

PROGRAM IDEAS FOR WOMEN'S GROUPS

September 2011 – June 2012

have **FUN!**



be **FLEXIBLE!**



Purpose of Planner

The purpose of this planner is to assist the members of LWML–Canada as they equip, motivate and encourage the women of Lutheran Church–Canada to

- Grow in God’s Word
- Serve God’s people
- Share God’s Son

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 points out, there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. These seasons come and go, and often we fail to seize a moment and it disappears. Rejoice and be glad, and praise Him for His faithfulness as you work for Him through LWMLC in this opportunity and others in the future.

Using the Planner

The committees of Lutheran Women’s Missionary League–Canada have submitted ideas to share through this planner. You are encouraged to choose and adapt them to fit the women of your society and of your congregation. Or use them as a springboard for your own ideas.

Flexibility and experimenting with new ideas is the key, not just for your programs, but in how you structure your local group. For organizing ideas contact Arlene Kish, Vice-president, Member Development at vpmemberdevelopment@lutheranwomen.ca.

Mini Mite challenges are included in this planner to encourage individuals to donate extra money toward our mission goals. The idea is to put into your mite box the equivalent of the cost of an item we often buy. The amounts are usually small and seem

insignificant in our world, but make an enormous difference when combined with other gifts and used to accomplish our Lord’s work.

Bulletin inserts are included in this planner for your use. The idea is to use one each month (both sides of a half-page piece of paper). They are intended to help others outside LWML–

Canada participate in our mission of growing, serving and sharing. Some are about our mission grants, providing opportunity for prayer and contributing to mites. Some are devotions based on our triennium themes (2009-2011: Shine Like Stars; 2012-2015 Hold Fast to the Word) to encourage growing in faith. Some inserts feature LWML–Canada resources that could be of benefit to those outside our membership...they just need to know about them. The inserts will also be posted individually on our website for church office personnel to access. If you have ideas

for future inserts, please share them with our Vice-president, Communication.

Here are our suggestions for use of the inserts.

September 2011: Page 9 – Sewing school support in Chinandega, Nicaragua and devotion “Shine like stars—for your family.”

October 2011: Page 10 – Support for Thai women evangelists and Resource Centre ideas.

November 2011: Page 11 – Mission grant for La Ronge bus and devotion “Let your light shine.”

December 2011: Page 12 – Tips for relating compassionately to those who are suffering.

January 2012: Page 13 – Mission grant to Costa Rica missionaries and devotion “Hold fast to the Word—in the storms of life.”



February 2012: Page 14 – Support for deaconesses in Nicaragua and booklets from Resource Centre.

March 2012: Page 15 – Mission grant assisting seminary students visit Thailand and devotion “Hold fast to the Word—trust in Jesus.”

April 2012: Page 16 – Support for training Deaf leaders and devotion “Hold fast to the Word—today and every day.”

May 2012: Page 17 – Providing supplies to Ukraine mission and materials available from Resource Centre.

June 2012: Page 18 – Mission grant to support PAT program and support for VBS assistance in Maritimes.

Just for fun we’ve also provided some **recipes**. Use them or not as you wish.

Other suggestions

- Use the **prayer calendar** that can be downloaded from www.lutheranwomen.ca/inspiration/prayers.htm. Many societies publish the calendar in their congregation’s monthly newsletter.

Also on that web page are **prayers to be used at noon each Monday**. You can use them at other times but this provides the opportunity for all of us to unite in prayer at the same time.

- Look for the **update of mission grant payments** in each issue of *Tapestry*. It is sized so you can clip it out (or make a photocopy and clip that out) and paste over the listing on the poster.

A **catalogue** listing the items in this planner, and many more, is available. Order a copy from the LWML–Canada Resource Centre, 3074 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3K 0Y2, (toll free) 1-888-526-5996, resourcecentre@lutheranwomen.ca, or download a

copy from www.lutheranwomen.ca. The catalogue itself is free but there will be a charge for shipping and handling.



This planner lists devotions, skits and Bible studies but you will also find in the catalogue retreats/workshops/seminars, litanies, dramas and much more.

The materials in this planner can be purchased **individually** and received by e-mail or mail. Or you can order the **two CDs** containing all the current program helps. The first is “A to Z, Program Planning Made Easy” and is noted in the outline as (A-Z). The second is “MORE Program Planning Made Easy” and is noted in the outline as MORE. Order from the address below.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Lutheran Women’s Missionary League–Canada

www.lutheranwomen.ca

LWML–Canada Update: to subscribe – <http://mail.tdkcs.ca/mail/info/lwml.canada> or e-mail vpcommunication@lutheranwomen.ca

LWMLC News: to subscribe – <http://lwmlcnews.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/LWMLC>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/LWMLC>

Lutheran Church–Canada

www.lccontheroad.ca

LCC Info Digest

One2One Connect

LWML (U.S.)

www.lwml.org

September 2011

Theme: *Shine — for your family*

Use any of the following ideas or pick your own theme, type of event and program items to develop that theme.

Grow

Sketch – **In His hands** (MORE) – Often God uses the difficulties in our lives to encourage and witness to others. This sketch shows how these times can be opportunities. 3 pages; Code #59930; 50¢

Devotion – **Our greatest resource** (MORE) – An interesting devotion comparing what God's book, the Bible, has to offer in relationship to the world's bookstore categories. 2 pages; Code #59934; 50¢

Bible Study – **But, what happens when I am alone?** (MORE) – God made people to be in relationships, but what happens when we are all alone? This study of God's Word offers comfort and encouragement in these times. 2 pages; Code C-08-01; 50¢

Serve

Call a member family of your congregation and offer to make a loaf of sandwiches for the children's lunches.

