

We Care... in time for Christmas

Christmas is coming and our thoughts go out to those who are less fortunate than us. We want to give gifts to others because we have been blessed with the best gift of all. Jesus, God's only begotten Son, was given to us all by a loving Heavenly Father.



In the past, some of you and your society may have filled Christmas shoe boxes for Samaritan Purse, started by Franklin Graham, which are sent to children around the world. We now have an opportunity to send similar Christmas Children's Kits through Canadian Lutheran World Relief. These kits will go where Lutheran agencies will distribute them. Some of our own Lutheran Church-Canada missionaries may be present to give the gifts and the Good News of the Saviour's birth.

This is how it is done. You may order the special We Care bags (Cost \$5.00) from CLWR by calling 1-800-661-2597. CLWR encourages the use of the We Care bags to ensure uniformity in the goods they supply to people in need. The We Care kits are meant to be filled with a prescribed set of goods that CLWR believes is the most effective and durable. The idea of a We Care kit reinforces this concept. Of course, the cotton bag itself was chosen for its durability and usefulness beyond its life as a We Care kit, and for the benefits to the producers of the bags in India.

Using plastic Ziploc® bags or

your own cloth bags is permissible. However, CLWR suggests that you still send \$5 for each kit to cover international shipping costs.

The CLWR Christmas Kit is a child's kit with a special toy.

- 1 toy (solid rubber/foam ball, plush toy or durable toy, not requiring batteries or assembly.
- 1 large writing pad (8X10 or 20.3X25.3 cm)
- 5 unsharpened pencils
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 ruler (12 inches/30cm)
- 1 eraser
- 1 bar of soap (new and wrapped)
- 1 toothbrush (no tooth paste)
- 1 hand towel (about 26 inches or 66 cm long)
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 small comb
- 1 pocket pack of disposable tissues

Arrange all items, except the toy, on the writing pad and place in a bag. Fold over the top of the bag and secure with masking tape. Label the package by writing "Children's Kit" on the tape. Then attach the new toy using tape, ribbon or string to the outside of the Bag.

Please follow the instructions and put only the items listed in the bag.

Send kits to Canadian Lutheran World Relief
1080 Kingsbury Ave.
Winnipeg MB R2P 1W5

Some societies send their parcels to CLWR through the kindness of Home Hardware Stores or local trucking companies, free of charge. Check in your own area for this service.

Another great idea from CLWR is Gifts from the Heart. For instance, \$60 will purchase a pair of goats which will provide milk, meat and manure. Given in pairs, the goats reproduce and keep on giving. Order a brochure or gifts on line at www.clwr.org or call 1-800-661-2597.

Some family members prefer to give inexpensive home-made gifts to each other and then choose to support a project in another country. For example, you can connect with Martin and Joan Weber of LBT in Cameroon, or the mission work of Rev. Ted Krey from Windsor, Ont. working in Venezuela, or Rev. Joseph Alfazema in Mozambique. They would know of the needs of families in those countries.

*Ardith Pollex
VP, Christian Mission*

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Jesus said: "You feed them"

With those words, Jesus told His disciples what they were capable of doing. "Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish" (Matthew 14:15-17). The disciples looked only at what they had, not yet understanding how God would work through them to accomplish His purpose.

As we read the rest of the account of the feeding of the five thousand, we see Jesus' miracle as He turns the few loaves and fish into more than enough to feed the multitude: "He looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowd. And they all ate and were satisfied" (Matthew 14:19b-20a). With faith and trust, the disciples could have done the same thing, for that's how God promises to work through mankind. Jesus continues to teach us this in Matthew 17:20 "For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain

of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

Noah was told, "You build an ark", Moses heard the words, "You save my people" and David, as a child learned, "You will be King". Each of these leaders of the past fulfilled what God had told them to do as He gave them power, wisdom, ability and most of all, faith in Him. After Jesus' resurrection He again told Peter, "You feed them... feed my lambs, feed my sheep". As we follow Peter through the rest of his life on earth we see his faith and witness as he fed people the message of salvation through Christ.

