispers today? Open your Bible and listen to... The Love Whisperer.

...btw... btw is the acronym for "by the Way (Jesus)." It sets the tone for the current issue.



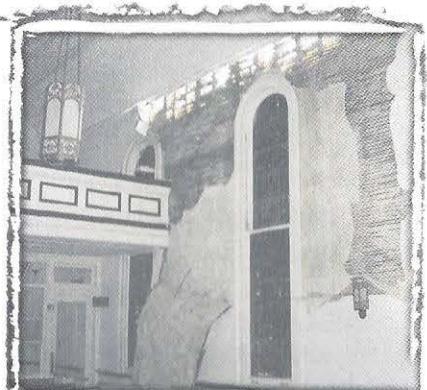
# Surviving When Steeples Are Falling

By Elizabeth Goodine

*"Built on a rock, the church does stand,  
even when steeples are falling..."*

I will not soon forget singing that hymn on Sunday, August 28, 2005, and how during the next week the devastation of Hurricane Katrina became a beautiful example of God's provision.

The city was nearly deserted on Sunday morning before the storm, but at St. Paul Lutheran Church in the Faubourg Marigny neighborhood near the French Quarter, about twenty-five people gathered for worship. One couple, who followed the sound of the ringing bells, came after finding their own church doors closed. Pastor reminded us that our hope is not in earthly things and that *whether we live or we die, we are the Lord's*. Our voices joined in song,



*Damage inside St. Paul's sanctuary  
(top photo) Church steeple with the sides of the bell tower blown out and the bells displaced*

one which was to become eerily appropriate the next day as the bell tower fell and the building itself shifted: *"Built on a rock, the church does stand, even when steeples are falling...."*

**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. 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, \$3.50 per year; individual subscriptions, \$5.00 per year. (Available in Braille, large print or on cassette tapes free from Lutheran Library for the Blind, 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122.)



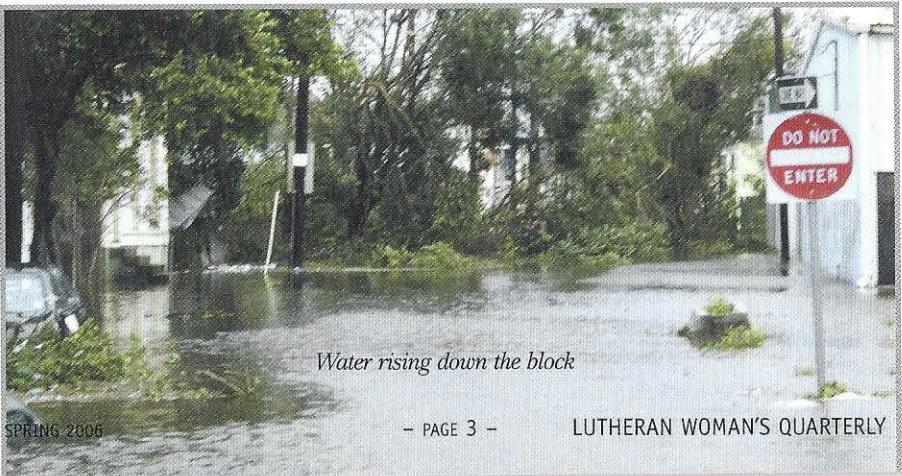
Billy, Leah (Elizabeth's daughter-in-law), Adam (Elizabeth's son) and another Billy are on a neighbor's roof placing sign to alert helicopter crews of our where-abouts and needs. The sign says, "Camp Marigny—Troops, ice, water, gas, Troops!"

Let me set the scene. Our neighborhood is often described as "quirky"; it's filled with people you might not expect to meet on your main street. Settled around 1805, the Marigny is adjacent to the French Quarter and is considered the first suburb of New Orleans. Filled with shotgun houses and Creole cottages, the Marigny is home to colorful characters including a silver-winged woman with glittering hair and a toothless old man with a Santa Claus beard and well-worn shrimp boots. This is a neighborhood where dogs are welcome in restaurants. Speckled with coffee shops and small

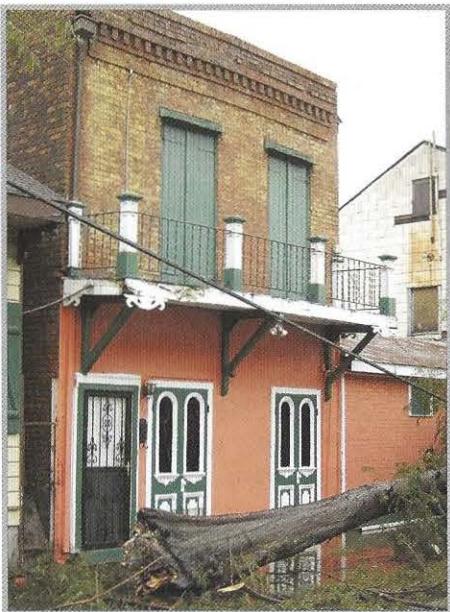
businesses, it's a residential neighborhood where people produce coffee, pies and pralines.

In the midst of this neighborhood stands St. Paul Lutheran Church where His Word is proclaimed.

On Sunday evening our church began to fill with some morning worshippers and other neighbors who decided to sleep at the church for the night. We reasoned: If the water should rise, we could move to the upper stories—even to the bell tower, if necessary. Little did we know we would spend an entire week together in the church, and that God would provide us with resources



*Water rising down the block*



*Uprooted tree in our neighborhood – in front of Elizabeth's daughter's house*

well beyond anything we could imagine.

*"Built on a rock, the church does stand, even when steeples are falling...."*

So why did we stay in the city when officials were pleading with people to evacuate? We knew the church, which had never flooded, could be a shelter for our stranded elderly and poor neighbors who had no means to escape the impending disaster. Built on high ground—six feet above sea level—the mid-19th-century church could become a refuge for the

community when the winds started blowing and the waters began rising.

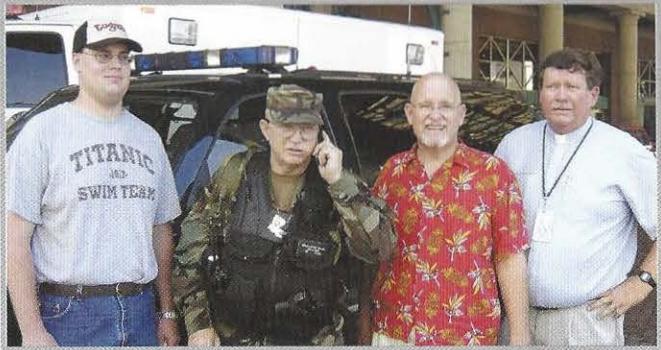
As Hurricane Katrina bore down on us, we were huddled beneath the shaking steeple and bell tower of St. Paul Lutheran Church. The hurricane struck our neighborhood with ferocious 135 mile-per-hour winds leaving destruction in its wake: uprooted trees, flooded streets, debris and rubble everywhere. St. Paul endured its share of damage; the roof was torn up, the sides of the bell tower were blown out and the bells were displaced.

You'd think there would have been calmness after the wind and pounding rain ceased. However, our fear and tension only escalated in the aftermath. For starters, we had no electricity or running water. As the hours turned into days, looters began to ravage the nearby French Quarter and armed gangs roamed our neighborhoods.

Yet with each new challenge, God provided the people and resources to meet our needs. Although the communication systems were completely down, one telephone in the neighborhood continued to work. While we had no electricity, we could cook with gas. When the faucets ran dry, we found the neighborhood swimming pools.

The gifts of every person from oldest to youngest were used to the fullest.

*Jacob (a captain in US army just returned from Kuwait the week before Katrina), First Sgt. Moore of the Louisiana National Guard, Rev. David Goodine (Elizabeth's husband) and Chaplain Stephen Lee on a trip back into New Orleans the week after evacuation.*



*Elizabeth wields power tools as she assists a crew replacing the roof on the Goodine home.*

Children painted signs for the rooftop to alert helicopter crews to our situation. Some adults functioned on little or no sleep as they stood guard each night in case our ad hoc community, "Camp Marigny," should be attacked. Others took it upon themselves to do daily trash removal as well as the less glamorous job of manually flushing toilets. Still others cooked enormous amounts of food in the dark kitchen with dripping water.

Given these circumstances, it may be difficult to understand why those of us living in "Camp Marigny" felt a certain sadness rather than elation when, on the sixth night after the hurricane struck, First Sgt. Moore and his unit of National Guardsmen and Border Patrol officers arrived to escort us safely out of the city. Grateful as we were, we also realized that throughout the week, we had glimpsed a bit of heaven on earth.

Like the widow of Zarephath whose oil never gave out, we learned that the more we gave, the more we received (1 Kings 17:7-16). Earlier, we had worried there would not be enough food to feed ourselves, let alone the steady stream of homeless and hungry people who passed through on their way to the Dome and the convention center. Yet, as some of



*Jacob and Elizabeth carrying food supplies.*

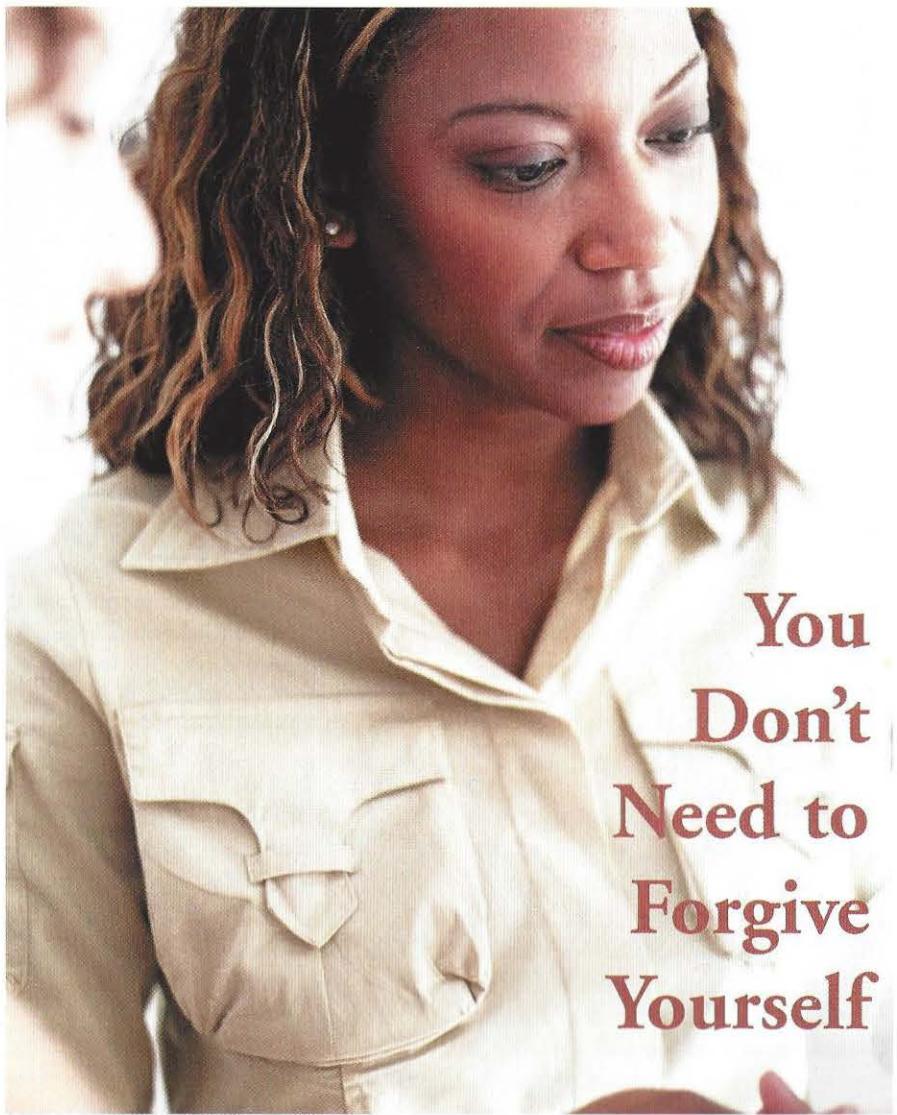
our neighbors evacuated on the second day after the hurricane, they handed over their generators, bottled water, frozen foods and canned goods. In the midst of tragedy, our neighbors gave freely.