Help a new mom by making a meal for her and her family; offer to help with the baby, especially if she has older children who need attention.

Share

Mini mite challenges

- Have a birthday this month? – \$.10 for every year
- \$1.00 for each child or grandchild going to school this year
- \$.50 for each Sunday school teacher at your church

Need a treat?

Super blueberry lemon muffins

Mix together 2 c flour; ½ c sugar; 3 tsp baking powder; ½ tsp salt. Beat 1 egg, add 1 c milk and ½ c melted butter; rind of one lemon or 1 tsp lemon extract. Add wet ingredients to dry, stir until just mixed. Blend in 1 c fresh or frozen blueberries or saskatoons. Fill muffins tins 2/3 full and bake at 425F for 20 min. Dip slightly cooled muffins in mixture of ½ c melted butter and 1 tbsp lemon juice, then in ½ c white sugar.



October 2011

Theme: *Serving the family a spiritual meal*

Use any of the following ideas or pick your own theme, type of event and program items for it.

Grow

Sketch – **With thankful heart** (A-Z) – 3 pages; Code C-2003-PE-14; 50¢ OR

Return to give thanks (A-Z) – Based on the story of the ten lepers. 3 pages; Code #5875; 50¢

Bible Study – **What kind of thanksgiving?**

(A-Z) – A Bible study to help understand the Gospel type of Thanksgiving. 2 pages; Code C-1998-02; 50¢

Devotion – **Jesus, the Bread of Life** (A-Z) – Interspersed with appropriate hymn verses, this devotion looks at the significance of bread as used in Scripture. 4 pages; Code C1997-03; 50¢ OR

Be a "thanks" giving fan of the Lord (A-Z) – 1 page; Code C-2000-05; 25¢

Serve

Help with a Thanksgiving dinner at your Friendship Centre.

Have a special prayer session where prayers of intercession, thanksgiving, and recognition of blessings may be offered together to the Lord.

Share

Mini mite challenges

- \$1.00 for each second helping at Thanksgiving dinner
- \$.10 for each "trick or treat" who visits your house
- \$1.00 for everyone in your house who did not dress up for Halloween – including the dog & cat!

Need a treat?

Pumpkin tarts

Whisk together 1 - 300 ml can regular or low fat sweetened condensed milk; 1¼ c (300 ml) canned pumpkin; 2 tbsp brown sugar; 1 egg; ¼ tsp each ground cinnamon, and nutmeg. Pour evenly into 24-3" unbaked sweet tart shells, placed on a cookie sheet. Bake at 375F for 18 minutes or until centre is just set and pastry golden. Cool and garnish as desired with whipped cream! Makes 24 tarts. Even better if made with home-made shells!

November 2011

Theme: *Shine – Prepare for His coming...*

Use any of the following ideas or pick your own theme, type of event and program items to develop that theme.

Grow

Game – **Advent biblical treasure hunt** (MORE) – The season of Advent is a little like a treasure hunt. In preparation for the coming of Christ, find the treasures hidden in the Bible with the clues provided for the treasure hunt. Requires preparation! 3 pages; Code #59937; 50¢

Devotion – **Advent, a time of preparation** (A-Z) – A program using the Advent wreath as a focal point; includes Scripture readings and Advent and Christmas hymns, could be presented to the society or congregation. 3 pages; Code #5133; 50¢

Serve

Help the Sunday school children prepare Advent wreaths (1 per family) to use in their homes to reflect on the advent of Jesus as well as His birth.

Offer to drive seniors and others to medical appointments or grocery shopping.

Share

Mini mite challenges

- Thank God for your spouse – \$.10 for every year of marriage.
- For a week, whenever you buy a cup of coffee, put the change received into your mite box.
- \$5.00 in honour of Martin Luther's birthday on November 10

Need a treat?

Appetizer roll-ups

Spread several green [spinach] tortillas with 250g of soft cream cheese; sprinkle with chopped green onions and dried, sweetened cranberries; roll up tightly and cut into 1" pieces. Spread several white tortillas with smoked salmon-flavoured cream cheese. Place small dill pickles, horizontally in a row, on cheese. Roll up tightly and cut into 1" pieces. Serve with hot mulled cider.

December 2011

Theme: *Shine – reflect the true meaning of Christmas*

Use any of the following ideas or pick your own theme, type of event and program items to develop that theme.

Grow

Sketch – **Christmas Light** (A-Z) – Two friends dread the chore and expense of Christmas until another helps them see the real source of her joyous Christmas spirit. 3 pages; Code #5119; 50¢

Devotion – **Snowflakes and Christmas** (not on CD) – Like snowflakes, we are each unique. The author uses humour by bringing to life seven individual snowflakes to whom we can relate, to draw us back to keeping Christ foremost in our celebrations. 3 pages; Code C-10-12; 50¢

Bible Study – **The humility of the season** from *Tapestry*, Winter 2010, page 18

Serve

Schedule an hour of caroling in a senior's care home to share the truth of Christ's coming and birth through song

Share

Mini mite challenges

- \$1.00 for each Advent service attended
- Admission fee of a Christmas craft sale
- \$1.00 for each Christmas carol heard in a store this week

Need a treat?

