

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Our greatest comfort

By October each year, we have reached the 20th Sunday of the Pentecost season — the season of hearing about Jesus' ministry of teaching and healing the people from town to town.

He demonstrated two merciful characteristics. He had sympathy, to feel "with" someone, as we heard weeks ago in Mark 6:34:

"And He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd."

Jesus also had empathy; it means to feel "in" someone — that is, to see the world through their eyes or walking in their shoes. In sympathy, He came among us to help us see that our God is merciful in compassion, sees our need and He is strong to help us in our sorrow and to lift us out of trouble.

But His empathy was even greater! Says Heb. 4:15:

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."

The Son of God did not just observe our need and come alongside us for supporting companionship. Jesus is our heaven-sent Priest who has also lived out our own heartaches and sorrows, knowing them firsthand and through our human eyes. His empathy on the cross, knowing our painful and lonely separation from our Father firsthand, has become our salvation!

In our faith, we feel compassion for those who are troubled; we may even have walked in similar shoes at one time. But the greater thing we can bring to them is the Good News of the One who has the power to strengthen, heal and save them: Jesus our High Priest and sinless advocate before the Father's throne. He will be their greatest comfort.

Rev. Matthew Vrudny
Park Region Pastoral Counselor

Don't miss this opportunity!

Two Young Woman Representatives (YWR) are being sought to attend the LWML 38th Biennial Convention June 20-23 in Mobile, Ala.

YWRs must be a member of a Minnesota North District congregation and have not previously attended a national LWML convention as a YWR. The age preference is between 18 and 35 years old. A candidate will have a deep love and devotion for her Lord Jesus Christ and be willing to participate in the full scope of the convention, including all special YWR activities. Potential YWRs will need to be able to be away from home/work for the entire convention and the travel time involved.

The LWML Minnesota North District has made a financial commitment to send selected YWRs to the convention in Mobile. The two selected YWRs must commit to providing a convention report at the LWML Minnesota North District Convention in 2020.

Applications can be found at lwmlmnn.org/youngwomen.html and in the 2018 fall packet that will be handed out at fall zone rallies. Applications are due by Dec. 1. For more information about YWR activities or how to apply, contact Beth Dinger, Young Women Chairman, at youngwomen@lwmlmnn.org.



Ladies visit district camps



Zion Evening Guild, Alexandria, enjoys taking a field trip in June of each year. For the 2018 trip, the ladies went to Lutheran Island Camp/Christ Serve Ranch. They were toured the facilities, had Bible time and saw Hannah Cabin — their "adopted cabin." A special evening at a special place!

Marilyn Hiltel

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Quilting superheroes

The quilting ladies of St. John's Lutheran Church, rural Ada, are pictured with some of the quilts they made in 2017-18. These dedicated ladies gather together every Wednesday during the winter months for Bible study, fellowship and quilting. Last year they made more than 100 quilts and will exceed that amount this year. The quilts are sent to Lutheran World Relief.



From left, Connie Anderson, Verona Heiraas, Arlene Sip, Sandra Berglind and Melodie Hobbie.