

Illuminations

LBW CELEBRATING

75th

Anniversary

1943 - 2018

LBW

LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

"We live by faith, not by sight"

2 Corinthians 5:7

Celebrating 75 Years of Ministry!



Founder, Helene Loewe Koehler

On October 20, 2018, hundreds of volunteers, staff, donors, board members, past board members, and recipients of LBW's materials will come together in Yucaipa, California to celebrate LBW's 75th anniversary! The event will begin with check-in and a reception at 4:00pm. Attendees will be given a tour of the Home Office; the dinner and gala begins at 5:30pm.

The gala line-up is sure to be a delight for many. The keynote speaker will be LWML President, and former member of LBW's Board of Directors, Patti Ross. In addition, famed author Glynn Langston, former CNH District President Rev. Dr. Bob Newton, and recipient of our materials, 9 year old Kaleb Ries, will all be speaking as well.

Furthermore, LBW will be proudly debuting a new video reflecting the ministry and mission work of the organization through the eyes of people who have received our materials, a 40-year volunteer & Work Center Leader, and a staff member with 23+ years of service. For those in attendance who wish to share their connections and love for LBW, a video booth will be established to capture these stories the night of the celebration. This video will be available online, on Facebook, and via mail after the event's completion.

Finally, LBW is excited to announce two new awards which will be presented during the gala. While the recipients will not be announced until the evening of October 20, the two awards are:

Founder's Distinguished Service Award: This award will be given in honor of our founder, Helene Koehler, to recognize people who have captured the passion, energy, and spirit of Helene Koehler through their significant contributions to the ministry of LBW over its 75 year history via time, talent, and treasures.

Delafosse Memorial Love Through Service Award: This annual award will recognize a volunteer who reflects the passion for service to others which embodied former executive director, Leroy Delafosse. Starting in 2019, (cont'd on back page)

Thoughts from the President



**Reverend Dennis Stueve,
President, Lutheran Braille Workers**

You may have already heard by way of letters sent out in May by Carol Zemke (the Chair of Lutheran Braille Workers Board of Directors) and myself, that I will be retiring as president of LBW on January 18th, 2019. Some of you might be wondering what prompted my decision to retire. And really it is pretty simple. Debra (my wife) and I want to spend more time with our family. (I know, you've heard that line before. But that really is at the heart of the matter, which is a matter of the heart!)

Both of our daughters live in the Northwest United States. Kari (our oldest) and her husband Patrick live in Bend, Oregon where Patrick is a pastor at Trinity Lutheran and Kari is involved in family ministry. They are the parents of our three extraordinary grandchildren, John, Samuel and Sarah. They love

the Northwest and have purchased a new home for their growing family. And while we would love to visit them more, our visits have been very limited. Lisa (our youngest) has been part of the ministry at Bethlehem Lutheran in Kennewick, Washington since 2012. She completed her Master's Degree in Education, bought her first home, and accepted the Call in 2017 to serve as principal at Bethlehem. So, you can see both our girls are committed to the places where they serve the Lord.

In discussions with a number of colleagues and friends, I could not find a good argument why Debra and I should wait any longer for us to take time for our family and celebrate the pure grace of God in allowing us this opportunity. We certainly don't deserve it. God is good!

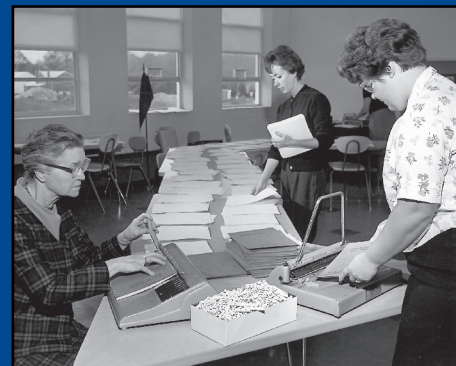
Being part of the LBW family (since 2002 first as pastoral advisor to the board, then elected to the board, and finally Called as President) has been a privilege, nothing less, and I hope and pray that you all will join me and remain actively involved in this life changing ministry!

