



“Serve the Lord with gladness.” Psalm 100:2

Oregon Leaguer

Summer 2021



Carol Reis
LWML Oregon District President



Encourage

Lutheran Women in Mission will, by God's grace ... encourage women of the Oregon District to express their faith as servants of the Triune God through joyful Christian Ministry. As Paul was travelling on one of his missionary journeys he did the following. Traveling through the country, passing from one gathering to another, he gave constant encouragement, lifting their spirits and charging them with fresh hope. Acts 20:2 (The Message)

Following are excerpts I found in an article by Matt McWilliams about encouragement. This seems to sum up the ideas that have been floating through my head.

How to Encourage Others and Inspire Your Followers

When is the last time someone told you, “I’m proud of you”? Not for what you’ve done or accomplished but just for being you. If you are like most people, it’s been far too long.

Those four words are some of the most encouraging words to the human ear. That’s why I whisper them to our daughter every night before she goes to sleep.

No matter what she did or didn’t do that day, no matter what she accomplished or how she acted, she will hear those four powerful words: “I’m proud of you.”

The Power of Your Words

If you are a leader, your words are magnified. Something that seems of no consequence to you can lift a team member’s spirits or crush them. If you are a parent, this power is amplified even more.

Eugene Peterson translates a passage from the Bible (James 3) this way:

A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it!

Whether you are a parent, a mentor, or someone that others look up to for any reason, your words hold immense power. That’s why it’s critical that your words build others up, not tear them down. They must be encouraging. But what is encouragement? It might help to establish what it is...and what it isn’t.

Continued on page 5

Table of Contents

President’s Message	1
Christian Life	2
Scholarship Recipient	2
Junior Pastoral Counselor	3
Financial Secretary	4
Prayer	4
President’s Message con’t	5
ZipLine/Zone News	6
Juniper Zone News.....	6
West Hills Zone News	6
A Virtual Mission Trip	6
Pacific Zone News	7
Officer Nominations	7
2021 LWML Convention Photos	8
Lucy Leader	8
Christian Life Committee	9
OR District Day Retreat Info.....	9
OR District Day Retreat Registration...	10
Officer Contact Information	11
LWML Mission Statement	11

“The Sparkle of Contagious Disciples”

I found glitter on the carpet. It's leftover from my flocked and glittered Christmas tree. Actually, I found glitter in every room of the house and in the garage too. It's on the bed and on the cat. I think I have it vacuumed up and in the next moment I discover it's in a new spot! My friend, Yvonne, says glitter is the gift that keeps on giving. The theme of the Oregon District Day Retreat, Saturday, August 21, is **Always Becoming Contagious Disciples**. As Christian women, we, moment by moment, are always becoming - to *grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* (2 Peter 3:18a). Not only grow but we glow and shine and rub off on everyone and everything we encounter, like the glitter from my Christmas tree. You never know where it might land.

Jesus is our example when He said, *“I have come as a Light to **shine** in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer wander in the darkness.”* (John 12:46, The Message) Likewise, we are instructed: *You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of people who are crooked and stubborn. **Shine** out among them like beacon lights, holding out to them the Word of Life.* (Philippians 2:15b.16, The Message)

As women of faith, as we grow and rejoice in Christ we become **contagious** to others. First, by our prayers,

secondly by our influence. As we live our lives in Christ and speak to others of our trust in God's provision and our thanks to Him, our words spread light like shiny glitter, some may call it a fragrance. *But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumph, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing,* 2 Corinthians 2:14-15.

Jesus instructed His disciples to be **contagious**. *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”* Matthew 28:18-20. As **disciples**, always studying, always learning, we spread our glitter at home and abroad. Our prayers and Mites reach to all nations. God calls us to justice as well, ministering to the weak and orphaned.

So show your sparkle! Who knows where your words of God may spread. *Let your light so **shine** before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.* Matthew 5:16

Janis Arnsdorf
Christian Life Committee



Introducing Nathalie Fortenberry:

LWML Oregon District 2021-2022

Special Gift Funds Scholarship Recipient

What a blessing and honor we have this year to award the Special Gift Funds Scholarship to Nathalie Fortenberry, a High School Senior at Trinity Lutheran School in Bend, Oregon. Nathalie is planning to attend Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska beginning this Fall. The Lord guided her to study Early Childhood Education with hopes of teaching and sharing the Light of Christ and the truth of His constancy with children.

