

SHEPHERD'S NEWS



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN
DISABILITY MINISTRIES**

PASTORAL COUNSELOR'S MESSAGE

One Body, Many Members

This was used as part of the liturgy for Disability Awareness Sunday

Based on 1 Corinthians 12:22

"The parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable."

In a world that often measures worth by strength, independence, or productivity, God speaks a different truth. In Christ's Church, no one is extra. No one is overlooked. No one is without purpose. Every member of the Body matters--deeply, intentionally, and eternally.

We are reminded that what the world may label as "weakness" is never a barrier to God's work. Instead, it is often the very place where His grace shines most clearly. Through one another, we receive compassion, patience, joy, and a fuller picture of what it means to live as Christ's people.

Disability is not outside the story of God--it is part of how He reveals His kingdom. Together, as one Body, we learn that belonging does not depend on ability, but on Christ alone, who calls each of us His own.

Blessed is the church where every member (those with abilities and those with disabilities) can be actively involved in the ministry of that church and doing what they can do as part of the body of Christ. Together may the joy and blessedness of Christ's love be enjoyed by all.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You have made us one Body, each with unique gifts and needs. Help us to honor and cherish every member, especially those the world may overlook. Teach us to see with Your eyes, to love with Your heart, and to walk together in Your grace. Amen

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Romans 10:14 NKJV

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

Blessings to you all as you read this newsletter. Some of the Bethesda Lutheran Disability Ministries (BLDM) Board Members were busy this summer exhibiting at LWML District Conventions. It is such a joy to meet friends, old and new. We look forward to seeing many of you next summer at the National LWML Convention.

One of the most asked questions of exhibitors was: Who are you? With our rebranding, many are confused about BLDM and ask about our mission.

The easiest answer is we are the former Auxiliary that supported Good Shepherd Homes in the West (GSH) and Bethesda Lutheran Communities (BLC) in the Midwest. The two affiliated and became BLC in 2006. The Auxiliary continued to support BLC until it rebranded to AbleLight, lost its RSO status, and changed its spiritual direction.

Upon these changes, the Auxiliary decided to continue our mission of sharing Jesus and His love with people living with disabilities and change our name to Bethesda (for the wonderful legacy of BLC), Lutheran (for the true foundation of the Bible) and Disability Ministries (for our mission to all in the USA).

Please visit our website for free resources that are downloadable and other information, BethesdaLDM.org. We provide training, mentoring and resource kits for those starting a disability ministry or wanting to maintain and grow. (continued page 2)



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN
DISABILITY MINISTRIES**

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Recognized Service Organization of
THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

President's message (cont'd. from pg.1)

It was our hope and prayer that many of you were able to experience Disability Awareness Sunday on July 26. All LCMS congregations in the USA were mailed a letter which included a devotion, prayer, litany and sermon notes. Please let us know how you utilized this resource, contact@bethesdaLDM.org. We look forward to sharing a resource with everyone for the last Sunday in July next year, date is July 26, 2027 (yes, same date!).

Wishing you joy as we enter the fall season,
Karen Carter, President

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Sydney Morgan and Peyton Roethel have been awarded the Lutheran Student Scholastic and Service Scholarship for 2026-2027. Each will receive a \$3,000 scholarship. Both are students at Concordia University, Mequon, Wisconsin.

Sydney is studying Elementary and Special Education. Peyton is studying Early Childhood and Special Education.

CONVENTIONS THIS SUMMER

Highlights of the summer include the many LWML conventions attended. The exposure at the vendor shows and in convention manuals help builds awareness.



LWML National VP of Gospel Outreach – Anne Hartman paused for a photo with Linda and Martin Koeller at the Missouri District LWML Convention.



Diane Simon traveled north to Marquette, Michigan for the North Wisconsin District Convention at Northern Michigan University.

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bethesdaLDM.org

