

Illuminations



LBW
LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

"We live by faith, not by sight"
2 Corinthians 5:7

Sorority Impacting the Lives of Thousands

Two days each week a group of young ladies come together to help produce Braille Bible volumes at Ministry Center 47 located at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fort Worth, Texas. Most of these women aren't Lutheran and none attend the church, but all come with open hearts and excitement about their ability to help people who are Blind or Visually Impaired read the Bible for themselves.

These young ladies are members of Delta Gamma, a sorority founded in 1873 in Mississippi. The mission to "Do Good" and engage in "Service for Sight" came from a request in 1936, from a member who was Blind. In addition, Delta Gamma has over 150 active chapters on college campuses, over 250 alumni chapters, and over 250,000 members nationwide.

Sisters from Delta Gamma Tau have been volunteering at Ministry Center 47 for over five years. Sorority

leaders Georgia Killen and Emi Higgins estimate over 300 members of this one chapter help to produce over 100 volumes of Psalms or other materials every single year! When asked why they continue to serve, Ms. Killen answered that they find it a fun way to provide service to the Visually Impaired while meeting their sorority's core values.

Ministry Center leader Arla Richter has found these volunteers to be a great resource. "They are so respectful, energetic, and engaged. They do amazing work with a wonderful attention to detail. It is rare to find a volume they produce which has any errors."

This group of young ladies serves as an excellent reminder that volunteers can come from many locations, even outside of church.



Carol M. Zemke, Interim LBW President



Carol M. Zemke, Interim President/CEO

With the retirement of The Rev. Dennis Stueve as President of Lutheran Braille Workers, the Board of Directors has asked Board Chair Carol M. Zemke, of Minneapolis, MN to be the Interim LBW President/CEO.

Mrs. Zemke, worked her entire career as Director of Public Relations and Development Officer at Concordia University, St. Paul, MN. She has chaired the Board of LBW for three years and previously served on the Board for Lutheran Blind Mission, prior it's merging with LBW.

As Interim, Carol is working with the Staff and Board of Directors to bring the Gospel to people who are Blind and Visually Impaired all over the world; especially in India. A current LBW Board Member, has a mission in India, left by his Pastor Father. He and his siblings have kept it going

since their parents died. They are now making it a priority work project over the next few months by starting an LBW depot at the mission. Braille and Large Print received from LBW will be distributed all over India from the mission.

Another project Mrs. Zemke will be working on is to help start another depot for Braille and Large Print in Monrovia, Liberia. An LCMS Pastor from Chicago has returned to Liberia after a group of donors, donated two new buildings to him. He intends to start a satellite clinic and a church in the buildings. It will also be staffed by doctors from a local hospital.

India has the most Blind people in the world and Africa follows close behind. The Bible is a favorite among the Blind. The Blind of all ages like to receive free Braille reading material in the mail, especially when it is the Bible and other Christian material.

Lutheran Braille Workers is working hard to help bring the Gospel message of Jesus' saving grace to people who are Blind and Visually Impaired; men, women, and children throughout the world. Please consider joining with LBW and its new Interim President to help these often-times neglected people touch the promises of Jesus.

For more information about LBW, its new Interim President/CEO and how you can help people who are Blind and Visually Impaired, call the office and ask to talk to Carol.

School for the Blind Needs More Bibles

August 25, 2018

"Hello, I am a missionary from Virginia. I am currently looking for any Bibles, Bible verses in Braille.

"My team serves Liberia West Africa. Our friend Charlesetta runs a home for disabled children.

"There are no known Bibles written in Braille in all of Liberia. I would appreciate any help in this matter.

"Sincerely, Theresa M. - Beautiful Gate Ministry"

August 27, 2018

"Dear Theresa, thank you for contacting Lutheran Braille Workers. We do have Braille Bibles available and would be happy to provide those to you.

"Our Braille Bibles consist of 37 volumes and take approximately five

feet of storage space. We can also provide Bible portions or Bible Stories. Just let me know of a mailing address. Joanna - Lutheran Braille Workers"

August 27, 2018

"We would be so grateful for Bibles if possible. There is a new school in Monrovia that serves Blind Children. We will take the Bibles to Liberia. Terrie

January 27, 2019

"Thank you for the Bibles. Here is a picture of the school of the blind receiving the Bible. They were happy because now the children would receive the word. Many blessings, Terrie - Beautiful Gate Ministry"



LCMS-Youth and Blind Outreach Members Together will Participate in NYG Servant Event

Lutheran Braille Workers will be hosting a Servant Event on July 13, 2019 in Minneapolis, MN for the LCMS National Youth Gathering, where approximately 25,000 youth and chaperones will be in attendance. Forty students (ages 14-18) and members of LBW's Blind Outreach Center from Faith Lutheran Church, located in Minneapolis, together will produce and ship Braille and Large Print Bibles.

