



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT

LEAGUE LETTER

2019 Issue 4 October

Thanks be to God
for His
Indescribable Gift

Life's Seasons

What life season are you in? When we think of seasons, we normally think of what weather season we are in – winter, spring, summer or fall. Right now I'm wishing summer would end!! But we also experience seasons in our life. I'd venture to say that most of us are past the season of being a student. There are some of us enjoying the life of singleness. There are some of you ladies who are in the season of still having young children at home to parent. Most of our ladies' children though are on their own and raising their children and you get to be in the season of being a grandparent. That may be the best season!! For a lot of us, our parents now live in heaven and possibly some of our siblings too and we may even be the matriarch in our family. I know some of you have parents still living and you may be having to make important and sometimes difficult decisions regarding their health and living arrangements. Some of us are still working and some of us are enjoying the season of retirement.

Each season of life has its ups and downs, its good times and bad but in all seasons, Jesus walks close beside us. He is unchanging and knows our earthly struggles and will help us through all the difficult times as well as rejoice with us when we celebrate. What a comfort that is for us Christians!! So whatever season of life you are in right now, enjoy it and keep your eyes focused on Jesus and the joy we have as children of our Heavenly Father. Have a wonderful fall season!!

Serving the Lord with gladness,
Diane Reimold
LWML Mid-South District President



2020 Mid-South District Convention

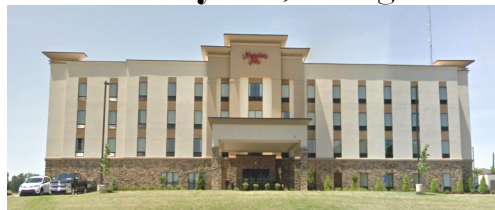
Paragould, Arkansas
Paragould Community Center
June 12 - 14, 2020



Hampton Inn, Paragould



Holiday Inn, Paragould



Courtyard, Jonesboro



Choosing

Greetings in the name of Jesus! And welcome to October! When the Editor let me know that it was my turn to contribute to the newsletter, I was preparing for the LWML retreat with the theme of: Treasured! Although it's now in the books, that retreat and its topic have heavily influenced this month's letter.

In Deuteronomy the LORD speaks to His people saying: ***For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be His people, His treasured possession (7:6).***

Choosing. It's an important task in our lives; and one that we perform more times than we know every day. We choose what to wear, what to eat, what route we might take to get from point A to B, do we answer that call/text or not? It's a list that could go on forever. Our making such choices is, in fact, such an important aspect of life that the advertising industry makes billions if not trillions of dollars helping businesses to "help" you in the choices you make.

On the flip side, everyone likes to be chosen. Remember those uncomfortable moments on the playground? We all ached to be chosen first or second or somewhere nearer the top than to be the last one chosen for a team. Being chosen first meant that we were the best! And it's not just people that like to be chosen. Businesses like you to choose them as well. They will offer specials and sales to attract you; and when you arrive, they will strive to make your time with them an experience to be remembered and shared – so more people will choose to spend their dollars in their store.

Some of the choices we make aren't cut and dried. We have, therefore, come up with ways in which to help us make our choices. We can cast lots (which is very Biblical). We can draw straws or throw darts. We can make use of a computer algorithm or simply close our eyes and grab or point. And when all else fails we have eeny-meeny-miney moe. Choices are, after all, at times very difficult to make!

Thankfully none of this has anything to do with the whys or means by which God chooses us.

He simply calls us by His Grace. He blesses us with the gift of faith so that we are then able to trust in Him. In short; **He does it all!** And none of what He does is based upon a whim, a quota, our good looks, skills or talents. His choosing us is not conditional upon our seeking Him or some sort of understanding. Again, and always, it's only by His Grace – His undeserved love – that we rejoice in the forgiveness and life He gives us now and forever!

