

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

The long last days of summer

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

Has summer been too short for you? Do you wish the warmth and green and long days would last a bit longer? The lazy days will soon come to an end and then it will be back to work, school and the activities at church.

In contrast to the shortness of summer, the Church is in her longest season of the year — the season of Pentecost. We can have up to 27 Sundays after Pentecost. For half of the church year, we focus on the life of Jesus. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter focus our thoughts and hearts upon the promises of Jesus — His birth, baptism, being made known as God's son, suffering, death and resurrection. The other half of the year focuses on the life of His Church — from the “birth” of the Church at Pentecost to the resurrection of the Church on the last day.

The Christian Church has now lived more than 2,000 years. That's a long time. Sometimes, even in our congregations the days get long, the work gets hard and we become tired of this long season of waiting

for Christ to return. Sometimes it appears that instead of being a “growing” and green season for the Church, it looks more like a “dying” and brown season. That can be true of congregations. It can be true of LWML societies, and it is most certainly true of every individual Christian.

That is where the Word of God given to St. Peter is so comforting. God is at work in this long season of the Church. He is not slow to keep His promises, but rather is at work through the Church, through His Word to bring all to repentance and faith. His Church grows when one sinner repents, when one child is baptized, when a new congregation is started in Africa, Asia or North America. We may not always see the Church as “green” and growing, but it is because God is not slow in keeping His promises. You can be sure of that because Jesus died for your sins and rose again from the dead — just as God Himself promised.

Rev. Bruce Timm
Arrowhead Region
Pastoral Counselor

2018 District Convention

The LWML Minnesota North District Convention will be held June 18-20, 2018 at the Sanford Center in Bemidji. The theme Bible verse is, “See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands” (Is. 49:16a NKJV). The convention theme is, “Forever Written in His Hands.” The convention will be hosted by Park I Region.

'Serve Him With a Whole Heart'

The Alexandria Zone Spring Rally was hosted April 25 by the Mount Calvary LWML in Miltona. The ingathering — items for children to be used to further the Native American Ministry “The Reach,” was dedicated by the Rev. Dennis Angland, zone pastoral counselor.

The Rev. Terry Finner spoke on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation — “A Journey of Life and Faith”. Attendees had the opportunity to have their picture taken with Katie Luther. The Rev. Dane Compton provided the rally with clarinet music during coffee and lunch.



Long Prairie Zone Spring Rally

The Long Prairie Zone gathered on April 22 at Trinity, Long Prairie, for its spring rally. The guest speaker, the Rev. Geoff Grone-wold, pastor of Zion, Alexandria, shared the history and present work of the pro-life movement; he led the group in discussion on how individuals can get involved.

In support of the pro-life movement locally, an ingathering of



more than 11,000 items was gathered. The items were divided between two centers in the Long Prairie Zone — Options for Women, Sauk Centre, and the Pregnancy Resource Center, Long Prairie.



Marilyn Hitel

LWML District President

6850 Golden Spike Road, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
president@lwmlmn.org; 320-387-2219