



Counselor's corner

Three crosses: two criminals "receiving the due reward" of their deeds; between them the Lamb of God, sinless and innocent. The preparation for the crucifixion was accomplished. Jesus had been mocked and beaten. He was flogged, a brutal act that killed many of its victims. A crown of thorns placed on His head was struck time and again. And then they nailed Jesus to the cross.

While one criminal continues scoffing Jesus, the other repents, "Remember me, Jesus, when You come into Your kingdom." The criminal becomes a prophet, proclaiming that this is the Son of God, suffering for the sins of the world.

Out of the blackness of the day comes the ray of light and of hope. What sign of royalty did the criminal see among the spittle, the blood, the nails, the torture, the jeers of the crowds, the cross from which the bruised body of Christ hung? He saw not with the eyes of sight, but with the eyes of faith, the baby Jesus, whose birth was heralded by angels and whose death opened the very gates of heaven.

The criminal made a confession of Christ, seeing in Him the King of heaven itself. In the midst of His own suffering, Christ sustained the repentant criminal with forgiveness and the promise of Paradise

when his eyes closed in death.

"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16).

*Rev. Don Stauty
Arrowhead Region
Counselor*

Attention: societies and zones

Is your LWML group sponsoring special events or doing something exciting in your church? To share your news and ideas with other LWML societies in the Minnesota North District, send a photograph and article for publication in a future issue to Kristin Olsen, district LWML editor, at editor@lwmlmnn.org.



Next to writing a check, perhaps the best way to leave a charitable gift to an organization like Lutheran Women's Missionary League is a bequest. A bequest establishes your wishes today without relinquishing needed assets during your lifetime. Bequests can transfer a specific asset. You also can give a percent of the estate after costs and taxes. To learn more, contact 888-482-8425 or bilowp@oh.lcms.org.

Getting ready to go to a meeting

Follow these tips and look forward to a good day serving the Lord!

- PRAY to the Lord for guidance and blessing on what you will be doing and saying.
- PREPARE and SHARE your written reports with others who will be attending.
- CONSIDER any issues you wish to present and make notes, if needed.
- ASSEMBLE any papers you need to take to the meeting, i.e., agenda, reports. (Do this the night before you have your meeting.)
- SLEEP well so that you will be alert for travel and to participate in the meeting.

**Minnesota North
LWML Retreat
Lutheran Island Camp
Aug. 12-14**
Theme:
*"Thy Word Is a Lamp
Unto My Feet"*



LWML plays in Peoria

The 34th biennial convention of the LWML is just around the corner: June 23-26 in Peoria, Ill.

Celebrating the theme "Being with Jesus—Living on the Edge," the "Mites in Action" speakers—Rev. Jeff Johnson, Paul Miller and Rev. Paul and Becky Shaw—will challenge you as they share their stories of "living on the edge."

Visits to the exhibits will allow you to learn more about the missions and ministries of the LCMS and enjoy some shopping at the LWML store.

Visit www.lwml.org for more details or to register for the convention online.

New role for LWML's Gifts of Love volunteers

Six women, representing five LWML districts, have assumed the new role of Volunteer Gift Planning Advocate to enhance the outreach of LWML's Gifts of Love



planned giving initiative in their districts: Ruth Ann Arbeiter, Southern Illinois District; Glenda Schuft and Mary Kay Mages, Minnesota South District; Cheryl Keithly, Pacific Southwest District; Sandy Hardies, Michigan District; and Dottie Sincebaugh, North Dakota District.