

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased." LUKE 2:11-14*

Amid the bright lights, the myriad events and the focus on the birth of Christ; one can easily miss the promise of salvation God made as he spoke to the serpent in the garden:

"I will put enmity between you and woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel." GEN. 3:15

The whole purpose for the birth of Jesus is the defeat of sin, death and the devil — and it will take the cross to accomplish it. Martin Luther noted in his Christmas narrative that the shadow of the cross loomed over the manger scene in that little town of Bethlehem.

But the birth of Christ is not an abstract historical event, for tucked in the verse above are the all-important words that make this birth yours: *"For unto YOU is born this day ... Christ the Lord."* God sent His Son to this world to take His place alongside you, to bear your sins no matter how grievous, to reconcile you to God your heavenly Father and to give you a peace that the world cannot comprehend nor deliver.

It is as one believes that *"I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me,"* that the sin of Adam and Eve corrupts the

very nature of a person and forever separates them from God, that the child born in Bethlehem becomes more precious than silver or gold. This child, destined to die for you, is your gift. Baptized in His name, you are robed with the righteousness of Christ and that in turn makes you a child of God, redeemed by Christ and full heirs of the kingdom. This is the peace of which the angels sang — peace between God and man as it was in the beginning. Through Christ you are a new creation!

Buying a gift for someone is and can be rather difficult — size, color, usefulness, etc., all factor in the process. God knew the gift that everyone needed — the gift of redemption through Christ. And while our earthly gifts will fall apart, be re-gifted or forgotten, the gift of peace with God through Christ is for eternity, and for today and tomorrow as well. Amid the turmoil and trouble in our lives, our communities and world, today and every day we celebrate the birth of Jesus and that wonderful gift of life and salvation that comes through Him, joining our voices to the angels who sang "Glory to God in the highest."

**Rev. Don Stauty**  
Arrowhead Region Pastoral Counselor

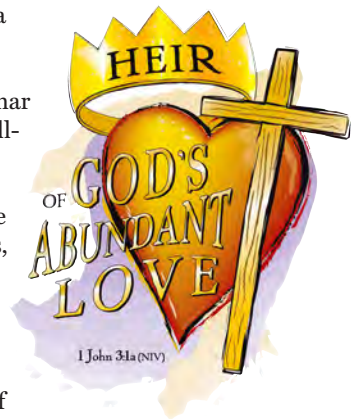
## MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND DISTRICT CONVENTION

The LWML Minnesota North District Convention will be held June 20-22, 2016, at the Willmar Conference Center in Willmar. The theme is based on 1 John 3:1a (NIV): "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

The keynote speaker will be Gary Thies, director of Mission Central, a missionary training and conference center in Mapleton, Iowa ([missioncentral.us](http://missioncentral.us)).

The Bible study leader will be Rev. Don Stauty, pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Virginia, and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Aurora. We will be entertained by the Chord-Ayres, a male chorus from west-central Minnesota that performs sacred, secular and patriotic music ([chord-ayres.com](http://chord-ayres.com)).

The convention will be hosted by Lakeland II Region. For more information, visit [lwmlmnn.org/districtconven.html](http://lwmlmnn.org/districtconven.html).



## NUCLEI GATHERING

Many women and a few pastors from societies in the Lakeland II Region met on Oct. 10 at Redeemer, Willmar, for a Nuclei Committee organizational meeting.

Planning for the upcoming 2016 District Convention has begun! Save June 20-22, 2016, and come to Willmar!



From left, Liz McTighe, Lakeland II regional vice-president; Julie Schlecht, Nuclei Committee co-chairman; and Karen Nelson.



**JoNette Brogaard**  
LWML District President  
6158 County Road 11 N.W.  
Alexandria, MN 56308  
[president@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:president@lwmlmnn.org)  
320-846-0984