

## Counselor's Corner

The new year presents us with a clean slate — 365 brand new days laid out before us. What an opportunity they present, if we use them wisely. Many people make New Year's resolutions to overcome some habit or improve their lives.



Maybe you are one of those people. And maybe, by the time you read this, the resolutions you made for the year may have already been broken.

St. Paul wrote, *"For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing"* (Rom. 7:19). Doesn't it seem that way with the habits we resolve to quit doing in the new year? After a few weeks of "trying," it is so easy to slip back into the old, familiar patterns. We continue to do the same things we don't want to do, and then often feel guilty for doing it.

St. Paul was writing about his sinful desires that he knew were wrong. No matter how hard he tried to avoid sin, he would fail time and again. The old patterns and habits were a temptation, luring one back into sin. I've been there many times. I'm sure you have been there, too.

Martin Luther, in the *Small Catechism*, writes that *"the Old Adam is the corrupt and evil nature that we inherit because of Adam's fall into sin."* Through our baptism into Christ, the *"old Adam is to be drowned by daily contrition [sorrow for sin] and repentance [faith], by which we resist and overcome evil desires."*

In our baptism, our sins are washed away and the righteousness of Christ envelopes us; we are no longer slaves to sin and it can no longer condemn us. We live each day as forgiven people through Christ. Every time we seek forgiveness, we are given a fresh start, a new day.

Ours is a daily struggle against sin. But by the grace of God we are conquerors of all things — even New Year's resolutions!

*Rev. Don Stauty*  
Arrowhead Region Counselor

## Fetz speaks at zone rally

Deaconess Kimberly Fetz of Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, was the featured speaker at the Kettle River Zone Fall Rally held at Zion Lutheran Church, Mora, in October 2013.

Deaconess Fetz spoke to the more than 70 people about her background, education and daily duties. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees, taught English in Hanoi, Vietnam, and graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.. After interning at Redeemer, she was hired full-time five years ago. She describes her



From left are Kettle River Zone President Carol Westendorf, Deaconess Kimberly Fetz and Arrowhead I Regional Vice-President Judy Uran.

profession as being an assistant to the pastor in all his regular duties.

Among her other responsibilities, she teaches Sunday school and confirmation, produces the church's Christmas program and leads Bible studies.

## What is a mission grant proposal?

It is an application written on a proposed mission grant to be submitted for consideration for the ballot at an LWML convention or district convention. The next mission grant opportunity is our 2014 LWML Minnesota North District Convention, June 23–25 in St. Cloud.

It's time to send applications to be considered so delegates can vote on the grants we would like to support for the 2014-16 biennium.

These proposals may be submitted by any individual LWML member, society, zone, region or the LCMS Minnesota North District Board of Directors. That means you play a large part in this process.

Pray for the Lord's direction in where He would have us place our mites. We encourage you to submit an application. An application and directions can be found on the LWML Minnesota North District Website, [www.lwmlmnn.org](http://www.lwmlmnn.org). Select "Resources," "Forms/Applications," then scroll down to "Mission Grants Resources." You may contact me at 218-879-5373 or [missiongrants@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:missiongrants@lwmlmnn.org)

The application deadline is Feb. 15, 2014.



2012-14 Mission Grant No. 9: Christian Storybooks for southeast Asia.

*Judy Uran*  
Mission Grants Chairman