



ILLUMINATIONS

Sharing the Gospel Always

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A Personal Story

We recently received an e-mail from Rhonda who wished to share her personal story and the impact LBW made in her life.

"I had a rough childhood growing up and found myself in trouble with the law quite frequently. Ultimately, I ended up in a Northern California prison serving a 14-year sentence for some stupid decisions. Keep in mind I was never raised believing in God and I was incredibly angry at life in general when I entered prison.

After a few years, an opportunity developed where I could become certified as a Braille transcriber and do work at the prison for other companies. It was a really good job, easier than many others within the prison, but I had to keep myself clean and out of trouble. After spending a year to get certified, I began work at the prison. Almost immediately, I became the primary transcriber for many of Lutheran Braille Workers' materials.

I was constantly reading the devotionals, books, and other resources you sent to us during the transcription and proofreading process. At first, I wasn't paying much attention as I was simply trying to get through everything as quickly as possible. But I kept reading more and more, and the thing which stood out was the unconditional love of Jesus for people who were always in trouble.

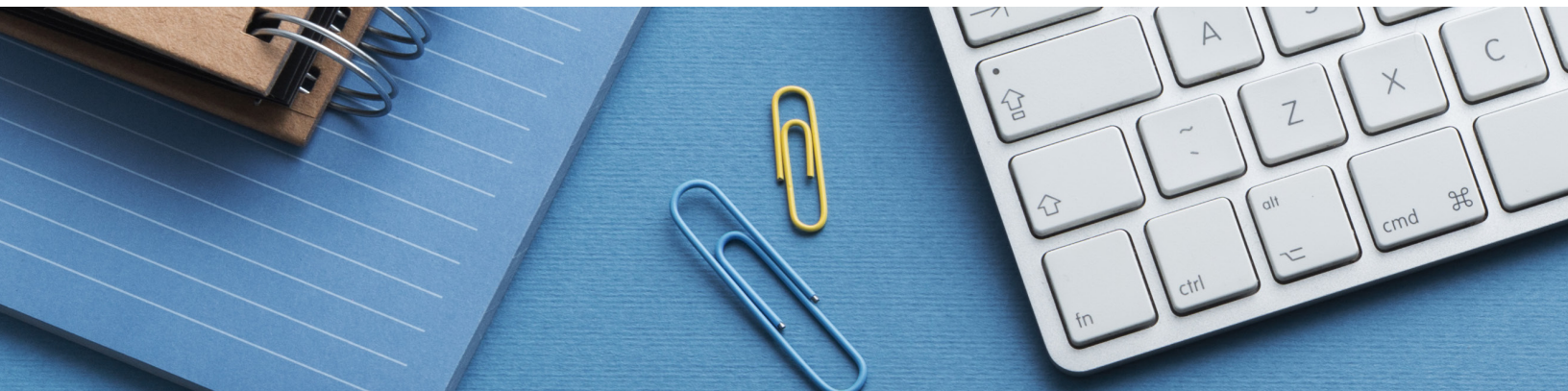
Eventually I reached out to the chaplain at the prison with questions I needed answered. After a year or so of attending worship, I became baptized into the most amazing family ever. My life is dedicated to Jesus. Recently, I was released from prison, and I was able to get a job doing Braille transcription for textbooks. However, my life forever changed when I became a Christian, and this only happened because of your ministry. Thank you for everything you do in sharing the Good News with people around the world.

— Rhonda, Northern California

LBW is more than a manufacturer of Braille or Large Print resources. We are a Gospel-sharing ministry to people throughout the world, including to people who aren't even Visually Impaired. You have changed Rhonda's life.

And your support allows Christ's love to be shared worldwide in amazing ways. Thank you for all you do!





Letter from the Board Chairman

Dear Lutheran Braille Workers Friends, Family and Supporters,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This message is to inform you of a significant staff change within the ministry of Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW).

After over six years of inspirational and steadfast service to LBW, Daniel Jenkins, is resigning from his position as LBW President, effective July 12, 2024. We are grateful for his leadership, passion, and commitment to the ministry; we are truly sad to see him leave – we wish him the best on the path God has prepared for him.

Despite this significant change, we remain confident that God is in control and that He has a plan for LBW and our mission and ministry partners. A committed team of dedicated men and women serve on the LBW staff, and we are blessed with a dedicated donor and volunteer base. The mission and ministry of LBW is in good hands.

