



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

MID-SOUTH DISTRICT

LEAGUE LETTER

2020 Issue 4 October



Love
the Lord your God
with all your HEART
and with all your SOUL
and with all your MIND
and with all your STRENGTH.

Mark 12:30, ESV

TOXIC POSITIVITY

Recently, someone posted on Facebook a link to a Washington Post article titled "Toxic Positivity". I rarely click on things that people post but this one intrigued me. How on earth could positivity be toxic? When you grow up on Martin Luther's exhortation to "put the best construction on everything" you end up trying to look for something positive in every situation. And who among us doesn't quote Romans 8:28 on a regular basis?

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

The gist of the article was that we tend to placate people who are truly worried and concerned about their situation by telling them "it's going to be OK". When, from their viewpoint, they can't possibly see how that can be. As Christians, we know in our hearts that everything is going to be even better than OK because we are looking forward to spending eternity in Heaven. But, to a non-believer who is out of a job, can't make ends meet, or who has serious health issues, telling them it's going to be OK just doesn't help. We must tell them WHY it's going to be OK.

That's exactly what we're told in 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV):

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

It's going to be OK because we have HOPE! But, being prepared to give that answer to a total stranger with whom you may have 60 seconds to share that reason for the hope that you have is the real challenge. How do we prepare? We memorize scripture of course! I've listed just a few verses here, but I am certain all of you have favorites too.

It's going to be OK because the God of the Universe:

- Knows who you are and how many hairs are on your head - ***Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows (Matthew 10:29-31, NIV).***
- Will never leave you - ***"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:6, NIV)."***
- Gives you His peace - ***Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid (John 14:27, NIV).***
- Promises that we will spend eternity with Him in His Kingdom - ***"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am (John 14:1-3, NIV)."***

Maybe the way to quickly share the reason for the hope that you have is to write these verses on a note card that you keep handy in your purse or wallet. Or, maybe you carry a copy of a small devotion book or a pocket New Testament. LWML Mustard Seed Devotions are great to carry too. There's even a new booklet titled Comfort and Hope (<https://www.cph.org/p-33722-comfort-and-hope.aspx>). Whatever you do, be prepared! You may be the one person that God chooses to give hope to someone desperately in need of it.

Love you to pieces!
President Candy
([Email](#))



Who knows....

As we find ourselves continuing to be held up and confined to our homes and immediate family because of the restrictions that we have to adhere to because of the new norm, we cannot help but wonder, who knows?

Who knows how long this will last? Who knows when this will end? Who knows how many more times we will hear about how things are changing, how there is an uptick in numbers, or that we have more restrictions and rules that we have to bend our lives to fit around? Who knows? It has become apparent that by watching the news, whatever news channel you are drawn to or have come to trust, that no one around really knows. We have had warnings given to us, then retracted by the leading agency of disease control, we have had things said and retracted by leading officials, by our county and local leaders, and the list could go on and on... I am not one that likes to dance on the fringe of the political arena, nor take part these arguments that seem to have no end, instead, I am content on just living my life according to the will of my gracious Father in heaven, and placing myself before Him daily. So as we look forward to the rest of this year that will go down in the record books as one to never be forgotten, we can set aside all the turmoil and in differences and find ourselves staring at and focusing on the one thing that has never changed, nor ever will... God's unchanging love for us, His people.

I am hoping that in these times of solitude and finding yourself homebound, afraid to leave the comfort and security of your homes, that you have taken the time to fill these long days with devotion and time reading Scripture. God loves an open Bible, and a fertile mind that is taking the time to learn more about His love and grace and walk a little closer to Him. I shared with my congregation when I got here almost 10 years ago, and have reminded the several times since that even though I have my MDiv in Lutheran Theology, does not mean that I am the wisest, most well learn theologian on the planet. Furthermore, just because I graduated in 2011, and walked away a smarter, wiser man than I was when I arrived does not mean that my days of learning are done. I have said and stand upon this, that the day that I desire to stop learning and continuing to study God's Word is the day that I need to reconsider where I am in my life.

