



TREASURED NEWS



MARCH 2013

Issue #7

THE SEVEN T'S OF STEWARDSHIP

TIME — As maturing stewards we receive time as a gift from God and strive to make the best use of it in our family relationships, work, and other life activities. We do this not only as an obligation, but also as a free and joyous activity.

TALENT — Just as God provided skilled workers to help with the building of the Old Testament tabernacle and temple, so He continues to bless His people today with special gifts and skills to be of service in ways that honor God and bless others.

TREASURE —Read on...

TREASURE

TREASURE, or money, is what people most often think about when they hear the term “stewardship.” And it is true that money and, specifically, the wise use and management of money are important parts of Christian stewardship.

One of the Bible passages that speaks to the wise use of money is 1 Timothy 6:17-19: *“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of life that is truly life.”*

There are only a few things we can do with money—earn it, give it, save it, spend it, and bequeath it. Good stewardship means striving to keep a healthy balance with these uses. For example, one can get so concerned with earning that he overworks at the expense of his health and relationships. Or, one can get carried

away with spending and not have anything left for giving and saving.

The above Scripture passages affirm that God gives us all kinds of good gifts for our enjoyment, but adds that we are to use these gifts for more than our own enjoyment. Our cold and selfish natures encourage us to use money and goods only for ourselves, adopting some strange strategy like, “God helps those who help themselves.” But the new nature within us because of the working of the Holy Spirit urges us to use all our gifts, including the gift of money, for the common good and for the expansion of God’s kingdom on earth.

What joy will follow us into heaven when our glorious Lord commends us for our wise use of money (along with all of His gifts to us) and says, *“Well done, good and faithful servant!” (Matthew 25:21)*

Rev. John Heckmann
LWML Junior Pastoral Counselor

MITE REPORT BY DISTRICT — FEBRUARY 2013

DISTRICT	CURRENT	TOTAL	DISTRICT	CURRENT	TOTAL
ATLANTIC		13,800.62	NEBRASKA NORTH	670.52	24,362.81
CAL-NEV-HAWAII	2,785.25	39,858.72	NEBRASKA SOUTH		34,684.93
CAROLINAS		8,728.83	NEW ENGLAND	752.80	12,795.12
CENTRAL ILLINOIS	2,053.69	37,903.75	NEW JERSEY	274.95	4,235.68
CHESAPEAKE		21,952.11	NORTH DAKOTA	1,344.24	26,396.91
EASTERN		13,695.03	NORTH WISCONSIN	2,302.00	31,891.00
ENGLISH	733.16	11,084.96	NORTHERN ILLINOIS	1,187.86	40,793.07
FLORIDA-GEORGIA		29,022.10	OHIO	4,264.95	42,211.49
GULF STATES		12,107.62	OKLAHOMA		37,556.23
INDIANA	2,454.28	32,423.44	OREGON		17,333.51
IOWA EAST		28,291.42	PACIFIC SW	2,264.96	56,771.87
IOWA WEST	2,114.72	44,533.19	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	2,473.85	36,873.65
KANSAS		32,123.57	SELC		2,990.78
LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI		13,457.51	SOUTH DAKOTA	5,040.97	24,442.36
MICHIGAN	3,424.63	71,275.89	SOUTH WISCONSIN		47,474.77
MID-SOUTH	1,376.30	27,186.61	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	1,101.68	21,661.47
MINNESOTA NORTH		33,858.02	TEXAS	3,955.59	68,531.54
MINNESOTA SOUTH	2,174.43	53,788.58	UTAH-IDAHO	1,181.40	11,355.51
MISSOURI	7,613.56	77,225.49	WASH-ALASKA		28,497.71
MONTANA	601.57	13,912.20	WYOMING		11,514.56
			TOTAL	52,147.36	1,198,604.63

MITES FROM OTHER SOURCES

Mite Donations	11,200.80	136,503.92	Annual Appeal	2,075.00	118,500.82
Conv. Offering #1		51,150.79	GoodSearch		5,198.32
Children's Miss Adv		10,489.11	Thrivent Simply Giving	50.00	1,725.00
Mite Walk		60,385.67	Thrivent Choice Dollars	5,528.00	51,674.00
Golf Tournament		7,332.06	OTHER MITE TOTAL	18,853.80	442,959.69
			GRAND TOTAL	71,001.16	1,641,564.32

All totals are unconfirmed pending verification from the accounting office.



HOLY WEEK THOUGHTS

As you are well aware, Holy Week is the last week of Lent, the week right before Easter. It is a week in which we concentrate on the suffering (Passion) and death of our Savior Jesus Christ. It is a week in which we focus not so much on the joys of Palm Sunday and Easter, but instead on the suffering, humiliation, and death that was Jesus' life during this week before Easter.

