



Dear Sisters of the LWML LA-MS District. May these words find you feeling safe and secure in the love and protection of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

How perfect it is for my term as your district president to end today. I will explain why I say that.

Four years ago, I was honored and humbled to be elected as your president. I thank you and God for that opportunity. It has been a joy to serve beside each of you as we worked together to serve the Lord with gladness and to be his hands and feet.

One of the first things I needed to do as president was to choose the Bible verse that I would include with my signature in my emails. It occurred to me that LA-MS is pronounced "lambs." I thought about the fact that as president, God was calling me to be the shepherd of His flock in this district. I also thought it would be a constant reminder that Jesus is my Shepherd, and He would be my guide and support. So, I set out in search of the just right verse. The verse that I eventually chose was this: *Like a shepherd, he tends his flock. He gathers the lambs in his arms, carries them close to his heart, and gently leads the mother sheep.* (Isaiah 40:11). I worked hard to live that verse these four years.

What a surprise it was this morning when I read today's LWML devotion. Guess what verse was used as the basis? You guessed it – Isaiah 40:11. In addition, all of the readings for today (our church uses the one-year lectionary cycle rather than the three-year) were about shepherds; David first, then of course Jesus. I was once again humbled and amazed by how God chose today of all days to use that verse. But that's what God does, isn't it? He works quietly in the background, always there and supporting, then suddenly He reveals Himself to us and we are left in awe. What a source of joy!

The Good Shepherd has indeed carried and led me during this 4-year journey, and now my time to step down has come. I would like to share this with you to close my term:

To God be all glory yesterday, today, and forever. He is risen! He is risen indeed!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anita Granger".

Outgoing District President