An interim LBW Leadership Team is now in place to navigate this transition while the search for a new President is completed.

- **Nate Paredes**, Vice President of Finance and Operations will oversee all finances, ministry production centers, and organizational operations.
- **Rachel Potts**, Director of Ministry Relations and Strategic Partnerships, assumes responsibility for donor and church relations, grants, outreach.

Both Nate and Rachel are available to answer all questions regarding their areas of responsibility during this time of transition. We are grateful for their willingness to step forward and assume expanded leadership roles at this time.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the mission and ministry of Lutheran Braille Workers. Please do not hesitate to contact LBW headquarters directly at 909-795-8977 if you have any questions.

May our good and gracious Lord continue to bless you in all your efforts to serve Him!



Glenn Mahnken

Glenn Mahnken
Chair, LBW Board of Directors



Letter from the President

Dear friends of Lutheran Braille Workers,

It is with great sadness that I am announcing my departure from Lutheran Braille Workers, effective July 12, 2024, due to personal reasons. This was an extremely difficult and challenging decision and one which was not made lightly.

Lutheran Braille Workers is an incredible ministry and is made so by all of you, the volunteers and donors. Your passion for sharing the Gospel through your tireless work and generous gifts have been the foundation of this ministry for 81 years, and this will not change. Every person I have met through LBW has been a blessing and possesses a heart for service which continues to inspire me every single day. You have brought me much joy in my job, and I will miss all of you deeply.

In the end, God is ultimately in control of everything and has Lutheran Braille Workers in His hands. An incredible board of directors and the most amazing staff I could ever ask for remain in place with a vision, passion, and skills necessary to maintain the positive momentum of this ministry which has been built over the past few years. There are millions more people waiting to receive the Gospel in Braille and Large Print, and I have faith that with your continued support, this ministry will expand and grow for many years to come.

I look forward to remaining connected with LBW in the future. Thank you for all you do and for your incredible support for the past six and a half years.



In His Service,

Daniel Jenkins

Daniel Jenkins



LBW Representation at Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) District Conventions

It was a busy summer for Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) as we represented the organization at various Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) District Conventions throughout the United States.

We have a long-standing relationship with the LWML and are grateful to God for their continued support through prayers, awareness and financial support. We thank them for their ministry and for all the conversations we had about LBW!



**Atlantic District LWML District Convention
April 27, 2024 – Suffern, NY**

Rachel Potts, Director of Ministry Relations and Strategic Partnership, was invited to be a guest speaker at the LSM Atlantic District Convention. She talked about the ministry and mission of LBW, and reconnected with women that she met last fall at Martin Luther School in Queens. Several women from the Atlantic District attended LBW's servant event at Martin Luther. Miriam Lamboy, pictured here, was so moved by the event that she wrote a grant to fund a new Ministry Production Center in Brooklyn. Her grant was awarded at the conference, and LBW can't wait to work with Miram and St. Paul's in Brooklyn to open a new Braille Center in the coming year!



**Eastern LWML District Convention
June 14-16, 2024 – Cranberry Township, PA**

Ministry Production Center (MPC) #192 (Immanuel Lutheran – Scranton, PA) leaders Dave and Faith Guskey shared the mission of LBW with those attending at this convention. They had a good number of visitors at the LBW display along with conversations during the meals. Many of the attendees had little idea of how MPC's like #192 produce Braille books and participants and were happy to get this information!



**June 13-15, 2024
Corpus Christie, TX**

Representatives Sandy and Terry Jenkins – who work with LBW in machinery maintenance and grant writing – shared the story of how LBW has touched many lives in positive ways with those in attendance. Many were excited





Pacific Southwest LWML District Convention June 7-8, 2024 - Rosemead, CA

Rachel Potts, Director of Director of Ministry Relations and Strategic Partnerships and Amy Scholz, Senior Director of Ministry Advancement represented LBW with an exhibit and Rachel addressed the membership.

As LBW's headquarters are in their district in Yucaipa, CA, we enjoyed having conversations sharing the ministry of LBW, inviting the participants to come visit headquarters and thanking them for their support!

Michigan LWML District Convention, June 28 - 29, 2024 - Grand Rapids, MI

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) President Daniel Jenkins, LBW Board Member Pam Bishop, Rachel Potts, Director of Ministry Relations and Strategic Partnerships and Amy Scholz, Senior Director of Ministry Advancement represented LBW with an exhibit, conducted a Servant Event and had a "Dining in the Dark" lunch experience with those who wanted to learn more about our ministry.

