

# LWML News

## **“O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST”**

In the early 1700's Isaac Watts penned a paraphrase of Psalm 90, beginning with these words. Psalm 90 is titled, "A prayer of Moses, the man of God" and could be one of the first psalms written. It contrasts God's everlasting and holy nature with man's brief and sinful life, asking for God's compassion and relying on his unfailing love. Moses certainly lived during troubled times and so did Isaac Watts. England had experienced a civil war which ended in the execution of the king, a later restoration of the monarchy and questions of succession, as well as an outbreak of the plague, and the Great Fire of London. New scientific discoveries and on-going exploration were changing the world as they knew it. Watts had a gift for verse and when challenged to write hymns that were more "sing-able" than the psalms in translation, set about the task, writing more than 750 hymns. These include "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," one of fifteen of his hymns found in the Lutheran Service Book. We too live in a changing and troubled world, our span of life virtually unchanged from both Moses' and Watts' day. Like them, we pray for God's compassion and rely on his goodness:

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last  
And our eternal home! (LSB 733)

### **Christmas Party**

Our Christmas offering of \$200.00 is going to the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, a Recognized Social Ministry Organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod whose mission is to help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ. We packed and delivered 28 cookie tins for our shut-ins and sang some of our favorite Christmas songs.

### **Ongoing First Lutheran LWML projects**

Through our monthly offerings we support financially Lutheran Bible Translators, the LCMS Montana Prison Ministry, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and gift cards for the Tom Roy Youth Guidance Home.

### **Mission Projects (Mites)**

The January Mission Grant is \$25,000.00 for Nursing Students Serving with Mercy Medical Team. This grant will allow nursing students in the Concordia University System to participate in a short-term mission trip to Madagascar with a Mercy Medical Team. This is an invaluable service opportunity for students to work with medical professionals in providing medical and/or spiritual care to the under-served.

### **Meeting Dates:**

General Meeting – Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Topic Leaders – Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 Noon at Church

“The Shepherd’s Peace” - Pages 16-17 Winter 2018 Quarterly

Altar Circle – Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00 pm

Mary-Martha – Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00 pm

Youth & Cradle – Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 1:00 pm

Please check the weekly bulletin for locations and any changes.

LWML offers all women of the congregation an opportunity for Bible study, service and fellowship.