Nathalie is very active in her church, Trinity Lutheran Church in Bend, and in her School. Many of her activities point to her love of children, from serving as a music camp counselor to serving at church as a VBS aide and nursery aide. The Lord has gifted Nathalie musically, and she uses these gifts in choirs and on the Worship Team, as well as in the school's musicals. Throughout Nathalie's life, one sees the beautiful theme of serving the Lord and living her life in His love and direction.

With joy to see what the Lord is doing in Nathalie and through your gifts to the Special Gift Funds, we look forward to following Nathalie's educational journey as she begins her studies at Concordia University- Nebraska!

In Christ,
Lisa Mai
Chairman Special Gift Funds

The Vocation of Mission

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” – 1st Corinthians 10:31

Summer is here! What are your favorite outdoor activities in the summer? Gardening? Walking? Kayaking or hiking? Perhaps you just like to read a book and soak up the sun. Or perhaps you like to climb up sheer rock faces with nothing but a rope and a harness. Whatever you enjoy outside, now is the time to enjoy it! Summer in the northwest is wonderful. There is plenty to do, and a pretty reliable dry season to do it in (once you get past the 4th of July that is).

One of my favorite activities is Kayaking. 2 years ago I took a trip to visit my friend, pastor Tyson Bentz, in his home state of Michigan. We took a day to go kayaking down the Sturgeon River. We rented a couple of kayaks from a local business, and while we were filing waivers we started talking with the owner about all of his, and our, favorite summer activities. He told us about the different groups he loved to take down the local rivers, and encouraged us to keep active and find other adventures outside. It was such a natural and positive conversation, and as a result I was struck with an observation. This man loved the outdoors. It was part of his life, and he thought it would be good to be a part of others' lives as well. And he is far from being an outlier in the community of outdoorsmen and women. Whenever I find myself on a trail, kayaking, camping, or hunting, I run into men and women who are excited to talk about it, excited to do their favorite activity with other people. It never feels like a forced conversation, it feels like the most natural thing in the world that they would talk about what they love to do!



Are we like that as Christians? When it comes to sharing our faith I mean. It is really easy to think of “mission work” as some sort of system. It is something we do, a category, a box in our life. But what if we thought of it in the same terms that the Kayak shop owner thought of spending time on his local lakes and rivers? Faith is a part of our lives, an important part, and we simply want to share it because we think it would be amazing for others as well. What if we talked about and invited people into our faith much the same way we might talk about and invite someone into a favorite hobby of ours? I have an easy time inviting friends to go camping with me, or to hit a trail with me, but even as a pastor I sometimes hesitate to talk about church, or invite someone to a bible study.

Now there will be times where we do stand specifically for our church and our beliefs. There are times when we will be called to speak up, even in a forced or awkward way about our faith. But I would bet that isn't most of the times in our lives. Luther talks about our vocations in life, that whatever we do, eating, drinking, or anything else, we should do it with the mindfulness to please God (see the bible verse above). That means our hobbies, our duties, our jobs, are part of our faith life just as much as church and worship. And this is great, because it is in those places that we naturally meet people, naturally form community. There doesn't need to be an ulterior motive when we go rafting with a group of friends, or join a card game. We can just do those things because we love them. We love the people we meet through them. However, the Holy Spirit will open opportunities in those places to speak of our life, and therefore our faith. To invite people to church. People won't see it as us being “zealous missionaries” but instead will see it as “oh, that must be important to them!” In these places it will feel natural, like talking about our kids or our job.

And who knows what sort of seeds of faith God will use these moments to plant? And who knows what sort of fruit those seeds will bare? Only God knows. And God is on our side!

Pastor David LaFore, Trinity Mt. Angel
Junior Pastoral Counselor

Coleen's 2 cents!

It is almost here, we have gotten teased with some very nice days and we do need those spring showers, but it is almost SUMMER!!! I am looking forward to sunlight and praise God we also have his son's light. Speaking about light, I will shed light on where we are with your gifts to God's plan for the LWML Oregon District.

