

LWML News

“Amazing Grace” (LSB 744)

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 3:8-9 NIV) When in 1773 John Newton penned the words “Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!” he was writing not only about his own history, but the story of every believer. Although taught by a Christian mother, Newton fell away from faith while serving aboard ships, using profane language, and rejecting God. But God did not reject Newton who called on God during a severe storm off the coast of Ireland in 1748. Redemption was not straight forward for Newton who did not immediately turn from his sinful life. (He was involved in the slave trade, serving as captain of a slaver, buying and selling slaves up until 1754.) At last God’s grace in the Holy Spirit led Newton to repent, study theology, and become ordained in the Church of England in 1764. Newton became a friend of not only the poet William Cowper who helped him with his verses, but the abolitionist William Wilberforce, who was leading the anti-slavery fight in Britain. The words of this hymn remind us that we like Newton can say, “I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!” God’s “Amazing Grace” does not leave us and will lead us safely home.

March Meeting

With a return of daylight and Daylight Savings Time, we return to our regular evening meeting hour of 7:00 pm this March 12. Mary-Martha Circle will lead us in assembling Birthday Bags for the Missoula Food Bank. These bags provide all the ingredients for a child to celebrate a birthday and are always welcomed by the Food Bank. Mary-Martha is organizing a deep cleaning of the kitchen on Thursday, March 14th, at 1:00 p.m.

Coming in May

The Lutheran World Relief (LWR) truck will be here on Saturday, May 11th. It’s time to finish work on our LWR projects. The quilts are getting tied and pinned. The Mary-Martha Circle prepares Personal Care Kits and can use your help in collecting the needed items:

- One bath towel in dark color (between 40” x 20” and 52” x 27”)
- Two or three bath size soap in original wrapping (equal to 8-9 ounces)
- One toothbrush—adult size in original packaging
- One sturdy comb
- One metal nail clippers with file

Youth and Cradle Roll Circle works on Baby Care Kits and can use lightweight cotton T-shirts, sizes 6 to 24 months.

Ongoing First Lutheran LWML projects

For many years, First LWML has provided financial support for Alvina Federwitz, who worked with Lutheran Bible Translators, serving in Liberia, Cameroon, and Ghana. After her husband Dale passed away in 2002, Alvina studied linguistics in order to carry on the work of translation into native languages and to promote literacy. Although Alvina semi-retired in 2017, she still works to further this mission, and Dale and Alvina’s children are now serving as missionaries and translators.

Mission Projects (Mites)

Mite Offering Update—as of February 14th, LWML needed \$211, 547.20 to meet the 2017-2019 Mite Goal of \$2,075,000.

The March Mission Grant is \$50,000.00 to RECONNECT, a plan to assist the struggling congregations of the Rio Grande Valley of Texas in reaching out to communities to bring the Word to high risk, unchurched Hispanic families. The first step in the plan has been realized with the arrival of a Director of Christian Education who will train leaders within thriving congregations in a mission and ministry model. The grant will assist in startup costs, training materials, scholarships, and expenses.

Meeting Dates:

- General Meeting - Tuesday, March 12th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- Topic Leaders – Tuesday, March 19th, at 12:00 Noon at Church
- “Lord, I Can’t Handle This!” Pages 22-23, Winter 2018 Quarterly
- Altar Circle – Tuesday, March 26th, at 7:00 p.m.
- Mary-Martha - Tuesday, March 26th, at 7:00 p.m.
- Youth & Cradle – Wednesday, March 27th, at 1:00 p.m.

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.