

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." Is. 1:18B

This might cause some of you to stop reading immediately, but I must confess. A part of me really likes winter!



Maybe it's because a change is always interesting, if nothing else. More probable is that the childhood memories of building snow forts and sledding down hills have a greater charm when they don't include the frozen fingers, toes, ears and nose. There is also the beauty of a calm, sunny, *crispy cold* (below zero), gloriously white winter day.

But it is also because winter is like heaven! After a nice, white snowfall of a foot or more, the world has changed. All that was brown and dead is covered completely by fresh, clean, white snow. Everything looks new.

And so are we. Cleansed by the blood of Christ, the stain — the total discoloration! — of our sin is gone. We are made pure white through the forgiveness the Christ-child came to win for us on the cross. The old has gone, the new has come, and with this newness has come the gift of heaven — eternal life with our loving God.

So when you look out on the snow-covered landscape on a cold January day — from inside your warm house — remember with joy the forgiveness of Christ Jesus that has made you pure white.

Rev. Anthony Cloose
Park Region Pastoral Counselor

MITES FOR THE 2016-18 BIENNIUM

It is time again to submit mission grant requests, to be voted on during the 2016 LWML Minnesota North District Convention June 20–22 in Wilmar.

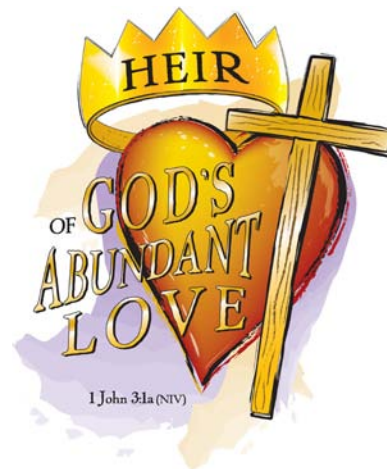
The grants you submit should:

- ✦ Emphasize mission.
- ✦ Extend the ministry of the Word.
- ✦ Adhere to the mission plans of the LCMS.
- ✦ Be well documented.
- ✦ Be current and ready for implementation.

Mission grant proposals may *only* be submitted by individual LWML Minnesota North District members, LWML Minnesota North District societies, LWML Minnesota North District zones, LWML Minnesota North District regions and the Minnesota North District Board of Directors.

Pray for the Lord's direction in where He would have us place our mites to support those in the mission field.

The application deadline is Feb. 15. The form and instructions can be down-



loaded from the district website. Visit lwmlmnn.org, go to the "Resources" tab and click "Forms/Applications" in the drop-down menu. Scroll down for the mission grants resources. For more information, contact Carol at 218-389-6916 or missiongrants@lwmlmnn.org.

Carol Westendorf
Mission Grants Chairman

A year of resolutions

New year resolutions related to LWML Resources (3 Rs):

- † Purchase the new *Today's Light Bible* (ESV) and read the entire Bible in one or two years.
- † Subscribe to daily *Daily Mustard Seed Devotions* on your computer.

† Subscribe to *Two-Minute Tuesdays* on your computer.

† Download the *Prayer and Praise Mite Calendars* at lwmlmnn.org/mitecal.html. Use daily — you won't forget to pray for our nine district mission grants by using this calendar!

A step back

On Nov. 11, Jenny Biorn (pictured) and Corles Rainer, our financial officers, spent the day sorting through the LWML Minnesota North District archives at the district office in Baxter. It certainly was a step back in time! The archivist-historian position has been vacant for more than a year. If interested (and we've had some inquiries), contact President JoNette.



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