This same precedence and understanding should be something that we set before us daily as we live out our lives in this broken world. We need to continue to be driven to study the Word daily, to wrestle with the text, and to search Scripture for the answers to our questions that arise. We will all struggle with days where we lack motivation and drive, and these are the days when our evil foe watches from a distance, prowling through the despair and gloom, and rest in the very Words and promises that have been given to us in Scripture.

I have lost count how many conversations in the past months have turned to people asking the question, is this a Biblical indication to the End Times? I wish I could tell them that I knew that the answer was yes, because this is what they wanted to hear. I do believe that the day is coming quickly, and that Jesus will be returning to take us to be with Him, and the Father in heaven forevermore. But there is no amount of education or knowledge, no degree or piece of paper hanging on the wall that gives me or any other Pastor or theologian the insight to know when this will happen. I personally pray that it happens soon, but the simple truth is that only God knows, no person, no angel, not even the Son of God... but only God knows. Till that day we are to continue to press on and serve Him to our full ability as we wait, watching, be alert at all times for this day. Until then ladies of the Mid-South LWML... keep on doing what you are doing, preparing yourself and all those who you come into contact with for that day, when he comes like a thief in the night. Prepare your lanterns for the return of the Bride-groom... so you may be prepared to join Him in the marriage feast that knows no end.

God bless you and all that you do!

Pastor Bill
Senior Counselor
([Email](#))



Dear Sisters in Christ,

What does the First Vice President do in the district LWML? I had never really thought about this until I was nominated. I started to read the bylaws and directives to give me an idea of what I would be doing for the district. At first, I was honestly nervous but then I realized I would not be alone in my journey. First and foremost, God would be my guide and support. I love the Bible verse from Philippians 4:6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." I knew that no matter what, He is always going to be there to guide and support me.

Second, I will be working with our President Candy Habich, several chairpersons, committee members, and others in the LWML. Together we will do God's will in guiding the direction of the LWML in spreading His word and love to others. Third, my family has always been extremely supportive in whatever I do. So no matter what, I am never alone and am thankful that God is there to remind me to "not be anxious about anything."

Sincerely,
Jane Hubsch
(Email)



LWML Online

In addition to the [downloadable resources](#) on the LWML website, there are a variety of ways to engage with LWML content online.

On the go? Download the LWML App to your smart phone or tablet!

[Learn more.](#)

Emails

Available as email subscriptions:
[2-Minute Tuesday](#) (biweekly)
[eNews](#) (weekly or biweekly)
[Leadership Tips](#) (biweekly)
[Mustard Seed Devotions](#) (daily)
ShopLWML Specials (biweekly)

[Subscribe to email\(s\)](#)

Blog

Here you will find resources and personal musings from the LWML President on a biweekly basis.

Read online or subscribe to receive new posts in your email inbox.

[View Blog](#)

Podcasts

Listen to devotions with the LWML On The Go Podcasts! New episodes will be posted weekly.

Listen through the LWML App or subscribe through your podcast app.

[Learn More](#)

Videos

Videos include LWML Mission Grants, Bible studies, convention fun, leadership training, and more.

Watch online or subscribe to the channel for new video notifications.

[View YouTube Channel](#)

UNCHANGING LOVE IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

The weather has turned cooler. The leaves are changing colors. It is time to get out those warm sweaters. The seasons are changing. We will be changing our clocks back from daylight savings time. There are changes in how we meet or do not meet to worship. Perhaps you are experiencing changes in your work environment. Some people are working from home, and others have had to work more. Some of you may have attended, or plan to attend a Zone Retreat or Rally. Others may be staying closer to home. Some students are attending school in person, some are attending school virtually. You may be ordering groceries online or making a trip to the store in person. We may have many questions about how long the pandemic will continue and how it will affect us. Despite all the changes we have experienced, we know that God is unchanging. His love for us is steadfast. He is in control of all things.

