

# CHRISTIAN LIFE NOTES

Oregon District

LWML

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## TMTF Prayers

A few weeks ago I was driving to work when I decided that I really wanted a coffee from Starbucks. I knew there was a new location that had just opened in St. Johns so I decided to take a slightly different route in order to get my coffee.

After I got my coffee I continued on North Lombard to head to work. As I was driving I noticed a sign on top of one of the new businesses in the area. The sign read "TMTF". I had no idea what that might have meant. At first I assumed it was another Marijuana place that had opened on the street. After all, I pass more of those on my drive than I do churches.

Once I got closer I could read the sign on the front door of the business. "Teach Me To Fish" was the name of the business. It appeared that several fishermen had opened a small business and were actually giving fishing lessons to people.

As I continued my drive I thought "that would be a great name for a church." Can you imagine driving down the highway and seeing a sign for "TMTF" straight ahead? How many people do you think would realize they were driving towards a church? Just imagine what they would think as they got closer and saw that the name of the church was "Teach Me to Fish."

Would you enter in?

In Luke 5:9 Jesus calls the first of the 12 disciples. Simon Peter and a few of his friends have been fishing all night. They are tired and worn out. They want to go home. Then Jesus shows up. He tells them to pack up the boat and head back out. They return with a multitude of fish. Then Jesus says "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." It's at this point that they leave everything and follow Him.

Are we not supposed to do the same thing? Are we not to fish for men? And what about leaving everything behind...how many of us could do that? I wonder if I could?

So if we belong to the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, are we not already in the TMTF church? Are we not taking lessons from the 12 disciples and all the followers of Christ who have gone before us?

*Are you ready to cast out some nets and go fishing?*

***So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him."***

*(Deb Weaver)*

**We pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us.**

**Psalm 90:16-17** *Let your work be shown to Your servants, and Your **Willing Wherever and Whenever** glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us!*

On a recent mission trip, I remembered, "*Be willing wherever and whenever*" and my experience at the Grand Canyon. My first view was its clouds -- no beautiful canyon was seen. Then, slowly, a cloud would roll a bit to reveal a portion of the canyon -- for a while -- only to have another piece of God's fluff roll in to cover it. That morning, the canyon was revealed in different areas -- bit by bit -- section by section -- some parts for a short while and others for the entire morning. Eventually, the sun revealed the colorful canyon in all its glory.

Some work God gives us may only appear for a short time. Be ready! Some parts of it aren't grand or showy or glorious by themselves. As it was on my mission trip, the work may be messy or physically taxing. Be willing -- willing to do even the menial, for when the Son reveals the entire picture, what beauty will be shown!

*Prayer: Lord God, I am Your servant. May I keep my pledge to You and go whenever and wherever -- no matter how humble the task -- no matter how taxing the job -- no matter how large or small. May the words I recite be the prayer of my soul. I praise You for making our service a thing that reveals Your beauty and glory. Amen!*

Sheila Lutz  
Central Illinois District President

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**Looking forward to seeing you at the Fall LWML Retreat, Sept. 29, 30, Oct. 1. Have you sent your registration in? Are you bringing a friend?**

**See [orlwml.org](http://orlwml.org) for details**

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Precious Lord – Gracious You, Giving You, Generous You, Grateful me. Amen

*The Christian Life Committee*