

LBW CELEBRATING

75th

Anniversary

1943 - 2018

LBW

LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

"We live by faith, not by sight"

2 Corinthians 5:7

Holding High The Cross A Legacy Like No Other

Everything started with one simple notice asking for help in translating German Bibles into Braille. Who could have imagined that 75 years later, hundreds of thousands of people would be affected by a ministry like none other and over 14 million volumes of materials would be distributed? Helene Loewe Koehler, founder of Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) certainly never expected for an organization to grow out of her tentative response. Yet, because of a heart filled with compassion for others and a drive to answer God's calling, LBW exists 75 years later, carrying the same mission forward—ensuring that every person who is blind or visually disabled has free access to God's Word.

Helene Loewe Koehler took to the task of learning Braille with great energy and fervor which carried her through this ministry. Early on, she realized there was a need for more assistance. Her husband Bob stepped forward in faith by purchasing an expensive Braille typewriter for her birthday, which sped up the process of transcribing the German



Helene Loewe Koehler, embossing one of the first Braille Bibles with a Slate & Stylus



The Braille Typewriter given to Helene by her husband Bob

Bible in Braille immensely! Helene also engaged the services of volunteers from Trinity Lutheran in Whittier, California, to proof her typed pages and the pages of other translators. When pastors in Germany received these Braille Bibles, the demand for more was stunning. As Helene asked,

"How could we possibly meet them all? More importantly, how could we NOT fill them when the need for His Word was so great?"

Thus the foundation for Lutheran Braille Workers was laid in four important ways. First, the need to provide physical Bibles to people who are blind and visually impaired was recognized as an important ministry! (cont'd inside)

Thoughts From The President



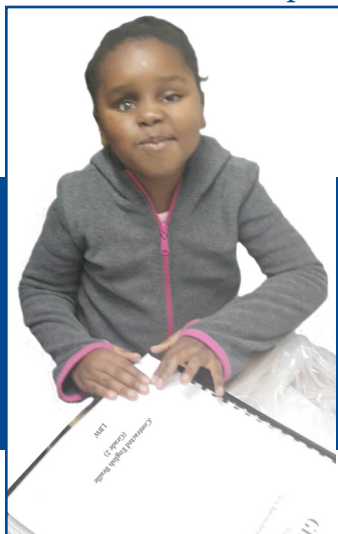
**Reverend Dennis Stueve,
President, Lutheran Braille Workers**

For 75 years Lutheran Braille Workers has been reaching out with God's saving Word to people who are visually impaired! WOW! What a milestone to celebrate! Whenever I celebrate a milestone in my life I reflect on the past and I am sure I am not alone.

Over the next year we will be sharing how LBW got its start with Helene Loewe Koehler answering God's call to be a braille transcriber of the German Bible and how the Holy Spirit kindled that passion to touch a much larger group of people with God's Word. How LBW was driven by the mission that Helene determined early on, "We have the New Testament in five or six languages We will not finish until we have the entire Bible in Braille in every language."

Over these past 75 years LBW has distributed God's saving Word in some 30 languages to over 130 different countries in Braille and Specialized Large Print. No

other organization in the world has come close to meeting this



effort. How has LBW accomplished this?

Through tens of thousands of dedicated volunteers and faithful, financial partners.

This alone is a reason to celebrate and recommit our efforts to a ministry that reaches out with Jesus' love to people who are visually impaired!

But today, as we begin this year long 75th celebration and commemoration, I would like to focus on WHY? Why did Helene answer God's call? Why did LBW kindle a passion for outreach in the lives of so many over the years? Why would thousands give financially to support this ministry? Why should you? Why will you?

Simply said – GOD'S-LOVE-WORKS!

Because Jesus loves me! Because Jesus loves you! Because Jesus loves people who are blind and those with visual impairment as much as He loves you.

Because Jesus and His love paid the price for my sins and by His grace and the power of the Holy Spirit I was brought to faith, my declaration is simple--I will reach out with HIS love to all people! And yes, this includes people who are visually impaired around the world often one of the most marginalized segments in society.

Indeed, 75 years is a long time, but LBW is not finished yet! The mission continues and LBW will not finish until all people who are visually impaired have free access to the Good News of Jesus Christ as Savior. This saving Word of God will touch lives for eternity!

Thank you for your commitment as you show Jesus' love and compassion to people who are visually impaired through LBW! --Rev. Dennis Stueve

"Thank you for your prayerful support of Lutheran Braille Workers. Without your generosity, many people who are blind or visually impaired would not have a Bible to read for themselves."