As leaders in Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada, there are times when we forget that the gifts and power we've been given can accomplish great things as God works through us. In His Word He gives us examples of men and women of faith carrying out His work here on earth, encouraging us to do the same. "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

Satan puts stumbling blocks in our way – discouragement, exhaustion, resentment, insecurity and more – each of these can prevent us from serving God, but Christ was victorious over Satan and promises that, as we go to Him, we receive forgiveness and strength to carry on.

What have you been called to do? Talk to a friend or neighbour about Christ; go on a mission trip; show hospitality to a new family; mentor a young person; make shut-in or hospital visits; help at the soup kitchen; be a leader in LWMLC? As we learn in the parable of the talents, it doesn't matter how much we've been given, it matters what we do with it. Jesus says to each of us, "You feed them" and then blesses us with the desire, the energy, the gifts and wisdom to fulfill the task.

Whatever our task, may we be active in Christian Mission as we "Shine Like Stars" telling the world the message of salvation and bringing honour and glory to our Triune God.

*Grace and Peace in Christ,
Judy Grande,
President, LWML-Canada*

Encourage

- your societies and/or individuals to write the stories of LWMLC-past. Specify *Stories* when mailing to Renate Bishopp, 2806 Ferguson Ave, Saskatoon, SK S7J 1N9, or preferably, e-mail to getconnected@lutheranwomen.ca.
- women in congregations or societies to join together in prayer Mondays at noon. This is also a good time to use the posted prayer calendars. Monthly prayers are posted on our web site as well.

Leadership training

A task force is being established. They will be charged with planning a leadership training event for some time in the next triennium. If you know of someone in your society who might serve on such a task force, please send her name, contact information and some details regarding her qualifications for this particular task to LWML-Canada president, Judy Grande, at #3 17968 56A Avenue, Surrey, BC, V3S 5H4, or phone 604-576-6202, e-mail jkgrande@telus.net by January 30, 2009.

Payment by credit card

LWML-Canada can now accept payments by Visa or MasterCard.

Mites for 2006-2009 grants

Society treasurers are asked to note that the fiscal end of the triennium is March 31, 2009. For any mites to be included in this triennium they must be sent early enough for them to make their way through the zone financial officer (in districts where this is done) and the district financial secretary/treasurer to the LWML-Canada financial secretary by that date.

Lutheran Women In Prayer

Family Devotions

Earlier in the Triennium, we have looked at teaching children and teens to pray. Now we will look briefly at the whole family praying together during the few special minutes that are set aside for family devotions.

“Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates” (Deut. 6:4-9).

As parents, guardians, or grandparents, God has given us the awesome task of teaching our children about Him. This is not an idea, or a suggestion. As we read in Deuteronomy, it is a command. God wants us to love Him with our whole being. It is easy to give God a portion of our lives – such as on Sunday morning in church, but He wants to encompass our whole family life. Our loving Lord wants us to teach and remind our children every day that He loves them so much that He died for them. They are special to Him. They are His own, baptized into His family. He desires us not only to bring our children to worship in His house, but also to teach them of His love in our homes.

What are family devotions? Webster’s dictionary defines devotion as “a religious exercise or practice other than the regular corporate worship of a congregation.” More specifically it is a special, quiet occasion when the entire family gathers for a time of studying God’s Word and praying

together. Devotion times can vary from household to household; for example for some families, a few minutes before breakfast is ideal, for others perhaps immediately after the evening meal, or before bed. Each family can individualize their devotions according to their life situation (age of children, etc.); the length may vary from 5 to 15 minutes.

What is involved in a devotion? Perhaps, a hymn is sung; or a section from a devotion book is read which focuses on a specific Bible reading (there are many books available for all ages of children, and adults in all walks of life), or a chapter from Scripture is read and then discussed, the Lord’s Prayer may be said together and then followed by individual prayers. There is no ‘correct’ or ‘incorrect’ way; the ultimate goal is that all participants grow in their knowledge about their Saviour. (A sample of family devotions is outlined on the front page of “Portals of Prayer” Devotion Booklet.)