*"Built on a rock, the church does stand, even when steeples are falling...."*

The people of St. Paul thank God for the gifts He has given us to use to His glory in ministry to the people of the world. Hurricane Katrina reminded us that the Church is built on the Rock — Christ Jesus. Even when fierce winds are blowing and steeples are falling, His Church does stand.



*Elizabeth Goodine is Assistant Professor of Early Christian History at Loyola University, New Orleans. She attends St. Paul Lutheran Church where her husband is pastor. The Goodine's have four grown children, a daughter- and son-in-law, one dog, two grand-dogs and two grand-kitties.*



## You Don't Need to Forgive Yourself

By Ruth Koch

Like so many contemporary Americans, I'm a great candidate for talk-show style religion: "Learn to forgive yourself."

Some nights I lie awake while recurring thoughts about the sins of today, yesterday and years gone by are familiar companions. I replay my thoughtless words and uncaring deeds. I identify poor choices and the mistakes I deeply regret. I vividly

remember acts of selfishness and self-service, and I cringe at broken promises and unchecked resentments.

But as I toss and turn in bed, self-talking, "You did the best you could!" or "Look, Ruth, it's been years and years, so just get over it!" forgiving myself doesn't seem to work for very long. The stop-beating-yourself-up school of mind-over-guilt doesn't cut it, and the guilt always comes back. So what's a gal to do with guilt and anxiety that seem rather appropriate in the face of real sins?

Here are some good-news lessons worthy of *God's Night School*:

**Identify who is accusing you.** The Accuser who brings the same accusations against you again and again isn't God. The good news is that God has forgiven your sin and charged that sin to His Son's account. Because God held your sin against Jesus, He no longer holds your sin against you. God has "put your sin behind his back" (Isaiah 38:17).

Satan is not a dummy, but he is defeated. Satan's bedside work is a last-ditch, desperate attempt to lure the faithful from the heart of God. So the only appropriate Holy Spirit-generated response to Satan is, "That sin is forgiven. Take your accusations to Jesus!"

**"Forgive Yourself" isn't scriptural.** God has already forgiven your sins, so you don't have to forgive yourself. The spotlight is on God's forgiveness. We don't add anything to that complete forgiveness in Christ Jesus: not circumcision, not burnt offerings, not the blood of goats or lambs—and not forgiving yourself, either. God's promise of forgiveness was won the day Christ died on the cross and sealed for you on the day you were baptized.

**Guilt can be a gift.** Most Americans think guilt is bad and should be eliminated as quickly as possible. But Christians can receive the gift that guilt bestows: Real guilt urges us into the arms of our Savior.

That is not true, however, of *false* guilt—neurotic and often exaggerated guilt. As women, we may feel guilty about not making cookies from scratch or not having the perfectly clean home or not living up to our own perfectionist standards for making everyone in our lives happy. In most instances, false guilt distracts us from real sin and real guilt. Use God's Word and the Ten Commandments to sort false guilt from real guilt so you can embrace His forgiveness.

**Peace will guard your heart and mind.** Everyone is longing for peace, a peace that allows you to sleep through the night and withstand Satan's tricks and accusations. So here's more good news: *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 4:6,7).

Sleep in peace tonight, dear sister in Christ. Your sins are forgiven.



Ruth Koch is a mental health educator and the author of the LWML video study series Prepare to Serve! She lives in Denver, CO with her husband, David.



# No Necesitas Perdonarte

Por Ruth Koch

Como muchas personas hoy día, es la moda de buscar religión—como en los programas de “Cristina” o “Laura”—donde aboga que tenemos que aprender cómo “Perdonarnos a nosotras mismas.”

Algunas noches paso en vela no pudiendo evitar los pensamientos de los pecados que cometí en el día actual o en el día anterior o hasta en años anteriores son mis compañeros familiares. Como en película, repaso los momentos donde pronuncié palabras ofensivas o cuando cometí actos hirientes. Identifico mis errores y caminos equivocados que lamento profundamente. Recuerdo con vividez mis actos de egoísmo y

me estremezco al recordar promesas rotas y resentimientos vivos.

Mientras doy vueltas en mi cama sin poder reconciliar el sueño, tratando de decirme, “Hiciste lo mejor que pudiste” o “Mira, ya han pasado años, déjate de pensar en lo mismo” y perdonándome yo misma, pero no parece funcionar por mucho tiempo. El auto-regaño de no pensar en lo pasado y forzar tu mente de no pensar en lo que ya no tiene solución no parece durar mucho tiempo y la culpa parece siempre regresar. Así que, ¿qué debemos hacer con esa culpa y ansiedad que parecen ser apropiados como consecuencia de pecados serios y reales?

Para los estudiantes de la *Escuela de Dios Nocturna* aquí hay unas lecciones de buenas nuevas dignas para aprender:

#### **Identificar quién te está acusando.**

El Acusador quien te trae estas acusaciones contra tí una y otra vez no es Dios. Las buenas nuevas son que Dios te ha perdonado tus pecados y ha cargado la cuenta de esa deuda a su propio Hijo, Jesucristo. Porque Dios le hace responsable a Jesús por tus pecados y los míos, ya no te pide el pago por lo que has hecho. Dios le dio “la espalda a mis pecados” (Isaías 38:17).

Satanás no es un tonto, pero sí es vendido. El trabajo nocturno de Satanás es su último y desesperado intento de atraer a los fieles para que se despeguen del corazón de Dios. Así que la única respuesta generada del Espíritu Santo de Dios es decirle a Satanás: “Ese pecado es perdonado ¡Lleva tus acusaciones a Jesús!”

#### **“Perdonarte Tú Misma” no es de acuerdo a las Sagradas Escrituras.**

Dios ya te ha perdonado tus pecados así no tienes que perdonarte tu misma. El enfoque está en el perdón de Dios. No añadimos nada a ese perdón completo

en Cristo Jesús: no se hace en la circuncisión, ni en holocaustos, ni en la sangre de machos cabríos—y no en perdonarte a tí misma. La promesa de perdón de Dios fue ganado el día en que Cristo murió en la cruz y fue sellado para ti en el día de tu bautismo.

**La culpa puede ser un regalo.** Generalmente, pensamos que la culpa es malo y se debe eliminar cuanto antes posible. Pero como Cristianos, podemos recibir el regalo que la culpa nos otorga: La culpa genuina nos impulsa a los brazos de nuestro Salvador.

Esto no es lo que sucede con culpa falsa—culpa neurótica o exagerada. Como mujeres, podemos sentir culpa por no tener la casa impecable o por no servir cada comida calientita y recién hechecita o por no cumplir con sus ideas de la mujer y madre perfecta que tiene que asegurar la felicidad de todos en la familia. En la mayoría de los casos, esta culpa falsa nos distrae del pecado real y la culpa real. Use la Palabra de Dios y los Diez Mandamientos para distinguir entre la culpa falsa y la culpa real para que podemos abrazarnos del perdón de Dios.

**La paz guardará tu corazón y mente.** Todos estamos anhelando la paz, una paz que te permite dormir toda la noche y resistir las acusaciones y engaños del Diabolo. Aquí va más buenas noticias: *No se inquieten por nada, más bien, en toda ocasión, con oración y ruego, presenten sus peticiones a Dios y denle gracias. Y la paz de Dios, que sobrepasa todo entendimiento, cuidará sus corazones y sus pensamientos en Cristo Jesús.* (Filipenses 4:6,7)

Duerma en paz esta noche, amada hermana en Cristo. Tus pecados son perdonados.

# A Symphony of Open Hearts

Compiled by Quarterly Editors

IT would seem that Hurricane Katrina brought only ugliness, destruction and devastation to people everywhere. Yet in the midst of the storm, God has conducted a beautiful symphony with notes of compassion, love, kindness and generosity. LWML women, blessed by the grace of God through His Son, opened their hearts and gave their resources to reach out to those in need.

After Hurricane Katrina pounded the Gulf Coast, people everywhere kicked into missionary mode and wondered, "How can I help? What instrument can I play in this symphony?" Lutheran Women in Mission across the country joined this symphony when President Linda Reiser called for Katrina kits for babies, children, women and men. Tens of thousands of kits were assembled and distributed to needy families.

## Louisiana-Mississippi District Response

As a part of this ongoing effort, societies throughout the Louisiana-Mississippi District who were less directly affected by the Gulf storms, joined sisters throughout the nation in gathering items for these Katrina kits. Trinity Women in Mission, Trinity Lutheran Church in Baton Rouge, LA, had a Katrina kit ingathering, sorting and assembling activity on September 11, 2005. Eleven women and four children assembled 78 kits that were distributed directly to those in need. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Covington, LA, located just north of Lake Pontchartrain, was transformed into a distribution center of clothing, food, water, personal items and household supplies.

The ingathering was like the jar of oil belonging to the widow of Zarephath.

## RESPONDING TO KATRINA



LWMLers of all ages helped assemble kits for Katrina relief. Josie Edwards and Jenna Schmieding of Trinity, Baton Rouge, LA hold up a completed kit for a baby.

"The longer the volunteers worked, the more supplies we had for kits," said



Katrina kits were assembled by all generations at Trinity, Baton Rouge, LA.



Marcia Wittenberg (LA-MS District LWML President in purple LWML shirt), along with other LWML members, put together Katrina kits at Trinity, Baton Rouge, LA.

Marcia Wittenberg, Louisiana-Mississippi district LWML president and a member of Trinity Women in Mission, Baton Rouge. She continued, "For those of us in the Louisiana-Mississippi District, one of the most heartwarming things happening in the wake of such tragedy has been the outpouring of love and prayers from our fellow sisters in Christ throughout the LWML." Melissa Meeks, Louisiana-Mississippi district LWML public relations chairman shared, "We have received numerous e-mails and messages of comfort and concern which remind us that no matter how difficult the situation we face, Christ is always with us."