Christmas party mix

Combine 8 cups Shreddies cereal; 2 cups shredded coconut; 2 cups unsalted peanuts. Bring 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar; ½ cup butter; ½ cup corn syrup to a boil over medium heat, stir constantly. Boil for 5 min longer without stirring. Pour over cereal, stir until coated. Place on ungreased baking sheets. Bake 30 min. in 250F oven, remove from oven, sprinkle with 1 cup red and green cake sprinkles. Bake 10 min longer, remove and cool. Stir in 1 pkg semi-sweet baking chips.



January 2012

Theme: *Buckle up or hold on!*

Use any of the following ideas or pick your own theme, type of event and program items to develop that theme.

Grow

Sketch – **Flight 423** (A-Z) (change Flight # to current date!) – The Angel of Death visits five women to call them “home” but they weren’t prepared for the outcome. 5 pages; Code #5780; 75¢

Bible Study – **Tapestry** - topic from the winter issue will still be related to **Shine Like Stars**, a look at the final **fruit of the Spirit – love**.

Devotion – **Agape for God** (A-Z) – Two definitions of the word “agape” and two balloons are used to illustrate how Christians can rely on God’s promises and seek relief from all anxiety through daily communication with our Lord. 2 pages; Code #5157; 50¢

Serve

Send letters of encouragement to seminary students and donate to the pantry fund.

Contact a missionary by letter or email and encourage them in their work (LCC has a list of current missionaries).

Is there someone in your life causing you stress? As a heart-healthy exercise pray for that person, send a card or leave a small gift for her/him anonymously with a reminder that God loves them.

Share

Mini mite challenges

- \$.50 for each New Year’s resolution you made
- \$.50 each time you go skating this month
- \$.10 for each e-mail you read in one day

Need a treat?

Poppy Seed Cake

To 1 pkg of yellow cake mix add 1 large pkg instant lemon pudding; 4 tbsp poppy seeds; 4 Eggs; ¾ cup oil; 1 cup ice water. Combine all ingredients, bake in prepared (buttered and floured) Bundt or loaf pan at 350F for one hour. Cool slightly and invert on rack.

February 2012

Theme: *The heart of the matter*

Use any of the following ideas or pick your own theme, type of event and program items to develop that theme.

Grow

Sketch – **God’s precious valentine** (A- Z) – Visit a Heart Store. Many kinds of hearts are on display. Which will you choose...a candy heart, a wooden heart, a broken heart, a thankful heart or...? 5 pages; Code C-2003-PE-15; 75¢

Bible Study – **God’s valentine to us** (A-Z) – A study on the book of Ruth with practical suggestions for exploring and applying principles of God’s love for each of us. 3 pages; Code #5366; 50¢

Devotion – **How’s your heart?** (A-Z) – Teaches how to maintain a healthy, spiritual heart. Use with candy hearts (directions included). 2 pages; Code # 5394; 50¢

Serve

Work with children or youth in your congregation to decorate paper bags and sugar cookies. Make Valentine cards with a Bible verse. Put decorated cookies in bags with a card and help the children deliver them to anyone in need of a little cheer in the middle of winter.

Share

Mini mite challenges

- \$1.00 for every New Year’s resolution already broken
- \$.50 for every Monday at noon spent in prayer with your LWML and LWMLC sisters, \$.75 if you forgot
- \$1.00 for every Valentine card received

Need a treat?

Pink Dessert

Combine 1 c flour; ½ c butter; ¼ c brown sugar; ½ c chopped almonds and pat into 9x13 pan. Bake 15 minutes @ 350F, cool and crush into crumbs.

Spread ½ of the crumbs in the 9x13 pan. Beat 2 egg whites with 1/3 c white sugar; 1 tbsp lemon juice; 1 10-oz. pkg of frozen strawberries for a full 10 minutes. Whip 1 c of whipping cream and fold into strawberry mixture. Pour over crumbs in pan. Sprinkle remaining crumbs over top. Freeze! Remove ½ hour before serving for ease of cutting.



March 2012

Theme: Hold on – there'll be ups and downs

Use any of the following ideas or pick your own theme, type of event and program items to develop that theme.

Grow

Sketch – **Pray without ceasing** (A-Z) – Four participants portray different attitudes toward prayer. 1 page; Code C-1996-10; 50¢

Bible Study – **Down in the valley** (A-Z) – This study looks at the discouragement and depression experienced by Elijah as a way to help us understand and see God's hand when we, too, face "valley times" in our lives. 2 pages; Code C1996-02; 50¢

Devotion – **The cup that talked** (A-Z) – Illustrates how God uses life's painful situations to mould us into His beautiful creations. 1 page; Code #59909; 25¢

Serve

Tray Cards (Table cards; similar to place name cards only larger) Make tray cards from card stock and decorate with drawings, stickers, Bible verses etc. Size is about 3"x 4" or 5"x 6". Fold them in half to stand on the tables or trays. Give them to a local senior home or group home to use on special occasions. Enquire if and how you may help with monthly birthday parties.

Share

Mini mite challenges

- \$1.00 for each Lenten service attended
- \$.50 for each pothole you hit in a week
- \$.50 for each puddle you avoided on your walk today
- \$1.00 for each puddle you couldn't resist splashing in!

Need a treat?

Angel dessert

Prepare or purchase angel food cake; cut into 12 to 16 pieces. Top with berries [frozen and thawed strawberries or raspberries or stewed blueberries] and a dollop of Dream Whip or whipped cream.



April 2012

Theme: Easter – God's keeps His Word!

Use any of the following ideas or pick your own theme, type of event and program items to develop that theme.

