

A new year in Christ

by Doris Schaeffer

Look out the window and see what God has created. Whether it is snow on the ground or wet from rain, it is beautiful because God made it.

God has given us all we need to survive in this life. As Dr. Luther wrote, our Heavenly Father *has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children,*

land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life [SC, II, i]. Are you thankful?

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His glory and goodness. Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises (2 Peter 1:4).

When I think back to my youth, it sure seems as though I had it easier



than the youth of today, even though sin is the same for all of us. Today's youth have different peer pressures, cellular phones, and so on. Children grow up quickly and want to know about things before they really need to know them. They start school too soon. Young children should be able to just play and enjoy themselves before having to think about more serious matters.

So start the year off by planning something each month that you and

your family would like to do together—skating, skiing, hiking, swimming lessons, holidays, or visiting relatives.

Then there's your spiritual life. Make a pledge to attend church every week and take part in activities in the church or area, bringing Jesus' message of Good News to others.

What does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the

Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul (Deuteronomy 10:12).

Let's start the month of January with new expectations and joy for the sake of Jesus who taught us: *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16).

January is the beginning of 2019. In Christ, let's make it a good year.

Prepared by the Christian Growth Committee, LWML-Canada