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## Counselor's Corner

**You are My beloved Son, with you I am well pleased. (Mark 1:11b)**

The Baptism of Jesus is unique, for it clearly shows the Trinity: God, the Father speaking these words, the Son being baptized and the Holy Spirit descending like a dove, a symbol of sacrifice. All three persons of the Godhead are present at Jesus' baptism.

Why is the baptism of Jesus so important for you to remember? The baptism of Jesus is the most important baptism of all time. He knew no sin, He didn't need to repent and be baptized. At His baptism, Jesus reveals that He is the One who takes your sin, all sin, upon Himself and carries it to the cross to pay

the penalty, which is death by your baptism, you are baptized into Christ, the most important baptism. St. Paul's letter to the Romans says: *"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life"* (6:3-4).



This is wonderful news for you who are baptized and believe in His promises. Martin Luther declares that you should remember your baptism daily. For being baptized into Christ, you are baptized into His life, death, resurrection and ascension. Here your sins are forgiven, and forgiveness gives you life everlasting and salvation, not death. So remember your baptism daily, repent of your sins and walk in your new life in Christ.

You are baptized! You are forgiven!

**Rev. Donald Klatt**

Lakeland Pastoral Counselor

## Make plans for national convention

**Date:** June 25-28, 2015

**Location:** Des Moines, Iowa

**Theme:** "Bountiful! Sow • Nourish • Reap"

**Scripture Verse:** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work (2 Cor. 9:8 NIV).

A great way to get to convention is to take a chartered bus along with your sisters (and brothers) in Christ!



We're looking into taking two buses:

**Bus #1** leaves from Fergus Falls early on Wednesday, June 24, and will make a stop at Mission Central near Mapleton, Iowa, before heading to Des Moines that evening. The approximate cost is \$100 plus one extra night of lodging.

**Bus #2** leaves from St.

Cloud on Thursday, June 25 and heads for the Twin Cities before going to Des Moines. This bus would arrive in time for delegate orientation. The approximate cost is less than \$100

For bus forms and/or more information, please contact JoNette at 320-846-0984 or [president@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:president@lwmlmnn.org). You can also get forms at [www.lwmlmnn.org](http://www.lwmlmnn.org).

We will make hotel reservations (for bus-riders only) by the end of January; we appreciate your getting forms and returning them to us promptly.

## 2014-16 Mission Grants

The following grants were selected for our 2014-16 biennium, with a mission goal of \$136,000. In this new year of 2015, please keep the recipients in your prayers. May God grant blessings to those in mission fields who serve the Lord with gladness.

Grant 1: Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Students, \$50,000

Grant 2: Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination, \$15,000

Grant 3: Orphan Grain Train, \$8,500

Grant 4: Lutheran Island Camp Summer Staff Training, \$10,000

Grant 5: Salaries for Teaching Staff, Yambio Lutheran School, South Sudan, Africa, \$10,000

Grant 6: School Building for Gloria Dei in Cap-Haïtian, Haiti, \$20,000

Grant 7: Lutheran Braille Workers, \$5,000

Grant 8: Life in Christ Lutheran Church, Grand Marais, \$15,000

Grant 9: Rev. James Kollie Education Fund, Liberia, \$295