And that is important because it is only against the backdrop of the darkness of Holy Week; only in realizing the horror and magnitude of sin and its consequences for the Son of God, our Savior, hanging there to die on that first Good Friday; only in thinking about the despair that the disciples felt on Holy Saturday and that we feel because of our sins, that we can truly understand the joy and hope of Easter Sunday morning!

Holy Week begins on the sixth Sunday in Lent, better known as **Palm Sunday** and sometimes known now as The Sunday of the Passion. (The English word *passion* comes from a Latin word that means "to suffer," the same word from which we derive the English word *patient*.) In

many churches, Palm Sunday is a celebration of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem that was marked by the crowds who were in Jerusalem for Passover waving palm branches and proclaiming Him as the king. The Gospels tell us that Jesus rode into the city on a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9. The irony of the events of Palm Sunday is that only five days later, many of these same people (if not most of them), were shouting for the execution of Jesus, a sad reminder of just how often we want God on our own terms, doing things the way we want Him to do them. The color of the paraments (hanging, scarves, coverings) on the altar, pulpit, lectern and pastor is purple.

Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday is the day on which we remember Christ giving us the gift of Holy Communion; Jesus praying in Gethsemane while the disciples fell asleep; the betrayal by Judas, as well as His arrest; and the beginning of His trial at the house of Caiaphas the High Priest. That next morning He would be hung on the cross to die.

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BULLETIN BYTES --- PROJECT JOEL

Project JOEL is an outreach program to youth in Latin American countries, with the goal of training and equipping young people with practical information and preventive education regarding drug and alcohol abuse, violence, promiscuity, and the consequences of these actions, while sharing the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ as the foundation for a solid and productive life. Your mite offerings help support the LWML grant that is providing \$75,000 to assist in this effort.



In 2009-2010, Project JOEL began reaching out to thousands of children and youth in Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Panama, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Please pray for Project JOEL to expand and improve its programs to reach out to more than 40,000 youth in these countries in the coming years. LWML grant money provides needed resources to achieve this goal.

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The word **Maundy** comes from the Latin word *mandatum* (from which we get our English word *mandate*), meaning "to give," "to entrust," or "to order." The term is usually translated "commandment." As Jesus and the disciples were eating their final meal together before Jesus' arrest, He washed the disciples' feet to illustrate true servanthood. On that night Jesus taught His disciples, saying: *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, you also ought to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* (John 13:34-35)

The color for Maundy Thursday is royal purple. The sharing of Holy Communion is also a highpoint of the Maundy Thursday worship service since this was the night on which Christ gave us this most wonderful Means of Grace.

Also on this night, many churches "strip the altar" meaning everything is removed from the chancel area that is not tied down. The stripping of the altar symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by His disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers prior to His crucifixion. This, like the darkness often incorporated into a Good Friday service, reminds us again of the humiliation of Jesus and the consequences of our sins as we prepare for the celebration of new life and hope that is to come on Resurrection Day.

Good Friday, or Holy Friday, is the Friday of Holy Week on which the church commemorates Jesus' arrest (even though the

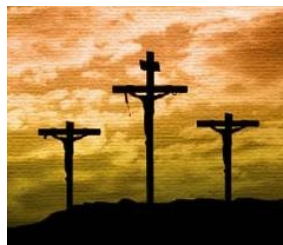
arrest took place Thursday evening, by the Jewish custom of counting days from sundown to sundown it was already Friday), His trial, crucifixion and suffering, death, and burial. Usually on this day the altar, the crosses in the chancel, the pulpit and lectern are covered in black. The Good Friday service we offer here is called a **Tenebrae** (Latin for "shadows" or "darkness"). It is characterized by a series of Scripture readings and meditations done in stages while lights and candles are gradually extinguished to symbolize the growing darkness not only of Jesus' death but of hopelessness in the world without God. The service ends in darkness, sometimes with a final candle, the Christ candle, carried out of the sanctuary, symbolizing the death of Jesus. The worshippers then leave in silence to wait.

Holy Saturday

This is the seventh day of the week, the day Jesus rested in the tomb. It is traditionally a day of quiet meditation as Christians contemplate the darkness of a world without a future and without hope apart from God and His grace. It is also a time to remember family and the faithful who have died as we await the resurrection, or to honor the martyrs who have given their lives for the cause of Christ in the world.

And then there is **Easter**. What more can be said as we celebrate again the Resurrection of our victorious Savior.

Rev. John Heckmann
LWML Junior Pastoral Counselor





THERE IS A FOUNTAIN



William Cowper (pronounced Cooper), the author of this hymn, was born in 1731, the fourth child of a British clergyman and his wife. After his three siblings died, his mother also died while giving birth to the fifth child. The loss of his mother when William was only six years old was a blow from which he never fully recovered.



He entered an asylum operated by Dr. Nathaniel Cotton, a Christian and lover of poetry. William slowly recovered and was comforted by his Savior as he read the words of Romans 3:25 "...whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith..."

