

GET CONNECTED

TIPS AND TOOLS TO GET AND STAY CONNECTED

www.lutheranwomen.ca

Summer 2010

Judy's Jottings: Plans and Decisions

"Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord! I have fled to you for refuge! Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground" (Psalm 143:8-10)!

In the commentary *Matthew Henry Concise*, the author writes about the passage from Psalm 143 in this way: *He (David) prays that he might be enlightened with the knowledge of God's will; and this is the first work of the Spirit. A good man does not ask the way in which is the most pleasant walking, but what is the right way. Not only show me what thy will is, but teach me how to do it. Those who have the Lord for their God, have his Spirit for their Guide; they are led by the Spirit.* David begins his plans and decisions by going to God in prayer, seeking His direction. As leaders, that's where we, too, need to begin. David doesn't ask for the easy or pleasant path, but the right one.

WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

Whatever position we hold, wherever we serve—national general council, district board of directors, zone or society executive committee—this is a question we should review from time to time. As elected and appointed leaders our task is to carry out the responsibilities the members of LWMLC have entrusted to us. Following the example of Jesus, we, too, should serve with faithfulness and humility. "...who, though He was in the form of God, did not

count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:6-8).

The purpose of the LWML-Canada General Council is, according to our bylaws, to manage the business and affairs of the League. The business of the League is found in our bylaws, our mission and vision statements and our goals. The responsibilities our members have entrusted to us include:

- ★ developing resources to strengthen women in their walk of faith
- ★ advising, encouraging and training leaders and members
- ★ administering finances, records and mission grants
- ★ researching and providing models for structure on all levels.

Leaders on each level need to be familiar with their duties and seek ways to carry them out to the best of their ability. As leaders make plans and decisions in carrying out the mission (business) of the League, our next step, then, is to provide accurate and timely information to our members.

IS THIS WHAT YOU MEANT WHEN YOU SAID?

Communication is easy; communication is challenging; communication is, at times, difficult! As a child, did you ever play the telephone game? Everyone sat in a circle, the first person whispered

something, perhaps "I like to eat ice cream," to the next person, who whispered to the next, until it came to the last one who said out loud, "I can't be hiking". ☺

There are, in every organization, two methods of relating information—official communication and unofficial communication. Both are useful and needed, but accuracy is needed in both. In situations of uncertainty it's good to ask, "Is this what you meant," OR "this is what I think you're saying," before whispering in the next person's ear. ☺

Examples from LWML-Canada

Example 1

- ★ **Misunderstanding:** Prayer Services were no longer being produced—some thought zones and societies were, therefore, not being encouraged to have prayer services.
- ★ **Information:** Prayer Services were very much encouraged to continue, using previous services, services from LWML (U.S.), or preparing their own with the help of their pastor or counsellor. Other resources were also prepared to help with the planning of a prayer service.

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More tips & tools at www.lutheranwomen.ca

Example 2

- ★ **Misunderstanding:** LWMLC General Council is restructuring our organization by eliminating zones.
- ★ **Information:** Zones are and will always be encouraged to continue and grow, involving more LCC women in events and fellowship. The General Council is responsible to serve our members, listen to their concerns and suggestions and, if this General Council, or president, has in any way given the impression we make decisions like this without your approval, then we apologize.

A proposal is defined in the dictionary as a suggestion or intention. That's part of the purpose of our General

Council, to put forth proposals, to encourage all levels to look at how they are operating and make suggestions for changes that will enable all of us to carry out the mission of the League. The final decision for changes in a zone lies with each zone and district. We pray that all proposals from General Council are read carefully, discussed with accuracy, and when questions arise, we simply ask you to come back to the source for answers and understanding. We're always happy to have questions and will do our best to answer quickly.

UNITY IN PURPOSE

May all the work we do together be done in a spirit of love and service.