Mite Offerings:

We have been able to fund six mission grants and we thank you for your generosity. The Mission grants are funded when they have been requested. Currently, we have seven Mission grants to fund.



The mite commitment we set at our last convention was \$97,020 for this biennium. We are fifteen months into the biennium, and we have received \$48,651.49 towards mites and are past the halfway point. **As of May 31, 2021, we still need to raise \$48,368.51. Well done!** To meet that goal in nine months, we will need offerings of \$5375 a month.

Please continue to use the brain power of your societies to gather mites. Let your ideas flow and if you want to share them with me and I will put them in my next article or on our website.



Rally and Society Offerings:

To my knowledge there have been only 2 rallies this spring so far, which means a reduction in rally offerings. These offerings fund our website, retreats, postage, printing and copying, insurance, books, and software subscriptions and more. Please consider a small monthly donation to support the operating expenses of our district by making a Society Offering.

Assessments:

Annual Assessments are \$10.00 per member. These funds are also used to help meet the operating expenses of the District. We use the assessments as a record of the number of members for the Oregon District. I can still receive assessments if forgotten.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the mission of the Oregon District! Now get out in the light and shine for God's plan to bring all into His kingdom.

All remittances should be mailed to OR District LWML, 837 NE Donelson Rd., Hillsboro, OR 97124. If you have any questions: home phone 503-648-9497 or email: cngsixty@gmail.com.

Serving the Lord with Gladness,

Coleen Gurske

Oregon District Financial Secretary



Dear Lord,

We thank and praise you for the wondrous nation we live in. We are blessed with beauty and plenty. We thank you for your great care. Please continue to bless us as we struggle through the pandemic, and the unrest that plagues our nation. Guide our elected officials to lead fairly for all peoples. Let the citizens use their voices only to seek change when they disagree. Stop the violence and loss of life. We ask that you give words of your love and faith to us as you guide us to spread the ultimate peace. In the coming days, create peace in our great nation and raise us up as a peaceful nation in the world.

Amen



Continued from page 1

What Encouragement is and isn't

Encouragement is telling others that you believe in them before they even start. Most leaders think that encouragement is saying things like:

“Great job!”

“Well done!”

“Way to go!”

But that is not encouragement at all. It's a reward. It's what one expects after a job well done.

Encouragement, on the other hand, is telling others that you believe in them *before* they even start.

Offering rewards by saying “great job” is important, but it is *not* encouragement.

So how do you encourage others and inspire them to achieve more than they might think is possible? These six ways are a great start.

6 Ways to Encourage Others

1. Show them you care

When you take the time to learn about others, it shows that you care. This empowers and encourages them. Take the time to learn about their family, interests, fears, challenges, and dreams. One of the single best ways to encourage others is to care about what *they* care about.

2. Tell them verbally

Use the four magic leadership words: I believe in you.

Take the time to tell your friends, your family, and your followers that you believe in their abilities and that you are confident that they will succeed.

3. Tell them in writing

The great thing about encouraging someone in writing is that he can keep the note forever. I cannot count the number of times I've seen my encouraging notes in team members' offices over the years.

4. Share with others

One of the best ways to encourage someone is to tell others how great he or she is. When you speak of your spouse in public, praise him. When you talk about your children, praise them.

5. Trust them with more

When you assign responsibility to someone, even if you verbalize it, you are saying, “I trust you.” Trust conveys belief. When you give someone responsibility, remember you are not only trusting them with the expectation of success, but you are allowing them to make mistakes. When you micromanage or try to “fix” things along the way, it is discouraging and demotivating. Give responsibility, trust the person, and get out of the way. When you assign responsibility to someone, even if you verbalize it, you are saying, “I trust you.”

6. Help them

This might sound like the opposite of #5, but let me be clear that *helping is not micromanaging or meddling*. Simply ask how you can help them. It's important for others to know that while you trust them, you are also there to help. This goes beyond just helping with projects or tasks, though. Get involved in their personal development by offering to send them to professional training, seminars, classes, or other learning opportunities. Show them that you care about their self-improvement, not just their word.

