

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

“God chose the lowly and despised things of the world—the things that are not—to negate the things that are.”

1 Cor. 1:28

I was visiting a couple who had not been able to attend church for a month because of health issues. When I arrived, a plate of chocolate chip cookies and a cup of coffee were immediately set in front of me.

But before I started on those goodies, we decided that we would celebrate Communion. So there, on the table were the cookies and coffee, and in front of them were three wafers of bread and three individual cups of wine.



If you were there, where would your attention be drawn? To those tasty and delicious cookies and coffee, or to those tasteless wafers and small cups of wine? Isn't this our struggle? How often do we look to the pleasures of this world and think that they are the most wonderful and tasty items ever. Yet when we look at the gifts of God, they seem bland and even less than ordinary!

Why is this? It is because the things of this world seem so pretty and sweet on the outside, though they are in reality empty on the inside, and God's gifts seem bland on the outside, but are truly filled with life-giving blessings.

So let us, by the grace of God, see the blessings of God for the great and wonderful gifts they are!

Rev. Anthony Cloose
Park Region Pastoral Counselor

VBS dream comes true

Ruby Prochnow had always hoped to offer VBS at the Breeze Campground near Park Rapids. She recalled taking her young daughters to a campground VBS near the Black Hills, S.D., while the family was camping there many years ago.

This past summer, Aug. 1-5, that dream came true for Ruby. The VBS at Breeze included Bible stories with discussion, music, crafts, recreation and healthy snacks. The students actively participated in the Bible studies and devotions. Recreational activities included swim-



ming in the pool and floating down the creek. Ruby offered thanks to Thrivent Financial for sponsoring the week with an Action Grant.

Ladies get renewed and refreshed

Fifty-eight women attended the LWML Retreat Aug. 12-14 under the theme “Living the Uncluttered Life,” based on Heb. 12:1-2.

One of the highlights of the weekend was welcoming 17 first-timers (pictured below). It was great to see so many come to Lutheran Island Camp and enjoy a refreshing time in God's Word and creation.



...let us also lay aside every weight,
and sin which clings so closely.



Looking for resources?

LWML has many program helps and resources available to download at lwml.org/program-helps. Resources available include devotions, Bible studies, sketches and drama scripts, PowerPoint presentations and help with crafts, retreats, workshops and more.



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