



ILLUMINATIONS

Sharing the Gospel Always

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A Bible in My Hands Again

We will never forget the sound of Tammy's voice when she called LBW headquarters in Yucaipa. Her words were caught between laughter and tears, joy and relief, gratitude and awe. She had just received her large print Bible from Lutheran Braille Workers, and for the first time in years, she was able to open the Word of God and read it for herself.

Tammy told us about her journey. She has a rare disease that has caused progressive vision loss, and one of the greatest heartbreaks in her diagnosis was realizing she could no longer read her Bible. The words that once gave her strength and comfort became inaccessible. Her eyes could no longer take in the passages she loved, and she felt a deep emptiness where Scripture used to dwell in her daily life.

Last year, God sent an unexpected gift her way. Members of a local organization came to her door and told her about Lutheran Braille Workers, a ministry dedicated to ensuring people who are blind or visually impaired can still hold God's Word in their hands. Tammy's heart leapt with hope. She immediately placed an order, praying the day would

come when she could once again read her Bible for herself.

That day finally came.

"When I opened the package," Tammy said, "I fell to my knees and called out to my husband in tears. When he realized what I was crying over, we both became excited and joyful. It was as if God Himself had walked right through the door and placed His Word back into my life."

Tammy told us she wishes she could personally thank every single person who made her Bible possible: the volunteers, the donors, and the staff who put so much care into each book. She sends her blessings to all of you who faithfully serve this ministry.

Like so many who receive our Bibles, Tammy also wanted to give something back. *"I wish I could contribute more," she said, "but I will tell everyone I meet about the wholesome work Lutheran Braille Workers does. I feel so blessed by this ministry."*

Her story is not just her own. It is a testimony to the impact of God's Word. Every package we send carries with it more than

pages and ink; it carries hope, comfort, and the presence of Christ into homes around the world. Tammy's tears of joy are a reminder of why we do what we do.

As we listened to her gratitude, we were reminded that every gift, every volunteer hour, every prayer, and every effort made through LBW has eternal significance. We are not simply producing books. We are restoring access to God's living Word, giving people like Tammy the ability to once again open their Bibles and hear God speak directly into their hearts.

Tammy's story is a gift to all of us. It reminds us that while vision may fade, the light of Christ never dims. And through this ministry, that light continues to shine brightly in homes, churches, and lives around the world.

So, on behalf of Tammy and countless others like her, thank you. Thank you for being part of this mission, for your prayers, your support, and your faithfulness. Because of you, Tammy fell to her knees with her Bible in hand. And because of you, she now rises each day with God's Word once again lighting her path.



Lutheran Braille Workers Welcomes New President



Following an extensive national search, the Board of Directors of Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) is pleased to announce that **Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell** of Bronxville, New York, has accepted the Call to serve as the next President of LBW.

Rev. Dr. Hartwell earned his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1993, and his Doctor of Ministry from New York Theological Seminary in 2002. He also holds an MBA from Bay Path College in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, which he completed in 2011.

His ministry began in 1993 at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Hicksville, New York. In 1998, he accepted a Call to Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School in Bronxville, where he has faithfully served for the past 27 years.

Pastor Hartwell brings extensive experience as an administrative pastor, educator, and leader in the Lutheran community. His proven record of leadership and his passion for Gospel-centered ministry provide a strong foundation to further the mission of LBW. His commitment to partnering with LBW's staff, volunteers, and donors will help strengthen and expand the organization's outreach to the 338 million people worldwide who are blind or visually impaired.

Rev. Hartwell is married to Sue, and together they have two grown children, Alexander (Marie) and Hannah (George), and a 19-month-old granddaughter, Maeve.

Speaking about his new role, Pastor Hartwell shared,

"I love and feel passionate about the mission and vision of Lutheran Braille Workers. I look forward to working with the staff, the Board, donors, and the Blind and Sight-Impaired community to help all interact with God's Word and meaningful Christian resources in Braille and Specialized Large Print."

Please join Lutheran Braille Workers in welcoming Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell and his wife, Sue, to the LBW family.



A Message from the President

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

As the seasons change many people in our world start getting ready for something new in their life: starting school, undertaking a new challenge or perhaps just living courageously in an anxiety fueled culture. I myself am starting something new, taking a call to serve Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) as a team cheerleader, strategic planner, fund raiser and passionate advocate for LBW and the blind and sight impaired community.

