

CHRISTIAN LIFE NOTES

Oregon District LWML Volume 5 March 2017

40 Days Without Prayers

As the season of Lent approaches I find myself trying to think of what I will “give up” for Lent this year.

When I lived at home my parents required that you gave something up that you truly loved during the Lenten season. One year I recall giving up my Snoopy stuffed animal. I recall giving up “fighting with my sister” and being nice to her. One time I tried giving up donuts. One year I committed to stop drinking iced coffees. I think I gave up exercise several Lenten seasons. ✝

I failed at every attempt. My sacrifice would generally last about 2 days. I would always find some excuse why I needed the item I was sacrificing. I was convinced I couldn't live without whatever it was.

I wonder if Christ ever thought about giving up the sacrifice He would make for us on the cross. After all He was human. Some part of Him must have really struggled with the plan God had placed on Him. He was sacrificing His life for mankind. It wasn't like giving up a donut or a cup of coffee. ✝

This year I've decided not to make any sacrifices during Lent. I have decided instead to make a Lenten Gratitude Journal. Doesn't that sound much easier to do?

How about you? What type of sacrifice will you be making this Lenten season? Have you really thought about it? Have you thought about the sacrifice Christ made for you?

Maybe that should be the first thing in my gratitude journal; being grateful and thankful that Christ gave His life for me. I am so amazed at the resurrection story. That someone hung on a cross so I could have life. That someone was my Savior and my friend. He made the ultimate sacrifice: for me and for you.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

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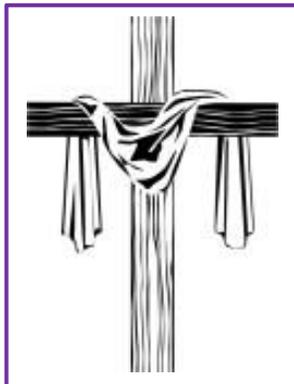
A Favorite Lenten Hymn

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.



At the LWML organizing convention July 7-8, 1942 at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Chicago the delegates chose the name Lutheran Women's Missionary League over the name Lutheran Women's League. They noted that “missionary referred to the individual member, who would be encouraged and enabled to win and hold souls for the Master.”

We see from the very beginning of our organization that missionaries are not just “them”, they are “us”. I recently asked the LWML national officers to complete this phrase. I'll share their answers. What would your answer be?

A missionary is ...

... Me! I am a missionary. Sent by Christ's command, I share the Gospel message, do servant events, and present educational opportunities and charity work as I am going throughout the states and while traveling abroad.

... someone inspired by the Holy Spirit to communicate the salvation of Jesus Christ through word or deed.

... anyone who shares the message of God's grace and mercy.

... someone who seeks relationship with others in order to share the Gospel.

... one who reaches out to the lost and erring to make a difference in the Lord's Kingdom here on earth.

... someone who is called by God to go to unbelieving areas to bring the good news of Jesus Christ.

... someone who steps out their door and talks about Jesus.

... a messenger bringing the hope found in Jesus Christ to the nations, one soul at a time, using their gifts, words, and actions.

... a faith-raiser, not a fundraiser.

... A disciple of Jesus Christ who is called to go where God has called him/her to go to give a witness to the Good News that Jesus Christ has died on the cross for everyone's sins and came alive and rose from the grave for everyone's eternal salvation. Jesus Christ IS Above All!

... in the strictest sense, someone who leaves their home to share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the simplest sense, someone with a heart to spread the Gospel and does so by their best means: prayer, giving time, and when possible, resources.

Patti Ross, LWML, President