Encourage Everyone

The great thing about each of these is that they are effective in *any* environment. They work in at home, in your peer groups, and literally everywhere.

When you show that you care, tell others that you believe in them, talk positively about them to others, trust them with important things, and help them succeed, you encourage them to believe in themselves and accomplish more than they thought possible.

Make a commitment today to practicing just one of these six ways with your team, your colleagues, your family, and others and you'll be well on your way to being a positive influence.

What are you doing to encourage others? What are some other ways you can offer encouragement?

To take it a step further, what can LWML or the Oregon District or I as President do for you? What sort of messages, studies, classes, etc. can we do to assist you in your walk through life?



Did you know? The LWML Oregon District has a Facebook Page. If you're on Social Media, particularly Facebook, we welcome you to “like” our page so that you can see what is going on in our District! Here is the link for our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/LWMLOregonDistrict/>

Thank you, Nicole Knutson, VP Communications



Zone News

Juniper Zone News

Spring Rally hosted by Faith La Pine

"Spring~Song~A~Bration!" with a theme of *Beauty in the Bible*, from a Hobby Lobby color book. Each woman, as they arrived, chose a page from the color book, for either the Scripture theme or the picture. Given the C19 stress, coloring, we know, is a marvelous form of relaxation. Sitting 5-6 per jumbo round tables, for a full day of devotions., sharing and meeting new ladies, was such a welcome release of love and laughter.

Char Kolzow on piano, and her marimba side-kick Elaine Ferguson , led a marvelous 45-minute sing-a-bration. Mites offering of \$259 was collected and sent to District.

To say a good time was had by all, new faces and enthusiastic guests included, would be an understatement.

Pat Reck, Acting Zone President



West Hills Zone News—

Grace Scappoose Mission Servants packed up boxes and boxes of quilts for Lutheran World Relief.



A virtual mission trip!

I encourage you to learn and share this unique mission trip opportunity through Child Beyond International with your district.

Rev. Jeff Mueller, Mites in Action Speaker at the 2021 LWML Convention, and his congregation, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hood River, Oregon, invite you to a convention-related mission experience through their international children's rescue mission, Child Beyond International. It's virtual! It's free! It's for everyone!



Due to the world-wide pandemic, all short-term mission trips were cancelled in 2020 and now into 2021. But when a door is closed to the Gospel, God always opens a window, and so Child Beyond International was inspired to create an exciting and impacting alternative Virtual Mission Trip opportunity that anyone with a mission-heart and access to the internet can experience from the safety and comfort of their own homes.

Rev. Jeff Mueller and Immanuel-Hood River invite you and your congregation, family and friends to come down to Guatemala virtually for a week-long amazing, inspiring, and faith-building mission adventure that is provided completely free of charge to all our LCMS congregations and LWML members. To view the flyer, <https://unite-production.s3.amazonaws.com/tenants/lwml/attachments/306008/Guatemala-Virtual-Mission-Trip-flyer.pdf>

To find out more about Virtual Mission Trips and how you and your church can "visit" Guatemala and share in the success of "lifting children and families to new life in Christ!" for the [Virtual Mission Trips Video Link](https://www.childbeyond.org/): <https://vimeo.com/432256150>. Their website, [Childbeyond.org](https://www.childbeyond.org/) : <https://www.childbeyond.org/> and click on the "Go Beyond" link or simply send an email inquiry to info@childbeyond.org. Child Beyond International was the recipient of 2019-2021 LWML mission grant #6 "Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus for Guatemala — Lutheran Church of Guatemala and Child Beyond International."

Blessings, Carol Reis, LWML Oregon District President

Pacific Zone News

Held their LWML Spring Rally at Trinity, Sheridan on Saturday, May 22nd. Fourteen attended the rally including guests. Each church was represented which is so great. Even greater was the fact they got to see one another in person, and not over Zoom.

Oregon District President Carol Reis gave an update on the upcoming LWML national convention, shared LWML's new mission statement and was thrilled we could meet in person.

Nicole Knutson, co-chair for the Oregon District Convention in 2022 gave an update on the different roles each Zone will have. Pacific Zone is responsible for Exhibits/Displays and, Food/Transportation. Nicole presented the logo and theme.