May our Heavenly Father guide us in the direction He would have us go so that in all things we bring glory and honour to His Name. How blessed we are in knowing that those who have the Lord for their God, have His Spirit for their Guide as we carry out our responsibilities as leaders of LWML-Canada. May we continue to **Grow in God's Word, Serve God's People, Share God's Son.**

"Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding" (Romans 14:18-19).

Grace and Peace in Christ,
Judy

Summer ideas from the Christian Mission Committee

Summer is a time when we take a break from our usual activities, including LWMLC meetings. How can we stay connected to LWMLC and our mission during the summer months? Here are a few suggestions.

Grow in God's Word

There are many Bible studies and devotions available from the LWMLC Resource Centre. I would recommend *Vacation Inspirations: devotional readings to refresh the soul* or *Day by Day He Restores my Soul* for summer devotions. *Now What?* is a devotion booklet designed for high school graduates, a great gift idea, especially from your society to all the grade 12 graduates in your congregation.

Take advantage of the extra daylight hours and the beauty of your garden or your favourite park for a

special time with your Father—He will be delighted to meet you there!

Serve God's people

Many organizations that depend on volunteers need extra help during the summer months. Take a few hours to serve at the local shelter or food bank. Spend some time visiting with those who may appreciate someone to take them for a walk or to the local ice cream stand!

Share God's Son

Our mission grants are an avenue for us to share Christ with people across Canada and the world. Remember to continue to pray for the projects our grants support and continue to collect your mites over the summer months.

The mite holder made from Tetley

Tea® or Pringles® containers fit into the cup holder of your car. When going through the drive-through put your change in your "travelling" mite container. Did you spot 10 red cars? Put 10 cents into your mite container. The first person who says "are we there yet?" puts a Loonie into the container. Use your imagination. You will be surprised how quickly the mites add up.

Enjoy your summer as you continue to look for ways to shine for HIM!

"Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labour in vain" (Philippians 2:15b-16).

GRANTS

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News and information

Seminar will focus on growing leaders

Work has begun on a seminar for leaders. Planning committee members Doreen Dotzler, Shirley Fast, Pauline Huth and Linda Ritaller met at Zion Lutheran, Surrey, B.C. with league president, Judy Grande, January 14-16, 2010. "Chosen Servants... Shine Like Stars" based on Isaiah 41:9b-10 was selected as the theme. The purpose of the seminar is to equip and encourage women to be comfortable and competent in using their God-given gifts to lead in the way God has called them.

Seminar to provide help in making God-pleasing decisions

LWML-Canada has also begun planning a second seminar to be available in 2011, titled "Good Lord, What Do I Do?" and subtitled "God's Direction - Your Decisions." Planning committee members Sandra Schaeffer (chair), Sharon Kentner, Patti Kreuzweiser and Gail Mitchell have chosen the scripture passage Proverbs 3:5-6 as the basis for the seminar. Through God's Word women are empowered for God-pleasing decision-making, enabled to trust God in all circumstances and equipped to support others.

Lutheran women on Facebook

At the General Council meeting in March, it was agreed to initiate meaningful conversation among Lutheran women by establishing a presence on Facebook. An invitation was issued to women of LCC seeking those with an interest in helping touch the lives of women with God's love through Facebook. Several responses have been received. Additional help would be welcome. Many hands make light work. Send Marion Hollinger an e-mail (vpcommunication@lutheranwomen.ca). The potential is only limited by the size of the Internet! Thanks for considering it.

LWML-Canada convention: date, theme, location set

The General Council of LWML-Canada has chosen "Hold fast to the Word," based on 1 Corinthians 15:2, as the theme of the next national convention to be held July 5-8, 2012 in Kelowna, B.C.

Look for new products at the LWMLC Mobile Store at your convention

A number of new booklets and other items were introduced at the convention in Ottawa in 2009. If you weren't able to be there, you can check them out at your district convention. All are listed in the catalogue available online at www.lutheranwomen.ca or by mail from the LWML-Canada Resource Centre (address page 2).