I am in two different Bible studies; one is studying the book of Genesis: the book of Beginnings. The other study is of the book of Revelation; the book of the world to come. It is amazing to see God's plan and purpose of creation and redemption throughout His story, the Bible, from beginning to end. We are called to fellowship with an Almighty God, creator and sustainer of all things. How will you share the Good News of God's unchanging love and forgiveness in this time of uncertainty? We know for certain, who holds us in His hand.

And speaking of a time of change; it is almost time to update the number of Quarterly subscriptions for each society. The price for each subscription is \$7.50 for up to nine sent to the same address.

If ten or more are ordered and shipped to the same address, then the price for each subscription drops to \$6.00. I will be sending a list to each zone Quarterly chair with a spreadsheet listing the number of subscriptions currently requested for each society with the total cost. We have been able to match the cost of the subscriptions with the actual receipts coming in this year. We were able to close the large gap that had to be paid to LWML out of the district funds to cover the receipt shortfall. Our district subscription year begins with the Spring Issue, but the number of subscriptions is due in December for the next year. To assist in matching costs and subscriptions, we are asking each society to pay for the number of subscriptions requested to the appropriate zone treasurer. The zone treasurers will then forward the receipts to the district treasurer so that the money will be available to pay for the Quarterlies. The Quarterly subscription cost is separate from any membership assessments or Mites offerings. Thank you in advance for your assistance in keeping the numbers and receipts current.

Behold, I am coming soon, ... I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last the beginning and the end. Rev. 22:12 – 13. Thankfully, Jesus never changes!

Serving joyfully with you!

Becky Grese

2nd. V.P.

(Email)





Mission Grant Recipients 2020–2022

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

AMOUNT	RECIPIENT	ZONE	QUEUE	DATE PAID
15,000	Financial Aid for Professional Church. Workers. Structured Payments	Mid-South District	4 Payments	
7,400	Camp Scholarships - Camp Petit jean.	Mid - AR	1	
6,600	Healing Hearts with the Gospel - Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Ministry 10 yrs Later (Partial Funding).	Mid - AR		
6,000	Pregnancy Resource center - Medical & program Services.	East TN	3	
5,000	Oasis Women's Ministry - Renovating an area for Bible study - Furniture, cabinets, Bible Study programs.	East TN	10	
4,500	Paradox Teen Center - Trips to Christian Venues.	East TN	2	
10,000	The River Ministry - Women & children Replace Washers & Dryers and Service Contract.	East TN	7	
6,000	Faith Lutheran Child Care & pre-School Flooring for renovated house /Sun shade or Sail for playground.	Mid TN	8	
5,000	Inspiritus - Building Healthy Families Purchase program supplies, caring closet items, meeting meals.	Mid TN	9	
6,500	"Last Call" Radio Ministry - Proclaiming the Gospel by "daily devotion" radio thru south middle TN.	Mid TN	5	
7,500	Trinity Lutheran Childcare Ministries - Purchase of playground equipment to meet new "DHS" guidelines.	Mid TN	11	
1,000	Concordia Seminary Ft. Wayne - Financial Support for the Food Co-op.	Lutheran Org.		
6,000	Concordia Seminary St. Louis International Graduate School Students Support.	Lutheran Org.	6	
4,500	Lutheran Heritage Foundation - Witnessing to the Ethiopians: Catechisms and Devotions.	Lutheran Org.	4	
5,000	New Beginnings - Children with Learning Needs - EXTENDED.			

These are the 2020/2022 Mission Grant Recipients. I urge you to continue to send in your mites. If your Societies are not meeting in person yet, ask your members to mail their mite contributions to your Society Treasurers who then can send them to your Zone Treasurer.

As a reminder, Mission Grants are distributed on a "first come, first serve" basis. The current order of payment is listed.

Click on chart for printable copy.

