

Counselor's corner

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear (Luke 2:8-9).



Shepherds of the day were not

highly regarded. Yet it was to these very people that the announcement of the Savior was first brought.

The angel did not announce the birth in Jerusalem the site of temple and priests. Nor did the angel even go to Bethlehem. No, the message was brought to the shepherds and the message was personal. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

This birth, noticed in Bethlehem by only Mary and Joseph, was the proclamation of peace between God and man; sin for all people would be forgiven through Him that they might turn from their sin and be saved.

"When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us'" (Luke 2:15).

Martin Luther, in his *Christmas Book* [Westminster Press, Phil. 1948, pg. 48] notes that "This is a great miracle that the shepherds should have believed this mes-

sage." They never questioned why they heard the message first, or whether they were worthy. They believed, they went and saw, and then told others. This was their Savior.

It has been said that the shadow of the cross of Calvary can be seen over the manger of Bethlehem. But God in his mercy has given his Son, whom he loved, to be born into flesh and blood to die for your sin, for "unto you" a Savior has been born. God has come to you in this baby Jesus. May this miracle of faith in Christ Jesus never grow impersonal.

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LWML website adds Pastors in Mission Web page

The Web page offers great resources for all pastors with quick-access links.

LWML Resources offer ready-to-use Bible studies and devotions, as well as links to mission grants resources, service opportunities, news articles, special focus ministries (children, Heart to Heart Sisters, teens and young women), giving and convention information.

The Pastors in Mission Web page, located on the website at www.lwml.org/pastors, is offered to assist pastors in their ministry of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ at home and around the world.

Toys of comfort



Pictured is Ellen Domine, 91, Zion Lutheran Women's Society of Little Falls, Minn. Ellen crochets clowns, ducks, lambs and raccoons from donated yarn. The toy animals are donated to Hands of Hope, Ronald McDonald House and the County Chaplaincy Program. Children in crisis situations are comforted with these soft cuddly toys.



LWML 35th Biennial Convention in Pittsburgh, Pa., Thursday June 27-Sunday, June 30, 2013

Visit www.lwml.org/conventions for the latest in Pittsburgh convention news!

New Pastor at your congregation?

Does your congregation have a new pastor? Contact the LWML Minnesota North District Public Relations Chairman Janet Hasbargen at publicrelations@lwmlmnn.org and she will send them a welcome packet from LWML.