New items continue to be added. At the time of this printing orders have been placed for small booklights, new key tags, bookmarks that double as rulers, and a unique mug and spoon.

Change to mission grant approved

Rev. Leonardo Neitzel, Assistant to the President, Lutheran Church-Canada, brought information to the LWML-Canada General Council's March meeting that Sukunya, a Thailand women evangelist, is no longer able to continue with this ministry. A young man, with the support of his wife, will work with Aporn and carry on the work which we support with one of our mission grants. While this change is minor, in that the work will still be done but not by one of those originally named, approval of the General Council, as your representative, was required.

Communication Partners

About half of our LWMLC societies have named a Communication Partner. Information and a copy of the form is included with this mailing. Please return it as soon as possible.

COMMUNICATION

Tapestry renewals and subscriptions

If your society missed the deadline, please send in your renewals as soon as you can.

If you did not receive a form, contact our data manager, Darla Hennig, at hennigmd@telus.net or 1-780-450-4103.

Keeping in touch with the president

I encourage and appreciate your questions, comments or suggestions, as society leaders, via email, phone calls or letters. I can then take these to our LWMLC General Council for further discussion.

I've also try to set up informal meetings with societies and zones when I travel for LWMLC. I appreciate those who have helped me make this happen and I enjoy meeting with small groups of members just to chat.

I've already had the privilege of attending the Laurentian District convention and meeting many old friends and making new friends. In June and July I will attend the conventions of the Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan and Alberta-British Columbia Districts. This provides me time to visit with you on a one-to-one basis and hear about what's happening at the grassroots of our league—or, as I like to put it, the place where we see hearts, hands and voices carrying out the mission of our league. Please take a minute to say "hi" at your convention and don't hesitate to ask questions, tell me ways in which you see your General Council could be of assistance to you. Most of all, let me know how your society is doing and how you've found new ways to remain active and faithful in fulfilling our mission.

Grow in God's Grace, Serve God's People and Share God's Son.

*Grace and Peace in Christ,
Judy*

Getting the most from your district convention

You are the convention delegate

You have been selected to serve as a delegate to your district's LWML-Canada convention. You have been given the privilege and responsibility to vote for mission grants and new officers, and the opportunity to enrich your personal and spiritual growth.

The following tips will help you plan to be a successful delegate and to enjoy attending the convention.

- Read the convention manual. Study, as soon as possible, the sessions, speakers and social functions. You should be informed about the convention agenda.
- Study the mission grant proposals and all the available information with your society. You should know their feelings about projects because you are representing them.
- Study the slate of officers. Evaluate the candidates' experience and backgrounds and ask the Lord for

guidance. You will help decide the leaders for the next triennium.

- Plan to circulate at the convention and meet new people. Use mealtimes as an opportunity to share the joys and frustrations of your society's activities with new acquaintances. Gather ideas your society might try.
- Plan to be in your delegate's seat five minutes before the sessions are scheduled to begin. This will provide time to focus on the upcoming business.
- Plan to attend all sessions. You will not want to miss an opportunity to decide on an important business matter.
- Spend time in prayer every morning before you begin the day's busy schedule. Private devotions will bring the day into the proper perspective.

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

- Plan your convention report during the convention. Plan how and what you will share with your society when you return home.
- Give thanks and glory to God, for He enabled you to be an ambassador for Him and LWML-Canada. Renew your commitment to be "Called to Serve."

From the CD of program resources "A to Z, Program Planning Made Easy" available from the LWML-Canada Resource Centre (see contact information on page 2).

Who, me? I can't be a leader! Excuses, excuses! We all have them. We all use them.

Moses had a long list of excuses when God called him to lead the captive children of Israel. In a rough paraphrase, Moses said, "Remember, God, I tried defending your people before, but I got into trouble for my effort and they didn't appreciate it. My palace manners are long forgotten. I've been doing servant jobs, tending sheep and trying to survive in a desert. I'm old and have family responsibilities. And if that isn't reason enough, I can't talk well; I have a speech problem."