Grow

Sketch/Drama – **Road to Emmaus** (A-Z) – Based on Luke 24:13-23 when Jesus reveals Himself to two disciples. 3 pages; Code C-2000-03; 50¢

Bible Study – **Tapestry** - topic will be related to the magazine's spring theme: **Women in the Word: A Father's Love.**

Devotion – **Women in the resurrection account** (A-Z) – Details the role of women at the resurrection. 2 pages; Code C-2002-05; 50¢, or

Easter Is (A-Z) A joyful devotion with four Bible readings and suggestions for visual aids. 3 pages; Code #5545; 50¢

Serve

Make an Easter visit to a shut-in. Take Easter chocolates and a homemade card; add a bunch of tulips. Have a garage sale and send the proceeds to a community recovering from floods, earthquakes or tornadoes. Plan a one-day LWMLC retreat. Invite other societies from your circuit/zone.

Share

Mini mite challenges

- \$.50 if you sit in a different spot in church
- \$1.00 if couldn't do it
- \$.25 for each tulip or crocus you see this month

Need a treat?

Egg-stra yummy mini quiche

Place on baking sheet: 40 unsweetened mini tart shells. Fill with bits of crumbled bacon, cooked broccoli, green onions, chopped mushrooms; 1 c of grated cheese. Beat 2 eggs with 1 c of light cream, 1 tsp salt; a generous dash of pepper, nutmeg if desired. Divide between tarts. Bake at 375F for 20 min. Serve with cranberry juice and gingerale for added sparkle.

May 2012

Theme: *Women together – in Christ*

Use any of the following ideas or pick your own theme, type of event and program items to develop that theme.

Grow

Sketch – **Pro & Con** (A-Z) – Two women discuss an upcoming convention. One encourages the other to attend and enjoy the excitement and enthusiasm while doing God's work through LWML-Canada. 2 pages; Code #5109; 50¢

Bible study – **You are the salt of the earth** (A-Z) – This study shows us how to reach out and be *salt* in our own little part of the world. 3 pages; Code #5006; 50¢

OR **Tapestry** Bible study – topic related to magazine's theme:
Women in the Word: Seeking buried treasure.

Devotion – **Shining through friendship** (MORE) – Written as room devotion for the 2009 LWMLC convention, it may be used to encourage women to consider attending a future convention. 2 pages; Code C-09-06; 25¢

Serve

Make emergency kits for abuse shelters or hospitals. A list of articles is found on the LWMLC website, www.lutheranwomen.ca. Encourage others to help you plant a community garden, giving produce to local food bank and others in need.

Share

Mini mite challenges

- \$.10 for each flower in your Mother's day bouquet
- \$??? as you dump your change purse into your mite box at least once this month
- \$.50 for each robin you see in your yard

Need a treat?

Friendship Tea

Mix well 1 cup instant tea; 1 ½ cups sugar; 1 ½ cups lemon crystals (3 pkgs); 1 ½ cups orange crystals; 1 tsp ground cloves; 2 tps cinnamon; store in dry place. Use 1 ½ - 2 tps per cup, add boiling water. Add a plate of cheese and crackers.



Serve

Remember July/August

Volunteer for Vacation Bible School in your congregation with games, food, teaching and music.

June 2012

Theme: *Jesus – our Stronghold*

Use any of the following ideas or pick your own theme, type of event and program items to develop that theme.

Grow

Sketch – **Camp-Woe-be-gone** (A-Z) – This clever drama depicts how five hikers learn to lighten their load. 6 pages; Code #5374; 75¢

Bible study – **Divine muscle** (A-Z) – When you are down and have no strength to carry on, where do you turn? As God's redeemed children we can rely on His power as shown through this comforting study. 2 pages; Code #5539; 50¢

Devotion – **The confessional rock** (A-Z) – Focuses on the burden of sin, confession and forgiveness. Includes object lesson with small rock. Suitable for outdoor event. 2 pages; Code #5444; 50¢

Serve

Reach out to a local group home for youth. Fill a Ziploc bag for each resident with sunscreen or baseball caps, a gift card to Dairy Queen, devotional booklet, socks or slippers, dental hygiene items, comb, notepad and pen, chocolate bar, Chapstick or lip gloss. Add a business card-size note with a Scripture verse and the name of your church. Include worship times and youth meetings. Label and let home supervisor distribute as needed.

Share

Mini mite challenges

- Use a computer? \$.50 for each one in your house
- \$1.00 for each graduation celebration you attend
- \$2.00 for each wedding you attend

Need a treat?

Crunchy granola cookies [18 to 24]

Combine 1 cup all-purpose flour; ½ teaspoon baking soda; ½ teaspoon salt; ½ c soft butter; 1/3 c packed light brown sugar; 1/3 c granulated sugar; ½ teaspoon vanilla; 1 large egg; 1 c granola (chop clusters if large); 3/4 c semisweet chocolate chips (4 1/2 ounces). Bake on greased baking sheet at 375F for 13 min or until pale brown.

LWML–Canada Mission Grant

Sewing School support in Chinandega, Nicaragua

The sewing school in Chinandega has now moved to the Mission Centre where daily devotions occur before the lessons begin. Since the program was started in 2004 LCC and LWMLC member, Lynn Woods, it has grown and more than 100 students have graduated with the skills to sew. These skills enable them to apply for a sewing position at one of the local factories or to establish their own home business. This school



not only provides an education and skills whereby the women can support their families, it also is a channel for the Gospel to be proclaimed. To assist them, Lutheran Women's Missionary League–Canada has provided a grant of \$12,000.

Prayer: Dear God in heaven, You have blessed our nation and people with many riches, but there are so many in this world who do not have all the advantages with which we are blessed.

