

A decorative border in the top right corner featuring a cluster of fruits and flowers. It includes a whole pomegranate, a lemon, and several white and pink flowers with green leaves.

Fruit of the Spirit

Nine devotions exploring the fruit of the Spirit,
written by leaders for leaders to inspire and
encourage faithful service.





*Fruit
of the Spirit*

To: _____

From: _____

Date: _____

Foreword

God blesses all of us with gifts. Sharing our gifts demonstrates our faith. Various gifts exemplified by the fruit of the Spirit are used by God so that we might indeed Proclaim Christ, Support Missions, Equip Women, and Serve Others. Use these devotions to help you be a servant leader.

All the devotions are by LWML Presidents (past and present). The presidents share how the fruit of the Spirit guided, and continues to guide, them as they *Serve the LORD with Gladness!* May these devotions prompt us to respond to God's love to us by serving others.

2023–2025 Leader Development Committee
Nicole Dowdell, Lois Teinert, Shari Miller, Chairman,
Rev. Gary Piepkorn, Pastoral Counselor (advisory),
Arlene Naasz, Vice President of Organizational Resources (advisory)

Love



FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT — LEADERSHIP

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law
(Galatians 5:22–23).

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:13).









A couple of years ago, I sat in the pew anxiously awaiting the first sermon by our new pastor. I was quite surprised when he spoke of “faith, hope, and Jesus.” Did I hear “Jesus”? Didn’t he mean “love” or “charity”? I thought, should I say something to him on my way out of church that perhaps he got it wrong? My inward struggle was guided by his newness to the church, so I decided to wait.

On the way home, I kept thinking about how my pastor substituted the word Jesus for love. Why? As I pondered the question and studied God’s Word, the answer became clear: Jesus is love. Love is His essence. Beginning with God’s words in Genesis 1 — ***in the beginning, let there be, and let us make*** — we see God’s loving plan at work in His creation. We see God’s loving plan of salvation initiated after the fall into sin in Genesis 3:15, ***“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and***

her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Some 65 plus years ago, God’s love for me began its fulfillment in my Baptism. Shortly thereafter, as a new Lutheran, my life was blessed with love from family, friends, and women in the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML). In thankfulness for this new place of belonging, I readily replied “yes” to various opportunities, including LWML President, to serve Him and His people.

In response to God’s love for me through Jesus Christ, some of my desired leadership characteristics include:

-  Love, trust, and share Jesus.
-  Validate each individual as one loved and gifted by Jesus to serve others.
-  Expect the best of myself and others with tasks outlined and understood.
-  Forgive and encourage one another.
-  Mentor others.
-  Serve with joy and love.
-  Pray to let God handle disappointments and struggles.
-  Pray for guidance from the Lord in decisions and leadership.

I thank God for my pastor's sermon many years ago.
Thanks be to God for called servants and lay volunteers who help us “inwardly digest” God's Word and His love.

Jesus is Love; Jesus loves you; Jesus loves me. Let us love Jesus; let us love others.

Faithful and loving Father, Your blessings are new every morning! Thank You for loving us so much that You gave Your Son, Jesus, to live an obedient life, die for us, and rise again — to remove our sin and to enable us to eternally live with You and other believers in heaven. We are grateful for Jesus, our Servant Leader, who taught us by His example to serve one another in love. We pray in His name. Amen.

Love, written by Ida Mall, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
LWML President, 1991–1995
Leader Development Committee 2023–2025
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