Some of William's days were still dark with depression but he was thankful he had a spiritual foundation and so he wrote these words:

*There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.*

*E'er since by faith I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.*

—Taken from Then Sings My Soul
By Robert J. Morgan 2003
(Thomas Nelson, Inc.)

He was sent to a boarding school and had a bad experience as he was terrorized by a bully for several years. Then for the next eight years at Westminster School, he had a better experience and developed a love for literature and poetry.

Following his father's dream for his son, he studied law. However, when preparing for his bar exam, anxiety prevailed and William considered himself a failure, threw away his Bible, and considered taking his own life.



Do you ever wonder what the members of the LWML Executive Board do? Well, we mix a little fun times between all the work so that we keep everything in balance. Pictured here are Judy Carlson and Lois as they are enjoying some time together during the Board of Directors' banquet on February 2, 2013.

Not only does Judy take the minutes for all meetings, she also collects statistical information from district presidents that is used to determine the number of delegates each district is eligible to send to the national convention. The statistical report also includes the number of members in each district and their mite goal which helps the LWML Board of Directors determine the proposed mite goal to be presented and approved at convention. Judy receives/reviews all convention manual reports before sending on to the designer. She also works with the Information Technology Committee and the district presidents to properly certify their district delegations for the convention. When you see how all the delegate seating is arranged, thank Judy!



Thanks to "my group" of district presidents for sharing time with me during breakfast at the BOD meeting!
Margie Wickert (Indiana)
Debbie Roseman (Carolinas)
Marianne Slama (Nebraska N)
Karen Morrison (Kansas)

The national LWML Board of Directors Standing Rules state: *“The offering received at the convention Communion Service shall be designated as a contribution to the mission goal of the national LWML.”*

The Board of Directors voted in February for the other three offering recipients listed below:

Offering #1 — LWML Mission Goal

Offering #2 — Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind and Camp Bethesda—Bethesda Lutheran Communities in Cypress, Texas (These two recipients will share the offering.)

Offering #3 — LCMS Disaster Response—Hurricane Sandy Relief

Offering #4 — LWML Heart to Heart Sisters Program

Gifts of Love Welcomes Second Gift Planning Counselor

The Gifts of Love planned giving ministry is moving forward! LWML is now blessed to have its second Gift Planning Counselor, Linda Gage, from Silver Creek, New York. She will be assisted by Pat Bilow, LWML's first Gift Planning Counselor, who is now working on a part time basis.

Linda is delighted to serve with our Gifts of Love ministry to assist LWML sisters and their husbands in fulfilling their heartfelt charitable wishes to grow God's kingdom while they plan for themselves and their families. Linda has been actively involved in gift development for 15 years and is a certified Christian Development Executive. She most recently served in the LCMS Eastern District for 27 years at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, 14 of which as their Executive Director.

Linda resides in Silver Creek, New York (one hour south of Buffalo, New York) with her husband, Don, on their 75 acre fruit farm. You will find the Gage family, including their two sons, Jason and Ryan, daughter-in-law Ashley, and granddaughters, Gabrielle and Gianna, each Saturday from July to November at the local Farmer's Market. Linda and her husband are members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Silver Creek, and also National Grape Co-op (Welch's).

Linda's focus is to help LWML sisters and their husbands to:

1. Transfer your God-given blessings to the people you love and the ministers that you care about;
2. Discover creative, tax-efficient methods of giving; and
3. Assist you with your own Lifetime Plan for Giving and help you to implement it.

Linda welcomes the opportunity to talk with you individually or at any group meeting within your zone or district. Consider inviting her to be a workshop leader or interest session speaker. You will be glad you did! You will gain useful information and have the confidence that you are working with an experienced LCMS professional who serves our LWML! You can reach her at 800-741-4138 or lindagage.lwml@gmail.com.



(l to r) Linda Gage, Lois Anderson, Pat Bilow

THRIVENT UPDATE

THRIVENT CHOICE®

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League has been greatly blessed by the gifts that it has received over the past two years from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans through the Thrivent Choice Program — \$51,674 through February 2013! **We are excited that this program will continue in 2013 and that Thrivent members will once again be able to direct their Choice Dollars to an organization of their choice.**

Many members have graciously chosen the LWML as their ministry organization to support and in the past have set up a recurring direction of dollars to LWML each time they are available. Going forward, the **recurring** direction of Choice Dollars is no longer available, which means that members need to **manually** direct their Choice Dollars to LWML or an organization of their choice.

This can be done very simply with a phone call to (800) 847-4836, or if you have access to the Internet, at www.thrivent.com. The Internet option gives you full access to your balances, all available recipient organizations, and a simple way to direct your dollars at any time that you would like. **Don't forget, you may still have 2012 Choice Dollars to direct up until March 31, 2013.** Use either the phone or Internet method to make sure you don't miss out on a giving opportunity to support LWML – Lutheran Women in Mission!

Thanks for remembering LWML with Thrivent Choice! Your choice is a huge blessing as we partner together in ministry to share God's Word and grow His kingdom!