Tips for “Family Bible Digging”

- ♦ **Read the Bible every day.** Use a child’s study Bible to encourage children to read and participate during family devotions. Bibles with pictures, for younger children, help to illustrate Bible stories. Have all members of the family take turns reading.
- ♦ **Always encourage questions.** If you do not know the answer, find out, and then give the answer at another time. No question is a silly one, and if you, as a parent, do not know the answer, that is okay. It is important for children to see their parents studying and learning as well.
- ♦ **Use Bible Study Resources.** A Bible map can help your family understand the history and geography surrounding a particular Bible story.

Use a concordance to find Bible passage dealing with the same topic you are studying (a concordance is found at the back of a study Bible). Bible dictionaries are an asset for looking up words you do not know.

♦ **Dissect Bible passages.** Look at Bible verses, and then discuss their meaning. Be careful always to read the preceding and following passages to be able to get the whole concept of the verse. Look up other passages relating to what you are reading. A concordance is helpful for this. Some Bibles will also have related texts written in the margins.

♦ **Take notes and formulate questions** from Bible verses, or Bible stories. Make a Bible trivia game and use during another devotion time.

♦ **Memorize Bible verses** (“impress them upon your hearts”). Memorization can be fun. Set words to music; create actions to go with a verse; write the Bible words on paper, cut them apart and turn the verse into a puzzle; illustrate the Bible verse; start a Bible verse with the first word, and then go around in a circle, having the next person say the following word till the verse is completed.

♦ **Help children see God in ordinary things.** As questions or situations arise, expound upon them. Discuss the miracle of a tiny seed, by the hand of the Creator, etc. Look up Bible passages to help illustrate.

♦ **Teach children about God’s forgiveness through Jesus.** Forgive them when they do something wrong and help them learn to forgive each other. This concept is alien in our secular world. So often we say, “I’m sorry”, when we do not mean it, and only say it because we got caught. Or, we say “I’m sorry, but....” Teach children to say, “Please forgive me”, when they have wronged someone.

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Get Connected! Winter 2008

As Christ forgives us, we forgive others with no *but*s attached. Read the wonderful passages of forgiveness in Psalm 103:11,12. Read Matthew 18:15-22.

Devotional prayer time

- ◆ Encourage everyone to participate.
- ◆ Read or recite written prayers together.
- ◆ Encourage sentence prayers by all members of the family. Be sure to compliment and encourage children with their prayers. Never laugh at an attempt to pray. Younger children can repeat a line after you, or say the amen while older children can form their own prayers. Encourage older children to say more than one line (age appropriate).
- ◆ Use the acronym ACTS as you pray.
A – Adoration: praise God for what He has done for you.
C – Confession: confess all your wrongdoings and ask God for forgiveness.
T – Thanks giving: thank God for....
S – Supplication: ask God for your needs and those of others.
- ◆ Keep a prayer journal. Record your prayers, and then review them at a later date. See how God has been faithful and has strengthened your family through His answers.

Family devotion ideas

- ◆ Together make a baptismal banner for each child. Tell them about their baptism, and hang the banner in a visible place.
- ◆ During Advent, gather around a family advent wreath. As a new candle is lit each week, discuss preparing for the birth of the Christ Child. Have children take turns lighting and extinguishing candles.
- ◆ Make an advent banner, and put Christian symbols in each pocket. During the devotion take a symbol out of the pocket and discuss its meaning. Opening the pockets serves as a visible and exciting countdown to Christmas.

- ◆ For Lent make a Lenten Log. (Take a small log or another piece of wood and drill six holes in it about two inches apart. The holes should be big enough to hold an average candle.) You'll need six different colour candles. Each week during Lent light a candle, until they are all lit. This is a nice countdown to Easter. Again, have the children take turns lighting and extinguishing the candle. This is an opportunity to teach the waiting and penitential time of the Lenten period. Keep all the candles lit during Easter week.

Candle colours could be:

- Week 1 – Purple: symbolizing penitence, sorrow and watchfulness.
- Week 2 – Green: symbolic of new life and growth, growing in faith.
- Week 3 – Red: reminding us of Jesus' blood shed for us.
- Week 4 – Black: a reminder of our sin and the blackness of Good Friday.
- Week 5 – White: purity, our sins that have been washed away.
- Week 6 – Yellow: light, the symbol of the Son of God, sunshine, the joy of Easter.