No, Moses did not step into his role as leader eagerly or quickly, despite the spectacular burning bush and God's miraculous power. He didn't even want to consider the job. Exodus 4:13 condenses his response for us: And Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it."

His excuses have a familiar sound. We've all used them. Our lists might include: I've spent my time serving on committees. They didn't appreciate all my work. I don't feel comfortable getting up in front of groups. My knowledge is limited. Others have better ideas. My responsibilities are many. I am much too old.

Highlights from the Laurentian District convention

The Laurentian District met in convention at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Ottawa, April 30 and May 1 under the theme: "Reach Out." Following are things that made an impression on Rena Detlefsen, a member of the district and a member of LWML-Canada's Member Development Committee.

- From Pastor Natzke's Bible study: "The most important truth Jesus taught was to love your neighbour as yourself and to love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul and mind. As a result, caring for our neighbour with Jesus' love should be our first priority."

- From Rev. Roland Syens' presentations:

"People won't care what we have to say about God and Jesus unless they know that we care for them."

"Witnessing is a matter of

sharing stories. We listen to our neighbour's story, then share ours, and then Jesus' story."

"Jesus changed the Samaritan woman's perspective so much that she ran back to her town, forgetting her water jug at the well. Jesus can change our priorities, too, especially about what is important in this world and for eternity."

- Mission Grants selected (\$14,500):
1) Reproducible Sunday school materials for Atlantic Canada, \$1,500; 2) Grants for students becoming full-time LCC workers, \$3,000; 3) Pastoral visitation fund in Atlantic Canada, \$4,000; 4) East District Mission Opportunities Fund, \$2,000; 5) Resources for Haitian church workers, \$2,500; 6) Summer preaching station, Prince Edward Island, \$1,500.

It's important to note that all of Moses excuses were real. He did not imagine them.

Thank God, the story of Moses is not about his excuses; it's about what the mighty God, Jehovah, could do through him.

Just as God had plans for Moses, so God has plans for our lives. He desires to use us, despite our excuses. God does not care about our excuses, real or imagined. He knows them. He wants to overcome them.

"My grace is sufficient for you," He reassured St. Paul, and He reassures

us, "for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me" (2 Corinthians 12:9). What a powerful reminder! Our imperfections showcase God's abilities. It isn't about us; it is about what He can and will accomplish through us by His Holy Spirit.

We never know when God may speak from the neighbourhood burning bush. Like Moses, we may be tempted to say, "Let someone else lead, Lord. I'll just follow along." Seeing ourselves in a leadership role

may be difficult. Just thinking about it may make us uncomfortable.

Could it be that the Lord is speaking to your heart right now? Could He be calling you? "Joan, Mary, Miriam, Jo Ann! Take off your shoes. I have a job for you, only you, to do. You follow Me and then others will follow your Leader."

Dear Lord, give us faith and courage to respond when You call us to lead and to serve. Help us put aside our excuses and say with young Samuel, "Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening."

Let God nurture you, too, through LWMLC

What is the world to me, with all its
vaunted pleasures,
When you, and you alone, Lord Jesus
are my treasure,
You only, dearest Lord, my souls
delight shall be,
You are my peace, my rest – what is
the world to me.

Hymn 418 LW, Verse 1

When one is born and raised in a loving Christian family, it is very easy to become blasé about continuing one's own spiritual growth. While raising my family, I became concerned about our children's Christian training—baptism, church attendance and Sunday school, then confirmation. Somehow nurturing my own growth became secondary. It took one kind, concerned lady many months of inviting me to Ladies Aid meetings before I finally agreed to go and see what they were doing besides serving lunches and catering to different functions. When the Lutheran Women's Missionary League

came to my congregation there was even more emphasis on Bible study and nurturing others.