The participants who volunteered their time at the Servant Event produced 15 Braille books and 800 Specialized Large Print Mini Devotional materials! We are grateful for their time and those we interacted with at the experiences we were able to provide at this convention.



in what we do – including author Donna Snow who was thrilled to see her devotion in Specialized Large Print displayed at the LBW display! Also pictured with the Jenkin's is Monika Richardson who has done Braille transcription, proofreading and helped LBW sponsor some Texas LWML District grants.



Ohio LWML District Convention June 21 - 23, 2024 - Canton, OH

More than 40 women from the LWML Ohio District joined LBW volunteers and staff for a LBW servant event at the district convention. Barb Porter and Linda Polcyn, volunteers from MPC #191 at Fairlawn Ohio, and Rachel Potts brought presses and plates and worked with the LWML women to produce more than 15 Braille books.



We value our partnership with the Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) - which has been over 80 years - who provide ministries like LBW with mission grants both nationally and through districts. We are blessed by their generosity as we share the Word of God with those that are Blind and Visually Impaired!

This is the list of various grants voted on by the following LMWL districts as voted on by their delegates at their district conventions.

(Please note – at time of printing of this newsletter, these were the approved grants.)

LBW received a national grant in the amount of \$100,000 at the LWML 2023 Convention - Strengthening Faith in Those with Vision Impairment.



LMWL District Grant	Amount
California Nevada Hawaii <i>Seeing Christ's Light Amid Visual Darkness</i>	\$2,500
Central Illinois <i>Servants of the Gospel Through Dots and Words of Love</i>	\$10,000
Eastern <i>Sharing the Lord of All Nations with the Blind or Visually Impaired</i>	\$5,000
English <i>Servants of the Gospel Through Dots of Love</i>	\$1,150
Kansas <i>Servants of the Gospel</i>	\$600
Oklahoma <i>Knowing the Gospel Through Dots of Love</i>	\$10,000
South Dakota <i>Servants of the Gospel Through Dots of Love</i>	\$3,000
Texas <i>Proclaiming Christ to People Who are Blind or Visually Impaired</i>	\$20,000
Utah-Idaho <i>Jesus Comes Alive Amid Visual Darkness</i>	\$1,500

“ At our display table, a woman whose mother is losing her sight and battling depression found hope in our large print materials. She was so thankful for the resources that she came back just to express her gratitude again, eager to share this newfound hope. ~ Sandy Jenkins

Visit to Ministry Production Center #182 – Phoenix, AZ

In May, Amy Scholz, Senior Director of Ministry Advancement visited Ministry Production Center #182 at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Phoenix, AZ.

The volunteers there have longevity with the Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) in their incredible service to provide the Word of God to those that are Blind by providing materials in Braille. Before the items go to the post office, the group gathers to pray over them that the items will be blessings to those that receive them.

We thank them and all our MPC's for their volunteerism as LBW continues to provide these materials free of charge.



Ministry Production Center Kansas Grant #71 – Wichita, KS

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Ministry Production Center #71, received a \$500.00 grant for Lutheran Braille Workers for their positive work through the “Wins for Kansas” awards. As shared by their MPC leader Susan Rathgeber, “...the award is to highlight organizations that bring a positive impact to the community and the state of Kansas.”

The local grant was provided by the legal firm Devaughn James LLC in Wichita and Susan was interviewed by local television station KAKE to share about the work that MPC #71 and LBW does.

We thank God for the awareness given for LBW and for the work of our volunteers!

Visit to Ministry Production Center #179 Prince of Peace – Virginia Beach, VA

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Virginia Beach is home to Large Print MPC #179. Center leader Gail Laughrey (pictured) invited Rachel Potts, Director of Ministry Relations and Strategic Partnership, to speak at worship at Price of Peace and lead bible study on May 19. Rachel was warmly welcomed by the congregation, especially the MPC volunteers. She was included in their women's bible study the next day, and she was blessed to visit with them during their production center work session where they shared a lovely lunch.



CMCA Summit – Wheaton, IL – May 2024

In May, LBW's Director of Large Print Ministry, Cynthia Keh attended the 2024 Correctional Ministries and Chaplains Association (CMCA) Summit in Wheaton, IL. Various workshops and panel discussions were offered to share testimonies and to discuss how to better serve the Prison ministry.



