

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### Christmas goes on.

By now, most people are glad Christmas is finished. The gifts have been unwrapped. The celebrations have ended. The treats have been eaten. The house can return to "normal."

That may be the way of the world, but it is not the way of the Church. The season of Epiphany, which is really part of the Christmas season, goes on for eight weeks this year. Epiphany might be called the "unwrapping" season. The word "Epiphany" simply means "to make manifest" or "to make known."

So what happens during Epiphany? The gift of that little boy Jesus, given in the flesh of Mary and laid in a manger, is unwrapped for us. He is made known to us. When the Wise Men visit, He is made known as the Savior of the World — of all mankind. When He is baptized, He is marked as the sin-bearer who would go to the cross in the sinner's place. When He turns water into wine, He is manifested as the Creator Himself. When He heals the sick, cleanses the unclean and casts out demons, He shows us that He is our Lord who will set us free from sin, death and the powers of hell. On the Mount of Transfiguration, the wrapping comes off completely and He is revealed as God of God and Light of Light.

That little baby born to Mary is God in the flesh — the fullness of His deity is unwrapped for us in this Epiphany season. Thanks be to God Christmas is not over for us — God continues through the preaching of His Word and the giving of His Sacraments not only to reveal His Son to us, but to give us His Son, and with His Son to give us forgiveness, life and salvation.

**Rev. Bruce Timm**  
Arrowhead Region Pastoral Counselor

## Taking flight in St. Louis

St. Louis was the site of the LWML Strategic Planning meeting, held Oct. 26-29.

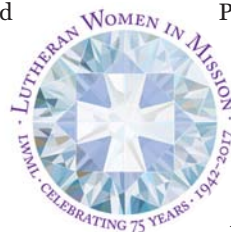
Each day started with prayer and Bible study. Seasoned district presidents were paired with new district presidents — a mentoring process that works very well. It helps new presidents learn how the LWML Board of Directors operates.

The women (and pastors) were asked to brainstorm and come up with ideas on how to engage pastors, congregations and women of the church in the mission

of the LWML. The walls of the meeting room were plastered with yellow sticky notes full of different ideas and activities.

Planning was started for the LWML 75th anniversary celebration, to be held during the 37th Biennial Convention in Albuquerque, N.M., June 22-25.

"The LWML, the leading group for LCMS women, is the place where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique, God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness" (vision statement of the LWML).



## How do I get involved...

### in my local group?

Talk to your society president or pastor. There are also many resources available for you to use with your group on this page and throughout the site. Don't have a group? Consider beginning a new group or individual membership.

### in my district LWML?

District LWML groups are always looking for volunteers to help spread the enthusiasm of Lutheran Women in Mission. Contact your district president!

### in the National LWML?

The LWML appoints many volunteers to national committees. If you would like to offer your time and talents, please fill out a Personnel Resources Profile form. This will be kept on file for each biennium as the Executive Committee makes appointments to committees and task forces.

Find this list and more LWML resources at [lwml.org/online-resource-guide](http://lwml.org/online-resource-guide).

## Finding our place

So often we feel that we have nothing to contribute to a group. The thought of being a leader is daunting. By taking a step back and studying God's Word, we can get a better idea of what our gift might be in respect to leadership.

Leadership is service to others and that is something most of us do already. We can lead others by example, by mentoring and by encouragement. Remember to lead in love toward one another and always pray for the Holy Spirit to work in you to the glory of Jesus Christ!

**Kathy Brandt**  
Leader Development Chairman



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