

## “YOU Shall Be My Witnesses” In Michigan and to the Ends of the Earth

**By Penny Selle, MOST Ministry board member and an LWML member in our district**

In July 2018, twelve women of the North Wisconsin District LWML participated in a short-term mission trip to Michigan. They went to explore the ministry efforts in Ann Arbor and Detroit. What an eye-opener and inspiration to see the power of God at work in the lives of ordinary people who do extraordinary things. Here are the places where we visited and served:

**Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST Ministries)** is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. Some of our NWD LWML women have served on its eyeglass and water teams in Central America. MOST shares the Gospel both here in the U.S. and internationally through humanitarian outreach and personal witness to people in communities with a need. Its ministry opens doors for local national church workers to evangelize and share Jesus and His saving love.



The staff shared information about its programs. We were truly amazed to see thousands of pairs of eyeglasses neatly boxed and ready for distribution. To get them ready, eyeglasses must be checked, lenses removed, lenses cut and refitted, then washed, labeled and packed. We joined local volunteers to help in this process.

We observed how water filters are put together and saw dirty water transformed into clean, drinkable water. These filters are expensive but make a dramatic difference in the lives of people who don't have a nearby source of safe water. MOST has been blessed through LWML grants and personal donors that make this important ministry possible. We heard inspiring stories of how the Spirit has worked to bring people to Christ. **We have a mighty God!** For more information or to sign up for a mission trip, go to [www.mostministries.org](http://www.mostministries.org).

**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING** in Ann Arbor was truly memorable. Dean and associate professor



Cindy Fenske led us through the state-of-the-art facility. Entire wards are set up to mimic real hospital units – complete with functioning mannequins that can be programmed to display symptoms; they bleed, groan and even have babies! Students are able to deal with true-life situations and their activity is videotaped for classroom viewing and comment. They work with other departments at Concordia to program for large-scale emergencies such as mass shootings and bio-hazard events that include students from law enforcement, hazmat, lawyers, and physicians who work together to handle the situation.

Dean Fenske stressed the importance of the school's mission to educate students with Excellence, Integrity, Compassion and Service all in the name of Jesus. Students from the college regularly partner with MOST Ministries and join medical teams to serve people in rural areas who do not have access to health services. To find out more, go to [www.cuaa.edu](http://www.cuaa.edu).

**GIFTS FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN** is a ministry to at-risk children and their families in the Detroit area. Volunteers minister in the name of Jesus, sharing his love through holiday events and gift-giving, tutoring, and summer camps. Our group gathered at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and assisted the staff in leading the children in Bible lessons, crafts, music, lunch, and games. We had opportunity to share Jesus' love. Executive Director, Patti Jacques, took the group to their warehouse where we saw how the organization has networked with business, civic and church organizations, which provide free goods for this ministry. Find out more at [www.giftsforallgodschildren.org](http://www.giftsforallgodschildren.org).



**People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO)** is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS and brings the ministry of the Gospel to Muslim populations both here in the U.S. and overseas. We heard the incredible stories of two courageous women who heard the Good News of Salvation, and in spite of bodily injuries and the threat of death from family members and friends, converted to Christianity, were rescued by Christians and brought to this country. They left family, goods, jobs, and

friends because of their powerful conviction that to know Christ is to know the Truth. They now share their powerful testimonies with church groups and conventions about a God who loves them unconditionally. They serve the immigrant community in Detroit through Friendship Centers where they offer sewing classes, ESL, tutoring, and counselling, as well as helping immigrants connect with resources and churches. We were able to visit an ESL class with Christian Albanian refugees who fled their country because of persecution. The staff of POBLO is eager to share information about its ministry with your church. They can be reached at [www.poblo.org](http://www.poblo.org).



***"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8.***



Back row from left: Kelly Bone (MOST), Penny Selle, Anna Koepke, Mary Harrington, Connie Lamert, Virginia Fietsch, Lynne Johnson, Sue Pfeil, Meta Krueger, and Ruth Martin (MOST Executive Director)  
Front row from left: Debbie Suchtya (MOST) Deb Grothman, Sharon Hanke, Mary Scharenbrock, Rhonda Laatsch, and Becky Haltaufderheid.