

# “Of the Word”

## Relationships: Learning the Ropes

by Janice M. Wendorf

There is a wonderful quote by Flavia Weedn, “Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for awhile and leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never the same.”

My life has been impacted deeply through relationships — some enriching my life and some stretching my patience.

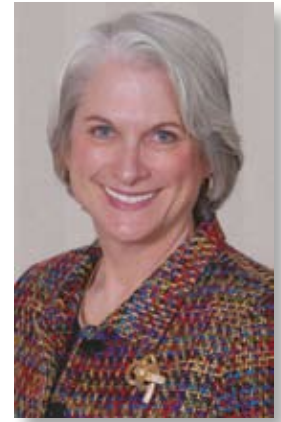
Although relationships have many important components, on the top of my list are these three: respect, trust, and quality time together. It is through each of these that I have learned not only more about myself but also how to make each relationship count.

To more fully understand relationships, each of us needs also to understand the concept of being forgiven and restored by the power of the Holy Spirit. This happens when we, as His people, are “of the Word” — so immersed in what He is teaching us that we cannot help but come to Him individually in humility and confession, saying: “Lord, I have failed; I can’t do Your will alone; I need You to survive.” And, through the power of His grace, we are made whole to live in relationship with our Lord and those He brings into our lives. What a blessing!

No matter what relationships we have, there is always more to learn; relationships present us with opportunities for forgiveness and wholeness. Christ’s re-creating love working through us allows us to move on in relationships — even the tough ones. Our focus becomes that of serving others rather than looking at their shortcomings.

As Lutheran Women in Mission who are “of the Word,” we have learned the ropes through hearing and reading His Word. We have come to realize the importance of centering our thoughts and being in His Word and the refreshment for our souls as we are made over by the Holy Spirit. When this happens, we are new in Christ — indeed, the old self is still alive but is now covered over with the forgiveness Jesus earned by His sacrificial giving, the embodiment of the Father’s love. We are set free to be in God-pleasing relationships.

May we continue to live as His women who are ... *In the Word, Of the Word, and Walking with our Lord!*



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2167 Hunter's Lane  
Grafton, Wisconsin 53024  
e-mail: [lwmlpres@lwml.org](mailto:lwmlpres@lwml.org)

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### Lutheran Woman's Quarterly

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Nancy Graf Peters  
103 Buckingham Avenue  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
[editor@lwml.org](mailto:editor@lwml.org)

**Bible Study Editor**  
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1017 Berry Lane  
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