

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### Build up the highway!

"Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway ... Behold, your salvation comes." — **Is. 62:10-11**

I live "up north," where people with their boats and campers and utility trailers come out of the cities to their cabins on Friday and leave again on Sunday. To accommodate the crazy traffic, which clogs up the little towns along the way, the plan was "Build up, build up the highway!"

Land was acquired and cleared of trees; machines came in to take the dirt of the hills and move it into the valleys, where the old road curved to the right. Now the new highway curves to the left. Many local residents appreciate not hearing that old warning cry: "Behold, here comes the weekend traffic!"

The prophet Isaiah uses road language to speak about spiritual road building. The divine plan was to deliver the promised Messiah into the world and make way for Him into the clogged hearts and lives of sinners to receive Him and live.

Our old nature always retreats into the rough hills or rugged valleys of comfortable sin, avoidance of the Holy God and death. During our Advent preparation for our Christmas celebration, once again our Father will use the bulldozing of the Holy Spirit to make way for the Son Jesus. Through each worship opportunity for repentance, our rough ground is leveled out and the way is open for the Christ to come to us and for us to receive the forgiveness which brings us true comfort and joy.

Let us bring this year of 2017 to a close by acknowledging the Good News being declared to us and to our neighbor: "Behold, your salvation comes!" And let us give thanks to God through our Lord Jesus Christ!

**Rev. Matthew Vrudny**  
Park Region Pastoral Counselor

## WANTED: willing servants

The LWML Minnesota North District Board of Directors is seeking willing servants of our Lord to serve as:

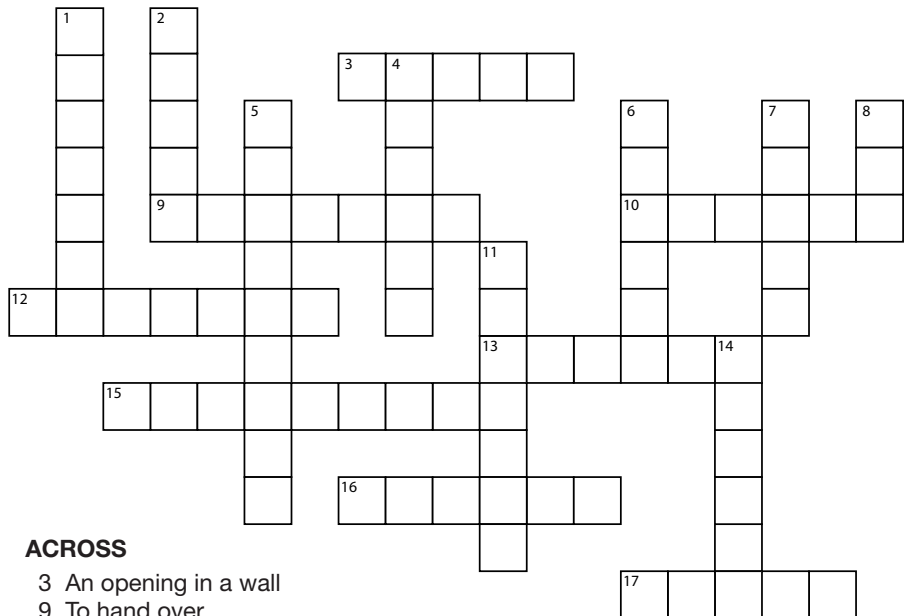
- Executive vice-president, Christian Life
- Recording secretary
- Financial secretary
- Regional vice-presidents for Arrow-

head II, Lakeland II and Park II

- Park Region Pastoral Counselor

For nominee information or to volunteer as a candidate for office, contact Kaylene Motschenbacher, Nominating Committee chairman, at 218-493-4325 or [72denkaym@rrt.net](mailto:72denkaym@rrt.net).

## Crossword: "Build up"



### ACROSS

- 3 An opening in a wall
- 9 To hand over
- 10 The place between two mountains
- 12 The one who was promised
- 13 Sinners need to do
- 15 The day of Christ's birth
- 16 A prophet that used road language
- 17 God's son

### DOWN

- 1 When someone wrongs us
- 2 The opposite of destroy

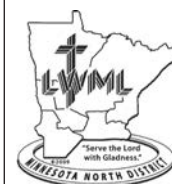
- 4 A time to prepare
- 5 Our deliverance from sin
- 6 What kind of plan was delivered
- 7 A high place
- 8 A feeling of happiness
- 11 A Sunday ceremony
- 14 An act of praise

## Answers

6-Divine; 7-Hills; 8-Joy; 11-Worship; 14-Thanks  
1-Forgive; 2-Build; 4-Advent; 5-Salvation;  
DOWN  
13-Repent; 15-Christmas; 16-Isaiah; 17-Jesus  
3-Gates; 9-Deliver; 10-Valley; 12-Messiah;  
ACROSS

## Reminders

- Be sure to save the date for the LWML Minnesota North District Convention — June 18-20, 2018, at the Sanford Center in Bemidji.
- There is still time to apply for a mission grant — the deadline is Feb. 15, 2018. The form can be downloaded from the "Resources" tab at [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org) (select "Forms/Applications" from the drop-down menu).



### Marilyn Hiltel

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