## Central Florida Response

A year ago the people of Florida area received many blessings from those who helped them recover from hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne. Doris Engstrom, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Orlando, FL helped her church assist the Katrina relief effort when she organized over 50 volunteers who assembled nearly 800 kits. "This project gave everyone the opportunity to respond to Christ's love by serving others outside our own space," Doris said.

Trinity Lutheran Downtown was asked to be a collection center for Central Florida and took over 1600 kits to both the Red Cross and Catholic Charities. "We were impressed with the people who distributed the kits in that they tried hard to be good stewards of our gifts," Doris said.

Doris shared how the kits demonstrated a tangible expression of love and service to others in the name of Christ: When the Red Cross ran out of kits one morning, "a family came out empty handed, looking so lost. We gave a child's kit to the little girl. She and her mom smiled and hugged the kit. Someone really cared." Doris added, "This



Trinity Downtown, Orlando, FL

gave us an opportunity to truly be the 'hands and feet' of Jesus!"

"Giving money is good, but it is so easy to let it go from the head through the hand and never hit the heart," Doris said. "Because of His great love for us, there is great joy in serving the Lord with the gifts and strength He has given us."



Margaret Kletecka and Maureen Consiglio

## Atlantic District Response

LWML women in the Suffolk Zone (Long Island, NY) enthusiastically joined the effort and gathered materials to fill 49 kits. When they shipped the heavy boxes, the price tag hit hard. "Even though the shipping company didn't charge us for boxes or packing material and they gave us a huge discount on the shipping, the total cost was still almost \$250," said Margaret Kletecka, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Centereach. "A good cause to spend money on, but not the best way to spend it," agreed Maureen Consiglio, Long Island resident and Atlantic district LWML president.

Margaret knew the women could collect donations for many more Katrina kits, but there was no way they could

afford to ship them. "I started to pray," Margaret said, "and asked others to pray, too, for God to open doors for us to get our kits to those in need."

At the same time, Maureen remembered seeing a large Katrina Relief sign on a truck on her way to work one morning. The 53-foot trailer truck sat in a Jewish synagogue parking lot, and she thought, "Why couldn't the LWML and members of the synagogue help each other?"

Rabbi Marc Gellman, one half of the "God Squad" on Long Island, heads this synagogue. He is the co-author of a popular local newspaper column, "The God Squad," whose September 17 article summed up the disaster ("Replace finger-pointing with post-Katrina action") and referenced helping at the synagogue's 53-foot trailer truck.

Rabbi Gellman had heard of the LWML and LCMS World Relief and Human Care and was only too happy to accept the evacuee kits the women had assembled. The news spread and many other societies and churches filled their vans and delivered more kits to the synagogue. Nearly 500 kits, each one containing a Scripture card, were loaded onto the synagogue's truck and sent south for Katrina Relief. "We wanted all



Suffolk Zone (Long Island, NY) and other Lutheran groups helped a local synagogue fill this 53-foot trailer with kits for disaster relief headed for Louisiana.



Women from Our Savior, Centereach, Holy Trinity, Middle Island and St. John, Holbrook, NY, assemble Katrina kits.

those receiving our kits to be touched by God's love for them through His Word," Margaret said.

The women in the Suffolk Zone of the Atlantic District had prayed for God's guidance, and through a beautiful symphony of events—seeing the trailer, reading the newspaper, putting the right people in touch with one another—their prayer was answered.

"I continue to be excited to see what God has in store. What a privilege and joy it is to serve Him through our precious Savior and Lord Jesus Christ," Margaret said. "God is good, all the time; all the time, God is good," echoed Maureen.

## The Unending Response...

And the symphony has played on as societies across the country have contin-

ued to serve in a variety of ways. Some have collected quilts and blankets and sent them to Lutheran World Relief. Others contributed financially to LCMS World Relief. Even the Sunday morning offering from the Interdepartmental LWML Meeting in St. Louis, MO, last October was designated for Hurricane Katrina relief. The women of the LWML were poised to turn the destruction of the hurricanes into a period of growth and an opportunity to share the Gospel with those desperate to hear its message of hope.

Praise God for the open and caring hearts of Lutheran women! To God be the glory, great things He has done!

*For more stories about the LWML response to the Gulf storms, turn to the news section, heartbeat: Lutheran Women in Action, on page 36.*



The fellowship hall of St. John, Holbrook, NY is abuzz with activity.

# Receiving Good Things

By Heather Scheiwe

**A**re you receiving everything God is providing?

*These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground (Psalm 104:27-28, 30 ESV).*

God does not promise a brand new wardrobe or a six-week vacation in the Bahamas. He does provide the basics that we often don't receive or enjoy because we are too busy: regular sleep, good food, exercise and quality time with family, friends and church community. Renewal.

Do you have these "necessities" on your daily to-do list?

- Get plenty of sleep and rest.
- Ask a broom to dance. Or your husband. Or a friend. Get out of your chair and move!
- Eat well. Find foods you enjoy. If you are forcing yourself to eat avocados when you'd rather have almonds, you won't stick with that plan very long.
- Spend time with loved ones.
- Turn off the television.
- Plan meals together as a family.
- Pray. Along with the peace of mind that follows prayer, prayer

actually lowers your heart rate. Share prayer requests among your family and friends. This will help you become acquainted with each other's daily tasks, friendships and struggles so that you may encourage and pray for each other (Philippians 2:1-4, see also James 5:16).

Continually giving of our time, energy and very selves, we are certainly reflecting Jesus' servant heart. But in receiving, we acknowledge that ultimately we are NOT God; we allow God to be God and ourselves to be God's children. Salvation comes only by the grace of God through Jesus Christ; so also by the grace of God through Christ, we open our hands to the additional blessings of God (Matthew 6:33).

What additional blessings can you receive today?



*Heather Scheiwe is a member of Peace Lutheran Church, Fort Collins, CO. She graduated from St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, and currently lives in Minneapolis, MN. Heather serves as managing editor of Alive Magazine, a Christian publication written by and for teenage and young women.*

# Help us. Save us.

By Ann Osburn

**T**hese were pleas that were heard in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Water everywhere. Houses destroyed. Possessions gone. Families separated.

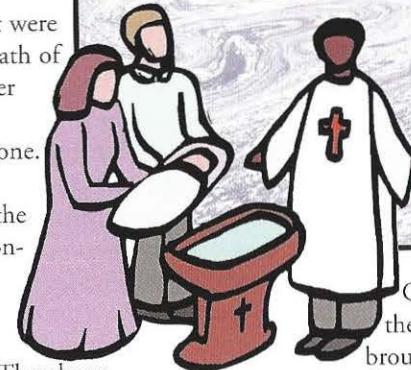
While the people on the Gulf Coast may have pondered what their future would hold, those who are baptized in Christ can rest assured in this: They have already been drowned through Baptism and raised to new life.

Through Baptism, Christ puts us into His boat, the Church. Although turbulent times might rock the boat, we rest assured that we are baptized and that we are God's children.

When high tides come and people unexpectedly find themselves sinking in the water, it is certainly fitting that we reach out with our help and support. We should pray for them; provide for their physical needs; and certainly tell these people not only of Jesus' open heart for us, but also of His open side for us as He was crucified for the entire world's sins.

He who walks on water came to rescue us from our imminent death. This rescue did not involve water buoys, but wood and nails and Jesus' own body on the cross. The darkness of the grave that ensued is far darker than the dimness that so many along the Gulf Coast may have experienced as their electricity was lost in the storm.

Three days after Christ's death, there was light. There was an open grave and



Christ had risen from the dead! Joy was brought to those who were in darkness. (Colossians 1:13-14).

While we still may experience the raging seas and high tides of this earth, we can be thankful that the calm will one day come, when we will be with our Father in heaven. Until that time, Christ sustains us through His Word and Sacraments and keeps us spiritually safe in His boat.

God does not promise that we will be kept physically safe through the sacrament of Baptism, but regarding those He has justified He does promise that *neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord* (Romans 8:39).

Whether one is riding out a rough storm or resting in the eye of a hurricane, God always has His eye on us, His children.



*Ann Osburn, originally from Mississippi, is a sophomore studying at Concordia University Wisconsin.*

# A Survivor's Prayer

By Carmen Sewer

**K**nowing that the Father is with me is a most comforting thought as I begin each new day. I pray:

*Thank You, Father,  
for waking me up this  
morning. I do not  
know what this day  
will bring. Please be  
with me in all that I  
say and do. In Jesus'  
Name, Amen.*



Carmen Sewer has held the office of Atlantic District LWML Vice President for Leader

Development and is past member of the LWML Leader Development Committee. She is a member of Risen Christ Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY, and enrolled in the district's Diaconate Program.

*Almighty God, thank You for being the Lord of all nations, for Your grace and mercy, for Your blood on the cross as it forgives those who trust and believe in Jesus, for being the Light that guides us in perilous times, for being the Rock that can be leaned upon, and for the power of the Holy Spirit.*

It was my first day back to work after vacation, and the day was Tuesday, September 11, 2001. As I sat at my desk on the ninth floor of a lower Manhattan office building, I felt the chair shake with force. My coworkers began to ask each other what caused the vibration. We didn't realize what was happening until we looked a few yards past the window and saw smoke coming from the upper floors of the World Trade Center across the street. The first airplane had just crashed into the building. A few minutes later, after the initial shock had begun to wear off, another airplane flew through the side of the second building. With the second crash, our office building shook with such force that I thought our office had been bombed.

Filled with fright, I ran down the corridor, down nine flights of steps, and out of the building. I was faced with many other people who were running, screaming, crying and standing in semi-shock. Then I saw a coworker who was my neighbor and asked her if she wanted to accompany me to the train station since we both got off the same train stop in Brooklyn. She replied that she couldn't, saying, "I can't go home right now. I'm waiting for a friend who works in the World Trade Center." Feeling sad and frightened, I took what was probably one of the last #3 trains out of Manhattan to Brooklyn.

When I left home that morning, there was no way I could have known that the City of New York would become a target for terrorists. I didn't know that so many people would lose their lives. I had no idea that I would panic and almost forget that God was still in charge. I didn't realize that years later the memory of that disastrous day would still linger. But I know now that my heavenly Father, in all things, brings calm in the midst of chaos.

