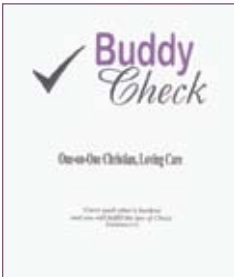


A Circle of Concern

Women throughout the country have responded to life's transitions in many and varied ways. LWML women are meeting the needs of those who are undergoing life-changing experiences or who are no longer able to care for themselves.

And the circle...

Following the death of both of their spouses, **Vivian Ruby and Nancy Doty from Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Morgan, Colorado**, founded a care group named "Circle of Concern," to give the single woman — widowed, divorced, never-married — a chance to share her emotions and faith with those in the same situation. The women meet about once a month either for lunch, a picnic, a Christmas gift exchange, a movie, special presentation, or Bible study and prayer with their pastor. The group uses LWML products such as *Buddy Check*, ...with Care and Compassion, and *Golden Gems: An Unfolding Journey*. Women are contacted a few months after they have been widowed to join the group. *I call all the ladies to remind them of our next get together. This is a neat way to be able to visit with them and know if they have any concerns*, says Nancy Doty, co-founder of the group.



... goes on...

Why not consider a **card ministry** to reach out to those who are experiencing life transitions such as a new birth, a move to a new community, the loss of a loved one or a job, children going to college and leaving an "empty nest," or even a challenging new employment opportunity? Don't forget to check out the LWML *Catalog* for resources like *Gentle Greetings* cards, military cards, *Master's Cards*, and *Mustard Seeds*.

A reader who recently experienced the loss of a father writes that the hundreds of cards received indicated the care and support of many Christian people. *The cards also showed the love and care of many LWML women and reassured me that I was not alone*, the reader shares. William Shakespeare writes: "Love comforteth like sunshine after rain." Christian love shown through a card ministry can "shine" in the lives of those experiencing sorrows or joys.



...and on...

A **foot ministry** has involved LWML members and other volunteers from **Redeemer Lutheran Church in Mountain Home, Arkansas**, for the past 20 years. Once a month, the free service of trimming toe nails for the elderly or handicapped is offered to those who cannot see, reach, or are unable to trim



their own nails. The volunteer foot ministry serves 60 to 70 recipients.

The service is open to the community, as well as the congregation. What happens when someone comes for a foot treatment? **Vesta Rosenkotter**, LWML member

and part of the foot care ministry at the church, shares: *The feet of the recipients are soaked for several minutes before nail trimming and then massaged with a soothing cream. Blood pressures are also taken during their time of waiting and there is much friendly socializing among the group as they wait or are being served.*



Willmar, Minnesota quilters

...and on!

Quilts and care kits continue to be created and gathered by Lutheran women

(and men) across our nation. Members of **Redeemer Lutheran LWML of Willmar, Minnesota**, make quilts for missions with the help from a team of men and women who work at home cutting blocks, sewing

blocks into tops, and tying quilts. An average of 100 quilts a year have been made and given out to local agencies such as Lutheran Social Services, Kandiyohi Family Services, the Women's Shelter, and HOPE Pregnancy Center. The largest portion of the quilts is given to Lutheran World Relief.

READERS' CALL

The time for planning LWML fall zone events, rallies, and retreats is now! The following readers share some successful event ideas:

▶ **Patricia Kubicek, Orlando West Zone President**, shares that her fall zone rally held at **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Apopka, Florida**, featured multiple servant events! Thanksgiving baskets were assembled for a local food pantry: Large decorative wicker laundry baskets were filled with canned goods, and canvas tote bags were deco-



Trimming the Thanksgiving baskets

rated and filled with toiletry items. A Thanksgiving card signed by all those



Servant activities at Orlando West Zone Rally, Apopka, Florida.



in attendance was attached to each basket, and a donation was given to the food pantry for the purchase of turkeys and hams. Attendees also helped St. Paul's Church to prepare its grounds (by planting flowers) and its sanctuary (by polishing, dusting, and vacuuming pews) for the upcoming Advent season. Patricia relates, *Believe me, in the beginning I had a lot of, "I don't want to do this" or "we just want a Bible study" or "can't we just gather the canned goods — we've always done it that way"...* However, it was a joyful experience for all... Try it and enjoy the experience!

▶ *Bad Girls of the Bible*, a book by Liz Curtis Higgs, was the discussion starter at the **St. Charles Zone** Retreat led by Rev. Michael Piper in **New Melle, Missouri**. Sketches of various women portraying the "bad girls" and a fashion

show where the attendees guessed the identity of each model (e.g., Jael carried a tent stake, Bathsheba carried a bath towel, Delilah carried a pair of scissors) rounded out the event.

▶ The **Oregon District LWML** hosted a Christian Life Retreat at beautiful **Suttle Lake, Oregon**. The theme, "Living Water from Ancient Wells," was based on John 4:14: *...but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.* The group worshipped in God's tabernacle of Ponderosa Pines; learned from speaker Edie Norris; laughed through skits, meals, and activities; and served by organizing Katrina Relief kits.

▶ Summer is a good time to begin planning your **LWML Sunday** activities! Why not try some fresh new ideas? **St.**

Worship, fellowship, and fun at the Oregon District LWML Christian Life Retreat.



Mark Lutheran LWML in Deshler, Nebraska shares what happened at their LWML Sunday celebration last year: A theme banner (made by LWMLers) led the opening processional; an LWML choir with some younger girls sang, *A Time to Serve*; the LWML society presented their pastor with an LWML stole;

church members received *Master's Cards*; and LWML members hosted a pie/dessert bake sale with all proceeds designated for missions at home and abroad. Aim to make *your* LWML

Sunday celebration one to be remembered! (See the back cover for more information on LWML Sunday 2006.)

▶ Don't forget to access the **Web site at www.lwml.org** for the late-breaking LWML news, photos, and updates. Subscribe to the LWML e-News for the latest from LWML committees!

News! News! News!



News and pictures from *your* society are needed for the Winter 2006 issue of the *Quarterly*. The topics will be based around the words “do you see

what I see?” Here are some questions you might consider:

What kinds of activities for developmentally disabled people does your group sponsor?

Do you have events that celebrate different ethnicities?

How is your group or church sensitive to the needs of homeless or displaced people?

Do you know of a successful women's prison ministry?

How does your group or church relate to the needs of college students far from home?

Please send all information and original or electronic pictures by **June 15, 2006** to:

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