I am still here, and I will help the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers with the transition over the coming months. And I will always have LBW, its supporters, volunteers, staff, board of directors, and most importantly, the recipients of LBW's services in my heart and prayers. God bless you as we continue to serve HIM!--Rev. Dennis Stueve

Reflecting the Real Work of LBW's Volunteers

Helene Koehler was adamant LBW is a Gospel-sharing organization and 75 years later, this is still true. To reflect the true nature of our work and outreach centers, as well as to connect all of the centers under LBW together, a name change will become effective in the new year. Starting January 1, 2019, all of LBW's centers will

be known as ministry centers. There will be no change in center location numbers. This change is being made to reflect the ministry component of the production and distribution of the Gospel message, and the hands-on mission work performed through outreach locations.





Your Gift Has Touched Someone

"Several years ago, you were kind enough to send a large print Bible for use by my mother, who had lost much of her sight to AMD. We lost her in 2015, and I have been looking for opportunities to pass this gift along to someone else who might use it.

As it turns out, my mom's brother, Uncle "Skip", who is a retired minister who is now in his mid-80s, physically frail, and still giving all he's got to anyone in his presence, had been looking for a large print Bible, preferably split into separate volumes for weight and portability sake, due to his own failing eyesight, not quite as bad as my mom's, but quite bad nonetheless.

This week I loaded Mom's Bible into my car and took a road trip up to see Uncle Skip. I told you that he is a minister, but that doesn't begin to describe the man that he is. In addition to guiding his church for decades, he has provided counseling to scores of people, been on the city counsel in his town, was instrumental in building affordable elderly housing on the grounds of the church, developing a hospice organization in his area, and many acts of love and kindness in God's



Rachel's Uncle Skip and Mom

name. These are only the things I know about.

Anyway, now this beautiful man is being blessed by your work. You have given him his Bible back. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for blessing two of my loved ones with the labors of your hearts.

With love, Rachel"

"I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for the books you sent to us. And I hope the Lord will use those in the lives of those who will receive them.



Let me tell you a story:

I sent a man born blind the New Testament on audio CDs and later was able to forward him Braille copies of two of the gospels. His son reported to me that he came home to find his father dancing around the living room with his cane. He said, "Dad, what's going on?" He said, 'I heard the gospel message before but it didn't mean as much to me. But when I touched the Word of God with my fingers...the Word of God touched me right back in my heart.'

This is crucial to get this Braille Word into the hands of these desperate and hungry people, isolated so greatly from the body of Christ and from the world at large by their disability. I would be more than happy to work with you in every way to send the message of Christ to those in need.

May the Lord bless you and help you to serve Him through the Braille language to many people in need. In His service. --Jad Ghrrayeb"



Blessed, Brailleing and 100+

Long before Lutheran Braille Workers (and its now-merged companion organization Lutheran Blind Mission) had lead plates to speed up the mass production of Braille Bibles, Portals of Prayer, the Lutheran Witness, Lutheran Woman's Quarterly and many other religious books, 101-year-young Helen Aupperle was hard at work producing Braille materials using a Braille typewriter. Helen had to "retire" from that work to take care of her special needs son Doug; however, when Doug was older, Helen rejoined the ranks of Braille volunteers at Trinity Lutheran Church, Peoria, Illinois. She estimates she's been volunteering for sixty years!

She still spends two hours each week March through October printing the Braille calendar with three other women using thermoform machines and Brailon paper, a special plastic-coated paper which "melts" around the Braille dots and pictures provided by LBW. This year her team expects to print nearly 2700 calendars which will be shipped around the world.

When asked why she still volunteers, Helen replied: "I believe it is time well spent. I plan to continue as long as I have my health."



Helen Aupperle,
volunteer of Ministry Center 310

Helen still drives and plays bridge year-around; she golfed weekly during spring/summer until this year.

Thanks Helen for your many dedicated years of service to the visually impaired.