Knowing this wondrous truth is where that "peace which passes all understanding" comes from as we know that nothing will cause God to withdraw His love, forgiveness or promise of eternal life – because it's all based on His promise, not on anything we contribute. This is made abundantly clear as we look to His Word: ***For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be His people, His treasured possession. The LORD did not set His affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath He swore to your forefathers that He brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commands.*** Deuteronomy 7:6-9

You and I, we have been chosen by God to know His love forever! We, by His declaration are His treasured possession! Rejoice, be glad and celebrate this truth with each new day He gives, sharing it also where and when you are able. And God's eternal peace be with you always!

Peace and joy!

Pastor White



ad,mi-ni'strey-shun

Administration – What does this mean?

As I'm sure you all know, the 1st Vice President of the Mid-South District LWML is the head of the Department of Administration. Well, it has occurred to me that some people might think that is a pretty boring department. And, if anyone might think that I'd better set things straight!

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully (Romans 12:6-8, NIV).

Our Labels	What we ARE NOT	What we ARE
Financial Secretary	Bean counters	Record keepers – diligently tracking mites and other funds so that mission grants get paid in a timely manner
Treasurer	Budget busters	Cost minimizers -- always trying to reduce our costs and expenses so we have more money for missions
Archivist / Historian	Backward lookers	History savers – recording the history of our district LWML for future generations
Nominating	People naggers	Encouragers -- challenging women in our district to grow in service to our Lord
Structure	Paper pushers	Efficiency experts -- providing structure where there might otherwise be chaos

So, maybe what we do doesn't sound as exciting as some other departments – after all, they might have “mission” or “growth” in their names. But in our department we're excited to all be working toward God's will for the LWML. This is most certainly true!

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. (2 Corinthians 9:12-13).

In the coming months I hope you'll spend some time reviewing the district by-laws and directives just to see exactly what these jobs entail. And, who knows, you might just decide you'd like to give it a try one day!

Love you to pieces!
Candy Habich, First Vice President
CRHabich@chartertn.net



TREASURED!

By the time you read this the three Fall District LWML retreats will have come and gone. There was a retreat in Arkansas, Middle Tennessee and East Tennessee. If you were unable to attend, do you still know that you are a treasured possession of God? Sometimes I feel like a lump of coal. Not very attractive, not very useful unless it's to be thrown into a furnace to provide some heat. Hmm, maybe that situation I am facing right now is God's furnace that is refining me, applying some heat to make some changes. Or maybe, more importantly, the situation (hot spot) is purifying me to better listen to the Holy Spirit's guidance. He sent His Son to pay the price for my selfishness, my pride, my stubbornness, my sin. God sees me as redeemed. Jesus calls me His friend. The Holy Spirit is dwelling in me. We all are God's treasured possession. Wow! That should make each one of us sparkle! We can reflect the light of Jesus to everyone in our path.



As we near the end of the year, it is also time to update the number of Quarterly subscriptions your society (group) receives. Please send the number of issues you would like to receive to your Zone Quarterly chairperson. A single subscription is \$6.50 per year starting with the Spring issue. If 10 or more copies are sent to a single address, the cost is \$5.00 per issue.

Serving as God's treasured possession,
Becky Grese
2nd Vice President



MIGHTY MITES

"Hark the Voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today?" is the first line of one of my favorite hymns of all time. (Lutheran Worship, Hymn #826) It is also us. We are women on a mission to be Jesus' hands and feet and to work for Him in His fields.

"Loud and long the Master calleth" speaks to each of us about being called by Him into new life and also into His service through LWML. While none of us can "speak like angels" or "preach like Paul" we can certainly all "tell the love of Jesus" and "say He died for all." We can "lead the little children to the Savior's waiting arms."