## Let's Pray...

*Gracious Lord, You've poured out so many beautiful blessings into our lives, yet sometimes we're so busy we don't notice those gifts and we don't see You, the Creator of all. Gently call us to repentance when our priorities become tangled and we forget to trust You. Forgive us when we move so fast that we forget to focus on the most precious gift of all, Your Son, Jesus Christ. As our days rush by with meetings, dirty dishes, and crying children, feed our weary souls through Word and Sacrament. Renew us with Your richest blessings so that we might be a blessing to weary friends and loved ones. For Your everlasting love and mercy, we thank and praise you. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

**D**ear Heavenly Father, We praise You because You are our awesome Creator! We confess that we sin against You daily and that our sin separates us from You. We thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to suffer and die on the cross to save us from the eternal punishment for our sins. We praise You that because Jesus is risen from the dead, we will also live eternally with You in heaven. Open our eyes, Lord, that we might see the needs of Your people throughout the world. Open our ears, Lord, to hear the cries of those who need our encouragement and support. Open our mouths, Lord, as we tell others of Your Son's saving work on the cross. Open our hearts, Lord, as we show Your love and compassion for all. Help us be Your servants in our homes, communities and into the world. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

## REFLECTIONS

*H*ere I am, God, relaxing in my recliner with one dog snoring contentedly by my side and the other sleeping on her pillow nearby. It is the first day of retirement and it feels good to stay home. But I know I can't retire from housework, so I better get busy. Oh, my legs are stiff today. I walk like mom did when she was my age. I miss her though she's been gone for 37 years. I feel disappointed that I never had the chance to talk with her after I became a mother. You took her home to be with you the day after my first-born was baptized. What conflicts I had in my heart that day—mourning the end of life on earth for someone so dear, yet rejoicing in the new life cradled in my arms. How I would like to thank my mother for the firm but loving Christian discipline she used in training me as a child. Her singing of favorite hymns as she ironed clothes instilled in me the love of songs of faith. Thank you, God, for giving me a mother who opened her heart to care so lovingly for me.





*Jessica Sauer (left), Atlantic District YWR, goes over the contest map with Violet Fermin and Heather Palkewick.*

### Amaze-ing Race!

This special activity at the annual Atlantic District LWML retreat might work in your district, too: The young women teamed up and followed clues that led them around the retreat grounds. Along the way, they stopped to do activities (e.g., making and sharing witness bracelets, looking up Bible verses) that eventually led them to a finish line for a discussion of Philippians 3:13-14 with one of the district's Young Women Reps who attended the Tampa convention.

### A Bright Idea!

The Mid-South District LWML has a newsletter especially for young women ages 18-35 called *Alive!* The young women in your district might like to have a newsletter of their very

### Quotable Quotes...

Esther 4:14b: [Mordecai said to Queen Esther] ... And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this? (Read more about it in the Bible book of Esther!)

*The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you!*

own. Consider including the happenings of the young women on a dedicated page in your official district publication, too.

**We have heard...**that the following women now involved on LWML committees and task forces were once official Young Women Representatives to a national convention. We thank and praise God for their enthusiasm about all things LWML!

**Gina Franke**, Texas District, Chairman of the Teen LWML Task Force

**Katy Gifford**, Nebraska North District, Teen LWML Task Force

**Anne Hartman**, North Wisconsin District, Leader Development Committee

**Cheryl Petersen**, Minnesota North District, Chairman of the Christian Resources Editors Committee

**Christine Sommers-Austin**, Montana District, Teen LWML Task Force

**Rae Ann Spitzerberger**, Texas District, Chairman of the Media & Marketing Committee

**Nikki Tyrrell**, North Dakota District, Leader Development Committee

The Quarterly will continue to feature pages for and by young women in future issues. Please forward any news or information and original or electronic photos about the young women in your district to:

**Sharon Goertzen**  
347 D Street  
Hampton, NE 68843  
[goertzen@hamilton.net](mailto:goertzen@hamilton.net)

## ESTHER: A Young Woman of Faith

Her name is Esther. She was the Jewish wife of a Persian king, the man who was about to be tricked into making an irrevocable, disastrous decision. All Jews would be exterminated ...

Esther's adoptive father, realizing that she, alone, held the keys to her husband's heart, appealed to her conscience ...

She broke long-standing protocol, marched into the king's throne room, spoke her mind ... and rescued the Jews from holocaust ...

She didn't think, *Someone else should be doing this, not me ...* nor did she ignore the need because of the risk. She was willing to get personally involved, to the point of great sacrifice ...

What about you? What challenges has God set before you as His young Christian woman? What risks lie before you? What grace is He waiting to pour out on you to meet the situation? What sacrifice are you willing to make for the One who sacrificed His all for you?

Read Esther's Bible book, the one that bears her name, and see what words—and challenges—and risks and blessings God has for you, His young woman of faith!

Someday, by His grace, we might be remembering your name and reading your book!

**Rev. Larry A. Miller**, LWML Pastoral Counselor.  
Reprinted from *Impressions* Newsletter, March 2004. Used by permission from the [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) Web site. See the site for more newsletters and other YWR information.

### Live Joyfully as Salt and Light!

Here's what women ages 18 to 35 have to say about their convention experiences as Young Women Representatives (YWR) to the LWML Convention in Tampa (June 2005).

*What an experience! I had never attended a gathering of this magnitude before; about 7,000 Lutherans (registered women plus pastors, husbands, children) were in Tampa at the opening worship service. I imagine our singing rivaled the choirs of heaven...The friendships I made were one of the greatest things...a fantastic networking experience. Amy Becker, YWR, Kansas District*

*I participated in a servant event to collect the "Gifts from the Heart." Our leader encouraged us to accept the gifts joyfully. With the help of LWML pom-poms, we collected the gifts with cheering and applause. You cannot imagine the smiles this brought to the women's faces as they dropped off their gifts. Laurie Ascher, YWR, South Dakota District*

*WOW! What made a huge impact on me was hearing the totals of the mite collections...We heard from missionaries and got to see exactly what the money does and how it is put to use to further God's kingdom. Heather Puddephatt, YWR, Mid-South District*



## teen LWML goes GREEK!!

The concept of "Teen LWML" introduced at the 2005 Tampa convention has changed names. The new name is "Gamma Chi Delta—Teens in Christ's Service."

Why the name change? A *unique identity* under the LWML umbrella. An accurate description of the group's purpose—teens working in



## teens in Christ's Service!

TEAM (Teens Experiencing Awesome Ministry) of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Midwest City, OK packed school kits for Lutheran World Relief, collected mites in a large Mite Box™ after each worship service on LWML

service to the Lord. Why Greek? A *sisterhood of girls* together for a common purpose (sorority); an ability to remain timeless in a changing world. Why **Gamma Chi Delta?** **Gamma**—for the word *gyne* meaning woman. **Chi**—for the word *Christos* meaning Christ. **Delta**—for the word *diakonos* meaning servant. Look for this unique logo, along with new resources and products, in this 2005-07 biennium to promote the mission of **Gamma Chi Delta—Teens in Christ's Service.**

Sunday, and distributed Tampa LWML witnessing cards at Rose State College during the annual Global Oklahoma Festival.

**JEMS** (Juniors Enjoying Mission Service) of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Oklahoma City, OK

hosted the TEAM group from Good Shepherd at their church, where they learned hands-on about quilting and shared a Bible study together.

Do you have ideas you want to share? Do you know what LWML teen groups are doing in your district? Please write us and send original or electronic photos to:  
**Gina Franke**  
**104 Fourth Avenue**  
**Smithville, TX 78957**

## Our Readers Share...

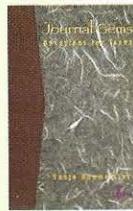
*What would you like to see in future issues of the Quarterly?*

Johanna Miller, a 19 year old freshman student at Concordia University, Seward, NE shares the following, "I would like to read something that is realistic and that

## Journal Gems

### Topic: JOY

**Bible Verse:** Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for that is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



**Journal Entry:** We went to visit Grandma at the nursing home today. I don't like it when we have to go there. I mean, I really like seeing Grandma—she's always happy to see us, and she has a basket of candy she lets us dig in. But, the place where she lives smells nasty and the people there seem so lonely. I don't know how she can stand to be there 24/7.

What makes it even harder is that I don't think she should have to live there. Mom told her she could live with us—that's what family is for. But Grandma doesn't want to be a burden on us. "Oh, I'm not always happy here," she said, "but, I know that God is using me as a missionary in this place." Man, what an attitude!

She actually lives by the words on the plaque in her room: "Joy comes from keeping Jesus first, Others sec-

deals with deep issues such as sex or depression and how to handle those issues in a Christian way... and to have some reinforcement that I am not the only person thinking the way I do...I would like to know what other teen groups are doing and also how to get involved."

ond and Yourself third." She seems content to stay in that place because she knows that when she dies, she's going to heaven, and she wants to make sure others know that they can, too. Maybe joy isn't the same as happiness. Maybe it's deeper than that. Maybe it's knowing that, even when you're in a situation that doesn't make you "happy," God is still with you and will use you to help others learn about Him. **JOY**—I sure hope that when I'm stuck in a nasty situation I can have the kind of attitude Grandma has.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank You for being with me even when I'm not "happy." Help me to remember that joy and happiness are not the same—that You give me joy even when I'm not happy with my circumstances. Use me to share Your joy with those around me. Amen.

### Questions for consideration:

Have you ever been in a bad situation but knew God was still with you? How did that help you get through it? Why do you think keeping the order right in **JOY** helps you be joyful?

Journal Gems: Devotions for Teens, Joy. ©2005 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, P.O. Box 411993, St. Louis, MO 63141-1993 The HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV). Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

## "Make a Difference... Leave a Legacy"

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men (1 Corinthians 12:4-6 NIV).*

Each of us has been blessed with gifts for the benefit of one another. We are not to use these gifts selfishly, as the apostle Paul tells the Corinthians, but for the benefit of our brothers and sisters in the faith and indeed, for the benefit of all, whether here at home or far away.

Through the LWML Endowment we can enhance our gifts, multiply our efforts and touch the hearts of those in need. We can comfort a family in distress, bring hope to someone who has lost all hope and be a blessing to those who labor daily for the Cross and for our Savior—whether in the mountains of central Asia, the savannas of Africa, a neighborhood across our nation or in a storefront ministry down the street. We give joyfully and in faith, and through the Holy Spirit, our gifts grow in service to God's kingdom.

Use an endowment gift to

- celebrate the life and service of family and friends;
- express thanksgiving for a birthday or anniversary;
- offer a memorial remembrance;
- underwrite the ongoing ministry of the LWML.

Invest in the future of the LWML. Make a gift today. It's easy! Use the envelope enclosed in this issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. Simply mark the box for an endowment gift and mail.

Through the LWML Endowment we support the work of the LWML today, tomorrow and in the years to come.



Spring, 2006

Northern Illinois District LWML

## NID-Bits

News You Can Use



### Linda's Leaderlines



by Linda Arnold,  
NID LWML  
President

The cardiologist reviews your test results, her brow furrowed. Months of swollen ankles and increased shortness of breath brought you to this point. Finally, she soberly looks up to explain that you need surgery—open heart surgery. You have a leaking valve in your heart. It must be replaced.

Your Father watches quietly as your shuffle through your routine each day. Over the past year you have gradually decreased your time with Him. Your attitude has darkened and you find it increasingly difficult to pray, worship or spend time with other believers. Jesus speaks to you softly saying, "You need surgery—open heart surgery. You have sin in your heart. It must be replaced with my grace."

Just as we are not capable of performing our own heart valve replacement, we are not able to remove our own sin and guilt.

Just as replacing a leaking heart valve leads to improved vigor and life, the work of Jesus in our hearts leads to peace, joy and the assurance of eternal life.

Just as your surgeon has studied and prepared to perform your heart surgery, Jesus has done all that is needed. He stands ready to perform just the open-heart operation that you need.

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*  
Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV)

During this season of Lent, ask the Great Physician to daily perform open heart surgery and provide for you the healing that only He can provide. 

### 2006 NID LWML Convention

*Declare His Glory Among the Nations*  
(Psalm 96:3)

**October 13-14, 2006**

Tinley Park Convention Center  
Guest Speaker—Rev. John Nunes  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Tinley Park will host a church service at 7:30 P.M. on Friday, October 13.

The Tinley Park Convention Center is conveniently located adjoining the Holiday Inn Select Hotel. A block of 30 rooms has been reserved at a special rate of \$104/room (regular rate is \$159).

Be sure to mark your calendar NOW and invite your friends!

## 2005-2006 NID LWML EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**\*PRESIDENT: LINDA ARNOLD,**  
8112 Carolwood Ln., Woodridge, IL 60517, 630/390-3039, linda.arnold@trinitylisle.org; *leads district in living out the mission of Lutheran Women in Mission; will help with any questions you have about LWML.*

**V.P. for SERVANT RESOURCES:**  
**KATHY SCHWARTZ,** 452 Cross Arm Dr., Grayslake, IL 60030, 847/231-4351, ks4lwml@comcast.net; *assists societies in leadership and member development, has servant resource items shown in LWML catalog, HOPE committee and YWR coordinator.*

**V.P. for CHRISTIAN LIFE: JEWEL T. SIMS,**  
1434 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL 60623-1252, 773/277-2690, Jsgrand5@aol.com; *Provides mite boxes to zone presidents; assists societies in Christian growth resources, has items for Christian life from LWML catalog, plans retreats, prepares Speakers List.*

**V.P. for HUMAN CARE: ELVERA RUFF,**  
25501 W. Wolf Rd., Plainfield, IL 60544, 630/904-0310, ERuff6311@aol.com; *coordinates servant events and ingatherings; provides information on service projects and events.*

**V.P. for GOSPEL OUTREACH:**  
**BARBARA ETTER,** 26 W 205 87th, Naperville, IL 60564, 630/420-0626, barbetter@orsinc1.com; *encourages development of mission grant proposals, presents reviewed projects to the Executive Committee and the convention for selection.*

**TREASURER: HELEN MILLER-MACKENZIE,**  
P.O. BOX 7565, Algonquin, IL 60102, 847/854-1176, HLM2748@aol.com; *receives all mites, special donations, Quarterly donations and memorials, makes all authorized payments.*

**RECORDING SECRETARY: JANET MAUER,**  
940 Holbrook Road, #11B, Homewood, IL 60430, 708/798-0691, janmauer@sbcglobal.net; *records & distributes minutes from EC, BOD meetings, and convention.*

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:**  
**JOANNE GAUDETTE,** 2400 Meadowdale Lane #204, Woodridge, IL 60517, 630/910-1195, gaudetjm@bp.com; *receives changes of addresses, changes in the amounts of Quarters, handles correspondence and loaning of LWML videos.*

**CONVENTION CHAIRMAN:**  
**DIANE KETTELSON,** 16801 Ridge Rd., Minooka, IL 60447, 815/467-2458, dk88keys@ix.netcom.com; *coordinates district gatherings and convention.*

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:**  
**JEAN GRANDT,** 4818 W. Courtland Trail, McHenry, IL 60050 815/385-0244, office@zionmchenry.org; *receives nominations for NID LWML officers for elections.*

*\*Please send copies of zone minutes to these officers.*

**\*HISTORIAN: RUTH PRALLE,**  
1220 Village Drive, #345, Arlington Heights, IL 60004, 847/255-1713, rdpralle@yahoo.com; *preserves historical materials from district, zones, and societies.*

**STRUCTURE CHAIRMAN:**  
**DOTTIE HILDEBRANDT,** 17 W. Glenlake Ave., Roselle, IL 60172, 630/894-3916, danh@elmhurst.edu; *prepares and presents bylaws for delegate approval at convention, receives all bylaws and constitutions from societies and zones.*

**PARLIAMENTARIAN: MARION HOLM,**  
1165 Southwest Place, Des Plaines, IL 60016-6229, 847/299-2678, *assists president with parliamentary procedures at all meetings and the convention.*

**\*PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR:**  
**MARTHA SUNDELL,** 1317 Sunnyside Beach Dr., McHenry, IL 60050, 815/385-0427, momofRandR@aol.com; *coordinates PR activities for district LWML.*

**DISTRICT EDITOR: MARY AIARDO,** 203 Westmoreland, Naperville, IL 60540, 630/717-5413, prnmedicaltrans@aol.com; *produces the monthly LWML page in The Northern Light; send her LWML events you want publicized.*

**DISTRICT WEBMASTER: WENDY JOHNSON,**  
6288 Ral-Mar Road, Rockford, IL 61109, 815/874-2304, nidlwmlpr@verizon.net; *posts information on web page.*

**PLANNER: SHERRIE SMITH,** 7418 Figura Drive, Justice, IL 60458 708/594-7442, BRSm1253@aol.com; *serves as planning director for NID LWML.*

**COMMITTEE ON YOUNG WOMEN CHAIRMAN:**  
**CRISTA ALBINIAK,** 8321 Portsmouth Dr., Unit A, Darien, IL 60561 630/321-0487, crista.albinak@hotmail.com; *assists zones & societies as they seek to meet the needs of young women.*

**COUNSELOR: REV. JOSEPH CASSADY,**  
614 West 16th St., Sterling, IL 60181-2230, 815/625-2284, revjre3@hotmail.com; *serves district league in advisory capacity, presents Bible studies at meetings and conventions.*

**COUNSELOR: REV. ROGER POLLOCK,**  
40 W 119 Sturbridge Way, Elgin, IL 60123, 847/741-7788, rpollock@goodshepherd-elgin.org; *serves district league in advisory capacity, presents Bible studies at meetings and conventions.*

**MISSION MINISTRY VISION CONSULTANT:**  
**PAULINE BRUNKE,** 2 S 716 Timber Drive, Warrenville, IL 60555, 630/393-6380, psbrunke@yahoo.com; *assists zones & societies with visioning and overcoming obstacles to become more effective in living out the LWML mission.*

## Healthy Hearts Respond

*"We pledge Him our willing service...we consecrate our hands to work for Him...." (selected phrases from the LWML Pledge)*

Two things have been said about a healthy heart:

- A healthy heart can weep for those who do not yet know God's love.
- A healthy heart can be empathetic and gracious to those who are suffering.



LWML President Linda Reiser with Orphan Grain Train Vice President Clayton Andrews  
(Photo courtesy of Orphan Grain Train.)

This type of healthy heart is represented multi-fold by the women of the LWML. From a simple e-mail message, many of you responded to Hurricane Katrina through packaging and shipping evacuee kits. Some found yet other ways to help, but the unity of your effort underscored the words of our LWML Pledge.

*Let's do what we can!* has always been the response of the LWML. What comes to mind for me: thousands of quilts, clothing donations, support for

service agencies and "gifts from the heart" gathered at conventions for people we would never see or know.

Does it make a difference? Most certainly—as people loved by the Lord Jesus, we are moved to love others around us.

*How many kits have been made?* is a question I'm often asked lately. An exact number is not yet available; many were shipped to Orphan Grain Train, Norfolk, NE others were directed through Trinity Lutheran, Orlando, FL and some were taken directly to the Gulf area by disaster responders from your congregations. At this writing, the estimate is more than 60,000 kits.

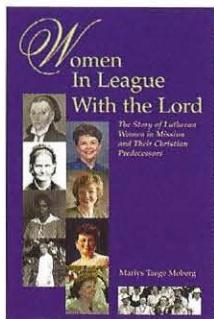
I have also been asked, *Why did the LWML respond so amazingly to this effort?* People who are filled with gladness give that joy to others. Our gladness comes from our wonderful God and the forgiveness, love and eternal life He has given to us. We did not hesitate to reach out with love and help after Hurricane Katrina because we knew we would be doing this together in His Name.

As women in mission, our hearts are open to give, support, pray and help. We thank God for putting this amazing response in the hearts of LWML women! Thank you for responding in love for service and for His Glory!



visit the NID LWML website at [www.nidlwm.org](http://www.nidlwm.org)

# LWML Women:



Marlys Taege Moberg, author of *Women in League with the Lord*—a comprehensive history of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and also Lutheran women in world history—relates that ever since its founding in 1942, LWML has responded in Christ's Name to the needs of people in crisis situations.

She spoke with *Quarterly News* Editor Shari Miller to answer some questions about the caring efforts of Lutheran women throughout the years.

## Has the LWML been involved in relief efforts since its beginnings?

Yes! With World War II underway, delegates to the LWML organizational meeting adopted postwar relief as one of the League's first two projects. They wanted to meet "the physical destitution and spiritual needs of Europe's orphaned and dislocated children." As a result, societies shipped tons of food, clothing, medical kits, patterns, bedding (and raw cotton for making bed linens), laundry equipment and a carload of grain. In addition, they contributed \$88,262 to cover religious literature, other equipment and special needs.

## A History of Open & Caring Hearts

### Have any of the LWML mission grants through the years been designated to meet emergency needs?

Numerous LWML mission grants in subsequent years have also helped meet emergencies. Here are just a few examples:

- In 1951, Bethesda Hospital, Ambur, India, needed more space to deal with plague and cholera epidemics. The LWML funded the expansion with \$70,000. Grants in 1961 improved hospitals in Wandoor, India, and Yahe, Nigeria.
- Learning of the lonely, miserable lives of lepers in many countries, the League allocated \$85,000 for overseas leprosy treatment in 1963.
- With thousands dead and millions suffering as a result of a civil war in Nigeria, the LWML supplied \$75,000 for Nigerian rehabilitation in 1969.

The League has also funded health programs for American Indians, a community health program in Guatemala after the 1976 earthquake, Asian refugee resettlement in Georgia and ministry to impoverished families in Guatemala cities. A portion (\$100,000) of the LWML 50th Anniversary Thankoffering helped LCMS World Relief assist some of the three million homeless in the United States.



### When our nation experienced the tragedy of 9/11, how did the LWML respond?

Following the tragic events of 9/11, LWML quilts told New Yorkers that Leaguers care. Recipients included a sorrowful little boy, an FBI chaplain at the Pentagon, those who had lost a loved one in the attack, and others who knew of a child longing for a gift of warmth and comfort. In addition, the gift of 10,000 LWML bears conveyed that caring message to New York children. Pastors and Christian schools distributed the bears to youngsters healing from the trauma of the attacks.

### What other ways do Lutheran women show their care for those in crisis situations?

LWML members who like to knit and sew have provided tiny warm caps for preemies, as well as "Cathy caps" for cancer victims who lose their hair while undergoing chemotherapy. Prayer

*Women in League with the Lord* by Marlys Taege Moberg is available through the LWML Catalog at 1-800-252-LWML(5965) or on the Web at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

scarves were created for persons who are ill or frail and need to know that someone cares. Millions of quilts made by LWMLers have brought warmth and the message of God's love to refugees, orphans, widows, and victims of war, poverty and natural disasters around the globe.

