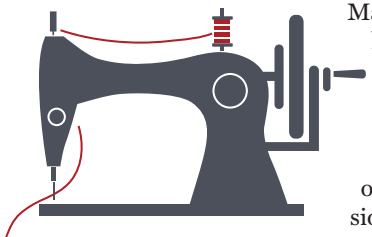


Convention-al banner

A favorite staple of going to conventions is receiving the cloth bags that are decorated with the convention's theme and used to hold all the advertisements and free promotional goodies from the organizations renting booths. And as anyone who has attended a convention knows, those bags are useful for many different purposes long after convention is over, including serving as grocery bags and extra storage containers.

But sometimes it is good to think outside the bag. Several ladies from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hennepin, looked at the stacks of bags they had collected over the years and saw a very different possibility:



A banner waiting to happen. So JoAnn Reineke and Doreen Salvog gathered some of the convention bags they had collected to see what could be done.

Marlene Stueve set her needle to work and created this wonderful banner displaying many important themes of our life and mission in Christ.

The banner was finished in time for the Wadena Zone LWML Fall Rally and is now gracing the fellowship hall at St. Paul's.

It goes to show that a creative set of eyes gifted by God with talented hands can make some beautiful and significant work out of otherwise "conventional" things.



Our Christian faith in the public square



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League Kettle River Zone Fall Workshop was held at St. John's Lutheran Church, Kroschel.

Four pastors were among the 54 attendees. Pictured with the zone banner from last June's Minnesota North District LWML Convention are, from left, Susan Ziege, Arrowhead I region vice-president; Carol Ann Sander, member, Trinity, Isle, and zone

president; Sharon Nelson, St. John's, Kroschel, LWML president; and the Rev. George Morris, pastor, St. John's. Morris led the Bible study, "Christian Citizenship: Faith in the Ballot Box."

The workshop was helpful for all who attended as resources to help think through the implications of our Christian faith in the exercise of responsible citizenship were made available.



Former president has new role

JoNette Brogaard, former LWML Minnesota North District president, has consented to serve as the archivist-historian for our district.

We welcome her and thank her for her dedicated service to the LWML. You can contact her at historian@lwmlmnn.org.



Marilyn Hittel

LWML District President
6850 Golden Spike Road
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
president@lwmlmnn.org
320-387-2219

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

God's amazing love

"What great love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are." (1 John 3:1a)

This verse was our convention theme this past June and speaks of God's love that is bestowed on us and the reason He makes us His children. It is also a needed verse in February, when many people celebrate love, but not a love as great and glorious as the love of God our Father.

For the worldly love looks for that which pleases self, that is, we love those who can offer to us what we enjoy: A good sense of humor, great cooking ability, wonderful conversation, etc. God's love gives to us what pleases Him, that is, He works through the forgiveness of Jesus Christ to make us holy, giving us Christ's righteousness, working in us the ability to love as He loves us.

What amazing love — to love the unlovable and through that love, to transform us into the likeness of Christ Jesus! For that is also what God's love does for us. He does not leave us in our self-centered condition, but His love recreates us to be selfless rather than selfish, to be holy and not sin-centered. His love creates in us the desire to thank and praise Him. His love works in us a caring love for all people.

What great love! God the Father loves us so much that He calls and re-creates us to be His children. He does this through the forgiveness of Jesus Christ, His dear Son. We are the children of God!

Rev. Anthony Cloose
Park Region Pastoral Counselor

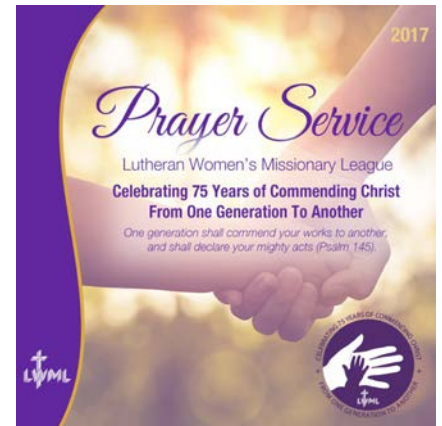
2017 LWML Prayer Service

"We are gathered here today as women and men of the church who are in our generation to be witnesses of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many of us lament 'the generation gap' that seems to be growing with the acceleration of changes in our culture.

"There are times when we long for the 'good-old days.' Our worship for today is to remind us that God continues to work in our days. That He is the God of all generations!"

(By the Rev. Dr. Steve Turner, Prayer Service author and president, LCMS Iowa District West.)

Downloads for the 2017 LWML Prayer



Service and cover artwork are available at lwml.org/prayer-service. If you are unable to download the service, please contact the LWML office at lwml@lwml.org or 1-800-252-5965 to obtain a paper copy.



Cookies galore!

The ladies of Trinity Lutheran Church, Appleton, held their annual cookie and bake sale on Saturday, Dec. 10. Those who stopped by to shop were able to choose from a variety of cookies for the Christmas season. Many congregational members and people from the community came to enjoy fellowship, and sample and purchase cookies.



Special thanks



We thank the Rev. Anthony Cloose for serving on the LWML Minnesota North District Board of Directors for these past four years.

Cloose served as the Park Region pastoral counselor (2012-16).