

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Waiting for the harvest

“The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.”

MARK 4:28

Is your harvest coming in or are you still waiting? If you have a vegetable garden, you planted some seeds, watched for the first tender shoots and, by this time, have either enjoyed some of the fruits or are getting impatient for things to fully ripen. For green beans, you've had to wait at least 50 days; for sweet corn, the wait is between 75 and 85 days; you may have had to wait 10 weeks for cucumbers; and for squash or potatoes, you might still be waiting! Gardeners have to be patient. So do Christians.

How long does it take for the seed of the Word to bear the fruit of faith? It will, as Jesus taught in His parables of the Sower, the Wheat and the Tares, and others. Sometimes we can be disappointed after we've sown the seed of God's Word and shared the Good News of forgiveness in Christ Jesus, and we don't see spiritual growth right away.

But trust the Lord of the harvest to be doing His work as promised, even as we cannot see what the Spirit is doing “underground.” Sow the seed, water the plants and pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers into the harvest field (Matthew 9). We have the Church's work to do, but we cannot control the seed's germination, growth or fruit. Yet, in time, we will be blessed by the Spirit's work and the fruitfulness of the Gospel message.

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.” 1 COR. 3:6

Plant, water, and pray. The Word is always working, and the Spirit is always producing the fruit of the Kingdom's harvest. Even our gardens declare the Lord's message of patience and trust. Enjoy the harvest!

Rev. Matthew Vrudny
Park Region Pastoral Counselor

LWML Sunday 2017

The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside for the observation of LWML Sunday, but it may be celebrated at any time.

The service was written by the Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr., president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

A full worship service is available for download at lwml.org/lwml-sunday. As many pastors prefer to tailor their services to their congregation's needs, the sermon, litany and children's sermon can also be downloaded separately and may be inserted in any worship service where needed.



In Season and Out of Season

YWRs at convention

From left, Nicole Beyersdorf, District President Marilyn Hiltel and Tori Nerud.



THE YOUNG WOMAN REPRESENTATIVES attending the 2017 LWML 37th Biennial Convention in Albuquerque, N.M., in June were Victoria (Tori) Nerud of Lord of the Lakes, Forest Lake, and Nicole Beyersdorf of St. John's, Villard.

“To all the women who supported us through this and made it possible for us to go as Young Woman Representatives, we were able to meet other young women from around the country and almost every lady we met at the convention was loving, supportive and encouraging,” Nerud said. “Going to an LWML convention helped to impress upon me the broader scope of the LWML as a whole, and it is a beautiful thing. Thank you!”

“The experience at convention got me excited about the LWML and what women across the country are doing for our church,” Beyersdorf said. “I’m grateful that the LWML Minnesota North District gave me the opportunity to see what the LWML looks like on a larger scale. I hope through the Holy Spirit’s guidance, our local society and zone can reach out to our communities with Christ’s mercy and love in meaningful ways.”

Read more about their thoughts and experiences in the 2017 summer issue of the *Minnesota Northern Light* newsletter. Download a copy at lwmlmnn.org, under the “Publications” link.



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