As I begin to learn and grow, my prayer is that our world may better value the blind and visually challenged as the equal partners they are with best practices and resources designed just for those differently-abled in the area of sight. Along the way I hope to encourage congregations to be welcoming with specific ways to be inclusive, encourage and invite the visually impaired and blind to receive God's Word and faith uplifting resources in Braille, specialized large print and audio technologies.

Starting something new is never easy. I will be traveling a lot to encourage our Outreach and Production Centers, telling the story of LBW, and meeting new friends and established supporters who want to join and empower our mission as love works.

If you are starting something new too I'll be praying for you. And I ask you to pray for me and our colleagues at LBW so our ministry and mission might continue to flourish and grow. New is exciting (and sometimes a little scary). But in Christ we are new creations, renewed through our baptisms to boldly live in faith and service. Starting something new? Me too. Let's do it together and in the power of Christ and His love.

Beginning Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Hartwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

(Rev. Dr.) Rob Hartwell
President, Lutheran Braille Workers

Faith in Action: LWML and LBW Together in Mission

In June, Lutheran Braille Workers was blessed to join thousands of faithful women and men at the LWML National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. The gathering was a beautiful reminder of how God works through His people to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

Throughout the week, LBW's presence was felt in many ways. At our booth, more than 4,000 women engaged with our ministry, learning how Bibles and Christian resources in Braille and Specialized Large Print are changing lives for people who are blind or visually impaired. We were humbled to secure over 500 new contacts— LWML women, pastors, congregational leaders, and LWML supporters—who expressed a desire to connect their churches and communities more closely with LBW.

A highlight of the convention was the opportunity to lead three Servant Event sessions. Each session featured four Braille production stations, where participants worked with joy and care to produce a total of 106 Braille books from Donna Snow's devotional series. Many women left these events deeply moved, knowing their hands had directly helped someone receive God's Word.



Rachel Potts, LBW's Director of Ministry Relations, also had the privilege of giving a "Mites in Action" keynote presentation. Her message about the lives touched by LWML's support brought home the reality that every mite, every prayer, and every volunteer hour makes an eternal difference.

We are especially grateful for the many hands that made LBW's presence possible. Volunteers from our Ministry Production Centers faithfully served at the booth throughout the convention, sharing their stories and welcoming visitors. Special thanks to Ken Loeber and his wife, Kathy, for their faithful leadership and encouragement, as well as to Steven and Dena Wagner, Norma Tucker, Betty Reinke, and Shirley Alexander, along with many other MPC leaders who gave their time and energy.

The LWML has walked alongside LBW for decades, and their partnership continues to be a cornerstone of our ministry. We are already looking ahead to the next convention in Oklahoma City, 2027, where once again, LWML will gather to celebrate, serve, and share the Gospel together.



Endure: Sharing God's Word with the Next Generation



This July, Lutheran Braille Workers was blessed to join more than 20,000 youth and adults at the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Held every three years, the Gathering draws participants from across the globe for a week of worship, learning, and fellowship. The 2025 theme, **Endure**, invited young people to consider what it means to remain steadfast in faith and mission.

LBW's booth became a place of discovery and excitement throughout the Gathering. In just a few days, we connected with over 20,000 attendees, many of them encountering LBW for the very first time. More than 3,000 individuals—both youth and adults—shared their contact information, signaling their desire to learn more and stay engaged with the ministry.

One of the most memorable aspects of LBW's presence was our series of Servant Events. Across three days, we hosted four sessions per day, with about 50 participants per session. These energetic youth worked diligently on Braille presses, producing an incredible 348 Braille books and 3,000 Large Print calendars. Each young person left knowing their hands had created resources that will soon be placed directly into the hands of someone longing to read God's Word.

In addition to the Servant Events, our walk-up activities gave thousands of youth an opportunity to explore what it means to live with blindness or visual impairment. Students tried using a white cane, experienced simulations of different eye diseases, and practiced writing Braille using Perkins Brailers and Slate and Styluses. These hands-on experiences created lasting impressions of the challenges faced by people with visual impairments and the importance of making Scripture accessible to all.

We are deeply grateful for the many supporters who made this week possible. In particular, we give thanks to Gayle and Tony Trupiano for their generous partnership and encouragement during the event.

