



Servant Leader

This devotion was originally written as a closing for the inter-committee meeting of LWML–Canada meeting held August 28-30, 2015. It has been adapted for use when opening a board meeting of a zone or district.

Either by vote or by appointment, we have been called by Lutheran Women’s Missionary League–Canada (LWMLC) to hold a position of some sort; to be leaders within this organization.

We, as leaders, are to SERVE the women of LCC in whatever way they may need us. We collect their mites and distribute them as the voting body determines at convention. We strive to be good stewards of their money, not wanting them to waiver in the faith they have in us to do so. We use materials provided to aid them as they meet, pointing them to the Word, through Bible study and devotions. We pray for them, just as they pray for us. We are here to serve them, just as He serves us.

John 13: 14-15 reads, *“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”*

That Jesus would do it for his disciples may be crazy for some. But He does it, and while He does it He teaches them a lesson. "You should also do as I have done for you." His disciples should go and serve others.

Luke 22:26-27 says, *“But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.”*

“I am among you as the one who serves.” Jesus could recline and be waited upon, but He knows that God has sent Him to serve and to even give Himself as a ransom for many. Again He puts the emphasis on Himself as example.

God also sent Jesus to lead. We read in Acts 5:3, *“I God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.”* Some translations use the word "prince" instead of leader. A prince leads; he rules. God sent Jesus to rule, to lead us.

Jesus was a bit of a paradox. Actually, a lot about Jesus was/is a paradox. Born of a virgin. A king yet poor and lowly. A servant yet a leader. A servant leader. Just as all of us here are. We have been chosen to be leaders in this organization, and the most important way in which we will lead will be through our acts of service.

Jesus came to earth to lead sinners to salvation through the repentance and subsequent forgiveness of their sins. And He lead them—us—by serving. He “served” the Samaritan woman

at the well by teaching her about the life giving water. He “served” the disciples as they rebuked the children saying “whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” Through His service He taught us what we need in order to be saved.

His leadership was through His teaching and He used His service as a vessel to teach and to save.

2 Timothy 3: 16-17 says, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

We have been given the most important tool we need in order for us to be servant/leaders; His Word. With His Word we are well-equipped for whatever task He has placed before us. We will use His Word as we encourage women to go and make disciples. We will use His Word when we encourage women to clothe the naked, feed the hungry and give water to the thirsty. We will use His Word to encourage women to be in it, confident that with it they, too, will be equipped for every good work.

As you begin this new year, take heart. You're not in it alone. The support group gathered just in this room has a wealth of experience that they would love to share with you. With them, the knowledge we find in the Word, and the example we have of our Lord and Saviour, how can we be anything but great servant leaders as we work together in this amazing organization!?

May all that we do bring glory to Him!

Suggested prayer, or one of your own...

Father in heaven.... The group of women before you is diverse—just as the women in our congregations are. We come from many backgrounds, generations and experiences; yet you have brought us together to be your face in the lives that we touch through LWMLC.

Keep in us the excitement we are feeling today as we've planned for the next year. We are sisters united together because of our love for You, and because of that we are strong. Let us be a spark to others as we lead and serve. As long as we keep You at the centre I know our endeavours will bear much fruit.

For these women I give thanks; for their example, their commitment and their friendship. Please keep them safe, holding them within in the shelter of Your arms.

In Your most holy name we pray.....

Roberta Nixon, Vice-President, Christian Growth