Lisa Mai, our Special Gifts Chairman presented our scholarship recipient for the 2021 college year, Nathalie Fortenberry from Trinity, Bend. She plans to go to Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska in the fall to study early childhood education.

Coleen Gurske



Road of Life—Officer Nominations

The road of life is a road of service. How do you serve the Lord? Often times busyness of life can interfere with the joy of serving. When those times come, we look to our Lord Jesus who is the perfect servant.

The road of life is a road of leadership. "Leadership" is not to be feared. According to *The Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, to lead is to guide on a way, or a position at the front. Leadership is a noun describing one who leads. A Christian leader is first and foremost a follower of the Savior, from whom we receive direction and courage to lead.

The Nominating Committee of the LWML Oregon District may be contacting you regarding the positions that will be elected in the summer of 2022. The following positions will be elected, according to God's will:

- VP of Christian Life
- VP of Gospel Outreach
- VP of Communications
- Recording Secretary
- Treasurer
- Jr. Pastoral Counselor
- 3 positions of the Nominating Committee.

A summary and description and responsibilities of these positions will be on the LWMLOR.org website. A complete detail of positions are located at LWMLOR.org/Resource in the Procedures Manual.

Ask the Lord to direct you to serving in a position in the Oregon District. There is JOY in serving the LWML Oregon District.

Carmen Nagel



To be on the mailing list to receive Leader Development's Monthly

HUG-IN-A-MUG

Please contact:

Pat Reck

pbmsreck@bendnet.com



Oregon District:

<http://www.lwmlor.org>

LWML:

<http://www.lwml.org/home>



**Lexington,
Kentucky**



Reaching Out to New Church Workers in Our District

Dear Lucy Leader,
 There are new church workers in our district, and we would like to let them know about LWML. Can you give us ideas for how we can reach out to the new church workers in our district?
 District President Jan

Dear District President Jan,
 Professional church workers and LWML women have so much in common. We are all firmly rooted in God's Word and want to share Jesus' love with others. Starting with that common ground, you can welcome the new workers to your district. LWML has a welcome letter ready for your use and a compilation of resources. These are designed for you to engage your local church workers in conversation about what LWML can do for them in their ministry and how they may share in the mission of LWML. These resources are found at www.lwml.org/church-workers-in-mission.
 God bless you as you reach out to the new church workers in your district!
 Lucy Leader



Greetings from the Christian Life Committee

It's about that time of year when I head to my local post office to check the P.O. box looking for the Fall Retreat Registration forms. It's always fun to see who is registering and how the number of attendees begins to grow throughout the summer months. This year is a little different.

Haven't you heard? There is no Fall Retreat this year! What will we do if we can't gather at Macleay for several days? What will we do if we can't be nourished by their awesome meals and play cards in our lodges at the end of the day?

Have you read the Spring Leaguer?

Have you seen that we will be retreating this year?

Have you heard about the Christian Life Day Retreat happening on August 21, 2021?

Have you seen that Living Savior Lutheran Church in Tualatin will be hosting us for a day gathering? A day to share in fellowship, worship, Bible study with Pastor David, an ingathering activity and a sack lunch! All for the low cost of \$30.00!

What are you waiting for? Registration forms can be found in this Summer Leaguer and on the Oregon District LWML website. Hard copies can be made and shared at your church and sent to friends.

Come and find out how you can become a "Contagious Disciple" for Him! Learn what gifts God has given you at this place and time in your life!

Let's see how full we can get that P.O. Box by the registration deadline of August 1, 2021.

"Always Becoming Contagious Disciples"



"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Looking forward to seeing you in August!

Fall Leaguer Deadline

— September 1, 2021 —

Publication Date—October 1, 2021

PLEASE Send articles ***IN WORD FORMAT***
& photos to:

Carole Pletz: lwml.or.leaguer@gmail.com



Oregon District LWML Day Retreat

***"Always Becoming
Contagious Disciples"***

Saturday, August 21, 2021

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

(doors will open at 10:30)

Living Savior Lutheran Church

8740 SW Sagert St. Tualatin, OR 97062

**Ingathering
"Blessing Bags" for the
Homeless**

Please bring the following items:

1 pair Socks: men's sz 9-11 **or**
women's sz 7-9

1 Body wash /shampoo

1 hand towel

1 toothbrush fully wrapped

1 toothpaste

1 granola bar

Portals of Prayer or Mustard Seed
Devotions (We can recycle used
ones)

We will assemble the bags during
the retreat.