The LCMS Youth Gathering reminded us of the passion and faith of the next generation. As these young people return home to their congregations, our prayer is that they will carry LBW's mission with them, inspiring their churches to serve in new and faithful ways. We look forward to gathering again in San Antonio, Texas, in 2028, to continue this journey of equipping and encouraging youth to share the Gospel in every corner of the world.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."

(Hebrews 12:1-3)



Celebrating the Legacy of Norman Loeber at 104

This August, Lutheran Braille Workers had the great joy of celebrating the 104th birthday of Norman Loeber, a man whose vision, innovation, and dedication helped shape our ministry for generations. Born on August 14, 1921, Norman has lived a life filled with faith, family, and an enduring commitment to sharing God's Word with people who are blind or visually impaired.

Norman is the brother of LBW founder, Helene Loewe Koehler, and together with his beloved wife Sally (who passed away in 2015), he carried forward Helene's dream of providing Braille Bibles to the world. His service to LBW was profound, serving on the Board of Directors from 1962–1974 and again from 1990–2008, and lending his engineering expertise to make Braille production more efficient and accessible.



An International Voice for Braille

Norman's influence extended beyond LBW. In 1975, he traveled to Paris to represent LBW and IBM at the 150th anniversary of the Braille language. There, he heard what would affirm his life's work:

"Nothing will ever take the place of Braille, it is our window to the world."

A Pioneer in Braille Innovation

In 1944, Norman caught the passion for creating Braille Bibles—a passion that never left him. Over the decades, he tirelessly researched and engineered systems to improve Braille production. With his son Kenneth, Norman developed the roller press system still used in LBW's Ministry Production Centers today. Originally designed and copyrighted in 1946, the roller press became the essential tool for high-volume Braille production. While small updates have been made, the core of Norman's design continues to serve thousands of volunteers faithfully.

Norman's contributions went even further. In 1957, he persuaded his employer, IBM, to donate keypunch equipment, which he transformed into the first "Braille Encoding Keyboard." This revolutionary device reduced operator fatigue and errors, producing thousands of plates and paving the way for future computer-assisted Braille technology. His forward-thinking innovations, from automatic line spacers on stereotype machines to pioneering magnetic card embossing systems, were decades ahead of their time and proved instrumental in expanding LBW's ability to serve people worldwide.

A Life Well Lived in Service

Norman's story is one of dedication, creativity, and love for others. Through his ingenuity and perseverance, millions of people who are blind or visually impaired have been able to hold God's Word in their hands. His quiet but steadfast work—often done behind the scenes in workshops and production centers—changed the course of this ministry and ensured that the dream his sister Helene began would continue to grow.

As Norman celebrates 104 years of life, we give thanks for him, for Sally, and for Kenneth, who have poured themselves into this ministry. We honor Norman not only for his remarkable age but also for his remarkable legacy: one that continues to bless countless people across the globe. [Happy Birthday, Norman!](#)

Welcome Nadine Pattison

Trying to find the right words to describe the feeling that the Lutheran Braille Workers ministry has evoked within me is not an easy task. LBW was unbeknownst to me when I submitted my application for the temporary purchasing admin position at headquarters. So, when I was called for an interview, I was excited and eager to find out more about what and where I had applied.

The interview itself was enough to intrigue me and sent me on an all-night LBW google search, even if I didn't get the position; the Lutheran Braille Workers ministry had inspired me. How had I not known about a ministry that provided free Christian literature in Braille and large print to those who are blind or visually impaired and needed it most?

As fate would have it, I received the call back and I would get the opportunity to learn and become more familiar with the unknown organization by getting the position! From that point on, things started to be so positive all around me, I knew it was because of how inspired I felt after being exposed to Lutheran Braille Workers ministry.

I started at LBW headquarters where my education in Braille and Helene Loewe Koehler's empowering story began to unfold. To think this extraordinary service began with a simple response to a notice that Helene's Dad had found, is mind blowing.

Today, it's easy to forget that in 1943 there were no means to send an instant text message, no internet, no email – just old-fashioned reliance upon the postal service and phone calls; that is, if you happened to have the phone number you needed to call or had a phone book handy. Helene was able to build a strong foundation of faithful and devoted volunteers across the United States, that focused all their efforts on providing this service for free without the use of technology and modern-day advances and was able to extend this service to other countries; how incredibly motivating!