In Nicaragua people struggle to feed and care for their families. We thank You that students are not only taught a skill, but also hear the wonderful words of your Gospel. May many more have this opportunity and may they always be able to sense Your presence in their lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

LWMLC invites you to a **mini "mite" challenge**

Place the cost of a tropical fruit such as a mango into a mite box – yours or that of someone in your LWMLC society.

LWML–Canada "mite" offerings are gathered in support of mission projects in Canada and overseas. If you would like to learn more about our mission, talk to a member of your congregation's LWMLC group or check our website, www.lutheranwomen.ca.



This information is provided by
Lutheran Women's Missionary League–Canada, ©2011.

A Devotion from LWML–Canada

LWML–Canada provides this devotion as part of their mission is to equip, motivate and encourage women to grow in God's Word.

Shine Like Stars – for your family

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

We are often told to put our best foot forward, to show our good side because first impressions matter.

How about with our families? Do they get to see our best? Or do they get what is left over after a long day at work? Our children learn, not just from what they are told, but from what they see.

How did we see Jesus react to the bad things that happened to Him?

Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also (Matthew 5:39).

Thank the Lord that this Child of God gave only His best for us, even in the face of our worst.

Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:3-4).

To become like the children Jesus speaks of, we must truly humble ourselves, observing the order of the acronym JOY: J-Jesus O-others Y-yourself.

Remember to leave your day and your night in the hands of the Lord, who will take care of you throughout all of your being.

Prayer: We thank You dear Lord that You gave us only Your best and we pray that, as we follow You, we might likewise show others the best and brightest example. In Your Name we pray. Amen.



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Lutheran Women's Missionary League–Canada, ©2011.

Thai women evangelists

In Thailand the cultural norm is for women to associate with and teach other women and children about the Saviour Jesus Christ. Supported by LWML-Canada's grant of \$6,000, two women in Southern Thailand worked under the supervision of the local missionary visiting in the homes of women and children. Aporn and Sukunya also travelled to remote villages with the Gospel. The financial support for these two workers covered their transportation and a small monthly stipend for preparing the lessons they taught, bringing the hope and encouragement of the Gospel to many of the poorest people in the Phang-Na district. The situation has since changed—one woman has married and the other works both as a deaconess and evangelist.



Prayer: Heavenly Father, we give You thanks for the work these evangelists were able to accomplish in remote villages of Thailand. Through them many women and children heard for the first time of the saving grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May the the seeds of faith planted there by these faithful workers grow and touch many families and friends in this region of Thailand. Help the new Christians walk in the courage of their new faith. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

LWMLC invites you to a mini "mite" challenge

Place the cost of Thai food, educational supplies (book, pencil, etc.) or the purchase of a feminine hygiene product into a mite box – your own or that of someone in your LWMLC society.

LWML-Canada "mite" offerings are gathered in support of mission projects in Canada and overseas. If you would like to learn more about our mission, talk to a member of your congregation's LWMLC group or check our website, www.lutheranwomen.ca.

Looking for a gift for a friend?



God's Windows of Hope

15 devotions under the headings "Separations," "Social Issues" and "Self-Esteem." Great for yourself or a friend. Devotions may also be used as discussion starters in mini-Bible studies on compassion.
Code: C-06-11 **\$5.00**



He Restores my Soul:

Day by Day
Let the devotions in this booklet bring you closer to your Lord, as you read and reflect on how *He restores your soul day by day*. Each devotion, related to our daily lives, is based on a Psalm.

(new cover) Code: C-09-29 **\$5.00**

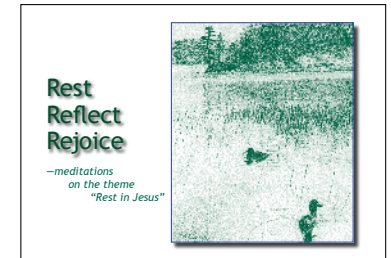
Catalogue available from resourcecentre@lutheranwomen.ca, 1-888-596-5226, or www.lutheranwomen.ca.

God Opens Doors of Opportunity

God presents opportunities to share His love, to be witnesses of

our faith, to forgive, to wait for Him in our trials and to see His glory in all creation. You will be blessed and inspired by these devotions.

Code: C-09-27 **\$5.00**



Rest, Reflect, Rejoice

This collection of over 30 devotions, gives you the opportunity to rest in, reflect on, and rejoice in God's daily provisions for you. Often God uses the experiences of others to reach out, encourage and bless our lives.

Code: C-09-28 **\$9.00**

SALE: \$7.00



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LWML–Canada Mission Grant

Mission bus for La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship

La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship is an active, vibrant congregation serving a community where 74% are aboriginal people of Cree ancestry. The pastor conducts Bible studies twice monthly in a village 30 km away.



These people want to attend Sunday worship but transportation has not been available. During the summer VBS average attendance is 50-75, mostly unchurched, children who could attend Sunday school in the cold winter months if a bus was available. There is no public transportation and most of these people have no car. The

youth group meets weekly on Fridays. The volunteer youth worker has identified a need for transportation for youth from a reserve 15 km away. A bus would also enable the youth to attend gatherings in Saskatoon and Regina. To assist them Lutheran Women's Missionary League–Canada has provided a grant of \$18,000. At this point in the League's triennium, this mission grant has been fully funded.