Great friendships are established through attending meetings, conventions and working together with others. When trials and tribulations come into our lives such as illness or death of a loved one, that's when one really trusts and depends on God's promises, as we pray for Him to give us that "peace that passes all understanding." Why, then, is it so easy to neglect prayer when things are going well? I call it my sinful human nature and I know the Lord will forgive me when once again I'm calling on Him for help. It is reassuring to meet with others at LWMLC and know that I am not alone. One person's mites can do little but added to others, many mission grant projects can be completed. Through these mission grants we try to reach others to tell them the Good News of the risen Saviour.

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

For myself only through prayer and complete reliance on God's promises have I been able to have a peaceful heart. May the Lord bless you as you continue to grow through Bible study at LWMLC meetings and working with other members.

*Inez Herman, Faith LWMLC,
Middle Lake, Sask.*

CLWR closes "Four Corners" program

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) will take a new course for alternative trade programming, replacing the "Four Corners" operation. The new direction will see CLWR enter into an alliance with Ten Thousand Villages. This will be the channel through which CLWR supporters can continue to support alternatively traded products.

While sales of Four Corners product have grown, financial viability has been impossible. A significant annual subsidy has been required in each year of operation to offset losses.

The "Four Corners" program was closed to protect the viability of CLWR's core programming such as community development, emergency and disaster relief, refugee resettlement and commodities such as quilts, kits, soap, etc.

LWML-Canada CALENDAR – 2010

*June 10-12: Ontario District
convention, Sarnia, Ont.*

*June 11-13: Manitoba &
Saskatchewan District convention,
Moose Jaw, Sask.,*

*July 8-10: Alberta-British Columbia
District convention, Kelowna, B.C.*

*September 16-17: Ontario Sonset District
convention, Dryden, Ont.,*

October 3: LWML-Canada Sunday

The following information replaces the separate mailing usually sent regarding
LWML–Canada Sunday 2010.

Below and on the next page is a copy of the information sent separately to your pastor about LWML–Canada Sunday 2010. These provide the basic information you need so we won't repeat it here.

Please note that materials will be ready for download or ordering by June 1. While pastors and church office secretaries prefer the digital versions of things when preparing bulletins and services, if you have need for all or some of the material

*LWML–Canada Sunday
October 3, 2010
Shine Like Stars –
in your community of faith*



discover what is available to them through LWMLC. We also encourage you to order some items to give away that keep other women aware of LWMLC. As this is being written, some things are still under consideration.

as hard copy, please don't hesitate to order it indicating specifically the items you want.

We know many societies have a display on LWML–Canada Sunday. We encourage you to order some of our materials so that others can

Details should be available by June 1. After that date we encourage you to check with the Resource Centre for information (contact details on page 2). It will also be posted online at www.lutheranwomen.ca/inspiration/lwmlsunday.htm.

Marion, Vice-President, Communication

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COPY OF LETTER SENT SEPARATELY TO PASTORS

Dear Pastor,

Previously our information about LWML–Canada Sunday has been sent to pastors in a mailing to society presidents and associate members. Unfortunately that sometimes meant you didn't receive anything until August or September. To be more timely we have decided to send our message to you directly. See the enclosure. A mailing will also be going out to society presidents.

Please note:

- 1) While LWML–Canada Sunday is officially set for the first Sunday in October, it may certainly be celebrated on another Sunday.
- 2) We know that pastors and congregations will celebrate LWML–Canada Sunday in different ways. We, therefore, try to provide a variety of materials from which to choose. You may wish to use most of it or you may decide to use only the video before

worship and/or the bulletin insert and incorporate LWML–Canada into the prayers. Either choice or anything in between would be appreciated.

- 3) If you have comments or concerns related to LWML–Canada Sunday or any other activity of the League, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Marion

Vice-President, Communication

FRONT OF INSERT TO PASTORS

It's time
to say
THANKS!