The story of Lutheran Braille Workers is one worth telling and after meeting the kind and incredible people that encompass LBW, I can say, I feel inspired daily. I am incredibly blessed to be a part of a mission that is nothing short of amazing. The impact of LBW is unmeasurable and it's a nice reminder that there is so much good in this world. *Thank you for illuminating my life!*

Nadine Pattison

Production Assistant



Because of you, my hands are on the Word daily! Thank you and God bless you!
I prefer reading Braille over listening to recorded material SO MUCH!

- Bill from Utah

John from Minnesota, one of our Braille recipients, is turning 75 in a few short days (May 19th) and is so grateful that he received his braille material (Illumination newsletter). He is grateful for our organization and the hard work of the volunteers. He prayed for the volunteers and is looking forward to receiving his other orders.

As a long-time recipient of the Scriptures, in braille, from LBW, I want to say thank you and help others receive them too.

- Stefan Slucki

Thank you for sending me the Bible in Large Print. It is of a size I can read. There is nothing like the Word of God that helps a person in this life. Blessings and thanksgiving to your giving hearts.

Lovingly in Christ,
- Mary from Washington

Thank you for the work you do to God be the Glory!

- Stephanie Lyles

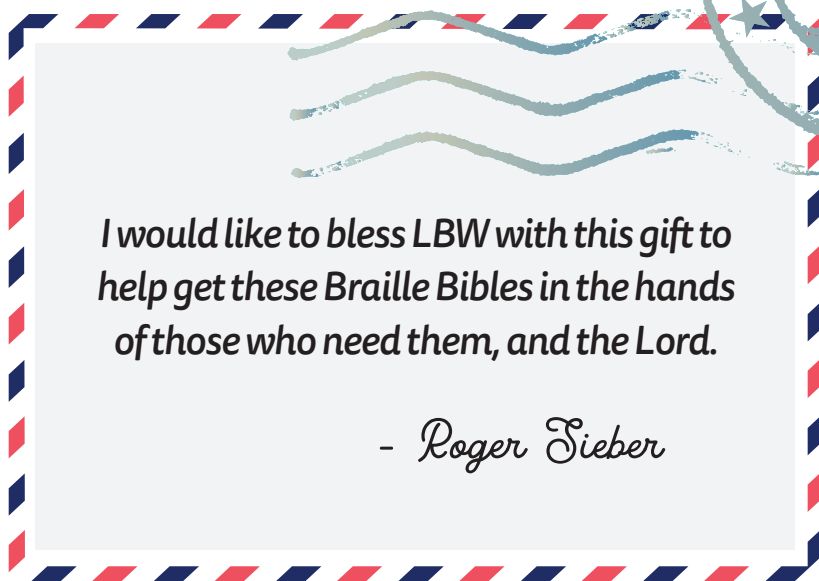
Thank you for your wonderful ministry!

- Diane Zinn

“ In Lancaster, California, a new ministry working with a Senior Citizen Independent Living center has reached out to us. Gina, the organizer, was ecstatic when she came across our website online, and called to find out more. When she heard what it takes from our volunteers, she exclaimed “God is good!” and immediately placed an order for 17 Large print Bibles. She cannot wait to provide these to her group and sends her blessings.

“ I really enjoy getting your newsletters to see how you are bringing the Gospel to the visually impaired and blind. May God continue to bless your organization.

- Melanie Algrim



“ Thank you so much!

This [Braille Bible] is an enormous answer to prayer and an incredible blessing! Thank you for all the work you folks do to make the Word of the Lord accessible to everyone. Roisin was in tears when I told her we were able to get a braille Bible into her hands!

I was wondering if you could tell me the approximate cost of producing and sending one of these Bibles. I would like to donate to help cover some of the cost of this wonderful work.

Blessings in Christ,

- Evelynne from Ontario



“ I have been reading the large print My Devotions for young Christians for over 10 years faithfully and the result that is that I have learned and grown so much.

Thank you,
- Nick Kakoulli

We are excited to present a new devotional in each newsletter written by our Director of Outreach, Brooke Pernice. Brooke is a Doctor of Ministry and is writing these devotions to present a perspective on life as somebody who is Blind.



Always Aware

Written by Dr. Brooke Pernice, Director of Outreach

Many blind people, especially if we went through Orientation and Mobility training, have developed a skill called acute spatial awareness. If we're vigilant, we notice even the smallest changes in our environments as we're walking. When I'm paying attention, I can usually feel the presence of a tree branch, vehicle, or another person, even when the sound hasn't changed. I know I'm getting close to a curb when I notice a subtle downward grade beneath my feet. This helps our navigation, even in areas we've never visited before, but it's especially effective along routes we have thoroughly mapped in our minds.

