

Counselor's corner

"Forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us" (Luke 11:4).

That sounds similar to what we know as the Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer, but different. It's the way St. Luke recorded it. And, yet, is it not still telling us the same basic thing? Our Lord moved this petition to be recorded in slightly different words on purpose, I believe. Because He is omniscient, He knew how much trouble we would have living it because of our sinful nature.

Do you not also find this a most difficult petition to live? How easily do you find it to forgive those who sin against you? Because it is so difficult, there can develop the tendency to not even try, or to only give it lip service. Maybe you've even caught yourself mumbling under your breath, "They don't deserve to be forgiven after what they did!"

But how then should we expect our Lord to forgive us our sins against Him (and we must remember that all sins are first and foremost against God and only secondarily against our fellow man)? Even though we are repeatedly unfaithful, God is always faithful and just (2 Tim. 2:13). He will forgive us, not as we deserve but as He has promised—thanks be to God!

And yet, He does look for fruit of the Spirit in all who are His. Thus, as His disciples, we strive to forgive remembering how much and how completely He forgives us. May we use this season of Lent to strive to learn better how to live the life of a repentant disciple of our blessed Savior all our days; to His glory, our salvation and the furtherance of His kingdom of grace.

*Rev. Henry J. Koopmann
Park Region Counselor*

LWML plays in Peoria

Reserve your place today for the 34th LWML biennial convention, June 23-26, under the theme **"Being with Jesus—Living on the Edge."**

Registration opened March 1 for both the convention and hotels. Register online at www.lwml.org.

LWML scholarships available

"And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ ..." (Eph. 4:11-12).

Are you or someone you know considering a career in full-time church work? If so, the Minnesota North District LWML can help you achieve that goal. The women of the LWML have partnered together through their mites to provide scholarship grant funds to assist you. At the 2010 district convention in Alexandria last June, \$10,000 for men preparing for ordination and \$55,000 for full-time church work students were allocated for these grants.

Over the past 46 years, we have been privileged to assist many students through our mite offerings. This current school year we have assisted nine students with their training.

Are you unsure just where and what church work careers are available? Then check out the LCMS website at www.lcms.org for a list of Concordia universities and the training they offer.

Scholarship requests for the 2011-12 school year must be received by May 15. Awards will be announced by mid-July. An application form is



available from your church office, your local LWML society president or by going online to www.lwmlmnn.org, then click on "Resources/Forms & Applications." Mail the completed form and all attachments to Linda Jeske, Scholarship Chairman, 28497 Owl Drive, Browerville, MN 56438. If you have further questions, contact me at scholarships@lwmlmnn.org or at 320-594-3034.

Our goal is to help you reach your goal of full-time service to our Lord, Jesus Christ, through the many exciting and rewarding venues in His church. God bless you as you seek to know His will for you.

*Linda Jeske
Scholarships Chairman*



Violet Peper Abraham celebrated 100 years on Nov. 15, 2010. Violet has been active in the St. John's Villard Ladies Aid since she was "a new bride." She has held every officer position in the Ladies Aid and was the first Alexandria Zone secretary.

Over the years, Violet has made many quilts, hand-quilting most of them. She still quilts, but gave up hand-stitching last year.

Violet has taught Sunday school, sang in the choir and wrote poems for parties and anniversaries. She has been a good mentor, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother.