

# CHRISTIAN LIFE

The purpose of the Christian Life Department is to encourage and nurture each woman toward a more mature relationship with Christ and to identify and provide a variety of resources for spiritual development and growth.

**W**itness the saving grace of God across cultures and generations through the mission work of the LWML.

**A**ssimilate women into the missions and ministry of LWML through caring, mentoring, and leading.

**L**eave a lasting legacy of love that ignites future generations to service.

**K**eep connected in God's work through intentional study, worship, prayer and fellowship.

## **The Christian Life Department of the LWML:**

- Plans programs, provides materials, and conducts workshops and seminars with zones or groups, as requested, to enable women of the church to grow spiritually and to become active participants in spiritual development programs.
- Plans with the District President the spiritual enrichment activities of the district convention.
- Plans a retreat(s) hosted by the district in the fall of odd-numbered years for spiritual enrichment.
- Manages the LWML store at the district convention.
- Maintains a speaker list for the district which can be obtained by request from *christianlife@lwmltxdist.org*.

## **What are the Duties of the Christian Life Officer or Committee Chairman?**

This officer should:

- Encourage others to keep the Word prominent in meetings and activities, utilizing the many resources available at *lwml.org*, under The Word tab.
- Lead others in organizing Bible studies, prayer circles, retreats, and workshops.
- Involve others when presenting devotions, topics, and special programs; don't do all the work yourself.
- Inform others of materials and resources available through LWML, LCMS and other Christian entities.

## Hints for Leading/Preparing a Devotion

**ACCEPT** the honor and privilege of serving your group and your Lord  
and  
**PRAY** for wisdom and guidance.

There are many devotions already prepared for you. They have been doctrinally reviewed and are available through the LWML website. If you do not find a devotion that fits your needs on *lwml.org*, how about writing one yourself? It can be as simple as choosing an appropriate song, prayer, and/or Bible passage that has special meaning to you. If you choose something that has a special meaning to you or that you found particularly helpful in your walk, you will be able to talk more freely from personal experience. Consult your pastoral counselor for doctrinal review of your devotion. For a more elaborate devotion, here are some helps:

- Begin your preparation with **PRAYER**.
- **SELECT** the subject or theme and write it down in one complete sentence. As you prepare your devotion, include the **GOSPEL MESSAGE** that Jesus lived and died so that we might by grace through faith be forgiven.
- An **INVOCATION** or **PRAYER** may be used at the beginning of the devotion:

“In the name of God, our creator; Jesus, our redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, our sanctifier. Amen.”

“Father, what a privilege it is to come before You to study Your Word. We thank You for this opportunity to grow in our spiritual walk and learn more about You and how You wish us to live. We ask during this devotion time that You bring our focus on You. We ask that You open our hearts and our minds to hear what You have prepared for us, and let Your Word fall on us as fertile ground. We pray in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.”

- A **HYMN** or **WORSHIP SONG** helps to prepare hearts and minds for worship. Select one that follows your theme.
- Include the reading of **SCRIPTURE**. To find passages that fit your theme, use a Bible with a concordance and topical helps.
- A short **INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE** in your own words based on the Scripture passage may follow.
- A **PRAYER** or **LITANY** may be used. Prayer may include **Adoration**, **Confession**, **Thanksgiving**, and **Supplication**.
- A **BENEDICTION** or perhaps the last verse/chorus of the previous hymn or worship song could be the closing of the devotion.

Those who share in the devotion with you will be blessed, and you will grow as you prepare and share about your faith. God will speak through you and to you.

***God bless your time in the Word!***