Wise vigilance is vital for followers of Christ in every era. St. Peter told the churches who were suffering intense persecution (1 Pet 4:12-16) to, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet 5:8 KJV). The church of that day was presumably aware of Satan's presence in light of everything they suffered for the name of Jesus (Heb 11:35b-38), but they still had to be warned about the dangers of sin and of false teachers. The modern, western church might need more of a warning than even those in the 1st century AD because pride and complacency are often easier to fall into when there are less dangers or challenges (Eccl 7:4-5). Hopefully, no one is praying for an outbreak of persecution against faithful Christians but for greater discernment and humility among God's people. "Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life," King Solomon reminds us, "but he who rejects reproof leads others astray" (Prov 10:17). When we are aware of the nature of our times, alert to both the opportunities and dangers that lay before us, we are more likely to discern the right actions to take (1 Chr 12:32).

Years ago, on a route I knew as well as any, I walked eyeball first into a sharp tree branch. It was quickly cut back after my incident, but I was overly attentive on that sidewalk for at least a month. I don't know if I could have prevented my scratched cornea by using my acute spatial awareness, but I resolved that if I had a similar encounter, my lack of vigilance would not be the cause. As Christians, we probably have Bible reading routines and church homes that we know as well as I knew that route, but no matter how familiar these may be, the hazards of temptation and deception will appear before us.

The vigilant Christian will prayerfully welcome God's words of correction as much as encouragement (2 Tim 3:16-17), knowing that they provide our protection. Jesus' warning to His disciples, which they failed to heed just before abandoning Him to His executioners, is no less appropriate for us, "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Mat 26:41).

A Few Insights on Awareness

Written by Dr. Brooke Pernice, Director of Outreach



In July, I trained to become a certified ALICE instructor. ALICE is an acronym for alert, lockdown, inform, counter, evacuate, and is a training program devoted to keeping people safe from active shooters. As I talk with local congregations about how to do outreach to the blind, I have realized that any number of contingencies from a human threat to a fire to a natural disaster have the potential to come up, and I should have the qualifications to help churches establish procedures to help their blind visitors or members if this ever took place. During that training, I gained an insight not only about safety, but about one of the most basic ways sighted people can be of help to the blind in a new place.

All perspective instructors were required to give presentations on one of the ALICE training topics, and I focused on situational awareness, which is most simply defined as accurately perceiving one's environment. I asked my fellow participants, all of whom were sighted, to give me a verbal layout of the Christian school's cafeteria in which we had spent most of the past two days. ***"The room is painted gray", one man said, "and there are Bible verses and student drawings hanging on all of the walls."*** At that point, I stopped him and commended the amazing detail with which he described the aesthetics of the room, which would come in handy whenever he was describing a scene of great beauty or fascination. Then I asked, ***"From a safety perspective, what do I absolutely need to know about the room?"***

"Oh!" he said with sudden realization, "The closest exit is immediately to your right, actually there are several doors along that wall. If you tried to exit to your left, you'd have to get through a big maze of tables and chairs. There's one exit behind you but it's on the other side of the room, and there are windows but they might be a bit high for you to reach." After he finished, all of us broke out into appreciative applause, and I asked what the difference was between his two explanations. ***"The second explanation only gave you the details you would need to navigate or exit the room."*** another participant said.

ALICE training emphasizes that the eye is actually the weakest sense when it comes to situational awareness. It gathers so much information at once, that it takes just a fraction of a second longer to focus on and respond to a specific problem. Sighted people often feel overwhelmed at the idea of orienting a blind person to a new environment, but the truth is, it doesn't require any special training. Instead of describing a room or building to a blind person in complete visual detail, focus only on the details we need for safety and navigation like exits and obstacles.

Even if you don't know any blind people right now, noticing those details is a safety exercise for yourself.

Grace Auburn Celebrates 10 Years of Ministry

This past May, Large Print Center #6 at Grace Lutheran Church in Auburn, Michigan, joyfully celebrated its 10th anniversary of ministry. For a decade, faithful volunteers at Grace Auburn have been producing large print Bibles and Christian resources, ensuring that people with visual impairments can continue to read and study God's Word.