Prayer: Dear Lord, we give You thanks for the many people in the more remote areas of our land who thirst for Your Word. We thank You for the opportunity You have given to help these families who have no way of getting to worship, Bibles studies and Sunday school. May their faith grow strong as You continue to work in their lives. Help Your light shine through us that others will want to know You and we will be able to share Your love with those around us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

LWMLC invites you to a **mini "mite" challenge**

Drop the equivalent of a daily bus fare or the cost of a litre of gas into your mite box or that of someone in your LWMLC society.

LWML–Canada "mite" offerings are gathered in support of mission projects in Canada and overseas. If you would like to learn more about our mission, talk to a member of your congregation's LWMLC group or check our website, www.lutheranwomen.ca.



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A Devotion from LWML–Canada

LWML–Canada provides this devotion as part of their mission is to equip, motivate and encourage women to grow in God's Word.

Let your light shine

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6).



Prayer

God we thank You that You are in us and shine through us.

Thank-you for the knowledge of Your glory that You have given to us. Help Your light to shine through us that others will want to know the source of that light and we will be able to share it with those around us.

Help us to be like little children who are not afraid of being rejected or laughed at when we share the love of our Lord.

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses (1 Timothy 6:12).

Thank-you for Your grace and Your glory.

Photograph courtesy Kathy Birkett.



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Here are some tips for *relating compassionately to those who are suffering*—important to remember on a visit!

1. Pray, pray, pray. (before you go, with the person if he or she agrees, and after your visit)
2. Listen more than you speak. Make some eye contact. Let them talk.
3. Use open-ended questions, i.e., how can I help? Don't rush the person. Let them talk about feelings and thoughts.
4. Validate feelings, i.e., I think I'd feel sad/afraid/angry too if this were happening to me.
5. Keep silent, especially when you don't know what to say. Being there for the person suffering shows support and caring. You don't always have to talk.
6. A hug or touch or holding hands may be comforting to one receiver of care but not to everyone.
7. Shedding some tears together may be supportive. It releases tension and brings the suffering into the open.
8. Keep in touch with a personal card or note. Call, but ask, "Is this a good time?" Brief calls may be better than very long ones.
9. Offer to give reading material (not lend yours) after the initial crisis has passed. Lending obligates the recipient to remember who loaned the book or article and to make arrangements to return the item.
10. Keep the focus on the other person and their pain and suffering.
11. Express your sorrow that the other person is going through this suffering.
12. Know that suffering and healing take time. Don't deny a painful situation.

Tips, continued

13. Humour may be helpful after a while, but be careful. You are not there to be funny. What one person finds humorous, another person may not.
14. Avoid describing your experience with suffering unless specifically asked. Then be brief.
15. Avoid sharing details of other people's sufferings (this does not show respect for keeping the confidentiality of others).
16. Avoid phrases like "I know exactly what you are going through" because you don't. No two people experience the same suffering the same way.
17. Avoid trying to "fix" things or solve the problem.
18. Avoid pious platitudes, e.g., "It's God's will" or "God knows best" or "It's a blessing."
19. Avoid trying to cheer the person up in an attempt to make you or him/her feel better.
20. Keep your visits or calls short.
21. Visit only if you are healthy.
22. Maintain confidentiality.

These points are taken from a book by Kenneth C. Haugk called *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart. How to Relate to those who are Suffering*. It was published in 2004 by Stephen Ministries, Saint Louis, Missouri. See www.stephenministries.org for ordering information. They were published in the seminar – *I can't, but with God I can* © 2008 Lutheran Women's Missionary League–Canada.



Costa Rica mission outreach



Rev. Pedro Quintero has been serving in Costa Rica as a missionary since 2006. Pastor Quintero visits the suburbs of San Jose, meets people, visits homes and shares the Gospel.

Rev. Edmundo Retana was ordained and received into the Iglesia Luterana Sínodo de Nicaragua



(ILSN) May 23, 2009 and has been called to open a mission outpost in the community of Birrestio. LWML–Canada’s grant of \$35,000 helps support these two missionaries.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank-you for the gift of men with missionary hearts. Thank-you for Pastor Quintero and Pastor Retana and the work they do in Costa Rica. Bless their work among your people there. Give them strength of spirit and body to share the message of your saving grace. We ask you to bless the offerings we bring to aid in this mission. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

LWMLC invites you to a **mini “mite” challenge**

Place the price of a taco or a Mexican meal into a mite box – your own or that of someone in your LWMLC society.

LWML–Canada “mite” offerings are gathered in support of mission projects in Canada and overseas. If you would like to learn more about our mission, talk to a member of your congregation’s LWMLC group or check our website, www.lutheranwomen.ca.



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LWML–Canada provides this devotion as part of their mission is to equip, motivate and encourage women to grow in God’s Word.

Hold fast to the Word – in the storms of life

*Be still, my soul; the
Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross
of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to
order and provide;
In ev’ry change He
faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your
best, your heavenly
Friend
Through thorny ways
leads to a joyful end.*



Text and tune: Public Domain

We can be comforted that the Lord is always with us. *Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).*

When the world is in such a sorry time with earthquakes, wars, money worries and family troubles, it is great to know that the Lord is truly on our side and takes care of all life’s matters both big and small.

Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me (Psalm 50:15).

Photograph courtesy Karen Leonhardt



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Children’s education program, Nicaragua

Many times unforeseen mission opportunities occur which could not have been planned for nor predicted when mission grant proposals are made and selected. These newly-emerged outreach opportunities, which may occur at any time during the triennium, would be lost without some financial assistance. LWML–Canada has established a grant to meet these needs called the Mission Opportunity Fund.



