

Counselor's corner

During Advent, our culture bustles with activity. Many celebrate Christmas without actually knowing why. They seek the joy of Christ, yet live daily outside of His grace, forgiveness and new life. But that's nothing new. Benjamin Franklin wrote:

"How many observe Christ's birthday! How few, his precepts! O! 'tis easier to keep holidays than Commandments."

Indeed, many love holidays and cultural traditions. Fewer actually love the Savior whom the holiday celebrates.

May we celebrate Advent by allowing God's grace to move us to give gifts that point to Jesus as the "reason for the season." Perhaps gifts such as:

To your enemy ... forgiveness.
To your opponent ... tolerance.
To a friend loyalty.
To a neighbor ... kindness.
To all men ... a godly example.
To every child ... reason to believe.

To yourself ... time to reflect upon and worship the Savior.

As Charlotte Carpenter observed, "Remember, if Christmas isn't found in your heart, you won't find it under a tree."

*Rev. Ronald Hobbie
Lakeland Region Counselor*



**THE MEANING OF
CHRISTMAS**

Building materials

Have you ever participated in a servant event or mission trip? Maybe you did this past summer or have plans for next year. When first beginning to build or repair an existing structure, we always check to make sure the foundation, which will be the support of everything else, is strong. If it is on a weak or unsteady base, whatever we try to build will collapse.

Does this remind you of your faith life? What is your foundation like? What kinds of materials compose the structure of your life in Christ?

For an insight in the construction of something that will never crumble, see the downloadable devotion at the LWML website (www.lwml.org) by clicking on "Resources," then "Helps" then "Program Helps." You also will discover other program helps for your society or zone at this site location.

Submit a 2012 Mission Grant Proposal ...

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League offers its members the opportunity to actively participate in mission work through mission projects. By recognizing mission needs, providing financial support not available through other means and adding the vital power of prayer, each member can join in the Great Commission to "Go and make disciples of all nations" Matt. 28:19.

To submit a Mission Grant Proposal for the 2012 LWML Minnesota North District Convention, download the application form from the Gospel Outreach webpage at www.lwmlmnn.org, or contact Dorothy Abrahamson, Mission Advocacy and Grants chairman at 218-885-2368.

Act now! The deadline for applications is Feb. 15, 2012.



**LWML Minnesota North District
25th Biennial Convention
June 25-27, 2012
Breezy Point Resort, Minn.**

Read only if you are a busy woman

B — blessed beyond measure
U — unique, there is only one person like you
S — saved by the blood of Jesus
Y — yielding to be used whenever and where the Lord has need of you.

If this describes you, prayerfully consider submitting your name (or suggesting the name of a BUSY LWML sister) for one of the district officers being elected at the 2012 convention.

Open officer positions:

- president;
- corresponding secretary;
- treasurer;
- regional vice-president, Lakeland 1;
- regional vice-president, Arrowhead 1;
- regional vice-president, Park 1; and
- circuit counselor of Park Region.

Contact Karena LaPolice, nominating committee chairman, at renalapolice@hotmail.com or by phone at 763-234-2522. The deadline for submitting names is Feb. 1, 2012.

If elected, you will be in for a life-changing experience. The Lord never disappoints — try this and see for yourself.