The celebration took place on May 18 during the Spring Fellowship Brunch. The event was led by Center Leader Annette Frank and Pastor Aaron Schian, and was attended by Lutheran Braille Workers' Board Member Pam Bishop and Director of Ministry Relations and Strategic Partnerships Rachel Potts.

Volunteers at the Grace Auburn Center have faithfully gathered every Wednesday morning for the past ten years. Remarkably, most of the original volunteers are still serving today, demonstrating a decade-long commitment to making God's Word accessible to those with visual impairments.

The anniversary celebration was a time of gratitude, reflection, and joy. Together, volunteers gave thanks for the many thousands of volumes of Scripture they have produced, and for the countless lives touched by their work. Their dedication stands as a beautiful witness of how the Lord works through ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things.

As Lutheran Braille Workers looks ahead, we give thanks for Grace Auburn's first decade of ministry and look forward with joy and anticipation to the decades still to come.

A Gift of Comfort: The Braille Blanket

This summer, Lutheran Braille Workers received a very special and unique gift: a hand-crocheted blanket stitched with the words of the Lord's Prayer in uncontracted Braille.

The blanket was lovingly created by a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Springfield, Illinois, and offered to us through their pastor, Rev. Adam Rouse. Pastor Adam reached out to share the story of this creation, explaining that the congregation wanted to bless LBW with a donation that would be both practical and meaningful. While they acknowledged it may not be a perfect Braille reproduction, it represents the very best of their efforts—and a heartfelt expression of love for people who are blind and visually impaired.

We are so grateful for this thoughtful gift and for the faithful people of Immanuel Lutheran Church who continue to uplift our ministry through their prayers, creativity, and generosity. May this blanket serve as both a covering of warmth and a reminder of the comforting words of our Lord: *"Our Father, who art in heaven..."*



Pastor Hartwell's Installation

Lutheran Braille Workers was deeply blessed to witness the installation of Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell as our new president at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Bishop Dien Taylor, president of the LCMS Atlantic District, performed the installation.

Dr. Hartwell now serves as the 15th President of Lutheran Braille Workers, bringing with him decades of faithful service in pastoral ministry and leadership within the Lutheran church. His passion for sharing the Gospel, commitment to accessibility, and heart for people with visual impairments make him a remarkable leader for this new chapter in LBW's history.

We give thanks to God for raising up Dr. Hartwell to guide our ministry as we continue sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in Braille and Specialized Large Print around the world. *Please join us in prayer for him and his wife Sue as he begins this important calling!*



Brooke Represents LBW at SING! Conference in Nashville

Our Outreach Director, Brooke Pernice, spent a week in early September at the SING! Conference in Nashville at the Gaylord Opryland Resort. She represented Lutheran Braille Workers alongside MegaVoice and 1517 Publishing, sharing how God's Word is being made accessible in Braille, Large Print, and audio for people who are visually impaired.

The SING! Conference, hosted by Keith and Kristyn Getty, is one of the largest gatherings of worship leaders, musicians, pastors, and church members from around the world. With thousands in attendance, the event focuses on biblical worship, congregational singing, and the power of music to carry God's Word into every corner of the globe.

Throughout the week, Brooke had the opportunity to connect with leaders, congregations, and ministries who share a passion for proclaiming the Gospel through music and worship resources. By being present at SING!, LBW was able to showcase how Scripture and song can reach people of all abilities, reminding attendees that God's Word in accessible formats is a vital part of global mission work. *We are grateful to have had a place at this incredible event and look forward to the seeds of new opportunities that were planted there.*



Stirred Up in Spirit and Service

Written by Rachel Potts, Director of Ministry Relations & Strategic Partnerships

The LWML is an important partner in the ministry of LBW.

This devotion was written for the LWML Quarterly Magazine.

When you walk into a kitchen and catch the scent of something delicious being stirred on the stove, your senses awaken. You lean in. You want to be part of it. That image captures what the author of Hebrews encourages: **a stirring that awakens the spirit and draws others in, not toward soup, but toward love and good works.**

“Stir up one another.” It’s an active phrase. It suggests movement, encouragement, even a gentle nudge when someone grows weary. In a world that often pushes us toward isolation or self-focus, God’s Word invites us to look outward—to notice, to uplift, and to spur each other on in Christ’s love.

In the LWML, this stirring happens in beautiful ways. A woman shares her story at a meeting and inspires someone else to serve. A mite offering, seemingly small, combines with others to accomplish more than any of us could alone. A card, a prayer, a phone call—all become spiritual spoons that stir faith into action.

