



Fun and fellowship at retreat

The district annual LWML Retreat was held Aug. 9-11 at Lutheran Island Camp. There were 54 women in attendance, including 16 first-timers. The theme was *Every One His Witness*, which is also an LCMS evangelism program that puts sound doctrine into practical action for sharing the faith with those in our everyday lives. Rev. Bruce Timm, Arrowhead Region pastoral counselor, was the program facilitator.

Participants were also able to enjoy pontoon rides, tours of Christ Serve Ranch, exercise, crafts and games, campfire singing with s'mores and fellowship with other LWML members. On Saturday evening, the vocal group Seams Like Swing provided entertainment, sharing vocal memories from the 1940s. The weekend concluded with worship and brunch on Sunday morning.

Mark your calendars for the 2020 LWML Retreat, which will be held Aug. 7-9. Come and enjoy Christian fellowship with your sisters (and brothers) in Christ!



Servants fill backpacks

Members of Trinity Evening Guild, Trinity, Bemidji, are shown with backpacks purchased with a Thrivent Action Team grant. Each fall, the Guild solicits school supplies from Trinity members, sorts them, fills the backpacks and gives them to teachers and paraprofessionals from the congregation to use as needed in their classes.



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COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Spiritual hunger

"Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD God, 'when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.'" — **Amos 8:11**

How thankful we are for our Thanksgiving Day gathering and meal! It's a good tradition of praise to the God who provides a harvest of plant and animal. What a sad year it would be if we were to experience a drought or flood leading to a famine and no meal of turkey and stuffing.

Even worse would be a famine of the soul. Through Amos, God once threatened a frightening event: A famine of hearing the Word of God — the Word of Life. He said it would cause people to run around frantically seeking it, but not finding it. Is there a famine today of God's Word? Not among us. How blessed we are!

"But the Word is very near you ... in your mouth and in your heart." — **Deut. 30:14**

Yet there is plenty of spiritual starvation because too many — distracted by self and the world — are not seeking His Word; they are in a famine. We have Good News to share: To alleviate spiritual hunger that leads to death, the Father gave us His Word through the Spirit (written) and in the flesh of His Son. Jesus is the Life-giving Word and the Bread from heaven. His flesh was given on the cross so that we might not die in sin. His Spirit was sent to remind us of His Words of this new and eternal life of faith we have been given.

Give thanks to the Lord God for His many blessings — especially for the continuing rich harvest of spiritual bread which is far more important than our traditional turkey and stuffing.

Rev. Matthew Vrudny • Park Region Pastoral Counselor