(Candle colours are taken, in part, from a devotion by Corrine Opel, LWML.)

- ◆ Use candles to teach the Lord's Prayer. As each new petition is read and taught, light a new candle. This could be an assortment of candles in the home, or again a special candle log could be made. (You would need nine candles – one for the introduction, seven for the petitions, and one for the conclusion.)
- ◆ During the summer, have your devotion outside. Use the opportunity to teach the marvels of creation.
- ◆ If members of the family enjoy singing, have an "all-singing devotion", where each member of the family picks their favourite Christian song or hymn to sing.
- ◆ Be creative and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, together as a family.

Remember, that as a parent our most important task is to prepare our children for eternity, and the *family that prays together, stays together.*

Resources for family devotions

All are from Concordia Publishing House. Check www.canada.cph.org for Canadian pricing.

- ☐ *Little Visits with Jesus*; 4th Edition, Mary Manz Simon.
- ☐ *Bible Discovery Devotions*; Martha Larchar.
- ☐ *Hide and Seek*; Mona Gansberg Hodgson.
- ☐ *Little Visits with God*, 365 family devotions, Volume 1; various authors.
- ☐ *Little Visits with God*, 365 family devotions, volume 2; various authors.
- ☐ *Little Visits with God*, 365 family devotions, volume 3.
- ☐ *Little Visits with God*, 365 family devotions, volume 4; various authors.
- ☐ *Family Devotions for Every Day in the Church Year*; Martin Luther, Georg Kind; editor Joel R. Baseley.
- ☐ *Celebrate Jesus! At Christmas*; Kimberly Ingalls Reese.
- ☐ *Family Faith Walks*; Kelly Haack.
- ☐ *Laugh & Tickle, Hug & Pray*, active family devotions; Julaine Kammrath.
- ☐ *Ways to Grow*, 101 virtue building devotions; Eldon Weisheit.

Helga Danielson
VP, Christian Growth

Extending our hands in mission and in service

Now that summer is coming to a close and we look forward to LWMLC society meetings once again, we will also be looking for new ways to be of service to our churches and communities. The following are some suggestions which have worked in some congregations, trying to help:

The very young and their mothers

☺ Baptisms are an ideal occasion to show love and concern to new parents. Presenting the newly-baptized infant with a handmade receiving blanket and a special card is one way of showing we care. The new mom may also appreciate a basket of homemade baking on that special day.

☺ Staffing the nursery for a “Mom’s Morning Out” creates awareness of LWML–Canada as well as giving the mothers a much needed break.

☺ Becoming involved with a pro life organization that counsels pregnant women in crisis who are considering abortion, provides an alternative in a Christian setting. Holding a baby

shower once a year to help out these new moms with new or gently used baby clothes and other small items, even some toiletries for mom, would be greatly appreciated. This can involve the whole congregation.

☺ Filling small baby bottles with change over a few months and donating that amount would be helpful to the pro life organization and make the congregation aware of your outreach to the community.

The next generation

☺ Becoming a Secret Prayer Pal with the youths in your congregation by sending cards on their birthdays and special times in their lives such as confirmation or graduation. Letting them know you are praying for them shows that you care.

The old and the tired

☺ Visiting shut-ins and elderly in your congregation on Valentines’ Day, taking a red carnation and perhaps having a cup of tea with them lets them know they are not forgotten.

☺ Serving tea and cake in a nursing

home, followed by a sing-a-long would provide a welcome change.

☺ Acknowledging monthly birthdays is another way of bringing some joy into seniors’ lives who are residents in a care facility.

In your community

☺ Make up “emergency” kits for your local hospital. Receiving a comb, toothbrush and paste, some disposable razors, etc. and a Christian tract, would be much appreciated by patients who arrive in ER without their own belongings and require hospitalization.

☺ Purchasing a quantity of “Journey to the Manger Advent Calendar” sets for the children in your congregation, and perhaps other children in the community, would be a great outreach opportunity.

I am sure there are many more ways of “Serving the Lord With Gladness” which is what we in LWML–Canada strive to do to the glory of God.

