



JoNette Brogaard  
6158 County Road 11 N.W.  
Alexandria, MN 56308  
president@lwmlmnn.org  
320-846-0984

## Counselor's Corner

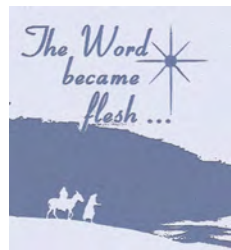
**“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...” (John 1:1, 14)**

John's Christmas story is not one we usually think about when we think of Christmas Scripture. There are no shepherds, manger, nor angels. Yet John shares with us the best of Christmas — he shares with us Christ Jesus, God's Christmas gift to us.

For John begins by telling us who Jesus is. He is God, who is eternal. He is the Word, through whom we are created, as is all that is around us, that we might have life in Him. Yet Adam fell, misusing this gift of life for his own

benefit. So we, too, sin and fall away from God, the source of life.

But then, when it seemed all hope was lost, the Father gave us the first and



best Christmas gift. He gave us the gift of His Son, the Word made flesh. The Word, Jesus, dwelt among us, living each step of His life perfectly following His Father's will, breathing each breath trusting in His Father's protection. He then walked to Golgotha and took His last breath on the cross, removing both our sin from us and the wages of those sins, death, from us. In this death, Jesus gives us life. His life, life with the Father, life eternal.

This is God's Christmas gift to us, the gift that is given every day to us through Word and Sacrament. It is the gift of life. It is the gift of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Have a blessed Christmas celebration!

**Rev. Anthony Cloose**  
Park Pastoral Counselor

## Grant helps mission of school in South Sudan

The LWML Minnesota North mission grant of \$10,000 was sent this summer to help pay salaries of the six teachers at Yambio Lutheran School.

The primary school is located in Yambio, West Equatorial State (WES), South Sudan. It was started about 12 years ago. I, as an educator, am very interested in helping the Church in South Sudan grow. The primary school is seen as a feeder program for future pastors, teachers and deaconesses in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sudan and South Sudan (ELCS).

The school is very important to the growth of sound Christian doctrine in South Sudan. There are two pastors and two vicars on staff. There are orphans (lost children) who attend the school as well.

As the school develops, more of the area children will begin attending. There are presently about 150 students and six trained teachers. The LWML Minnesota North District has been a Godsend to the school and the Church at large! I truly appreciate the district being an important part of mission work in South Sudan.



**Mahogany plaque which reads: Lutheran Primary School Provided by MN. N. LWML and Roberta F. Lutz Memorial Fund 2012-2014 ELCS/SS Glory to God.**

To all Minnesota North District churches, I would like to mention that these five congregations — Grace, Becker; Our Savior's, Crookston; First English, Eldred; St. John's, Ottertail; and Immanuel, Grand Forks, N.D. — have funded most of my mission and community work in South Sudan. It has also been a privilege to work with the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF). Working together, we are all touching lives in Yambio. There is always room to have more people become part of this journey into missions!

**Rob Lutz**  
ELCS Education  
Committee Board member



**Teachers and some of the students of the Yambio school. The uniforms were provided by the St. John's Sunday school, Ottertail.**