Sandra Arnold
3rd Vice President



(Email)

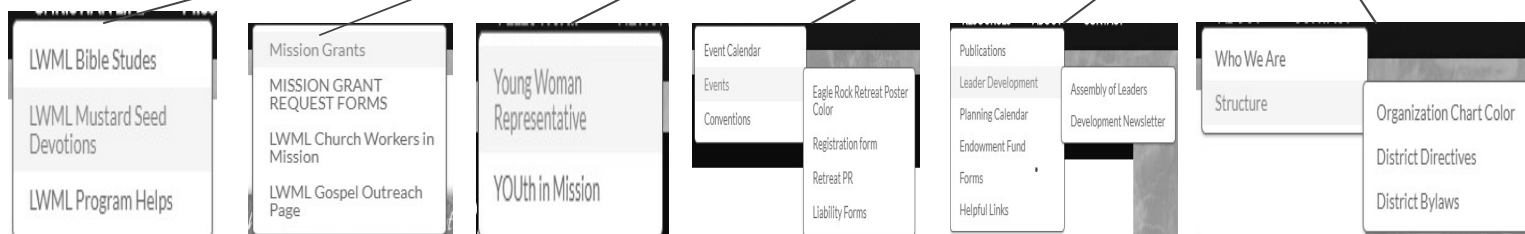
YOUR New Website

LWML Mid-South District


Women In Mission



HOME CHRISTIAN LIFE MISSIONS FELLOWSHIP NEWS AND EVENTS RESOURCES ABOUT CONTACT



This is an introduction to YOUR new web site. The site displays six menu items that have sub-menus and even sub-sub-menus that link to the information described. Two menu items, HOME and CONTACT, link directly to pages. There is slide presentation on the HOME page that contains inspirational thoughts and other information.



Greetings from your newly elected Financial Secretary! This is both an honor and a challenge to serve the LWML Mid-South District in this capacity.

If you are a zone treasurer you've already heard from me. There are new forms that are on the website. You can fill them in

online and then just print it off and send it along with your zone check. For those of you who aren't a zone treasurer, I am the one who receives the zone remittance and deposits it. I don't write checks.

During this time of social distancing it has been hard to meet a lot of new people. But I am thankful for zoom and other avenues to at least see smiling faces and communicate.

I am praying that there will be the convention in Lexington in June so we can all meet and worship together. Remember God is in control and Jesus is our Savior. Share that and trust in Him!

God's peace, joy & blessings as serve your church and the LWML!

Sandie Harjala ([Email](#))

Why Purple ?

The official colors of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League are purple and gold. According to the Southern Illinois Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Supplement, October 1948, the Southern Illinois District was the first to adopt the colors of purple, symbolizing royalty, and gold, symbolizing value and integrity.

The LWML Executive Board adopted purple and gold at their board meeting held on July 24, 1951, The minutes of this meeting state: "Motion was made by Mrs. Emil Frank to recommend that the colors Purple and Gold as suggested in the Handbook, be adopted as the official League colors. Action – Adopted."

History [through this link.](#)

ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS

Thank you District Convention Delegates for approving The LWML Mid-South District Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund Committee has had two meetings since the Fund was approved during the Mid-South District Virtual Convention. The committee members are Erin Foster, Chairman, First Vice President, Jane Hubsch, Treasurer, Mary Pruitt, and Financial Secretary, Sandie Harjala. As the President of Mid-South District, Candy Habich has a standing invitation as a guest and advisor.

We have made some important decisions regarding the fund. We have chosen two investment funds available through LCMS Foundation to invest the money we have set aside to start The Endowment Fund. One is a low risk, and the other is a moderate risk fund. We feel these are the best options until we see how the funds perform and how the economy does when the recession abates due to COVID 19 issues.

Decisions have also been made regarding who will be signing for the fund and who will be the alternate signer.

More about this will be shared as everything is finalized with the LCMS Foundation, but please be assured we all take this responsibility very seriously and have, through prayer, made good decisions.

The committee looks forward to the account being established and starting our fundraising work to bring the balance to the \$25,000 necessary to start distributing money as directed in the Guidelines. Remember we are starting with slightly over \$16,000 already so the goal is not far off. Please visit the LWML Mid-South District Website to review the guidelines, the Gift Acceptance Policy, and the bullet points that help summarize the first 2 documents.

