

Counselor's corner

The new year is anticipated by many; resolutions are made to improve health, wealth and relationships. The past year has been lived with anxieties, sorrow and illness. Sadly, the same problems and issues of the old year are there to accompany us into the new year.

The changing months of the calendar cannot change us or the world. King David proclaimed, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Ps. 51:5). It is this original sin that infiltrates our very being. The result is predictable. "For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate" (Rom. 7:15).

Does this sound familiar? The resolution is soon forgotten and in place of hopeful anticipation is a feeling of guilt.

Left to our own devices, we would be wretched people. But God has given us the means by which each day can be lived with hopeful anticipation, our guilt removed. At your baptism, the sign of the cross was made upon your forehead and heart, marking you as one redeemed by Christ. "No greater jewel, therefore, can adorn our body and soul than baptism, for through it we become completely holy and blessed, which no other kind of life and no work on earth can acquire" (Luther's Catechism, Article IV 46).

Baptism is the assurance that our sins are forgiven and forgotten by God for Christ's sake.

With the words, "... I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (✠) and of the Holy Spirit," know that your slate is cleared, and you are ready to face the day as a baptized child of God.

*Rev. Don Stauty
Arrowhead Region Counselor*



About 50 LWML women attended the Fergus Falls Zone Rally Oct. 25, 2010, at Barnesville. It was inspirational, educational and entertaining!

Rev. David Bode spoke on "Serving the Lord with a Joyful Heart" and presented many examples of joyful serving through the years.

Emily Wolf, director of Christian education from Moorhead, related interesting facts comparing today's teenagers to their LWML mothers and grandmothers in thoughts and habits.

The Waide Mathison family of Foreston (shown above) presented a musical program, sharing their many talents, both vocally and instrumentally.

LWML joins Facebook

The LWML saw the ability to join Facebook as an opportunity to share God's Word with friends and even with friends' friends. Items included on the Lutheran Women in Mission Facebook page include LWML history and facts, prayer suggestions, discussion starters, mission grant information and mite box donation reminders. Facebook provides women and men from across the nation the opportunity to keep in touch with one another.

You are invited to visit the Lutheran Women in Mission-LWML page and join in the conversation at www.facebook.com/theLWML.

Find it on the LWML website

On the home page of the website (www.lwml.org), a Bible verse of the week is listed. Plus, under the Resource table, you can sign up to receive daily Mustard Seed devotions direct to your e-mail.



34th biennial LWML Convention June 23-26 at Peoria Civic Center

You are invited to attend! Exciting convention activities are being designed around the convention theme, "Being with Jesus—Living on the Edge." They will include inspiration from Dr. Ken Klaus, Dr. Reed Lessing, Deb Burma, Heidi Floyd and song leader Lana Gibbons.

Invite your friends to join you as thousands of women rally in Peoria, Ill., for this experience of a lifetime!

Visit www.lwml.org for the latest in Peoria convention news!

LWML 2011 Prayer Service

The 2011 LWML Prayer Service is now available FREE online at www.lwml.org.

The service celebrates the theme of the 34th biennial convention in Peoria: "Being with Jesus—Living on the Edge!"

The convention Bible verse is Acts 4:13b, 20: *And they realized they had been with Jesus. "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."*

The convention goal statement is "Empowered by being with Jesus, I courageously speak of Him and live a life transformed by His love."