Staff from LBW Headquarters, volunteers from Braille Ministry Center, Wayzata, MN, along with volunteers from Large Print Ministry Centers from Bloomington and Hopkins, MN will help with the Servant Event by providing the equipment.

Faith Lutheran Church isn't the only LCMS congregation that partners with this Blind Outreach Center. Volunteers from surrounding churches (Redeemer, Beautiful Savior, and Our Savior) also help by coordinating travel, providing lunch, gift-giving, and devotion. The first Saturday of every month thirty to forty Blind Outreach members gather for wonderful fellowship and devotion.

In LBW's earlier years, we would participate in service events regularly with Aide Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood. Do you remember how fun and fulfilling those events were? LBW has been asked to host a number of service events this year. It's exciting to share our mission goals with those who have Servant Hearts but are not able to serve on a regular basis.

It takes resources to host service events. LBW provides the special paper, spirals, packing boxes and staff to make

these events happen. If you have a Servant's Heart, and would like to provide Braille and/or Large Print Bibles to people who don't have the resources to get one, YOU can be an example for the next generation by making a donation in any amount to help with the cost of upcoming Service Events.

YOUR donation will provide the necessary resources to produce Braille and Large Print Bibles for people across the world who cannot read regular print, at NO COST to them.

As stated in Ephesians, *"not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart."* (Ephesians 6:6)

Pictured below are photos of members and volunteers of the Blind Ministry Outreach Center located at Faith Lutheran Church, during February's fellowship time.

Board of Directors

Mrs. Carol M. Zemke - Chair
Mr. Ken Loeber - Vice Chair
Mrs. Deborah Rutt - Secretary
Mrs. Ruth Martin - Treasurer
Dr. Paul Dasari - Board Member
Rev. Dr. Ulmer Marshall -
Board Member
Mrs. Priscilla Newton -
Board Member
Rev. Dr. Daniel Mattson - Chaplain

Tax ID: 95-6048152

Lunch being served by
volunteers



Volunteers getting ready to
check in the members



Guide dogs also
enjoying fellowship



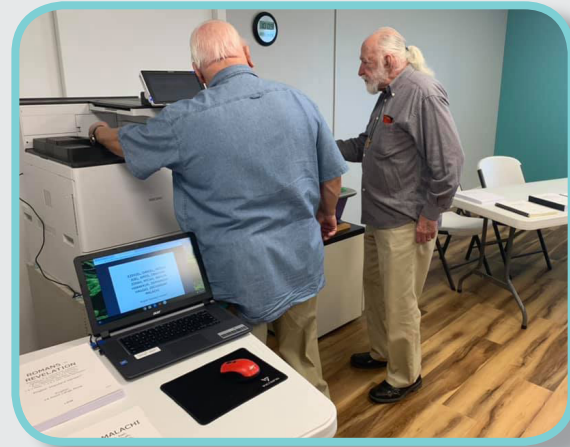
The First of its Kind A New Ministry Center Expanding LBW's Outreach

On February 3, 2019, a group of volunteers stood up at Grace Lutheran Church in Dennison, Texas, to receive the prayers and blessings of the Pastor and other church members for the new ministry being performed. Opened in January 2019, Ministry Center 15 is the first of its kind, with a mission to produce LBW's 14 point, Specialized Large Print Bibles, with an emphasis on these Bibles being used for Prison Ministry.

The funds to start this new Ministry Center came from a generous grant from the Texas District of the LWML. Within the congregation, volunteer support has been so wonderful, a second group has already been formed to allow more people to serve. Ministry Center leader Neil and Gail Lindahl were even more excited as two new volunteers signed up on February 3 to support this ministry.

"We already have produced and shipped ten volumes," said Mr. Lindahl, "and we have more orders waiting to be filled." Another volunteer at the church was excited about this center saying, "I'm scared to go into prisons to work, but this allows me a way to share the Gospel with prisoners who are in need."

For more information on this new type of Large Print Bible, or to request some volumes, please contact Roy Fisher, Large Print Administrator, at LBW's Home Office: 800-925-6092



LBW's newest volunteers, with Daniel Jenkins, at the Centers Opening Dedication

Volunteer Credits LBW for Her Longevity

Rosella Newton of Napa, CA recently celebrated her 100th birthday. A graduate of Calistoga High School, moved to Napa after the death of her husband in 1956 where she raised her two sons and two daughters. She served as the church secretary of St. John's Lutheran Church for 15 years while being involved in volunteer work in her church and community.