Through the mites that we faithfully give and our prayers that we faithfully offer, we can do all that God commands us to do. He has blessed us so that through our mission grants we can be a blessing to others. His blessings are enough that our first six grants have been paid in addition to three out of four payments to district for church worker scholarships and two payments for the Comfort Dog grant. A total of \$47,200 has been paid to date. The balance we have yet to pay is \$37,800 between now and May 2020. God has brought us this far, He will continue to bless our efforts.

Let none hear us idly saying "There is nothing I can do"! He has given us the task of gathering our coins to do what he commands by helping others here at home and around the world. What more can we do in His service? Add a thank offering at Thanksgiving in honor of all that He has blessed us with. Add an extra Christmas mite offering in honor of the gift of the Christ Child. The ideas are endless. Let me challenge you to add even more coins to your mite box in His service and join me to "answer quickly when He calleth, Here am I send me, send me!"

Humbly submitted,

Susan McConnell,
3rd Vice President



2020 - 2022 BIENNium MISSION GRANTS

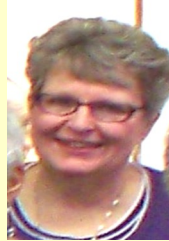
Have you been thinking about Mission Grant projects that your society and zone might sponsor for next year's district convention in Paragould? Guidelines, information and all of the forms you'll need are included on our website. Also included are the very important deadlines for these applications.

Does your church or school work with a group or organization that meets the criterion for a grant to help in the Lord's work? If so, consider writing a grant application for them to be funded by our district mites! All you need to know is included and I'm just a phone call or email away in case you have questions.

Think what a difference you could make to so many lives! What are you waiting for? Start thinking and writing!

In Hi Service,

Susan McConnell
3rd Vice-President
865-607-5373



Click on chart for printable copy

Mission Grant Recipients 2018 - 2020

Mission Grant funds are distributed on a "first come, first serve" basis. As the requests for funding are received, they are placed "in line" with the other requests and will be funded in that order as funds become available. Some Mid-South LC-MS District projects receive funding on a time schedule.

AMOUNT	RECIPIENT	ZONE	QUEQE #	PAID DATE
\$20,000	Prof. Church Worker Financial Aid LC-MS Mid-South District	LC-MS District	Scheduled 4 Payments	9-23-18 3-13-19 9-4-19
\$4,000	Faith, Hot Springs Village - Braille Workshop #156 & #160	Mid-Ark	Requested 3	3-6-19
\$7,200	Camp Scholarships - Petit Jean Hope LC, Jacksonville, AR	Mid-Ark	Requested 5	9-4-19
\$300 (reduced)	Transportation - Lifehouse Student Min. First LC Hot Springs, AR	Mid-Ark		
\$5,000	Bridge City Community First Lutheran Chattanooga, TN	Chattanooga	Requested 4	3-6-19
\$4,500	Paradox Teen Center Faith Lutheran Oak Ridge, TN	East Tenn	Requested 1	9-12-18
\$2500	Trinity HOPE St. Paul LC Sevierville, TN	East Tenn	Requested 2	9-13-18
\$5,000	Hunger First Concordia LC Kingsport, TN	East Tenn	Requested 6	9-4-19
\$5,000	Pregnancy Resource Center Christ Our Savior Loudon, TN	East Tenn	Requested 7	
\$6,000	Hand up for Women Program Scholarships Grace LC Knoxville, TN	East Tenn	Requested 11	
\$8,000	Comfort Dog Ministry Christ Our Savior LC Loudon, TN	East Tenn	Requested 8	3-6-19 9-4-19
\$7,500	All God's Children - A Special Resource Immanuel LC Memphis, TN	West Tenn	Requested 9	
\$5,000	New Beginnings-Children W/ Learning Needs Luth. Special Education Ministries	Lutheran Organization		
\$5,000	Concordia Sem. International Grad. Students Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO	Lutheran Organization	Requested 10	



THE PURPLE FORCE



Immanuel Memphis LWML “womans” a booth once a month to sell homemade food /crafts at the Bartlett Farmer’s Market. The proceeds fund various mission projects. **Oct. 26, next sale’s date.**



