

Counselor's corner

"And as [Jesus] entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us' ... Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice" (Luke 17:12-15).

We hear this passage at Thanksgiving and shake our heads at the ingratitude of the nine. Human nature being what it is, we tend to have a double standard, and that is to judge others differently than we do ourselves. Too often we don't see ourselves in the "group of nine." We'd like to think of ourselves as the one who runs back to Jesus, praising God and giving thanks. But, too often, we forget to "return and give praise to God."

We have a way of forgetting that God heals and blesses us every day. When God doesn't cater to our whims, how easily we desert Him and turn to money or pleasure to get our way.

When life's fortunes go against us, we run to God seeking mercy, healing and strength. As we receive these gifts, we just as quickly return to "business as usual."

How often, as we become obsessed with the things of this world, do we shut our ears to His voice and fail to seek guidance in His Word? Every time we fold our hands to pray, our hearts cry "Forgive us our trespasses," and every time, God responds, "I forgive you for Jesus' sake."

Every day, let us return to Jesus and praise God in thanksgiving for all things.

*The Rev. Don Stauty
Arrowhead Region Counselor*

Sweaters from the heart



Carolyn Sundbom

At the LWML Crookston Zone 2011 Fall Planning meeting, Carolyn Sundbom from First English Lutheran, Fosston, presented the group with several pastel-colored hand-knit baby sweaters. She urged anyone to take what they needed and share with others.

Wedding reception event

On June 21, the fellowship hall at St. John Lutheran Church, Wadena, was the scene of the annual ladies' event hosted by LWML members.

To announce the event, women received formal wedding reception invitations and were asked to RSVP so the committee could plan and order food for the occasion.

The women were invited to bring their mothers, sisters, daughters, granddaughters, nieces and aunts. Participants were encouraged to wear wedding-reception apparel and hats.

Eighty-four attendees enjoyed a wedding-reception luncheon, followed by the modeling of bridal, bridesmaid, mother-of-the-bride and grandmother-of-the-bride dresses.

Many of the women shared their stories from the 40s, 50s and 60s. In addition to the dresses that were modeled, other wedding dresses and wedding memorabilia were on display.

Carolyn knits in her spare time. She has been knitting since her mother taught her at the age of 10. Over the last 25 years, she has donated hundreds of sweaters to church bazaars, pregnancy care centers, missions and to anyone that has a special need for them. As she knits each sweater and before the last stitch is made, Carolyn says a prayer for the precious little one who will receive the sweater.

What a very special gift Carolyn shares to warm the most innocent children among us.



Pictured is Bonnie Gastecki wearing LaVonne Piepkorn's wedding gown, which is 60 years old.

