



Hi-Lites

A monthly newsletter of the South Dakota LWML

April 2009

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Brian Lemcke
Pastoral Counselor

“Pastor, how can I get *my* pastor more involved in LWML?” “Pastor, what can we do to help *our* pastor?” There can be many reasons for pastors not attending meetings that are optional for them. They may be too busy; they might have another meeting at the time your group meets; they may not see it as important in their ministry; they might not have been asked to attend. I have heard these questions countless times in the past couple years since becoming an LWML district counselor. And I struggle with how to answer them. But no more.

You see, I was at one of our LWML meetings last month and was given the answer to these questions. It was a normal meeting and everything was going along normally. The secretary’s report was given; the treasurer’s report was given; correspondence was read; the devotion was given by one of the members. I was getting ready to give my Bible Study following the devotion when she began to pray.

And then it happened—she was praying for me! My eyes welled up with tears (and they still do as I think about this) as she said something like “keep our pastor safe in your hands. Give him wisdom and understanding to take care of his congregations [I serve three]. Be with his family and guide them in their ways.” Now that’s not a direct quote, but you get the idea.

Paul wrote to the church in Colossae, “Masters [or people in charge], provide your slaves [or servants] with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven. Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should” (Colossians 4:1-4). When Jesus was about to be arrested in the garden and was to be executed for our sins he thought of His disciples first as He prayed for them!

If you want your pastor to be involved in LWML or any other activity in your church, the best thing you can do is pray for him! In this way, you know that God will hear your prayers, as He promises to hear the prayers of all believers, and will do in your pastor what is good in His sight. You never know, he might just start coming to your

meetings and praying for you, too! I pray for the LWML each and every day and it is one of my joys as a pastor and counselor.

May God bless the LWML and your individual groups as we pray for one another.

Christian Life

Today as I write, it is January 6 and you will read this a few months later. While I was reading Isaiah 7 and 8 this morning, it struck me as very fitting for our times as well as when King Ahaz and the people of Judah were so worried about what would happen to them. So how is 2009 going for you? Who are you listening to? Who do you trust? If we believed all that the media predicted about gloom and doom at the end of 2008, we would probably just cower in bed! Or like King Ahaz who didn’t listen to God’s Word through Isaiah, try every method we could think of to “do it our way”. Thankfully, as women of God, we listen to and heed God’s Word and promises. God told Isaiah to tell the people, “If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.” (Isa.7:9) Jesus says, follow me, and receive life! No matter what happens in 2009, we know Jesus, our Immanuel, God with us, is by our side and we have nothing to fear.

Lutheran Women in Mission are as President Jan Wendorf says to be, “in the Word, of the Word and walking daily with our Lord”! Are you looking for a good guide for Bible reading? I recommend the *Today’s Light* magazine from CPH. Try it, you will be blessed!

Looking for resources for yourself or your society to grow in the Word? The LWML catalog has numerous resources to choose from which have been tried and tested. Come to the LWML Store at the district retreat in Mitchell, April 17-18 and find many resources and gifts. Or, visit the SD LWML web page at <http://www.sdlwml.org> The purpose of the Christian Life Committee is to encourage, equip and nurture you to be strong in the Lord, steadfast in the Word and willing to serve the Lord with gladness.

Janell McKinstry, VP of Christian Life, Christian Life Committee and Christian Resources Committee. Email me: janellm@dishmail.net or call me: 605-787-4654 for help.

SERVING IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Susan Buxcel

After spending four days in Santa Domingo, our 8 member team of the South Dakota LWML sponsored mission trip to the Dominican Republic traveled to the northern part of the island to the small town of Palmar Arriba.

As Pastor Walter Ries, our missionary host, drove us into the village of 3,000 residents, the people along the road waved and shouted their greetings to us when they recognized that Walter was the driver. He is loved and respected by everyone here. Driving past the small houses of Palmar Arriba, we were amazed at the poor conditions in this village. Our van turned and in front of us was an iron gate hiding a tidy white two story building which was the church and school.

When the church doors opened the children came and they were eager to help. They swept the floors, set up chairs, and helped to get the crafts ready for their Bible time. When Walter picked up his guitar, the children rushed to be with him to sing praise songs. It was such a joy to see a shepherd and his lambs praising God.

Our evening lessons began on communication, partnership, conflict, and intimacy in marriage. We shared with these Christians the stories of Bible men and women and the early church. More people came each night. Their smiles and their eagerness to learn gave us so much joy.

What was so amazing about this mission trip was that these new Christians welcomed us into their homes, shared their faith, were thankful for our presentations, and cared for us! What a joy it has been to serve with MOST ministries. The Lord's gift to our team were Rev. Walter Ries and Danelle Putnam, who truly are servants in sharing God's Word and building His church in the Dominican Republic.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART – SD DISTRICT RETREAT APRIL 17 & 18, 2009 RAMADA INN, MITCHELL, SD

At the SD District LWML Retreat we will be receiving "Gifts from the Heart" for the food pantry and quilts for the Orphan Grain Train. More information will be in the call letter to your society.

Portland Convention

LOOK! Look at the calendar! Only two months until we hear the majestic music of the opening service at the 2009 LWML convention in Portland, until the beautiful district banners triumphantly enter the assembly hall, and until we join with thousands of our LWML sisters in prayer and praise to *Look to the Hills... God Reigns*.

Have you made your travel plans? Now is the time to finalize your plans to be part of the LWML convention June 25-28, 2009! The registration deadline is mid-May. You don't want to miss strolling through Evergreen Park, the exhibit area, or helping at the Servant Connection. It's also time to get in shape for "Mission in Motion," the pledge walk that includes two walking trails to raise money for missions along with a low/no impact exercise option. All contributions go toward our LWML mite goal, so start obtaining those pledges now. The pledge form is available at www.lwml.org.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART – PORTLAND CONVENTION "Look To The Hills – God Reigns"

Gifts from the Heart for the Portland Convention will be limited to only **ONE** of the following items.

Health Kits which consists of comb, toothbrush, toothpaste (regular size), deodorant, bar soap, lotion and washcloth, Christian tract or Bible verse. (Plastic please-no glass or aerosol). Items should be placed in a clear plastic bag.

Art Kits consist of 16 pack crayons, 8 pack washable markers, children's scissors, 2-pencils, glue stick, watercolor paint set/brush, Christian book for children, in clear plastic bag.

Teddy Bears - These should be **new** bears with a Bible verse securely attached.

Children's Socks - Place new packages, any size, in a clear plastic, zip closure bag and enclose a Christian book tract or Bible verse.

Children's T-shirts (sizes 6x-14), respectable prints only, in a clear plastic zip closure bag with a Christian book, tract or Bible verse.

NO MONEY WILL BE ACCEPTED for *Gifts from the Heart* at the convention.

Maybe you are not attending the convention but would be willing to contribute towards the *Gifts from the Heart* for your zone delegate attendee, or a guest from your zone that might be attending. Contact them, I am sure they would appreciate your contribution.