



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

Counselor's Corner

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8)

February is the month of “love” for the secular world. Valentine’s Day is the great opportunity to express love for another through cards, gifts, candy and the like. Too often such expressions of love are extended with the intent of receiving love in return. Too often such extensions of love are given to those whom we love in the first place.

God, our heavenly Father, sets the definition of love for us. While we were still sinners,” He sent His Son to die for us — to be the sacrificial lamb who would bear our sin and give us peace with Him. Such love is unconditional. He didn’t wait until we were worthy of His love, He didn’t set conditions for receipt of His love and He certainly did not wait for us to love Him first. God’s love for us in Christ is beyond measure, a gift that promises us forgiveness of our sin and life eternal through his Son.

In contrast to the world’s definition of love, which is typically self-centered and selfish, all true love comes from God. Baptized into Christ, we bear His mark — we are His. In this world, but not of this world, we are free then to love one another. **“If we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us”** (1 John 4:12). We are able to truly love one another only because of the love of God in Christ that is ours.

Rev. Don Stauty
Arrowhead Pastoral Counselor



2015 LWML Prayer Service God-Given Hats

By Rev. Kristopher Whitby,
LWML Pastoral Counselor (2009-13)

Our Lord graciously has called us to various stations in life. They are the “hats we wear” in His world. We are His children, baptized into Jesus’ death and resurrection. We daily die to sin and rise as new creatures in Christ. Our Lord blesses us to take this amazing identity as His forgiven children into the vocations to which He has called us. The theme Scripture passage for this service is 1 Tim. 2:1-4.

The prayer service and other resources may be downloaded from the LWML website at www.lwml.org.



Expressions of Love

Know someone who is a shut-in? Time and thoughtful gifts/ action can be a big help to them. Here are some ideas:

- ▶ Shut-ins may be lonely spending time in their house day in and day out. Why not express your love for them with a small, thoughtful gift?
 - ▶ A shut-in might like to read or listen to music. Bring them a magazine with interesting tid-bits or give them a CD to enjoy.
 - ▶ If your shut-in enjoys movies, rent one and watch it with them. Bring snacks and a beverage and enjoy the movie.
 - ▶ Greeting cards and a phone call are also thoughtful gestures. Share stories and find out more about them.
 - ▶ Make an offer to go to the grocery store to purchase food and other items for them.
 - ▶ A book of stamps is a nice gift; most often they have to pay their bills by mail.
 - ▶ Supply them with assorted greeting cards; they can keep in touch with their loved ones and remember their special days
- The ideas are endless ... Serve the Lord (by serving others) with Gladness!

2015 LWML Convention • Des Moines

Convention information and registration forms are available in the winter issue of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and at www.lwml.org/events/conventions/2015-des-moines.

News and updates

- ▶ Check the LWML Minnesota North website, www.lwmlmnn.org, for information on the chartered bus to Des Moines or call JoNette Brogaard at 320-846-0984.
- ▶ Plea for Society activities: Tell us what is happening in your LWML society. Send your article and an accompanying photo to editor@lwmlmnn.org. Photos/articles may also be sent by mail to JoNette (see address on top corner of this page).