



December 2008 Devotion
Deaf Lay and Clergy Training, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Mites Are a Rich Gift – To Us and To Others!

Lutheran Women in Mission has a long history of providing support for deaf ministry. The first mite project, recommended at the founding convention in 1942, was a chapel for the deaf. However, it took many years to complete this project due to the economic circumstances of the times. LWML continues to provide financial assistance for deaf ministry; Deaf Lay and Clergy Training was chosen to receive \$50,000 in the 2007-2009 biennium. The Deaf Lutheran Missions and the Deaf Institute of Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, are expanding their joint outreach and training. The goal of the Deaf Institute of Theology is to train 300 workers each year, using signed materials and training workshops. Pray that the Lord would bless the efforts of ministry to the deaf as they reach out with God's Word of love and forgiveness to the deaf people in the world.

Look at this chapter from our history of service for Our Lord Jesus.

CLEVELAND, OHIO
CHRIST CHURCH, CHAPEL FOR THE DEAF
1943–45: \$15,000

Suggestion that this chapel be a project was made in the League's organizational convention in July 1942. Official adoption occurred at the 1943 convention, but disbursement of funds was to be delayed pending repayment of organizational loans. \$15,000 was specified in 1945 when funds became available. Wartime shortages caused another delay, but on Oct. 10, 1948, groundbreaking ceremonies were held, and the chapel was dedicated on June 26, 1949. This chapel enabled members to hold regular services and auxiliary meetings, contributing to congregational growth and development.

From the LWML "2007 Mission Grants Resume"

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand (1 Chronicles 29:14.)

Consider our opportunities to serve the Lord with gladness!