- THANKS to God and the Church from LWML–Canada for the blessings given to this auxiliary organization for women.
- THANKS to God for the blessings He gives to the Church through LWML–Canada
- In mission to congregations through the provision of resources and opportunities for women of the Church to grow in the Word, and through encouraging them as they seek to live out their faith
- In mission to congregations through service in congregational life: sharing with those in need, touching the lives of the lonely or hurting, providing leadership and organizing skills on boards and committees, and more
- In mission to Lutheran Church–Canada and its districts through the funding of mission grants from mites given by the members of LWML–Canada, over and above first-fruits giving.



...in your community of faith

details on reverse

LWML–Canada SUNDAY – using the materials

This Sunday, appointed by Lutheran Church–Canada, is set aside to let LWML–Canada members and their congregation learn more about LWML–Canada, how it encourages women to spend time in God’s Word and how it supports the mission of our church both locally and throughout the world. Following are some ideas you may use to develop your plans.

1. Use of LWML–Canada Sunday materials

- Work with your pastor (and worship team if you have one) to decide how to use the worship service – all or parts.
- Sermon: Your pastor may want to use the sermon or he may choose to use his own.
- Children’s message: Could be presented in the service (an option would be to use it at the opening of the Sunday school session).
- Litany for LWML–Canada mission grants: Use of this litany not only allows the congregation to pray for God’s blessings on these projects but enables them to see how LWML–Canada supports the mission

of LCC. It is provided in two ways: incorporated into the service or separately for those who don’t use the service outline.

- Bulletin inserts: A list of current national mission grants will be provided with space to add your district grants. A second insert will feature some of the resources from LWML–Canada that other women would find useful.
- ### 2. How LWML–Canada members might be involved (determined by the policies of congregation)
- Read parts of the service.
 - Greet people as they arrive.
 - Serve as ushers.
 - Give the children’s message.
 - Be present at display tables to answer questions.
 - Organize a service activity as a way of involving everyone in mission.
- ### 3. Handouts – as you greet everyone before Divine Service, you might hand out a packet containing all or some of the following. Customize the packet to suit your congregation.
- “Did you know that LWMLC is...”: available with this year’s materials.

- List of mission projects supported by grants from our mites – both District and LWML–Canada.
- Program of your society’s monthly activities.
- Inexpensive LWML–Canada resources. New since the convention in Ottawa are bookmarks, key tags and mini booklights. And the Shine Like Stars handout with a Gospel message will once again be available.
- A back issue of *Tapestry*. [If you don’t have any to share you can order back issues for this purpose at a cost of \$.75 each plus shipping and handling. Order them through the LWML–Canada Financial Secretary, Gloria Meyer, Box 658, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0, financialsec@lutheranwomen.ca, 905-468-4002. Cheque payable to LWML–Canada.] Follow up with the recipients later, inviting them to subscribe. New subscriptions can be added at any time. The cost will depend on how many issues are left in the subscription year.

4. Displays

- Food always attracts...some serve coffee and muffins or cookies... or serve lunch.
- Use this opportunity to display

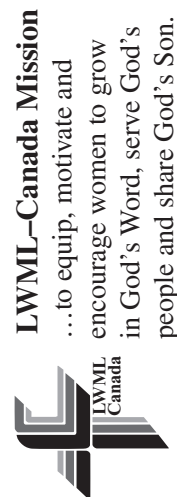
BACK OF INSERT TO PASTORS

Choose...

- what you believe will fit Divine Service in your congregation
- the format you wish to use and how you will receive it
- **download** digital files from www.lutheranwomen.ca/inspiration/lwmlsunday.htm
- receive digital files by **e-mail** from resourcecentre@lutheranwomen.ca
- Order a **hard copy** from 1-888-596-5226 free of charge

All materials will be available by June 1, 2010.