Rosella has served with Lutheran Braille Workers, Ministry Center #7 for over 30 years which she credits simply to her longevity. She began as a volunteer producing Braille Bibles, being the leader of the center for a few years and now producing, packing and shipping Specialized Large Print Bibles.

The photo to the right shows Rosella carefully packing

boxes for mailing. Each box holds all 9 Specialized Large Print books of the New Testament sent to individuals in the US and around the world.



We Don't Want to Lose You!

In an effort to be as efficient as possible in its mailings, and to be good stewards of the resources given to this ministry, LBW began cleaning up its mailing list in January. If LBW does not receive a gift, have you listed on a volunteer roster, or had communication with you since January 1, 2013, you will be removed from our mailing list. However, if you would like to continue to receive our mailings, please contact the Home Office and LBW will add you back onto the mailing list. Thank you!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!!

We just want to say thank you to all of our volunteers.

Thank you for your dedication that has been there throughout the years.

Thank you for the love you have for our Lord and the visually impaired. And the love you have for the blind, we are thankful for how much you care.

And again we say thank you for all the support that you show. Thank you for your giving heart and for helping LBW to grow.

Yes, thank you to our volunteers, may the Lord bless all you do. May He keep you safe and healthy because volunteers... We need you.

By
Charlotte M Wilson
February 2019

Helping You Plan for the Future

There are many questions which arise as both individuals and couples become older. "Are we financially prepared for the future? Will my loved one be cared for after I'm gone? Will we outlive our retirement? Will my family and charities I love be provided for after I've gone to heaven?"

Unfortunately, only 42% of Americans have estate planning documents, such as a will or living trust. Many of these documents haven't been updated in more than eight years. Fewer than 8% of Christians include charities in their estate plan, even though most give during their lifetime.

LBW is excited to announce a grant from the Lutheran Legacy Foundation of Paris, IL, which will allow our volunteers and donors to take advantage of free Estate Planning services which will ensure that you, your spouse and family members, and the charities you care about, will be provided for now and long into the future. These services are completely free and none of your information will be shared with LBW unless you give permission for the counselor you work with to do so.

If you are interested in taking advantage of these services, please contact Daniel Jenkins directly at daniel@lbwinc.org. If you have left LBW in your estate plan, please prayerfully consider providing this information so LBW can better plan for the future of this ministry.

The Lutheran Legacy Foundation of Paris, Illinois is dedicated to helping individuals, churches, and organizations carry out ministry through long term planning, endowments, trusts, and Donor Advised Funds. They are a tremendous partner in ministry and LBW is excited to announce an endowment has been created with Lutheran Legacy Foundation. For more information on this organization, or LBW's endowment, please visit www.lutheranlegacyfoundation.org.

It is Time for an Update!

If you use a cell phone, a computer or a tablet then you know what this means. Your device will inform you when it's time to update it. If you don't then your device will begin to slow down.

Well that is exactly what LBW did, we updated our Website! It's easier to navigate, it's quicker to place an order for Braille, Large Print and Audio Publications. It is secure...you can safely make donations. One of the best features is it is Vision Impaired friendly.

LBW's website has a new updated look, go to www.LBWinc.org, surf the website to view other features that weren't mentioned.

Please prayerully consider Lutheran Braille Workers in your Estate Planning.

I'm Interested in Providing a Bible(s) for a Person Who is Blind or Vision Impaired

- ☐ \$185 for a 37 volume Braille Bible
☐ \$185 for a 26 volume Large Print Bible (18pt font)
☐ \$185 for a 7 volume Large Print Bible (14pt font) for a prisoner
☐ A gift in the amount of \$_____

Please contact me with information on:

- ☐ Volunteer Opportunities
☐ Opening a Ministry Center

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State & Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Lutheran Braille Workers would like to thank Thrivent Financial for the Choice Dollars program, which we receive funds from monthly. In 2018 we received \$25,523.00 from this program which will help us to continue producing Braille, Large Print & Audio, to be given free of charge to anyone who is in need.

If you have allocated your Choice Dollars to LBW and would like your funds to go to a particular Ministry Center, please call or email Deanna Bowles at (800) 925-6092 or deanna@lbwinc.org

Please remember you only have until March 31 before your Choice Dollars expire.













































Can you read this?





