Paducah Zone members run amuck in Mobile



*2020
Mission Grant Request Forms
Available Here*



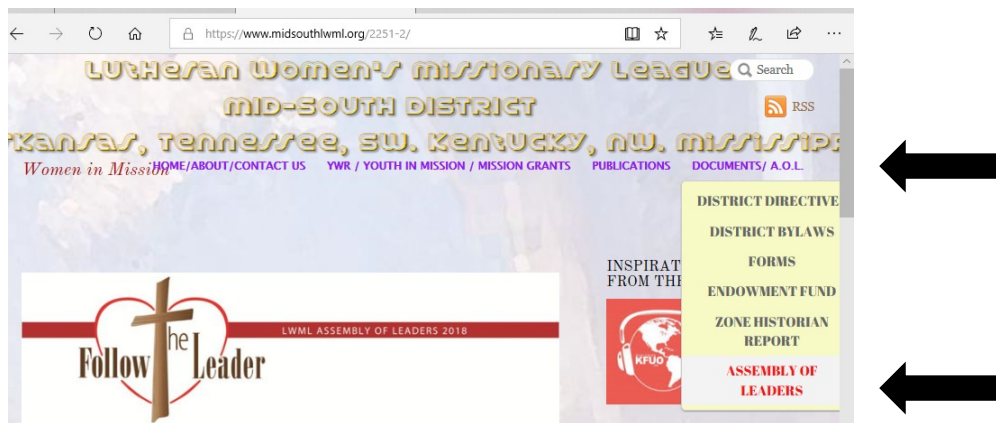
**The dead line for submitting 2020—2022
Mission Grant Request Forms
to your Zone President
is November 15, to the 3rd.
Vice President is December 15.
Click on the text box above to enter the
Mission Grant Request Forms web page.**

**Mid-South District LWML
Assembly of Leaders Rollout 2019
Presentation for Local Groups**

IT'S HERE!!!

What exactly is “IT” you ask? It is a short (less than 15 minutes) presentation to use at local group (society) meetings. It provides an overview of many LWML resources related to mission grants, Christian life, leader development, and gospel outreach. It also reviews the social media platforms where LWML has a presence.

How do you get “IT”? Simply go to the Mid-South District LWML website (www.midsouthlwml.org), click on the heading that says “DOCUMENTS/A.O.L.” then on “ASSEMBLY OF LEADERS”. Or you can go directly to the address www.midsouthlwml.org.



On the resulting page, scroll down until you see the heading for “Local Group Meetings”. You’ll see links to the presentation and to some related documents. Download those files to your PC for best performance.

What do you do with “IT”? Allocate a 30 minute block of time at your next local group meeting to watch the presentation and discuss how you might use some of the resources within your congregation. Beforehand, print copies of the handouts (optional) for attendees. Maybe pop some popcorn too! Afterward, complete the event report form according to the instructions.

What if you have questions about “IT”? Contact Candy Habich at crhabich@chartertn.net.



South Arkansas Zone Rally

Serving with Gladness

Psalm 100:2

St. Luke's Lutheran DeWitt,
October 12, 9am - 2pm

Speaker: Judy Graham - LWML Mission Grants and AOL Mission Inspiration

Love offering: DeWitt Caring and Sharing Food Bank

Ingathering: non-perishable food items for the DeWitt Caring and Sharing Food Bank.

Arkansas Northwest Zone Rally



Colossians 4:5

Salem Lutheran Church Springdale,
October 12, 9:00 am

Program: Assembly Of Leaders Presentation

Ingathering: Food Bank of Salem Lutheran Church

How CAN SERVE YOU
the Lord with
GLADNESS?