Each of LCC’s missionaries in Nicaragua is married to a deaconess, presently teaching in the children’s Christian education program. According to Rev. Ralph Mayan, volunteer missionary, calling these women to work with their husbands to lead the outreach ministry to women and children would expand

the mission taking place in these communities. With their wives the missionaries would be more readily invited into homes. LWML–Canada General Council approved a grant from the Mission Opportunity Fund of \$7,000 to support two missionary deaconesses in Nicaragua for a three-year period.

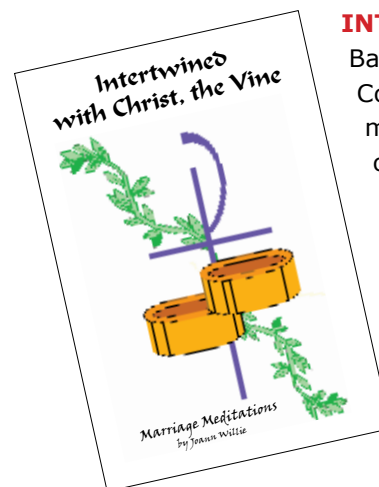
Prayer: Almighty God, whom we call Father, your Son, Jesus, spiritually and physically cared for Your people during His stay on earth. He welcomed even children with open, loving arms. There are children now in Nicaragua who need to know of the Saviour. Bless this grant to enable the missionary deaconesses to make a difference in the lives of those children. In Jesus’ name we ask it. Amen.



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Grow in God’s Word

LWML–Canada produces a wide range of spiritual resources for women and those they love. All are available from the LWML–Canada Resource Centre, 3074 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3K 0Y2; resourcecentre@lutheranwomen.ca; 1-888-596-5226. Download a catalogue from www.lutheranwomen.ca. We feature here two of these items.



INTERTWINED WITH CHRIST, THE VINE

Based on Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, this booklet of marriage meditations is suitable for all seasons of Christian marriage. It offers God’s timeless word and wisdom, reinforcing and enhancing all marriages, from the newlywed to those already blessed with many years of life together. A great wedding or anniversary gift but you’ll also want your own copy. Well worth its \$7.00 cost.

TODAY’S WOMAN PRAYS

Prayer, our lifeline to God, is essential to the Christian’s life. This resource book on prayer helps answer many questions about prayer: does God hear us? answer us? are there right or wrong ways to pray? ... and many more. A excellent addition to your home library for only \$7.00.



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Seminary students learn in Thailand

Many times unforeseen mission opportunities occur which could not have been planned for nor predicted when mission grant proposals are made and selected. These newly-emerged outreach opportunities, which may occur at any time during the triennium, would be lost without some financial assistance. LWML–Canada has established a grant to meet these needs called the Mission Opportunity Fund.

Accompanied by Dr. William Mundt of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, Ontario, seminary students Wayne Zhang and Jeffrey Swords travelled to Thailand and Cambodia for a well-appreciated cross-cultural experience. Zhang and Sword were impressed by the eagerness of the Asians to learn and the many questions asked regarding Christianity from a Lutheran perspective. How to distinguish between Law and Gospel seemed their questioners main concern, especially since Cambodia is still living under the shadow of its violent, sad past. The seminarians found that the real challenge for evangelization is not culture but that “we Christians live in an un-Christian world.” A \$5,000 grant provided immediate financial support for this program.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, there are many mission opportunities and needs unknown to us. We thank you for bringing to light the mission opportunities in Thailand and Cambodia. Thank-you for the teachers and students willing to travel to these countries to share their faith and their expertise. We ask that You would bless the seeds that have been planted and that there may be a bountiful harvest for years to come. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen .



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LWML–Canada provides this devotion as part of their mission is to equip, motivate and encourage women to grow in God's Word.

Hold Fast to the Word – trust in Jesus

Do you trust Jesus for your salvation? He came into this world as a babe and lived that we may know His desires for us; to live with Him eternally.

Do you trust Jesus for pardon? Sinless, He took all our sins to the cross so that we could peacefully live in Him.

Do you trust Jesus for cleansing? As He poured out His blood on the cross it was for all of us; no matter what we have done we are cleansed by His blood.

Do you trust Jesus for guidance? He has supplied what we need to live this life; through God's Word to us He shares with us how to live.

Do you trust Jesus for power? His power will never fail us.



Photograph courtesy of Valerie Rempel Photography.



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LWML–Canada Mission Grant Training of Deaf leaders

The Deaf community remains a relatively un-evangelized group and there is a growing need to train Deaf leaders. Deaf leaders in LCC say that 98% of all Deaf people in North America do not believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Gregory and Linda Desrosiers, two lay leaders from Trinity (Deaf) Vancouver are currently enrolled in the Deaf Institute of Theology (DIT) program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. The four year distance education program will train Gregory to be a pastor and Linda to be a deaconess in the Lutheran Church. To assist them Lutheran Women's Missionary League–Canada has provided a grant of \$13,000. To date \$8,000 has been paid.

Prayer: Father, God of infinite grace and love, because Your Son died for all, we are called to share Him with all. Bless the special ministry to which You have called Linda and Gregory. Open the hearts of the Deaf community where the Desrosiers serve so the message of Your grace and love will be heard. Bless our offerings given in aid of this mission. Lord, in Your mercy, listen to our prayer. Amen.

LWMLC invites you to a **mini "mite" challenge**

Place the cost of a music CD into a mite box – yours or that of someone in your LWMLC society.

LWMLC mite offerings are gathered in support of mission projects in Canada and overseas. If you would like to learn more about our mission, talk to a member of your congregation's LWMLC group or check our web site, www.lutheranwomen.ca.