Ruth Croffoot Schoff,
volunteer of LBW for 70 years!

"What a wonderful year! Lutheran Braille Workers is celebrating its' 75th anniversary and Braille Worker Ruth L Schoff is celebrating her 100th birthday. Ruth started working with Braille at Trinity Lutheran in Whittier, CA in 1948. I can remember going with grandma when she went to Braille.

Ruth moved to Richardson, Texas in August, 2014 to be near me after Dad passed away in September 2013. She is living in a 55 + senior independent living complex. Ruth is still active working as a team member for Lutheran Braille Workers at Messiah Lutheran, Plano TX. She also sews for LWML World Relief and foster care.

God has blessed Ruth with a good life. God's blessings to you and Lutheran Braille Workers.

– Linda Schoff Delzer"

Something New In Digital

Today’s Light, part of a daily devotional that covers the entire Bible in a span of two years is now being offered in the DTB (digital talking book) format, compatible with the National Library Services digital reader. Today’s Light is published every month so you can start this two year journey at any time.

If you wish to receive Today’s Light in this new format please contact Charlotte by calling the office 800-925-6092, email: charlotte@lbwinc.org or by going to our website www.lbwinc.org and place your order by clicking on the English Audio tab. --Charlotte Wilson

Your Choice Dollars

Lutheran Braille Workers would like to thank Thrivent Financial for the Choice Dollars program, which we receive funds for monthly. Since the program inception of July 8, 2010, a grand total of \$344,096 Choice Dollars have been distributed to Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc.

The Thrivent Choice program encourages benefit members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes an amount of its charitable grant funds. Members make this recommendation by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches.

Please make Lutheran Braille Workers your organization of choice so that you can allocate your Choice Dollars to us. These funds will help us to provide Braille, Large Print and Audio materials to those who are Blind or Visually Impaired, free of charge. If you have allocated your Choice Dollars to LBW and would like your funds to go to a particular Work Center, please call or email Deanna Bowles at (800) 925-6092 or deanna@lbwinc.org

Choice Dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed until March 31 of the following year.

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Mr. Ken Loeber - Vice Chair
Mrs. Deborah Rutt - Secretary
Mrs. Ruth Martin - Treasurer
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LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

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Name _____ Address _____		Date of first contribution: _____	Frequency of contribution (check one): ☐ Monthly on the 1 st ☐ Monthly on the 15 th ☐ One Time	Amount per donation: \$ _____ Work Center Number (optional) _____
CHECKING / SAVINGS Complete only if using checking or savings account.		CREDIT / DEBIT CARD Complete only if using your credit or debit card.		
Please debit my donation from my (check one): ☐ Checking Account (attach voided check) ☐ Savings account		Please charge my (check one): ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express		
Routing #: _____ Account #: _____		Credit Card Number: _____		Expiration Date: _____
I authorize Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. and Vanco Services, LLC to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.		Name on Card: _____		
Signature on bank account: _____ Date: _____		Billing Address: _____		
		I authorize Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. and Vanco Services, LLC to charge my card for the above dollar amount. Signature (as seen on the card): _____ Date: _____		

(Cont from front page)

the nominees for this award will be provided by our ministry centers throughout the United States to highlight the men and women who ensure the ministry of LBW continues forward, and thousands of people receive the Bible in Braille, Large Print, and Audio.

Invitations will be mailed out by the end of August. Seating is limited due to the size of LBW's headquarters and is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Reservations will be accepted by phone and through direct mail response. Tickets will cost \$25 per person or \$40 per couple. In addition, if you would like to sponsor the attendance of a recipient of LBW's materials who is Blind or Visually Impaired, a donation of \$25 may be made. If you are unable to attend, a gift to LBW in honor of 75 years of ministry



would be greatly appreciated.

The staff at LBW look forward to seeing you at this great celebration on October 20, 2018 at 4:00pm in Yucaipa, California.

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Can you read this?

Please prayerfully consider Lutheran Braille Workers in your Estate Planning.