The Mid-South District LWML Nominating Committee is working hard to find willing servants to place on the 2020 ballot for First Vice President, Third Vice President, Financial Secretary, and Nominating Committee. Descriptions for these positions are included in the LWML District By-Laws, Article VII. If you are willing to be placed on the ballot for one of these positions, please contact Esther Mahnken, Nominating Committee Chairman by email at Mahnken.esther@yahoo.com or by phone 501-416-2272. We thank Shari Francisco and Pat Dettmer for also serving on the current nominating committee. They are in the process of contacting prospective candidates. If you are contacted by any one of us, please prayerfully consider the position you are being offered.

God's Richest Blessings,
Esther M. Mahnken

ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS

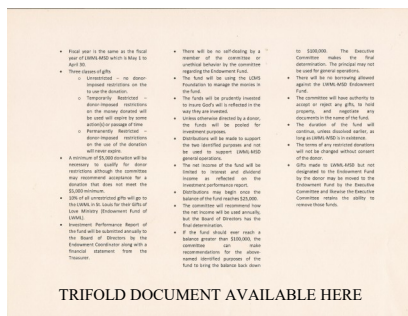
Along with the proposed LWML MSD Endowment Fund, the Gift Acceptance Policy, and a bullet point list about the endowment fund on the Mid-South District LWML website, there is also available for hand out at your meetings and rallies a trifold document also with the bullet points. This document is designed to print two sided and then fold in thirds for easy printing and distribution. Please look at the bullet points and let me know if you have any questions.

One question that has been asked is would Thrivent Dollars be available for contribution to the endowment fund. Unfortunately, the answer is no, due to restrictions on how the Thrivent Dollars are distributed. Thank you though to the person who asked the question for thinking outside the box.

President Diane or I would still be pleased to come to your Spring Zone Rallies to discuss the Proposed Fund if you would like one of us to speak to your group.

Please contact us at emboggan@gmail.com or dianereimold@hotmail.com if you are interested.

Sincerely,
Erin M. Foster
Coordinator
Mid-south District LWML
Endowment Committee



TRIFOLD DOCUMENT AVAILABLE HERE



AR River Valley Zone Rally

Each star given a name

Ps.147:4

St. John LCMS,
500 N. Cumberland, Russellville
September 21 - 9am

Speakers: Becky Manning / Pottsville Methodist Church Community Lunch Program and Rebecca Barton / St. Joseph's House, Russellville
offering: Pottsville Methodist project.
ingathering: St. Joseph's House - supporting foster children, parents

West Tennessee Zone Rally

LOVE GENEROUSLY
(Prov. 19:17)

Cross of Calvary LCMS
4327 Elvis Presley Blvd. Memphis
October 19 - 9am

Guest Speaker - Ramona Stephenson - Assembly of Leaders

Ingathering - Union Mission, Memphis

Offering - Union Mission, Memphis

Mid-Arkansas Zone Rally

A New Creation

2 Cron. 5:17

First Lutheran Church
Hot Springs
October 12, 8:30am

Speaker: Wilda Hughly, Miss. Victorious Pageant

Offerings: Mites & Miss. Victorious Pageant

Northeast Arkansas Zone Rally

"God Sets the Lonely in Families"

Psalms 68:6

Grace Lutheran Church
604 Park Ave., Mountain View
October 19, 2019 9:00am

Speaker: Amanda Wherry, Engage Hope

Offering: Engage Hope

Ingathering: Stone County Humane Society

Paducah Zone Fall Rally

Strangers and Friends

Romans 12: 9-21

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Paducah, Ky.
Saturday, October 5, 9:30am

Quenched

It's that time of year where we are gearing up. We are getting ready for Fall Events, Fall Retreats, Reformation, Thanksgiving and finally Christmas. I find myself on overload this time of year. Church, school, and family all are demanding my time. Now is the time I find my devotion life to be in desperate need of being more intentional. If you too are needing to find a good devotional or bible study may I suggest, *Quenched*, by Donna Pyle. For those of you who attended the recent national convention, she was our keynote speaker.