A Devotion from LWML–Canada

LWML–Canada provides this devotion as part of their mission is to equip, motivate and encourage women to grow in God's Word.

Hold fast to the Word – today and every day

Holding fast to the Word—may today there be peace within you.

Holding fast to the Word—may you trust that God will do great things for you right where you are.

Holding fast to the Word—may you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

Holding fast to the Word—may you use the gifts you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

Holding fast to the Word—may you be content with who you are, a forgiven sinner, loved by the Almighty, and called into His grace.

Holding fast to the Word—let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.



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Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, mission supplies

Alexey Navrosky, a graduate from Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, has served as our missionary in Dnepropetrovsk since September 2005. He built on the work of Rev. Roland Syens, former missionary to Ukraine. God has blessed his service and enabled a new Lutheran congregation to come into existence. In the village of Zaria, near Dnepro, Missionary Navrosky conducts several Bible studies for students and adults. A grant of \$6,000 provides a fund for the purchase and/or printing of Bibles, Bible study material and other devotional materials to enhance his mission work.



Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we send missionaries out into Your mission field, we thank You for the opportunity You give to us to help supply the resources needed to carry out the task of building new Lutheran congregations. We pray that You will continue to bless the work of Pastor Alexey Navrosky and the people of Zaria as they use the Bibles, Bible study material and devotional materials to Your Glory. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

LWMLC invites you to a **mini "mite" challenge**

Place the price of some Ukrainian food (perogy, cabbage rolls, etc.) into a mite box – your own or that of someone in your LWMLC society.

LWML-Canada "mite" offerings are gathered in support of mission projects in Canada and overseas. If you would like to learn more about our mission, talk to a member of your congregation's LWMLC group or check our website, www.lutheranwomen.ca.



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Grow in God's Word

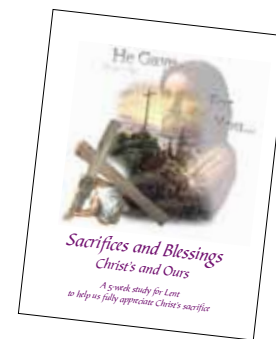


LWML-Canada produces many devotions, Bible studies, retreats, seminars, workshops, litanies and more. While a few are specifically related to LWML-Canada, most are suitable for other groups in the church. These can be ordered in hard copy using the catalogue listed below or they can be ordered on CD. Order this pair [*A to Z: Program Planning Made Easy* and *MORE Program Planning Made Easy*]

for a total of \$15 and you have everything produced up to July 2009. The second CD also contains the scores for hymns and songs written for various themes and occasions.



Two Bible studies were produced since the CDs were made. "Company's coming soon! Are you ready?" for Advent, is 4 sessions. An original to reproduce costs \$1.50.



The other, "Sacrifices and Blessings," a study for Lent, is 5 sessions and an original to copy costs \$2.00.

These resources are available from the LWML-Canada Resource Centre, 3074 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3K 0Y2; resourcecentre@lutheranwomen.ca; 1-888-596-5226. Download a catalogue from www.lutheranwomen.ca.



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LWML–Canada Mission Opportunity Grant

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Resource centre for PAT program

LWML–Canada approved a \$16,000 grant from their Mission Opportunity Fund to support the PAT program (Pastors with Alternate Training). The grant will provide funds for a resource centre of sound Lutheran books,



CDs, videos and the like in the languages of students in the PAT program: Oromo, Spanish, Punjab, Arab, French, etc., and support an online library (in conjunction with Concordia University College of Alberta) for study and research carried out by the students.

Established by Lutheran Church–Canada in its 2002 convention, the

PAT program has grown as a new model for pastoral formation for specific geographical and cultural contexts and communities of faith. The program is overseen by the Council of Presidents, Rev. Dr. Leonardo Neitzel and a PAT committee with representation from both LCC seminaries and one PAT mentor coordinate the program.

Eleven international students from different cultural and ethnic origins, actively working in several vocations, are studying in the PAT program and working in places like Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Surrey.

Prayer: Holy Father, more and more You are bring the mission field to our own country. People from around the world are coming to Canada eager to see your light and to share that light with others in their community. Thank-you for the men of these communities who have now committed to train to be pastors in their communities. Thank-you for the opportunity to assist by providing resources for their studies. Bless the work of these students as they shine your light. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



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LWML–Canada Mission Opportunity Grant

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From Monkton to Moncton

In July 2011 ten young people, ages 11 – 18, and three chaperones are travelling from Monkton, Ontario, to Moncton, New Brunswick. The youth group is a joint group from the rural dual parish of Redeemer, Monkton and First, Logan (Mitchell). This small rural parish has always been active in mission work. Each year for several years the group has raised funds through a variety of projects and FaithLife Financial matching grants to provide financial assistance for missions in their congregation and their district as well as other community projects.

This year the youth have been inspired to undertake a project unlike anything that has been done by either congregation. They will travel over 1,600 km to conduct a vacation Bible school for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Moncton, New Brunswick and also visit the mission congregation, Faith, Dartmouth. In addition to the work they will be doing, their pastor hopes this experience will energize and inspire these young people to a lifetime of support of God's missions as it has for him since he spent two weeks preaching in Dartmouth a few years ago.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank-you for the mission field You have provided and also the eager workers. Bless these young people with safe travel. Send the Holy Spirit to give them the strength and the words they need to show Your light to the people they visit. Open the hearts and minds of those whose paths they cross to receive the message of Your saving grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



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