Humble Beginnings

LBW's Sight-Saving Division

Like LBW itself, the Large Print Department sprouted from humble beginnings. In 1959, LBW's Board of Directors voted to include a small "sight-saving" group from the San Francisco Bay Area into its fold. The rationale behind this decision was that God was presenting an opportunity to reach many more people with the message of His saving grace. This group, founded by LBW Braille Transcriber, Mrs. Verona Normington, and her husband Ray, was formed after Verona's mother, whose eyesight was failing, asked if she could somehow receive the Lutheran Hour Sermon in large print. Because there were none, the Normingtons decided to act.

So in 1960, in the garage of the Normington's home in San Rafael, CA, the very first LBW Large Print Work Center opened. A special IBM 18-point, "sight-saving" font, typewriter was used to prepare the sermons and copies were made with an old hand-operated letter press that the Normingtons had purchased. As news got out, demand soared. Other publications, including Favorite Hymns, were soon added. Requests for Favorite Hymns began pouring in from hospitals, nursing homes, retirement centers, pastors and shut-ins.

In 1968, Lutheran Hour Sermon production, with financial support from the Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL), was transferred to the new Work Center at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Altoona, WI. Sight-saving operations were moved from San Rafael to Zion Lutheran Church in San Francisco, where under the leadership and guidance of Mrs. Fran Jacobsen, the pastor's wife, high standards were



**Helene meeting with Dr. Oswald Hoffman,
Speaker of Lutheran Hour**



**This young man is happy to read one of the first
Large Print books of Psalms**

maintained and the workload continued to increase substantially. More people were being reached indeed! --Roy Fisher

Board of Directors

Mrs. Carol M. Zemke - Chair
Mr. Ken Loeber - Vice Chair
Mrs. Deborah Rutt - Secretary
Mrs. Ruth Martin - Treasurer
Dr. Paul Dasari - Board Member
Rev. Dr. Daniel Mattson - Board Member/Chaplain

Promise Makers

Mary Helen Kelly	Roberta Werth
Milton & Peggy Turnipseed	Ida Mall
Richard & Nancy Challis	Ane Ertzner
Norman Loeber	

Tax ID: 95-6048152

New Team Member

VP of Ministry Advancement



Daniel Jenkins
Vice President of Ministry Advancement

Lutheran Braille Workers is excited to announce the hiring of Daniel Jenkins as the new Vice President of Ministry Advancement. Daniel's role will be to guide

the organization's marketing, public relations, church relations, and donor relations forward, as well as help with future strategic planning as Lutheran Braille Workers continues into the 21st century!

Daniel Jenkins brings more than 10 years of leadership experience into this role, with over 5 years of experience specifically in development. He has most recently served at Lutheran Hour Ministries, and previously served as a Vice President at Concordia College Alabama. He is a member of the Association of Lutheran Development Executives and is a Certified Development Executive with the LCMS Foundation.

If you have any questions or would like a visit with Daniel, please feel free to e-mail him directly at daniel@LBWinc.org.

Holding High The Cross (cont'd from page 1)

Second, the use of volunteers was a critical component in any future effort. Third, keeping up with improving technology was important in allowing volunteers to produce materials quickly. Fourth, the financial support of others would be necessary to support the organization.

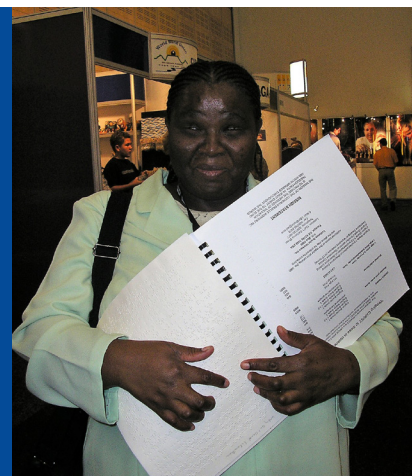
Now, 75 years later, over 110 work centers exist throughout the United States, operated by over 3,000 volunteers! Printers, presses, computers, and audio devices allow production of Christian materials in over 30 languages which means distribution to 130 countries! Lutheran Braille Workers continues to

be supported by faithful donors! However, Helene's desire to see the Bible translated into Braille in every single language so that every person in the world has unfettered access to God's saving Word, is unfulfilled. With much joy LBW marches forward, holding high the cross, knowing God has great plans for this organization, its staff, and its volunteers.

Let everyone be inspired by the faith and efforts of those who have come before, and continue to answer God's call, sharing the Gospel with the world, one volume at a time!-- Daniel Jenkins

"Greetings to every member of the Lutheran Braille Workers.

