



Counselor's Corner

"In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan ... The Spirit immediately drove Him out into the wilderness. And He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan" (Mark 1:9, 12-13).

Jesus is baptized. Immediately, the wonderful event is made even more glorious as the heavens are torn open, the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus in the form of a dove and the voice of the Father declares, "You are my beloved Son; with You I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11)

So what happens next? A glorious celebration? No. Jesus is immediately driven out into the bleak, dry desert, fasting for 40 days and nights. And Satan tempts Him.

This season, let us consider this year's Lenten journey. The 40 days of Lent mirror the 40 days of Jesus' time in the wilderness, for during Lent we take time to examine ourselves and our lifestyle. We see the wasteland of our sin and we turn to God for help and hope.

We remember our Baptism. In those waters, God has united us with Christ and everything Christ had done becomes ours. His righteousness, His forgiveness, His love are poured out upon us, not only at our Baptism, but all our life.

Yet what also happens after our Baptism? Like Jesus, we are sent into the desert, tempted to sin by Satan, dragged down by the world, but we do not go alone. We go with Christ, trusting in God and showing His love. We go as children of God, forgiven and restored to our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Rev. Ron Hobbie
Lakeland Region Counselor*



Minnesota North District 26th Biennial Convention June 23-25



Theme verse: "For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken." (Ps. 62:1-2)

Location: St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Paul Krueger, senior pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Minot, N.D., and director of Hope Village, Minot

Bible Study Leader: Rev. Brady Finner, pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church, Sartell.

Entertainment: Looney Lutherans

... And a lot more. Look for registration information in the April *Minnesota Northern Light*, our LWML Minnesota North District website, www.lwmlmnn.org, and the spring packets.

Ladies enjoy Advent Tea



Each year the LWML society of Zion Lutheran Church, Boyd, have an Advent Tea. Tables are festively decorated by the ladies, with dishes from fine china to children's place settings.

The event is a huge success and includes a program, singing of carols and a large variety of desserts and Christmas breads. This year, two tables were cleverly decorated with church-ware and included several items from past years to commemorate Zion's 125th anniversary in September 2014.

Sudden change becomes blessing at Zion

The women of Zion Evening Guild, Alexandria, showed up at a recent monthly meeting expecting to hear a guest speaker from a nearby town. However, the speaker was unable to attend. The society president, Deb Ziegelmann, did some fast thinking and moved into action. She gathered her many craft materials and lined tablet paper. The new evening activity: making thankfulness journals.

After putting together the creatively covered "booklets," the members were encouraged



Florence Stanz and Evelyn Gease work on thankfulness journals.

to enter a new item daily to the journal — something for which they are thankful. That's not a difficult task — God blesses us so much!