

# Ruth's Roller Coaster

When I think about the Bible story of Ruth, I often marvel at the number of changes and challenges she faced as a young woman. She lost her first husband, moved to a foreign country with her mother-in-law, lived in poverty, fell in love, got married to a wealthy man, and had a baby. Wow! That is quite a roller coaster! Yet through it all, God strengthened her faith and provided for her and her family; in response, Ruth took advantage of the opportunities that came her way.

In this fast-paced world, we are often like Ruth. At times our lives seem like roller coasters of changes and challenges. But we know we are not just along for the ride — on a rollercoaster out-of-

control. We are passengers, watching and waiting while God works things out for His glory. It might be a bumpy ride in places. There will definitely be ups and downs, high-speed, sharp curves, and tons of anticipation, but God will provide what we need whether we are right-side-up or upside-down.

In the end, it is His abundant love and presence that keep us safe until the ride is over. *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast* (1 Peter 5:10).

**Nikki Tyrrell**, LWML Leader Development Committee



## SPOTLIGHT...on a young woman

Jennifer Caruso co-chairs her district's Committee on Young Women, is secretary for her local LWML society, leads Bible studies, and serves as president of the congregation's youth and college group. A kindergarten teacher and member of Sacramento Italian Cultural Society, Jennifer lives at home with her parents in Elk Grove, CA. She speaks throughout the California-Nevada-Hawaii District to encourage young women to become active in the LWML.

## Quotable Quote ...

*But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God..."* (Ruth 1:16).

The Quarterly will continue to feature pages for and by young women in future issues. Please forward any news or information and original or electronic photos about the young women in your district to:



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## Transitions

### A Young Woman Speaks Out

*Louise Reisler, a young mother from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bonduel, Wisconsin, shares the following thoughts:*

Changes are a constant part of everyone's lives, though not always welcome. As my sons are getting to be school age, I've taken on a few part-time jobs that allow me to still be at home part-time. As a busy mother and wife, I'm also disappointed that I have less time to volunteer for LWML; it's often a challenge to attend a society meeting two months in a row!

Regardless of the things in my life that change, I've tried to focus on replacing resentment and discontent with complete trust in the One who does not change — my God and Savior. When life's changes and transitions overwhelm, Hebrews 12:2 keeps me focused: *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.* By keeping focused on Jesus through daily devotions and the encouraging words of our LWML sisters, we can keep our priorities intact while serving our families and church with our best efforts!

*Young women help sort and cut soup labels at the North Dakota LWML Retreat.*



### Creative Young Women Retreat Ideas!

- "If You Knew the Gifts of God" (1 Corinthians 12:4) was the theme of the South Wisconsin District LWML Young Women's Retreat, which featured breakout sessions, a Bible study, joyous music, and a book discussion on Paul Maier's "A Skeleton in God's Closet." Fellowship opportunities included crafts, swimming, and games. Items were collected for A Place of Refuge, a crisis pregnancy center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- A Young Women's Gathering was held for the first time in conjunction with the North Dakota LWML Retreat. Activities included Bible study, singing, prayer, fellowship, chocolate fondue making, and a service activity (see photo). Childcare was provided. "It was truly a blessing to see their talents, enthusiasm, leadership, and love for the Lord," said Debbie Larson, North Dakota District LWML President.