Questions?

Email Lynnebeck5@gmail.com or Deb
Weaver boodsmom@centurytel.net

Prayer Chain Email!

lwml.or.prayerchain@gmail.com

Oregon District LWML Day Retreat

“Always Becoming Contagious Disciples”



“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

Saturday, August 21, 2021
11:00 am – 4:00 pm
(doors will open at 10:30)
Living Savior Lutheran Church
8740 SW Sagert St., Tualatin, OR 97062

Registration & Lunch Selection

Name: _____ Preferred Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Registration Deadline: August 1, 2021

Registration includes a boxed lunch.

Registration Fee: \$30.00

Please choose your box lunch selection below:

Sandwich Option _____ Vegan Option _____ Gluten Free Option _____

Mail the Registration Form and a check to: Deb Weaver, PO Box 944, Scappoose, OR 97056

Make Checks payable to: Oregon District LWML

PLEASE NOTE: Wearing of masks and Social Distancing will be required. Hand sanitizer will be available at the location. Questions? Contact Deb Weaver at 503-543-2229. boodsmom@centurytel.net, or Gladys Green at 360-281-1319, gladysgreen5285@yahoo.com.

OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

President—Carol Reis

Email: crlwmlor2020@outlook.com

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Vice President of Special Focus Ministries—

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Vice President of Communication—Nicole Knutson

Email: tennisqn2000@gmail.com

Recording Secretary—Char Kroemer

Email: kroemer2@frontier.com

Financial Secretary—Coleen Gurske

Email: cngsixty@gmail.com

Treasurer—Debra Schlueter

Email: dachlu49@msn.com

Pastoral Counselor-Senior—Pastor Ted Will

Email: twilljr@gmail.com

Pastoral Counselor-Junior—Pastor David LaFore



Mission Statement

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Oregon District Mission Statement

Lutheran Women in Mission will, by God's grace, ignite, involve, equip and encourage women of the Oregon District to express their faith as servants of the Triune God through joyful Christian Ministry.

ZONE PRESIDENTS

Emerald Zone—Delores Feddersen

Interstate Zone—Betsy Ablott

Juniper Zone—Pat Reck

Mt. Hood Zone—Eunice MacKenzie

Myrtlewood Zone—Joan Mahaffy

Pacific Zone—Coleen Gurske

Southern Zone—Carolyn Nelson

West Hills Zone—Debbie Vosseler

Willamette Zone—Karen Clark

LWML Goal

Each woman of the LCMS is the Heart of LWML. Christ is in the heart of each woman as she engages in mission education, mission inspiration, mission service, and mission support. Each woman of the LCMS is invited to embrace her role as a Lutheran Woman in Mission.



"As a Lutheran Woman in Mission, I will share the joy and wonder of what is done through the LWML by the grace of God — the resources created, the missions supported, and the ministries provided."

From Quiet Times to Noisy Love Lost and Found

In the Word

"And when she had found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15: 9–10).

Of the Word

Can't find your car keys? Glasses? Checkbook? How irritating! You look everywhere, checking every nook and cranny, even searching the same places over and over. Finally, the lost is found. Your level of joy is directly proportionate to the time spent searching.

When Jesus told the parable about the lost coin, He knew His listeners could relate. They understood as Jesus explained that the joy in heaven when a sinner repents is greater than finding a lost coin. "A sinner ... like me?" we think. "The angels of God rejoice over ordinary me?"

It is hard to grasp the immensity of this truth. We can do nothing to earn the value He places on us. God, in His grace, loved us while we were still lost sinners. Jesus' death and resurrection changed us into precious treasures.

Walking with My Lord

Lord, help me live each moment of today as a precious, restored treasure and share this message of joy with those around me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