*Bev Matthews
Christian Mission Committee*

Convention 2009 Shine Like Stars News

Mark your calendar for July 9-12, 2009 and plan your trip to Ottawa for the triennial convention of LWML–Canada. Members of the Laurentian District, and their friends and relatives, are already looking forward to your arrival. Information is beginning to flow. Nominations can still be made from the floor at the convention. The logo is available for download from www.lutheranwomen.ca. Watch for more information in late November and registration forms in February 2009.

Gifts of love

The gathering in of gifts of love at the 2009 convention will include items for women’s shelters and the

food bank. Our keynote speaker, Dr. David Ludwig, will be discussing the subject of abuse, which makes gifts to women’s shelters particularly appropriate.

Details will be available in the first convention mailing to be sent in November. In the meantime you are encouraged to provide similar support to these agencies in your own community. Societies, you are asked you keep a record of items delivered to local shelters and food banks. Report the numbers to your district Christian Mission VP, who will, in turn share with Ardith Pollex, VP, Christian Mission, LWML–Canada.

Mite boxes

Before long we will run out of mite boxes. The cost of printing is much greater than it was. While we are exploring alternatives, when the current supply is exhausted, we will send the mission box designed to go with the Advent calendar, “Journey to the Manger,” as a replacement. We have a good supply of these boxes on hand. They are colourful and attractive. Selling price remains at 50 cents a box.

As an alternative, a colourful design to cover a small Pringles or Tedley Tea container is available for download from www.lutheranwomen.ca/grants.htm. You may also order it from the Resource Centre.

Create a different gift this Christmas

Before we know it, the stores will be blaring Christmas carols and we'll be forced to think: what to buy for Christmas? Perhaps, this year take a different approach and try some of the following:

The gift that goes on giving

- ☼ Are you tired of trying to think what to give the ones who have "everything"? Make a gift to the alms fund of your congregation. One Bible study group still has a Christmas lunch but puts money "in the hat" for a charity and the Alms fund.
- ☼ Check with your pastor for areas where he could use some help during the Advent and Christmas seasons which can be trying for him and his family.
- ☼ Share Christmas baking and home-made jams or jellies with people living alone.
- ☼ Deliver small Poinsettias and cookies to shut-ins and single moms.
- ☼ Send Christian Christmas cards to elderly and shut-ins. [you can make your own from last year's stock but include the "real reason for the season: Jesus]
- ☼ Ask if you may address someone's Christmas cards, buy stamps, gift wrap, etc.
- ☼ Take a group caroling. If you can get some young people into this group, the better! [Check first to see if people are able to receive you!] Remember, there are twelve days in Christmas so even after the 25th of December you can still spread joy!
- ☼ Check with care homes, nursing homes, hospitals and assisted living places if they would like you to bring some cheer by visiting, doing a short skit or singing. Don't assume they are all booked!
- ☼ Visit a church member in his or her home away from home. Ask the left-behind spouse to come along and marvel at the closeness of these older people. If you are planning a

sing-a-long, check if there's a piano, bring a player and extra song sheets in large print. Encourage the rest of the residents to join, and share the cookies.

- ☼ Do you know someone who has trouble reading regular books? Offer to check out the public library's supply of large print books. Many libraries also carry books in large print in foreign languages.
- ☼ Shop to find an ethnic Christmas card. Reading "Merry Christmas" in one's native language could bring back a flood of happy childhood memories.

The gift of your time and your talents

- ☼ Heed the shelters' call for help with their Christmas dinners. Grocery stores often have their holiday pies and other baking on sale early. Buy several, and deliver in time for their celebration.
- ☼ Pick up a huge turkey and deliver to a Salvation Army or friendship kitchen.
- ☼ Perhaps you are fretting over when to have your grown children for Christmas dinner to avoid conflict with the in-laws? Let them pick their "date" with you and spread out the joy. Small children love to extend the "season". On the day you find yourself alone consider helping to serve at a shelter's Christmas dinner
- ☼ Make *Warm Feet for the Street* kits and deliver to a men's shelter.
- ☼ Send special treats to a shelter for women in crisis.
- ☼ Help "decorate" the mitten tree; supply scarves and toques. If you don't knit but sew, make some out of warm fleece. If you don't do either, check second hand stores for their supply. Shop early; this is popular!
- ☼ Ring the kettle bells for the Salvation Army at a shopping centre.
- ☼ Invite a single person to your own Christmas dinner.