Individual societies and districts have also shown their care in numerous ways—hosting dinners for hungry people, taking meals to shut-ins, helping at pregnancy centers, "adopting" orphans and handicapped children, and even establishing homes for unwed mothers and group homes for children in need of temporary shelter.

### How else have Lutheran women shown their support?

Above all, Lutheran Women in Mission have always prayed about needs through phone chains and now e-mail prayer networks, at meetings and at home...unceasingly. And God has answered!

# Give It a Rest! The Perfect Gift

By Beth Foreman

You're a busy person. Your calendar is filled with appointments, meetings, classes, and lists with deadlines. Your friends are busy, your family is busy, your world is busy. So what would be the perfect gift for you?

- One more hour in every day...
- A book on organization ...
- A cleaning lady...
- A job closer to home...

Discuss: If you were given one more hour every day, how would you spend it? Why?

Did you say you'd rest? Probably not. Women of all ages fill their days with busy-ness and rarely find time for rest. Now I'm not talking here about the five-minute power nap in your car while you wait for the preschool door to open or the 30 seconds when you close your eyes at the red traffic light.

Let's try an experiment. Spend one minute doing nothing. Right now. Set a timer and then do nothing. Don't think about your to-do list or even chew gum. Try not to tap your foot or plan tonight's dinner. You may want to close your eyes to shut out distractions.

*Leader should allow one full minute for the pause.*

How did your one-minute break feel? Was it difficult to do? Why?

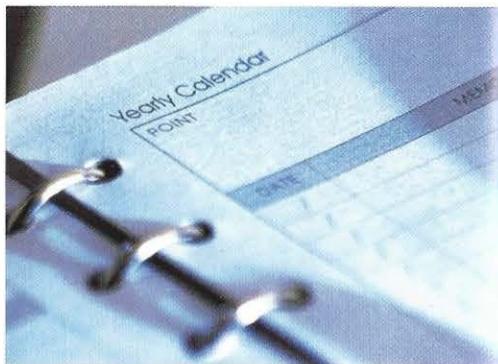
Take a few moments and jot down your current to-do list for this week:

How many items are on the list?

When you look at this list, how do you feel?

Do you ever boast to friends or family about your busy schedule? Do you hear your friends boasting about their busy lives? Why do you think we do this?

*Many of us feel proud of our busy lives as though it reflects our self-worth.*



**Editor's Note:** Third in a series on the Ten Commandments, this study contains references to the Third Commandment. See Fall and Winter 2005 issues of the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly for past studies.

## God's To-Do List: His Permission to Rest

Let's begin the Bible study by reading the prayer together:

Heavenly Father, as we open Your Word to learn what You tell us about rest, open our hearts to receive the peace that only You provide, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Read **Exodus 20:8-10**. What does God require in this commandment? **Read Mark 2:24-28**. Does "remember the Sabbath Day" command us to rest physically or to take time from our other activities to worship God?

Even though God does not command us to set aside a day for physical rest, why is it still a good idea to take a day off? How does our society see this?

In six days, what work did God check off his To-Do List? Read **Genesis 2:1-3**.

How did He feel about his creation? (**Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25**)

What did God do on the seventh day? Why?

## Unfinished Work

Look back at your to-do list and circle those items that you won't finish within the next week. Also circle those items which are on-going and that are never really finished (homework, housework, paperwork, etc).

Do you think you deserve a day of rest even when your work isn't complete? Read **Matthew 25:34** and **Hebrews 4:1-4**. In what sense did God declare His work finished before He rested? Read **John 19:30**. In what sense was God's work not completed until later?

Is it possible for us to declare our work finished even though there is still work to be done in the future?

## How Do We Rest?

Read **Matthew 14:22-24** and **Mark 6:31-32**. What do you learn from these verses that you can apply to your rest?

What is a good day for you to rest? What do you usually do on that day?

Okay. You've read about God giving you permission and even encouragement to rest. You know that it's healthy—emotionally and physically—to do so. But you still struggle with HOW to rest.

If you are like me, you might want a list that tells you exactly what you could DO when you rest. Here's one suggested list:

1. Find a quiet place and put your feet up for 35 minutes.
2. Read one chapter in your Bible.
3. Pray for 20 minutes after you have listed all those for whom you will pray.
4. Write in your spiritual journal for 45 minutes.
5. Sip tea.
6. Take a brisk walk.
7. Enjoy a long soak in a hot bubble bath.
8. Listen to relaxing music.

Yet, the last thing we need is a list of to-do's for our rest! God gives us permission to rest, but He doesn't give us specific guidelines.

### **Rest: Focus on God's Gifts**

What gift does **Hebrews 4:9-11** say that God gives to you when you participate in worship?

Read **Exodus 20:8-10** again. What does God say we should not do? What does God say we should do? What is the focus of this commandment?

Read **Hebrews 10:18-25**. What reasons are given as to why we are able to worship God together as Christians? What are the benefits of worshiping with fellow Christians?

Dr. Martin Luther said, "God's Word is the sanctuary above all sanctuaries." How might God's Word be a sanctuary? How can it give you rest?

What kind of rest is promised in **Matthew 11:28-30**?

### **Closing Prayer**

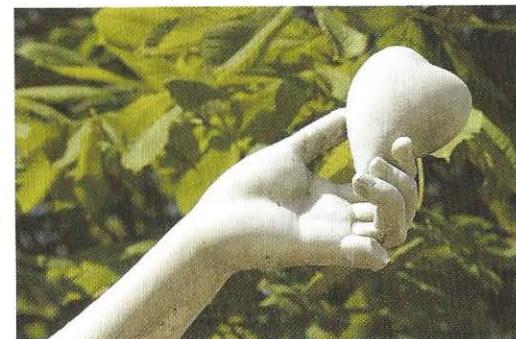
Gracious and Loving Father, thank You for the gift of eternal rest You have promised through Your Son Jesus Christ. Remind us about it, Lord, when we get so busy and stressed that we forget You. Help us to accept Your gift of rest every week, a time when You refresh us through the sanctuary of Your Word and Sacraments. Help us to carve out time in our daily lives to meditate on Your goodness and mercy and to dwell in the perfect peace that only You offer. In Jesus' most precious Name, Amen.

*Beth Foreman started writing as a kindergartner when her mom would ask her to write the Thanksgiving table prayer every year. She continues her writing in Ogden, UT where she lives with husband, Bruce, and their two children, Ian, 18 and Margaret, 16. She teaches high school English and writes for Concordia Publishing House. She serves as the Features Editor of the Quarterly.*

# **The "Heart" of God's Word**

*By Rev. John M. Young*

*(To get the most out of this Bible study, consider comparing multiple English translations. The King James Version [KJV] tends to give a more literal rendition of the Greek and Hebrew, while the New International Version [NIV] often translates into modern English idiom. One Web site that provides multiple translations is [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com).)*



Study guide helps for this Bible study are provided at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) (click on the *Quarterly* button) or through the LWML office.

**Opening Prayer:** O Lord, open our hearts and minds to be receptive to Your Holy Spirit through our study of Your Word, that we may be blessed to the very core of our being. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

**"I love you with all my heart."** Those who are unmarried may long to find such romance one day, while others have perhaps heard these words from a spouse repeatedly over a decades-long marriage. The words "love" and "heart" go together so naturally in English that we might mistakenly substitute sentimental emotionalism for God's command to love Him (and others) with all our heart.

What is the heart after all? Literally, the heart is the organ that beats about 70 times per minute, pumping blood throughout your body, without which we would die. Figuratively, we usually use "heart" to refer to the place where we feel our emotions. A broken heart means great sadness or grief, while a racing heart indicates excitement; "my heart goes out to you" communicates pity or sympathy; "from the bottom of my heart" conveys sincerity; and "loving with all my heart" expresses an emotional commitment of total devotion.

But is this what God's Word means when it says, for example, "Love the LORD your God with all your heart"? Look up the following verses and write what is attributed to the "heart." (Verses marked with an asterisk are interpreted in the NIV and do not use the word "heart"; compare to the KJV's use of "heart.")

**Luke 3:15**

**Luke 1:51\*; Luke 9:47\*; Mark 2:6\***

**Matthew 15:19**

**Luke 24:32,38\***

**2 Corinthians 2:4; John 16:6\***

**1 Corinthians 4:5**

**2 Corinthians 9:7; Luke 21:14\***

**2 Thessalonians 2:17**

**Hebrews 8:10**

**James 1:26\*; Romans 16:18\***

The Greek word for “heart” is *kardia*, which is the root of our words cardiac and cardiologist. (In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word is *leb* or *lebab*.) People in Biblical cultures thought of the “heart” less as the seat of the emotions and more as the total inner self. Thus “heart” in the Bible refers to the mind and the will as well as emotions.

However, the usual Biblical idiom for emotions is not completely foreign to us. Have you ever had a “gut feeling” or felt something “in the pit of your stomach”? The Greek of the New Testament uses a word *splanchna*, meaning “intestines,” to locate emotions; the King James Version often translates this very literally as “bowels,” while modern versions use the English idiom of “heart.”

Look up the following verses to see *who* was “moved with compassion” (literally, “feeling it in the intestines”).

**Luke 15:20**

**Luke 10:13**

**Luke 7:13**

**Philemon verses 1, 12, 20**

**Philippians 1:8**

**Colossians 3:12**

**1 John 3:17**

**Mark 6:34**

**Matthew 18:27**

In the Hebrew way of speaking, emotions were felt in the kidneys. In the King James Version, the word “reins” (from the Latin word that gives us *renal*) translates this usage. Compare **Psalm 7:9; Psalm 26:2** and **Jeremiah 11:20** in multiple versions. The common phrase is literally “kidneys and heart.” The King James Version has “reins and heart,” but modern versions are likely to have “heart and mind.” In our culture, the “heart” is the equivalent of the Hebrew “kidneys,” while we use “mind” for the Hebrew concept of “heart” (when distinguished from kidneys, figuratively speaking).

Now carefully compare **Deuteronomy 6:5** with the three times it is quoted by Jesus in the Gospels—**Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27**. What are the Gospel writers trying to do with their choice of words?

In the light of what we have studied, how can the meanings of “heart” be applied to our lives?

We are called to love God “with all our heart.” This includes emotions, but much more as well. It is the entire core of our being. There is certainly room for emotions, as Jesus Himself felt strong emotions. But the love of **John 3:16** is *action*—Jesus’ death to take away our sins.

**Closing Prayer:** Heavenly Father, help us to understand the “heart” of Your Word and maintain a proper balance between our emotions and all areas of our lives. Help us to love others by action, as You loved us by giving us Your Son, in whose Name we pray: Amen.

Sing “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love” (*All God’s People Sing!* 237), noting how the song emphasizes the idea of love as *action*, not just emotion.

*Rev. John M. Young is pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Fishkill, NY where he lives with his wife, Raquel, and two young daughters. He has been Pastoral Counselor for the Atlantic District LWML since 2002.*

# Cry Out to God

By Janice Kerper Brauer

## Introduction

Have two women read the following dialogue aloud.