Yet sometimes, we need stirring ourselves. Fatigue, disappointment, or simply the busyness of life can settle our zeal to the bottom. But praise be to God, who sends sisters in Christ to reach out with care and courage. God does not leave us stagnant. Through His Spirit, He revives and re-engages us in His mission.

How might we stir up one another today? Perhaps it’s sharing a devotion with a friend who’s discouraged. Maybe it’s inviting someone new to participate in a service project. Or simply asking, “How can I pray for you this week?” These simple gestures, rooted in Christ, ripple outward and draw others to Him.

Ultimately, our stirring comes not from ourselves but from the One who first stirred us—Jesus. He stirred compassion for the broken, hope for the lost, and sacrifice for the unworthy. His love moves us to love. His works move us to work.

May we be women who notice the needs around us and boldly stir each other toward love. May we be gentle with those who feel overwhelmed, patient with those unsure, and joyful with those ready to serve. As we stir up one another, we bear witness to a Savior who gave His all, and who continues to work through us, for the good of others and the glory of His name.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for stirring our hearts with Your love. Help us to encourage one another, lift up the weary, and spur one another on to good works. Let our lives reflect Your grace and purpose. Amen.



Volunteer Spotlight: Dorothy Lay

Meet Dorothy Lay, a faithful volunteer who has been serving with Lutheran Braille Workers for 25 years. Since production first began at MPC #203 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Monroe, Michigan, Dorothy has given her time and talents to ensure that people with visual impairments can receive God's Word in Braille.

Dorothy recently shared her joy in this ministry and photo. Over the years, her dedication has been a blessing not only to those who receive the books she has helped produce, but also to her fellow volunteers who have grown alongside her in Christian fellowship.

Today, Dorothy is spending more time caring for her husband, Ray, who has nearly lost his sight due to complications from his years-long battle with type one diabetes. We ask that you keep both Dorothy and Ray in your prayers, and that Dorothy will continue to find a strong connection with her Braille Family as MPC #203 begins its next production season this month.

We thank God for Dorothy's remarkable service and pray for many more years of blessings in her life and ministry.

Ministry Production Center #152 Grace Lutheran Church in Banning, California

Production Leader and Grace Lutheran Church's Rev. Brian Barlow's wife, Nichole Barlow and assistant leader Cat Major were joined by LBW's Cynthia Keh, Emilee Righter and Nadine Pattison for leader training in mid-August. The informal day was spent reviewing the Large Print Manual, printer instructions, printer troubleshooting and equipment assessment. Both leaders were very enthusiastic and excited about continuing the work of their ministry center.

Along with both leaders, the center is home to 12 eager volunteers. Production Leader Nichole Barlow is praying to increase that number. She is very optimistic and excited for the future of their large print production center and has goals to engage surrounding churches and the local community through church socials to expand the Lutheran Braille Ministry and enlist the help of more volunteers.



We would like to say a special thank you to all of our Ministry Production Centers, we are forever grateful and appreciative of your service to Lutheran Braille Workers.



Notes & Jokes

from Dennis...

One of the joys of ministry at Lutheran Braille Workers is hearing from the people whose lives are touched by God's Word in accessible formats. Among our most faithful correspondents is Dennis from Sierra Madre, California.

Though Dennis is blind, he writes regularly to LBW with the help of others. His letters are filled with encouragement and gratitude for the ministry, reminding us how deeply the work of volunteers and staff impacts lives across the country.

What makes Dennis' letters especially memorable is his sense of humor. He almost always includes a few jokes with his notes! His joy and laughter are a gift to us, reflecting the light of Christ even in the face of life's challenges.

We are so thankful for Dennis, his prayers, his cheerful spirit, and his heart for the ministry of LBW. His letters remind us that God's Word is more than ink on a page—it is living and active, bringing hope and joy to people everywhere.

“

Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field!

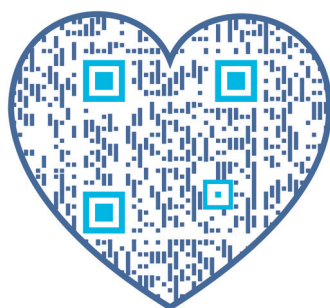
“

Why did the leaf go to the hospital? Because it had a bad fall.

“

Why don't skeletons ever fight each other? They don't have the guts.

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