The gift to your local institutions

- ☼ Look for your local charities planned activities during Advent: donate to Coats for Kids or toys for hospitals.
- ☼ Visit the children's ward at your hospital; some little ones have few visitors, especially if they have come from out of town.
- ☼ Donate small blankets to the hospitals; children love to have something of their own to cuddle.
- ☼ Donate "Christmassy" children's clothing. One hospital dresses up the children in reds and other cheery colour for Christmas.

The radically different gift

- ☼ Do you belong to a friendship Bible study group and get in a rut as to what to give that special pal? Try sending a donation in her name to LWMLC, or CLWR or any other charity dear to her heart and include it in a Christmas card.
- ☼ Take someone, who seldom has the opportunity to venture out, to a special place, a Christmas concert or play, or just to lunch. It is believed that Christmas can be the loneliest time in the year for some people, depending on their circumstances.
- ☼ Check with your local prison to see what you can do.
- ☼ Drop off a large bag of pet food at an animal shelter.
- ☼ Suggest to someone who feels she has nothing more to contribute to the Christmas joy, to **pray**—for you and your family, for her church and its pastor, for the old, the sick and the hungry. Joy comes in many different parcels. For the sake of the Christ Child may you make a difference in someone's life this Christmas!

Renate Bishopp

Spread the news! Communicating effectively!

Is there someone in your group who brings to your activities and events the question, “What should we tell others about this?” Sometimes there’s someone for whom this seems to come naturally. Sometimes we have to assign the task. It’s a great help, also, if someone always brings a camera, prepared for whatever opportunity might arise.

Who should we tell and why? First of all, we encourage ourselves through the telling. Also a key focus this triennium is to support and encourage women outside of our LWMLC groups in their walk of faith, just as we do our members. Perhaps you provide opportunities for them to be involved in Bible study or mission activities but few come. We may even provide lots of promotion, so it isn’t that they are unaware.

Continue with your promotion but, after the event, tell about what happened and, if at all possible, include pictures...in your congregation’s newsletter, on the bulletin board, or using whatever means are available in your congregation.

Following are some tips for writing about the event or activity (and use them when sending news to your district newsletter or *Tapestry*.)

- Gather information and prepare notes. Check the information for accuracy. Nothing will destroy your credibility as an organization faster than stories filled with errors.
- Ask six basic questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How?
- The most important of these should be answered in the first paragraph called the “lead.” Consider who will be reading this article. They may have only a few minutes to spend on your story before doing something

else. What do *they* want to know?

- Don’t force answers to all six questions into the opening paragraph.
- In all your news writing look for a “peg” or “hook” to hang the story on that will catch the attention of those you want to read it. (See example below.)
- Avoid using jargon, slang or insider words in your story. Try to look at the story from the standpoint of the reader.
- Construct short sentences and use clear, concise and vivid language. Use active verbs, not passive. Avoid clichés. Make use of quotes sparingly, but effectively. Produce a strong, clear headline.
- After you get past the first paragraph, vary both sentence structure and opening words.
- When there are several points to cover in the same story, try choosing the most important for the lead paragraph.
- Be objective in your writing, this is news, not an opinion piece.
- Be aware of style. While your newsletter may not have a particular style, you need to be consistent within what you are preparing. For example, are quotes from scripture put in quotation marks or italicized instead? How are names used (first and last, only last after the first reference, titles, etc.)?
- Write with a dictionary at your side, even if your software can check spelling. Have someone else (or several people) proofread the final news item. It’s amazing what we can miss because we are so familiar with it that we read what we think is there.

