

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

God bless our mothers

Mother's Day had its founding in America in 1905 when Anna Jarvis honored her mother, Ann, for speaking out for peace in a time of war, and for caring for the Civil War wounded of both North and South. Although the Fourth Commandment to "Honor your father and your mother" is not a once-per-year honor but a continual one, all of us would agree that a special day is fitting to remember, thank, visit and praise our mothers.

For by God's grace and help, they labored and rejoice over us as their children. In 2 Tim. 1, Paul has praise for two mothers. Paul reminds Timothy that he has been taught the Gospel and, therefore, he has reason to show thankfulness:

"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice."

Paul goes further, saying that Timothy had even known the Holy Scriptures from infancy. Although, sadly, Timothy's father was probably an unbelieving Greek, he did not prevent Timothy from receiving a Christian education. Mother Eunice knew that her young son needed to be taught, from the earliest age, that it was God who knit him together in her womb; and that the God of life is also the God of our forgiveness and salvation in Christ. So that's what she did.

Why would Paul mention this? To remind all of us of the blessing and working of the Lord through our parents. Since the Lord has used our parents in this most blessed way, so in this faith we will "honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them." In this way, we are returning thanks and praise to God! How will you observe Mother's Day?

Rev. Matthew Vrudny
Park Region Pastoral Counselor

Meet our newest Young Woman Representatives

The Young Women Committee has selected Nicole Beyersdorf and Victoria (Tori) Nerud to represent the LWML Minnesota North District at the LWML Convention June 22-25 in Albuquerque, N.M.

Nicole has been involved with the LWML for about two years. She graduated as a deaconess in 2013 from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (CTSFW). Nicole met her husband, Philip, while he was also a student at CTSFW; they have been married for almost three years. Philip serves as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Villard.

Nicole serves as Human Care co-chairman for the Ladies Aid (LWML) group at St. John's. She also loves being involved in Altar Guild, learning to make banners with the help of the congregation's more experienced hands. Nicole loves to study and teach God's Word, as well as find opportunities to serve the church and community.

"I am so thankful to be selected to be one of the Young Woman Representatives for the LWML Minnesota North District and I'm looking forward to learning more about the LWML in Albuquerque," Nicole says.

Tori lives in Wyoming with her grandmother, Shirley. She is a member of Lord of the Lakes Lutheran Church, Forest Lake, where she is an active member of the choir, a confirmation mentor and, of course, an active member of the LWML.



▲ Rev. Philip and Nicole Beyersdorf



◀ Tori Nerud

A standing joke about Tori is that she started attending meetings in early 2015 to convince her grandmother to go and "spend time with people her own age." However, she found the LWML to be a group of sisters, mothers, aunts and grandmothers whom she loves — and has been regularly attending meetings ever since.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to represent the LWML Minnesota North District at the LWML convention as an YWR in Albuquerque this year," Tori says. "I'm excited to learn even more about the LWML and grow in my walk as a woman in Christ. May the peace of God be with you all."

Read the full stories of the two YWRs in the spring issue of the *Minnesota Northern Light*. (Available for download from the publications page at lwmlmnn.org.)

SCHOLARSHIPS REMINDER: The deadline for the 2017-18 scholarship application is May 15. Consider a career as a church worker.



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