



SPRING 2018 • VOL. LXXVI • NO. 1

LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY

Knowing Christ & Making Him Known

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LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY (USPS 322-660) is published quarterly — spring, summer, fall, and winter — by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 3558 S Jefferson Ave, Saint Louis MO 63118-3910. Periodicals postage paid at St. Louis, MO, and additional mailing offices. Canada #R129889093. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, 3558 S Jefferson Ave, Saint Louis MO 63118-3910. Annual subscription rates: 10 copies or more to one address, \$5.00 per year; individual subscriptions (paper and/or electronic), \$6.50 per year. Single issues available for \$2.00 plus postage. Call office. (Available in Braille, large print, or on cassette tapes, free from Lutheran Braille Workers, P.O. Box 5000, Yucaipa, CA 92399, 800-925-6092). Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV). Copyright© 2010 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House.



Praying the Psalms

A prayer inspired by Psalm 16 *By Sheila Lutz*

Father, to You I offer
my heart-felt praise for
ordering and preserving my
life and for showing me I
can rejoice in my family —
even in times of trial.

You blessed me with Christian
parents. Thank You for always being
in my life. Others who love You
and praise You did not have that
childhood. Thank You for the many
experiences on the paths of life in
Christ — all part of life in Your family.

In marriage, You gave me a loving,
Christian husband who still cares
for me and holds me dear. How my
praises ascend to You for that life.
Others praise You as deeply but
have had a difficult path in marriage
— or are not married. You are their
strength and comfort. Your path for
each of them kept them with You,
the One Who holds them dear as
the bride of Christ.

The children You gave me have
been a joy and a struggle, a pleasant
path and a sometimes road of
sorrow. Your Word ever counsels
me as I parent the tiny ones — as
I parent the teens — as I parent
the budding adults with their own
families — as I parent adults. In
sickness and in health, You preserve
them as my family. Teach me to be
a vital family member — no matter
my stage or age. You are my refuge
when I fail; help me set Your Word
always before me so I can recognize

the fullness and joyfulness of my
beautiful gifts from You. Questions
and doubts always arise, but, with
You, I'm never shaken.

You are my chosen portion — my
cup of life when life is ending for
one I hold dear. You hold my lot.
You hold her lot. Though my heart
is aching because she doesn't
recognize me, You chose this
excellent one for my family, You still
fill me with love and delight and
memories. Help me to honor You
and her during these last days.

When I am ill or become the one
who needs care, let my heart
remain glad. Be my constant
companion as I go through the
pain. Let my whole being rejoice,
knowing it is secure in Your hands
— never abandoned by You.

You have filled my life with family
that I can celebrate as You do. In
this ever-changing life, You are
changeless, You are joy, and You
are love. You have chosen me to
be part of Your family — the good
family — for there is no good apart
from You. In sorrow or joy, I can see
Your richness, for, secure in Your
presence and held by Your might,
I experience the pleasures of Your
joy in my earthly family. I praise and
thank You that it was Your pleasure
to make me part of this family and,
through my salvation by Your Son,
of Your family who will live with You
forevermore. Amen. *Q*