Sample

On (Date) twenty-five women ages five to eighty-five, members and friends of St. Paul’s LWMLC, gathered

for an always delicious potluck meal. Theme of the event was “Daughters of the King.” Peace Circle was the host of the event. A humorous sketch from “For the Love of a Mother” was used to begin the evening. During the evening a young woman talked about scrapbooking. Each participant was asked to make a crown to symbolize being a daughter of the King. The young girls present were asked to put together school kits for CLWR during the scrapbooking presentation. During a short business meeting ... (details of the meeting were shared that weren’t pertinent to readers).

Edited version

Mothers, daughters, granddaughters, friends...we’re all daughters of the King. Peace Circle of our LWMLC hosted a “Daughters of the King” event in early November for daughters ages five to eighty-five. A humorous sketch from “For the Love of a Mother” set the tone for the evening, followed by a potluck meal. Each of the princesses present needed a crown to wear so time was spent making one. One of the young women demonstrated scrapbooking while the youngest girls put together twenty-five school kits for Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Throughout the evening the group paused to remind themselves who they are by singing the chorus of “Daughters of the Heavenly Father” composed by Patti Kreutzwieser of Moose Jaw, Sask. A short business meeting ended the evening.

Marion Hollinger
Public Relations, LWML-Canada

Tapestry

- Theme of the Spring issue of *Tapestry* is “Jesus Bids us Shine.”

Here's how you, the leaders, can help to "Catch the Vision"!

We often hear societies say they are dying...literally. At the same time there are many women who don't see LWML-Canada as relevant in their lives. In an effort to help you bridge that gap LWML-Canada

established an ad hoc committee of four women, none of whom are district or national leaders, to bring a grassroots perspective. They spent three days pondering, debating, discussing and finally putting together a draft of the questions they thought needed to be asked. They are continuing to refine these questions and have established a process for carrying out the survey.

It is hoped that the majority of those who respond will do the survey online. To that end, something called a "survey monkey" is

being used. It means that a good deal of the data-tallying will be automated. A paper copy of the survey will be delivered to zone presidents during December 2008 for those who prefer.



- The online survey will be available at www.lutheranwomen.ca from January 1 to February 28, 2009. The print surveys also need to be returned by February 28.
- This survey is for individual women to respond. We need personal thoughts and opinions, not group responses. Please ask your pastor to respond as well.
- A "bookmark" is available at www.lutheranwomen.ca/survey.htm, both in grayscale and colour. You may download it and hand a

copy to each of the women of your congregation as you invite them to participate. You can use it in your congregation's newsletter as well. A copy is printed in the Winter issue of Tapestry for those who need it in print.

- Promote the survey in a variety of ways. Here are some ideas: at your Fall rally/renewal, at a ladies' Bible study, an announcement at worship or anywhere women gather – a craft night, ladies' tea, exercise class, dropping children off at school – use your creativity.

Questions? Phone or e-mail committee chair Kim Donnelly at 604-574-1535 or jkjr@telus.net. The other committee members may also be contacted: Suzanne White 519-943-1475, Elaine Stanfel 306-862-3723 or Margaret Mairs 519-542-7985.

I can't ... but, with God I can — Seminar 2008

I can't...but, with God, I can, is a seminar written by women for women. It deals with compassion and how to express it. We all know someone with a heavy heart. We long to show compassion but often we hesitate because we are uncertain what to do or say. Or sometimes we say or do something that hurts more than it helps. Through Bible study, vignettes interspersed with group discussion, drama, and practical tips, this seminar is planned to provide comfort to those who feel inadequate or have failed to provide needed compassion, and to

help participants discover how to help in an appropriate way.

Unlike previous seminars where a group of leaders presented the material in each of the districts, this one was written so that any group of women can present it in their congregation or their zone/circuit. All of the materials are available to download without cost. The required URL for doing so is available from the LWML-Canada Resource Centre, resoucecentre@lutheranwomen.ca. A CD for \$4 plus shipping and handling may also be ordered.

To compliment the workshop, "God's Windows of Hope" may be ordered on consignment from the RC for those participants who would like to purchase a copy.

While the seminar was written with women in mind, it can be adapted for others.

This seminar was prepared by the four vice-presidents of LWML-Canada, Cheryl Teeter, Helga Danielson, Ardith Pollex and Arlene Kish, with guidance from pastoral counsellor, Rev. Mark Hennig.

*Marion Hollinger
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