Evangelical Christian Publishing Association (ECPA) Conference

The ECPA held their annual Leadership Summit in Chicago, IL in late April. LBW was honored to be invited to attend. The ECPA is an international non-profit trade organization comprised of member companies that are involved in the publishing and distribution of Christian content worldwide. Rachel Potts attended the summit and initiated relationships with leadership teams in Christian publishing. She also had the opportunity to learn from world-class experts speaking on current issues and trends important to the industry. LBW was also granted membership in the ECPA and looks forward to further developing relationships with Christian publishing organizations.



Presentation to Albuquerque, NM Circuit Pastors

Lutheran Braille Workers was invited to present about the ministry to pastors in circuits surrounding the Albuquerque area. Amy Scholz, Senior Director of Ministry Advancement shared various statistics and information of how we share the Word of God in Braille, Specialized Large Print and for Prison Ministry.



We enjoy coming to churches to meet with church staff and members – please speak to your pastor about LBW coming to your church!

Servant Event at St. Paul Lutheran School – Ann Arbor, MI

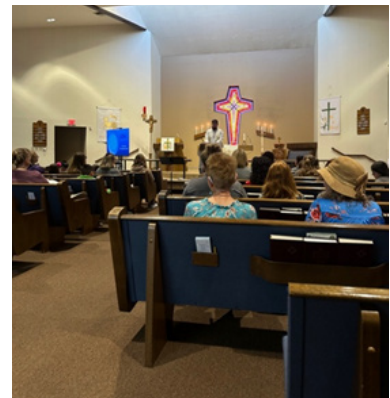
A huge thank you goes out to the more than 300 students and staff at St. Paul School in Ann Arbor, Michigan, who participated in an incredible day long servant event on May 13.

St. Paul Ann Arbor said, “It was an incredible experience for all our students to delve into the world of Braille.” Throughout the day, students produced Christian materials in Braille and Large Print and participated in a variety of Braille. Middle schoolers assembled Braille and specialized Large Print sermon books and Mustard Seed devotions while elementary and preschool students got hands-on learning about Braille by making their own Braille words and writing thank you letters to volunteers. By the end of the day, students had produced 40 Braille books, 700 Large Print publications, and 170 thank you notes. Thank you to all the students who shared Jesus’ love with people with Visual Impairments. St. Paul also thanks LBW, saying, “Thank you for making learning accessible and inclusive for everyone!”

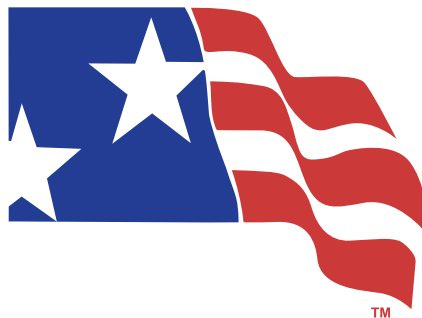
Chapel Service at Atonement Lutheran School – Glendale, AZ

Amy Scholz, Senior Director of Ministry Advancement spoke at Atonement Lutheran School in May to students in various grades plus some members of the church.

We thank the school for having Amy come speak and for LBW being designated for their fourth quarter chapel offerings!



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



National Day of Prayer at St. Paul Lutheran School – Manawa, WI

St. Paul Lutheran School in Manawa, Wisconsin, celebrated the National Day of Prayer on May 2 with a visit from LBW. Rachel Potts spent the day with St. Paul Manawa, where she visited classrooms, sharing LBW’s mission and telling students about Braille. A National Day of Prayer chapel service was held for the school and members of the Manawa community, and everyone joined in praying for the continued ministry of LBW and the people who receive the Good News of Jesus in Braille and Large Print. A special thank you goes out to Pastor Nathan Reichle and Principal Brian Elmhorst for inviting LBW to be part of this special day.

LBW’s Ministry Production Centers, churches, community volunteers, and donors all work together to complete LBW’s mission. We value these partnerships as they are essential in helping us spread hope and faith across the globe.