Reader #1: I feel stunned! This is the biggest tragedy our family has ever faced.

Reader #2: I was so sorry to hear about what happened. You must feel overwhelmed.

Reader #1: I am overwhelmed. I just can't understand why this happened to us. But I guess we're not supposed to ask God, "Why?"

Reader #2: Oh, I think it's okay to ask God, "Why?" as long as we remember that whether or not He reveals the answer is up to Him.

Discuss with your group: Have you ever felt like Reader #1? Do you think it's okay to ask God, "Why?" Do you feel free to express a variety of emotions to God?

Let's pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for this opportunity to study Your Word. We ask that You send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts and minds so that through this study of Your Word we will grow in our faith in You and understanding of Your Word. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.



## Crying Out to God

The book of Psalms contains many examples of people crying out to God. What heartfelt cries are expressed in the following verses?

**Psalm 142:1-3a**

**Psalm 77:1-2, 7-9**

**Psalm 61:1-4**

**Psalm 94:1-3**

**Psalm 55:1-3**

**Psalm 64:1-4**

**Psalm 130:1-4**

**Psalm 51:1-4**



**Psalm 19:14**

Can you relate to any of these cries to God? Which ones? (Allow time for sharing.)

## The God Who Hears our Cries

One of the reasons we can come to God with all our "heart cries" is because of who He is. The God who hears our cries is not indifferent or unable to help; He is caring, loving and strong. What do the following verses reveal about the God to whom we cry?

**Psalm 25:6-7**

**Psalm 86:5**

**Psalm 86:15**

**Psalm 89:1, 4-8**

**Psalm 91:1-4**

**Psalm 103:8-15**

 Listen to verses from Psalm 141 set to music! Go to [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org), find the Quarterly button, and click on the link to Psalm 141. Download it to your personal music system!  
© 2001 RMM Muñoz. Permission for use by LWML granted by Rev. Roberto M. Muñoz.)

Which of these attributes of God is especially meaningful to you? Why? (Allow time to share.)

### Voiceing our Praise

Looking at the psalmists' cries to God, one can see a pattern emerge. The psalmists often begin with a desperate cry yet end with a shout of praise. What step between these two extremes is often a key? See what the following verses reveal.

**Psalm 63:6-8**

**Psalm 77:11-15**

**Psalm 105:4-5**

**Psalm 143: 5-6**

Take a few minutes individually to remember what God has done for you. Jot down the deeds of the Lord on your behalf. (Be specific; this is your personal list of remembrance.)

### Closing Praise

Read responsively the collection of praise to God found in the Psalms we have explored in this study.

Leader: I will ever sing praise to Your name.

Group: I will praise You as long as I live.

Leader: All mankind will proclaim the works of the Lord.

Group: Let all the upright in heart praise Him.

Leader: I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart.

Group: I will glorify Your name forever.

Leader: Praise the Lord, oh my soul, all my inmost being, praise His holy name.

Group: Praise the Lord, oh my soul and forget not all His benefits.

Leader: Praise the Lord, all His works, everywhere in His dominion.

Group: Praise be to the Lord forever! Amen and amen.

*Janice Kerper Brauer, former Lutheran Woman's Quarterly staff member, lives in Wheaton, IL with her husband and two teenage sons. She enjoys helping women grow spiritually through Bible studies and retreats.*



### They're back...Mustard Seeds

These all-time favorite mini-devotionals come to you newly designed and in a clear plastic packet. Use for your personal reflection or share with others. These make an excellent gift for your speaker or special meeting guests! Two selections.

*Living in Prayer #40201* \$2.50 ea.

*Living in Joy #40202* \$2.50 ea.

### New Purple Carry-all Bag

This handsome bag features the LWML logo in white and can carry those must-have items for that all-important meeting or event! Still available in natural or the new purple cotton with matching canvas straps.

#99008 Purple \$5.00 ea

#99009 Natural \$5.00 ea



### LWML Purple Polo

The dressy short-sleeve polo sports the LWML logo in white, has a collar with button closing and is 50% cotton and 50% polyester for minimum shrinkage. This shirt can be worn by men or women. Perfect for you to wear to the meetings and also appropriate for your pastor or counselors.

#10066 XS, S, M, L, XL \$16.00 ea.

#10067 2X, 3X \$18.00 ea.



See the LWML Catalog or Web site for more LWML products! For a free catalog, call 1-800-252-LWML (5965) or visit [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

### Bring in Spring with a Ring

This LWML wind chime will sound lovely in the spring breeze. These pretty chimes are 18" long w/gold tone bars and the LWML logo on the wind catcher bottom chime. A nice keepsake or gift for those around you who are homebound. What a thoughtful gesture from your LWML society! #24107 \$8.00 ea.



### New Fleece Vest

The vest is the same purple fleece as the fleece jackets, earwarmers and blanket. It has nylon black binding around the arm-holes and a draw cord in the bottom. The LWML logo is embroidered in white. Full front zip. (Sizes run large.)

10074 XS-XL

call for pricing

10075 2X, 3X

call for pricing



### LWML Luggage Strap

Spot your luggage easily with this new durable purple and white luggage strap that sports the LWML logo. Fits standard and some oversized luggage.

#37005

\$14.00 ea.



### Stationery Tote

Handy tote has everything you need for any meeting or classroom emergency. Kit contains stapler with staples, staple remover, tape and one-hole punch. All this tucked into a small zipped carrier. Stash it in your handbag, car glove compartment or briefcase.

#18940

\$5.50 ea.



## Lutheran Women Honored

Two LWML women have been honored with recognition and awards. Heartfelt LWML congratulations and God's continued blessings to both of them!

### Alma Kern

received the Witness in the Public Square Award from the Atlantic District Mission Society last fall at ceremonies in New York City, NY. Alma is past ILWML Third Vice President, Atlantic District



Alma Kern

LWML President, stewardship editor for the *Quarterly*, and author of four books for the LWML: *You are Special, You are Loved, You are Precious, and You Make a Difference*. Alma was the first woman to write for *Portals of Prayer* and served as a member of the Sermon Research Committee for the late Oswald Hoffman of The Lutheran Hour. Along with her husband Rev. Herbert Kern, Alma has spoken at conventions, retreats, and seminars throughout North America.

### Peggy Turnipseed



was named Lutheran Woman of the Year 2005 by Concordia University in Austin, TX. Peggy is a former Texas District LWML President and LWML Nominating Committee Chairman. Criteria for the award, which

Peggy received at a special recognition luncheon last fall, include church and

## Lutheran Women in Action

By Shari Miller, News Editor

community involvement. Peggy's family has created a scholarship endowment fund, the Peggy Krueger Turnipseed Endowment Fund, in recognition of her many years of service to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and in honor of her dedication to LWML and Concordia University, Austin, TX.

### READERS' EXCHANGE

Has your LWML group thought of adopting another LWML group in the area devastated by the hurricanes on the Gulf Coast?

That is just what **Beacon Lutheran LWML in Seattle, WA** has done in response to Hurricane Katrina. The Seattle group has "adopted" the LWML from Holy Cross Lutheran Church in New Orleans, LA. They have been praying for their sisters in Louisiana and have sent support as it is communicated and needed. Immediately following the crisis, **Judy Knebel**, a member of the group in Seattle, WA writes: *We can begin to pray and look for other needs later.*

Another LWML group that "adopted" an LWML society from the Gulf Coast was **Emmaus Lutheran Church LWML in Bonner Springs, KS**. Less than a week after Hurricane Katrina made landfall, **Deb Glaum** from this Kansas LWML society, wrote that *the ladies in her society had been especially blessed this year in their fundraising and that they would like to use this bounty to "adopt" a society from the affected areas...to help in the recovery process.* The Kansas group was connected with the Lutheran Women in



Trinity Lutheran Church LWML members and friends from Monroe, LA use a motor home to deliver supplies to Katrina victims.

Mission at Holy Trinity Lutheran in Covington, LA.

These pictures show immediate needs of Hurricane Katrina evacuees being met by members of **Trinity Lutheran Church LWML in Monroe, LA**. The LWML group at Trinity gathered up donations and supplies (first aid supplies, canned goods, water, clothing) for their sisters and brothers at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Gulfport, MS. **Pat Minor**, an LWML member from Trinity, Monroe, used her motor home to deliver the supplies to Trinity, Gulfport. She said that *the Gulfport group was not only grateful for the supplies, but also encouraged by the response from their fellow congregations.*

2005 Heart to Heart Sister **Lucille Collins** from New Orleans, LA writes that *she and her family evacuated before the storm [Hurricane Katrina] hit.* When asked about her house, Lucille said it was a two-story house in an area that she said never floods. However, this time it did flood and the water was so deep that it covered the rooftop! Lucille and her family lost everything. They have relocated to Garland, TX just outside of Dallas. Lucille says: *I told my family that we are fortunate, because we are all here together, and we have each other, and we will just start over.*

Lucille was encouraged that her fellow Heart to Heart Sisters and LWML groups from both far and near were praying for her and all the evacuees.

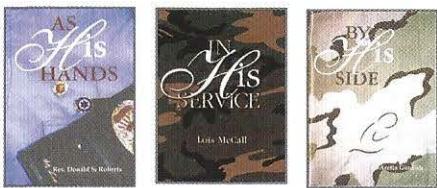
Praise God for all the outpouring of support and love to evacuees!

### A Celebration of Life Over 80

A Celebration of Life Over 80 was the theme of the LWML-sponsored event that honored members from **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Caledonia, MI**. *These are twenty-five, wonderful, outstanding people who have and still are serving their God faithfully. What an awesome God we have!* exclaims **Fran Beuschel**, one of the LWML event planners. All enjoyed a catered meal, musical entertainment and a time of visiting. *The stories remembered, the renewing of friendships and the flow of love felt for these dear brothers and sisters in Christ was overwhelming*, says Fran. **Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father!**



*A Celebration of Life Over 80 sponsored by St. Paul Lutheran Church LWML in Caledonia, MI. Those honored include (front row): Al Simon, Evelyn Dietchweiler, Elaine DeLeeuw, Eleanor Leatherman, Erna Tenant, Beatrice Schulz, Lester Jahnke, Marilyn Choiniere. (second row): Beryl Fischer, Bill Dodge, Gertrude Middlebush, Laura Schroeder, Dorothy Staiger, Ruth Martin, Lucy Weaver, Kornelia Roelfzema, Bonnie Bushee, Gen Datema, Eunice Milliman. (not pictured: Evelyn Lass, Carl Molenar, Elsie Hess, Alice Dodge, Helen Miller, Robert Miller, Viola Fischer.)*



### Care Shown to Those in the Military

LWML groups across our nation continue to serve as prayer and care warriors for thousands of men and women stationed all over the world. Materials such as the devotional booklets, *As His Hands*, *In His Service*, and *By His Side* have been sent to people who serve in law enforcement, fire, EMT, rescue services and the military, as well as to the families of these service men and women.