My name is Akindele Akinyemi from Ogun State, Nigeria in West Africa. About thirty years ago, I had benefitted from your lovely gesture of sending free Bibles to every blind person. At the time, it was any Braille reader anywhere in the world! I don't know whether it is the same now, but, for me a Nigerian who was born blind, it was a gesture, simply priceless. I must at this point admit that this not only strengthened my faith, it gave me unrestrained and independent access to the Bible, which I could have only dreamt of, at the time. Thank you!"



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your generous support of Lutheran Braille Workers over the past 75 years. One of the greatest dreams of our founder, Helene Loewe Koehler, was that no person who is blind or visually impaired would ever be charged to receive a Bible. Your generous, and often sacrificial, support has allowed our organization to make Helene's dream a reality. To propel this ministry forward into the future, we continue to rely on your generosity and gifts. I ask you to please consider all of the following ways to make a gift to Lutheran Braille Workers:

- Cash, check, credit or debit card, stocks or bonds, CDs, real estate, vehicles
- IRA required minimum distribution

- Retirement plan and life insurance beneficiary designation
- Charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities, endowments, donor advised funds
- Thrivent Choice Dollars or Thrivent Action Teams.

Over the next year, more information about these ways to support Lutheran Braille Workers will be sent out. If you have any questions, or would like to make a gift in one of these manners, please contact our office at 800-925-6092.

Thank you again for all of your prayerful support.
Daniel Jenkins, Vice President of Ministry Advancement

Thrivent Choice Dollars given in 2017 - \$27,917.00
Thrivent Action Team cards given in 2017- \$7,156.00

Mark Your Calendars

Celebration of 75 years

Lutheran Braille Workers will celebrate 75 years of service throughout 2018 and invites you to join the staff and volunteers in the upcoming festivities and gatherings.

The first celebration is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 2018, hosted by Large Print Center #93 at Trinity Klein Lutheran Church in Spring, Texas. The festivities are scheduled to begin at 12:00 noon. Invitations are soon to be mailed.

The second celebration is scheduled for Saturday October 20, 2018, hosted by LBW Headquarters in

Yucaipa, CA. Details to be announced.

Please pray for the continued success of LBW. More opportunities to support LBW through your time, talent, and treasures will arrive in the mailbox throughout the year!



LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

502738851

Name _____ Address _____ _____		Date of first contribution: ____/____/____	Frequency of contribution (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> One Time	Amount per donation: \$ _____ Work Center Number (optional) _____
CHECKING / SAVINGS Complete only if using checking or savings account.		CREDIT / DEBIT CARD Complete only if using your credit or debit card.		
Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (<i>attach voided check</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Savings account		Please charge my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express		
Routing #: _____ Account #: _____		Credit Card Number: _____		Expiration Date: _____
Name on Card: _____		Billing Address: _____		
I authorize Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. and Vanco Services, LLC to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.		I authorize Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. and Vanco Services, LLC to charge my card for the above dollar amount.		
Signature on bank account: _____ Date: _____		Signature (as seen on the card): _____ Date: _____		

LOVE

More than an Emotion

Love is described in the dictionary as affection that is felt for another. Love causes one to be devoted to the object of love, whether a person, place, thing or thought. People find the object of their love irresistible. People hold their loves dear and are very keen on these objects.

Martin Luther's explanations to the Ten Commandments began with the words, "We should fear, LOVE and trust in God so that. . ." Love, being associated with the words 'fear' and 'trust' tell us that our motivations are entwined.

How interesting that the Apostle whom Jesus loved writes, “For God so LOVED the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.” Love is of God!

Paul, in his letter to the Romans says, “God’s LOVE has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” Indeed, LOVE is God’s gift, given to us to reflect His desire to bless.

Love is more than an emotion. Love defines our relationships, motivations and priorities. When your last will and testament is read, will your LOVES be evident? Would you like to discuss your estate plan with somebody, or do you need help in creating an estate plan to ensure your LOVES are cared for after you've gone to your eternal reward?

Please contact our office and we will help you connect with a planned giving representative at no cost to you. Call us at (800) 925-6092 or e-mail LBW@LBWinc.org.



braille alphabet

a
 b
 c
 d
 e
 f
 g
 h
 i
 j
 k
 l
 m

n
 o
 p
 q
 r
 s
 t
 u
 v
 w
 x
 y
 z

Can you read this?

Please prayerfully consider Lutheran Braille Workers in your Estate Planning.