Walking the Way by Heart

Written by Brooke Pernice, Director of Outreach

Whenever I'm in an unfamiliar place, I like to ask someone to explain the layout, then walk through it with me a few times, pointing out hazards and helpful landmarks; pillars, tables, or anything stationary to give me hints about my exact location. At first, I feel for every reference point so I won't get lost or do any damage, but later, the route becomes second nature, and I hardly notice them. Once I know a place, people with sight realize it, and they don't worry about me as much. If I don't take the time to note every hazard and landmark in the beginning though, I'll lose my mental map, and sighted friends feel obligated to become sighted guides.

The Law God gave to Israel encompassed far more than worship within the contexts of Sabbaths or feasts. God was to be remembered and honored in every action (Deut 6:4-9). It was only kept perfectly by Jesus (1 John 3:4-5), Who fulfilled it to cleanse His people from sin (Rom 8:1-4). A guardian to the faithful until Christ's coming (Gal 3:24), the Law showed every danger and point of reference to a people who needed to be closely guided. God had promised His people that,

“ I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.” (Jer 31:33b-34a ESV). The Law would no longer be a series of statements carved in stone and taught by another person, but a Gracious gift of the Holy Spirit to the Christian heart (2 Cor 3:2-7). ”

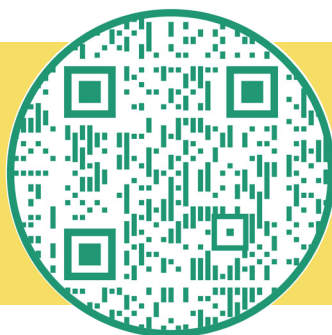
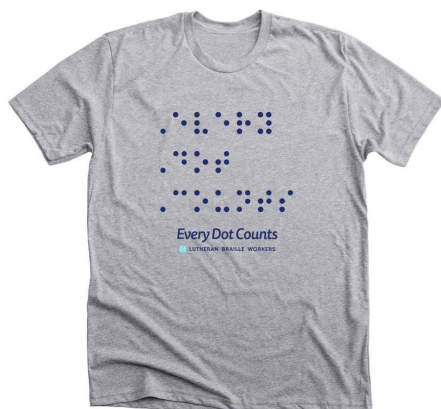
For many of us who are blind, the routes through an unfamiliar place are followed exactly at first, with every landmark touched with cane or hand, and every potential hazard skirted widely, after we've stopped moving and noted its presence. We follow the instructions of the good people walking with us as literally as we can, but once we know a place, we have the freedom to navigate with the confidence that we will not get lost, hurt ourselves, or break anything.

Our friends no longer need to be quite as hands on, because we know the route by heart, and have gotten rid of disorienting habits. Similarly, God's people needed the Law to manage them (Gal 4:1-3), and make known their inability to save themselves (Rom 5:20-21), until Jesus made us innocent and alive before God (Eph 2:1-10). He remakes us for Himself (2 Cor 5:17-21), and continually puts our sinful desires to death (Rom 6:1-7), freeing us by the Spirit to know...

All the paths of the LORD are
steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. — Psalm 25:10 ESV

New LBW T-Shirts and Sweatshirts

LBW has newly designed t-shirts and sweatshirts for purchase with 100% of the profits donated to LBW. This is a way to share about the ministry you so selflessly give your time to!



Various Sizes, Colors and Styles Available

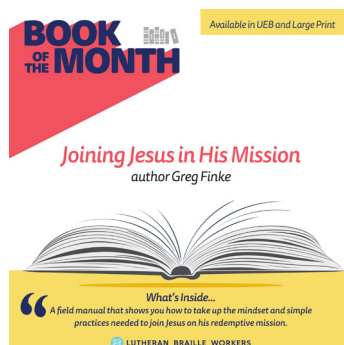
Designs can be purchased at www.bonfire.com/store/lutheran-braille-workers or scan this QR code.

Are You Following Us on Social Media?

Staff spotlights, event highlights, history, and other information are posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages! Follow us to keep up with news, events, and more.

Book of the Month highlights are posted monthly with a description of the books that are available! Followers are encouraged to leave a book review or share the post!

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LBW

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Please consider making a gift through check, credit card, IRA minimum distribution, Thrivent Choice Dollars, stocks, or other mechanisms for people who are Visually Impaired.



Your gifts help bring the Gospel to 338 million men, women, and children who are Blind or Visually Impaired through Braille and Specialized Large Print formats.



Scan this QR code for quick links to our Donation Page, Social Media Sites, Online Bookstore, Official Merchandise, and the LBW website.

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