- Activity to involve the congregation in acts of service
- Litany for LWML–Canada mission grants
- Short video about LWML–Canada (WMV, MP4 or DVD format)
- Children’s Message
- Bulletin insert and bulletin cover
- Music for LWML–Canada hymns
- Logos
- Divine Service outline (with or without Holy Communion) based on the lessons for the first Sunday in October
- Sermon suggestion



All materials have been through doctrinal review. Problems with files? Contact Marion at vpcommunications@lutheranwomen.ca.

LWML-Canada resources – Bible studies, devotions, *Tapestry*, Mite Boxes, etc. Have someone at display to explain.

- Consider a small consignment of materials to sell. Shipping and handling costs for you to receive the consignment could be covered by your society and if you sell it all there will be no return postage costs for you to pay.

- One group sets up a display with several stations that show activities the local society undertakes. Someone at each display station talks about that particular activity and invites visitors to the display to take part with your society in this activity if they are interested.

- Another society has a potluck Fall fowl luncheon, selling tickets with proceeds supporting local mission projects. They have displays, skits and/or speakers related to LWMLC mission work. Sometimes they have used this Sunday for a Mission-Fest.

- A third society has a pie-fest

after the service where there display is highlighted.

5. Other Activity Ideas

- You might enlarge the bulletin cover design and turn it into a banner...made of fabric or of paper, depending on how long you want it to last.

- Show Sunday school students what your group does to support medical missions, CLWR, the Canadian Bible Society and, of course, Lutheran Church-Canada missions.

- Include a Mite Offering Envelope in each bulletin. During announcements invite everyone to put their loose change into the envelope and put it in the offering plate with their regular offering. These envelopes are given to the LWMLC society to count along with their regular mites. Report to the congregation on the amount collected, thanking them for their support.

- Offer a mite box to everyone in the congregation. – Collect once a

month at a service and give a monthly update or information on missions supported.

Give a gift of kindness

The theme of *Tapestry*, Fall 2010, will focus on two closely related fruit of the Spirit, kindness and gentleness. It will support an activity we hope to incorporate into LWMLC Sunday.

Rather than “assigning” a specific service to members of the congregation you might consider inviting them to each do at least one specific act of kindness for someone else each day for a week.

Questions about LWMLC Sunday materials?

Contact Marion at 1-306-343-7396 or vpcommunication@lutheranwomen.ca.

If your congregation provides receipts for mites and other donations, this information is for you

Congregations, as registered non-profit organizations, must meet the requirements of the Canadian government through the Charities Directorate, Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). If these requirements are not met the charity is at risk of losing their charitable status.

The requirement with which we (LWMLC) are concerned says that to issue a tax receipt for charitable donations, the money must actually be received and deposited by the charity who issues the receipt to the individual donor.

We have heard of cases where a society receives the donations and simply gives a list of names and amounts to the congregation's treasurer to include on the receipt from the congregation. In another case the donations are received, recorded and deposited into the

society bank account. The treasurer then writes a cheque for the total amount and gives it, along with a list, to the congregation. After it is deposited and recorded by the congregation, the funds are returned to the society. While the second case comes closer to the spirit of what CRA requires, when audited by CRA it could be questioned.

The process that would meet CRA requirements, would be for donations to LWMLC be made through the Sunday offering plate. Receipts could then legitimately be written and the designated amounts could be turned over to the society for appropriate handling (forwarding mites, etc.)

There are several drawbacks to this. Coins would likely have to be turned into cheques before they are given. It would eliminate the collecting and dedicating of mites

TREASURER

and offerings at society gatherings, although the cheque from the church could be dedicated at a society meeting. And it could be a challenge to keep track of how much comes in for mites and other specific items for which donations are gathered. On the positive side, it could be an opportunity for others to donate to LWMLC.

There are probably a number of solutions. We would recommend that your society treasurer discuss this with the congregation's treasurer and come up with a solution that fits your congregation as well as meets the requirements of CRA.

Important note: There are some monies gathered by societies, for example subscriptions for *Tapestry*, that do not qualify as charitable donations and cannot be receipted.

LWML-Canada General Council