The LWML group at **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Burbank, IL** filled boxes with many articles and words of gratitude to thank men and women

overseas for their service to their country. **Nancy Osborne-Steeves**, president of the LWML group, shares: *With the encouragement of our LWML group, Sunday school children followed through with the help of the whole congregation to reach out to the families of those serving.* Excerpts from a thank you written by one of the recipients follow:

*The evening after I returned home on leave, representatives from your congregation arrived at our home bearing a box full of gifts for our three children...I was completely surprised and humbled. My family appreciates your congregation taking the time to think about our children. During our Christmas dinner, we said a prayer for your congregation and thanked all of you...*

*God bless all of you,*

Major Gerald Cruz, Chief, Detainee Operations Training, Department of the Army, Fort Dix, NJ.

### READERS' CALL



*Mary Circle, First Lutheran Church LWML, Helena, MT meet for retreat.*



► **Sometimes...Girls Just Want to Have Fun!** Find some LWML retreat materials and plan a sleepover with your fellow sisters in Christ. **The Mary Circle of First Lutheran Church LWML in Helena, MT** has met for the past two years at the home of a member by Canyon Ferry Lake in May for a time of fellowship and Bible study.

*This year's retreat was planned around the theme, "A Woman of Grace," and began on Friday evening with supper and Bible study, says Shari Miller, Bible study leader. Retreat activities, in addition to Bible study, included eating, facial cleansing, nail polishing, movie watching, card making and nature walking. Everyone was home by suppertime on Saturday.*

What a great way to show your care for one another in a non-threatening and confidential atmosphere! Make plans to try this in your group today! You might want to include a service project for those who are suffering from nature's devastation.

► Don't forget to access the Web site at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) for the late-breaking LWML news, photos and updates. Click on the e-News button or subscribe to the LWML e-News for the latest from LWML committees!

### News! News! News!

News and pictures from your society are needed for the Fall 2006 issue of the *Quarterly*. The topics will be based around the words **family foundations**. Here are some questions you might ask:

- What kinds of family servant events have you or your group planned?
- What intergenerational activities does your group sponsor?
- Do you have successful financial management seminars or Bible studies in your group or church?
- How is your group or church sensitive to the needs of singles?

Please send all information and original or electronic pictures by April 1, 2006 to:

**Shari Miller, Quarterly News Editor  
3827 Chokecherry  
East Helena, MT 59635  
e-mail: sjmiller1@bresnan.net**



### Together in Prayer

Pray with the LWML every Monday at noon.

# LWML Committees



*Christian Life*  
Sophia Gonzalez  
Marilyn Stuckwisch  
Lynn Batchelder  
Edie Norris, Chairman



*Christian Resource Editors*  
Alice Troyke  
Claire Carlson  
Kristin Kaldahl  
Cheryl Petersen,  
Chairman



*Media & Marketing*  
Wendy Frarck  
Tammy Songer  
Doris Engstrom  
Rae Ann Spitzenerger,  
Chairman



*Official Publication*  
Lois Hudak  
Nancy Graf Peters,  
Editor-in-Chief  
Shari Miller  
Adriane Dorr  
Beth Foreman



*Gospel Outreach*  
Jacqueline Green  
Melissa Salomón  
Marilyn McClure,  
Chairman  
Jan Westrick (not  
shown)

# 2005-2007



*Mission Advocacy & Grants*  
Sharon Roegge  
Gail Smuda  
Elaine Perry  
Eloise Kuhlmann,  
Chairman



*Human Care*  
Mary Smith  
Alya Pfeil  
Brenda Isaac  
Sheila Lutz, Chairman



*Leader Development*  
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Nikki Tyrrell  
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Eden Keefe  
Diane Garber  
Betty Reichert  
Pat Funk, Chairman



*Structure*  
Carol Schmidt  
Lois Gerscheske  
Julia Riess, Chairman

## LWML Committees, continued



**Mustard Seeds Task Force:** Marcia Gomulka, Myrna Lou Meyer, Dcs. Betty Knapp, Chairman



**Teen LWML Task Force:** Katy Gifford, Christine Sommers-Austin, Gina Franke, Chairman



**Executive Committee:** (back row): Elaine Nelson, Louise Rickey, Rev. Larry Miller, Sandy Hardies, Norine Stumpf, Rev. Carl Gnewuch, Barbara Volk, Bev England, Kay Kreklau. (front row): Janis McDaniels, Kaye Cairns, Linda Reiser (President), Vivian Ernst, Marguerite Christman.

**Nominating Committee:** (not pictured) Donna Gruel, Chairman, Barb Virus, Betty Dietrich, Ladell McWhirter, Janell McKinstry.

### grants@work

#### Lutheran Teachers in Sierra Leone—\$84,000

The greatest natural resource of any country is its children. Sierra Leone is recovering from a long period of civil war. Hundreds of thousands have died. Families are displaced. Children are orphaned. Muslim peacekeepers, sensing that the shattered families of Sierra Leone are ripe for conversion, are proselytizing Islam with the full weight of their official positions.

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone needs help. The children need education and the Good News of the Gospel to prosper. The opportunity to



supply teachers and an education for these children is there. A grant of \$84,000 will provide 35 teachers in 13 schools touching the lives and proclaiming the forgiveness found in Jesus to over 4,000 children in Sierra Leone.

#### Lutheran Bible Translators National Coworkers Training Scholarships—\$44,000

Lutheran Bible Translators provides training to national coworkers to enable them to produce literature and organize literacy classes in over 15 countries.

This grant for \$44,000 will equip national leaders with the skills they need to make God's Word available to people in their own language.



#### LWML MISSION GRANTS 2005-2007

2005-2007 Mission Goal: \$1,137,500.00 • Total Mite Goal : \$1,625,000.00  
Updated January 13, 2006

	Disbursed	Balance
Shipping Orphan Grain Train Containers to Africa and Russia	\$ 30,000.00	
Ablaze! Implementation in North America	\$100,000.00	
Responding to HIV/AIDS Among Congregations in Kenya	\$ 51,000.00	
Urban, Ethnic School Expansion—East St. Louis, IL	\$ 75,000.00	
CAME—Reaching Asian Immigrants	\$12,500.00	\$ 37,500.00
Expanding Ministries to Youth and Adults in Southwest Alaska	\$ 75,000.00	
Lutheran Blind Mission Outreach Program	\$ 32,000.00	
Lutheran Teachers in Sierra Leone	\$ 84,000.00	
LBT National Coworkers Training Scholarships	\$ 44,000.00	
Gospel Outreach and Church Planting with Childcare Ministry	\$30,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Inner City Mission and Ministry—Buffalo, NY	\$100,000.00	
Lutheran Leaders' Training Institute—Pakistan	\$ 75,000.00	PAID IN FULL
Kiswahili New Testament—Braille		\$ 54,411.00
Expansion of Mission Outreach Training—USA	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Concordia Welfare and Education Society—China		\$100,000.00
Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology—Deaconess Training		\$100,000.00
Hispanic Outreach—West Houston, TX (partial payment)		\$17,089.00

For up-to-date information, go to [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) and click "Mission"

## Seasonal Devotions

Looking for special devotions to use during this Lenten and Easter Season? You can order them from the catalog or find them on the Web site. Free program helps are at [http://www.lwml.org/catalog/program\\_helps.html](http://www.lwml.org/catalog/program_helps.html)



## Gamma Chi Delta—aka Teen LWML

Have you noticed the pages in this issue specifically designed for our younger LWML members? Check out the materials in the catalog for starting a Gamma Chi Delta LWML group in your church for teens. You can access these on the Web site or by calling the LWML Office at 1-800-252-LWML (5965).



## Free Downloads are Here!

NEW! Look for the symbol above (see also page 33) to find free downloads in this and future *Quarterlies*. This issue: *Listen to verses from Psalm 141 set to music!* Go to [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org), find the *Quarterly* button, and click on the link to Psalm 141. Download it to your personal music system!  
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## Together in Prayer

Pray with the LWML every Monday at noon.



## New Mite Box™ Labels

Take your Mite Box™ with you in convenient containers with new wrappings. Now there are wrappers for a **16 oz. frosting can or a 10 oz. baking powder can** in addition to the 1.75 oz. Pringles® container wrapper. Labels can be downloaded directly from the LWML Web site at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org). Go to the Catalog button, then click on Mission and Mite Giving. Follow the directions given at the site, and you will have a mite container that can be used anywhere. *Be creative.*

**NEW!**

## Coming Events for 2006

March 8–12, 2006—Mission-Ministry Vision Consultant Training in St. Louis, MO

March 15–19, 2006—Executive Committee meets in Sioux Falls, SD

April through October—District Conventions are held

## In the Next Issue

Interview with Terry Kieschnick  
Life: Beyond Cruise Control  
Extreme Makeover! (Bible Study)  
Pages for young women and teens

## Contacting your LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE Officers

### President

Linda Reiser  
2209 Viking Road  
Grand Island, NE 68803  
[lwmlpres@lwml.org](mailto:lwmlpres@lwml.org)

### Vice President of Christian Life

Vivian Ernst  
3319 Keystone Avenue  
Ida Grove, IA 51445

### Vice President of Communication

Sandra Hardies  
9913 Santa Fe Trail  
Canadian Lakes, MI 49346

### Vice President of Gospel Outreach

Janis McDaniels  
419-F E. Montcastle Drive  
Greensboro, NC 27406

### Vice President of Human Care

Kaye Cairns  
11500 E. Iliff Avenue  
Aurora, CO 80014

### Vice President of Servant Resources

Marguerite Christman  
808 Timber Ridge Road  
Midwest City, OK 73130

### PR Director

Beverly England  
8350 E. 14th St  
Tulsa, OK 74112-7918

## LWML MATERIALS

**LWML Office • P.O. Box 411993  
St. Louis, MO 63141-1993**  
Norine Stumpf, Business Administrator  
OFFICE (800) 252-LWML (5965)  
TDD/TTY through Missouri Relay  
(800) 735-2966  
FAX (314) 268-1532  
[lwml@lwml.org](mailto:lwml@lwml.org)



*From the Editor,  
continued from front inside cover*

So, where are your *Quarterlies*? In members' hands only? Keeping your *Quarterly* in your Bible or purse is fine, but if you do that, please consider calling the LWML Office to purchase a few extra single copies of this issue to give away. Let teens and young women know that the *Quarterly* now has sections designed especially for them!

Leave a few extra magazines out where women of all ages can discover them for the first time and "get caught"—hooked!—on the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*.

*Nancy* Nancy Graf Peters  
Editor-in-Chief

## Lutheran Woman's Quarterly

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Nancy Graf Peters  
103 Buckingham Ave  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-1420  
[editor@lwml.org](mailto:editor@lwml.org)

**Christian Living Editor**  
Adriane Dorr  
521 450th St  
Marcus, IA 51035-7131

**Features Editor**  
Beth Foreman  
4178 Beus Dr  
Ogden, UT 84403-3210

**News Editor**  
Shari Miller  
3827 Chokecherry  
E. Helena, MT 59635-3404

**Graphic Designer**  
Lois Hudak  
216 E. Schaumburg Rd  
Schaumburg, IL 60194-3517