

Counselor's corner

"... For I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content" (Phil. 4:11b).

Paul's words are not so difficult to hear when we are healthy or young. It seems easy to follow the Lord when our families and jobs are doing well. But in a fallen creation, troubles and disasters of all kinds some day come our way. In a moment, our hopes and dreams can be dashed beyond recognition. Our lives may become burdened with care, trials and pain.

Yet in these times God has not set us aside. We may well be entering the most spiritually productive time of our service to the Lord.

Moses shone brightest when the Egyptian army was hot on his heels. Jeremiah's words from the cistern are still heard. Paul's prison letters guide and uplift us today. It was after being betrayed, abandoned, beaten, ridiculed and crucified that our Lord Jesus accomplished His greatest work and won for us the forgiveness of sins as He died in outward helplessness on the cross.

It is good to remember that every moment of our life, pleasant or not, is part of our calling of faith. May we learn Paul's secret of faithful confidence in Jesus—and live it in every circumstance of our lives.

*Rev. Ronald Hobbie
Lakeland Region*

Your mites support mission grants

The 2009-11 mite goal is \$1,825,000. Mission grant recipients are waiting to receive funding. Please keep your prayers and donations filling the mite box.

Remember that those \$5 bills with the purple marking fit nicely inside your mite box. Consider increasing your mite donation by at least \$5 to help meet our mite goal.

If you wish to make a donation online, go to www.lwml.org, select "Giving" on the top tool bar or click on the "Shop" tab. You may donate as little as \$1 or up to \$100,000.

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, you may be eligible for Thrivent Choice, which allows you to donate a portion, or all, of your "Designated Choice Dollars" to LWML. The designation is listed as Lutheran Women's Missionary League. You may do this at www.thrivent.com or by calling 800-847-4836.

Save the date!

August 12-14 are the dates for the LWML Minnesota North District retreat at Lutheran Island Camp. The theme is "Thy Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet."

Rev. Don Stauty, our Arrowhead Region pastoral counselor, will lead the Bible study. Wanda Hall will be the guest speaker.

Watch for more details!

LWML plays in Peoria

Check the winter issue of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* for the latest registration information on the 34th biennial LWML Convention to be held June 23-26 in Peoria, Ill., under the theme, "**Being with Jesus—Living on the Edge.**"



Registration information also is available online at www.lwml.org. Registration opens March 1.

Review the information about the Friday Lunch Gatherings, as well as the special interest luncheons on Saturday.

Bring your children, who will enjoy spending time at Camp BWJ (Being With Jesus).

Start gathering those **Gifts from the Heart**, and plan which of the servant events you want to lend a hand. There will even be a Cyber Café!

Check out the all the details at www.lwml.org.

New Bible study published: 'Ever, Only, All For Thee'

How many times have we sung the familiar hymn "Take My Life and Let It Be" without closely examining the lyrics? This short six-chapter Bible study, by Holly Wietfieldt, will lead you and your Bible study group in doing just that.

Frances Havergal wrote this hymn in 1874, stressing how we can dedicate our lives to the Lord. This Bible study follows the gradual deepening of dedication illustrated in the hymn lyrics.

Perfect for personal or small-group study, both a study guide and a leader's guide are available. Order from online shopping at www.lwml.org or through the LWML catalog: Study Guide, #20416; Leader's Guide, #20415.