In *Quenched*, Donna speaks of our spiritual deserts we experience throughout our lives. Much of the book is based on John 4:13-14. "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty

but whomever drinks of this water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The first six chapters are geared toward the new Christian, while the last six chapter are geared toward the veteran Christian. Throughout the book, we hear Donna's humor and honest candor. New or veteran



TREASURED!



ARKANSAS RETREAT, MOUNT EAGLE RETREAT CENTER



WEST TENNESSEE RETREAT, NATCHEZ TRACE S.P.



EAST TENNESSEE RETREAT, EAGLE ROCK COFERENCE CENTER

September 6-8 was a glorious weekend in the beautiful foothills of the Ozarks. Mount Eagle Retreat Center sits on top of a mountain with views of majestic bluffs and the Little Red River 650 feet below. 36 ladies from all over Arkansas gathered for forty hours of worship, delving into God's Holy Word, learning how we are God's treasured possessions and just enjoying the goodness of this time together. The food was great, game time was a plus (I learned yet another way to play Mexican train dominoes!), and the bible sessions centering on our theme for the weekend, Treasured, led by our fearless leader Pastor Don White, were a treasure in themselves. Our hosts, Sarge and Marietha Leonard, went above and beyond to make sure we had a wonderful weekend. Sarge made us a fire in the fire pit where some of the ladies experienced S'mores for the first time. Sarge took many of the ladies on tours of the 1000 plus acres, riding down to the river and rambling through the beautiful forested foothills. It truly was a blessed weekend - not one that will be forgotten for a long time. We have already begun planning our 2021 fall retreat!

Terry Bledsoe

On Sept.. 6-8th, 29 ladies of the Middle TN, West TN, and Paducah Zones all met up at Pin Oak Lodge of Natchez Trace State Park. Pastor Ondracka held our sessions of "Treasured" based on Deuteronomy 14:2. The ladies tied 4 quilts for LWR, made bead bookmarks to take home and enjoyed social times where we played games such as Family Feud and Bible Trivia

The East Tennessee Retreat was a gem of an event. I think everyone enjoyed the opportunity to be with other women of faith. The presenters were awesome. How blessed we are to have women in our midst willing to share their love of God.

I love the analogy that we are "diamonds in the rough" and that we are subjected to the same forces that turn coal into diamonds (e.g. time, heat, pressure). But we can rest assured that we'll be perfect on the "cut, color, carat, and clarity" scales when He is finished with us!

Loved the skit in which we heard about Gloria's jewelry box and the precious stones Amy, Emmy, Ruby, and Roxy. Pastor Bill Ondracka's presentation of the Assembly of Leader's on Change was eye-opening and his message on Sunday was uplifting.

The most enjoyable part of the retreat for me;; fellowship and relevant Bible study and lessons.

The Safest Place

How to stay safe in the World today



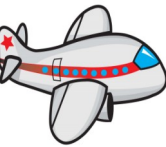
1. Avoid riding in automobiles
Because they are responsible
For 20% of all fatal accidents.



2. Do not stay at home because 17%
Of all accidents occur in the home.



3. Avoid walking on sidewalks because
14% of all accidents occur to
pedestrians.



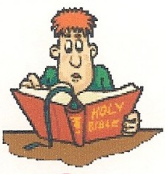
4. Avoid traveling by air, rail or
water as 16% of all accidents
involve these forms of
transportation.



5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% all
deaths occur in Hospitals. So
above all else, avoid Hospitals.

BUT

You will be pleased to learn that only .001% Of all deaths occur in worship services IN CHURCH and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. THEREFORE, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given time is in CHURCH.



And BIBLE STUDY is safe too.
The percentage of deaths during
Bible study is even less.

**So, attend church and read your Bible
IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!**



The deadline for the January issue
of the League Letter is December 26.

So, get with it, please

Mail to:
allenshare2@comcast.net

***Make Time To
Slow Down and relax***