Sincerely,

Erin M. Foster

Chairman

Mid-South District

LWML Endowment

Committee ([Email](#))



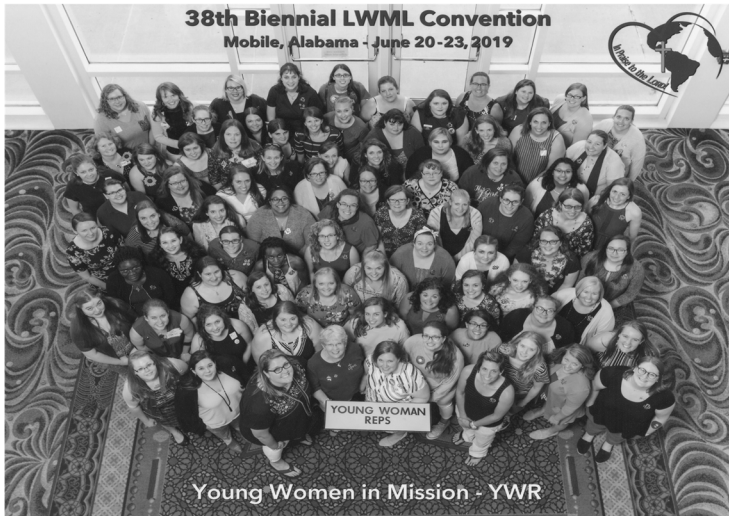
PADUCH ZONE FALL RALLY

Place: Christ Lutheran Church, Paris, Tn.
When: Saturday, October 17, 2020
Time: 9:30 a.m. Registration
Theme: " Fearfully and Wonderfully Made "
Verse: Psalm 139:14 - "Praising the Lord for all his works."
Offering: Typically goes to the Zone Treasury
Speaker: To be announce
In-Gathering: Tomorrow's Hope, a pro-life pregnancy center in Paris, Tn. Gifts of diapers, baby clothes, diaper bags, etc.

EAST TENNESSEE ZONE FALL RALLY

Place: Concordia LC-MS, Kingsport
When: Saturday, November 7th.
Time: 9:00 am Registration
Theme: LIFE TOGETHER
Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:27
"Now you are the body of Christ, Each one of you is a part"
Offering: Mites
Speaker: Oasis Women's Ministry
Ingathering: Oasis

Who is a Young Woman Representative (YWR)?



Any mature young woman who is preferably 22-35 years of age, a member of the LCMS, and has not previously attended a national convention as a YWR may become a Young Woman Representative.

A YWR has a deep love and devotion for her Lord Jesus Christ and is willing to participate in the full scope of the convention.

A YWR will fill out the application completely and honestly, and return it to the district by the date it is due.

A YWR is willing to be away from home/work for the entire convention and the travel time involved to attend.

A YWR will attend all sessions of the convention, sitting with her district delegation, though she will not be able to vote.

A YWR will be asked to report on her convention experience either orally or in written form to the district, zone or society that nominated her.

A YWR will actively seek to be involved in her local LWML as well as encourage other young women to be active in the LWML.



The YWR Pin

The double links represent LWML, women of all ages who are joyfully united in spirit and purpose. While each member is different, in Christ all are linked together, complementing one another's gifts, talents and strengths.

[Learn more of the history](#)



LWML from Immanuel Memphis got together on Saturday, Sept. 12th and filled gift bags and delivered them to those members of the church that are homebound. With a grant from Thrivent, the bags were filled with coloring pages, colored pencils, puzzle books, a Quarterly, 3 pack of kleenex, lotion, Portals of Prayer, LWML devotion book, a little painting project, snacks and baked goods, a fall decoration and a rose. These are tough times for everyone but it must be very lonely for those who are home alone. We hope to put a smile on their faces with these love bags.



Once a month during the summer and fall, **Immanuel, Memphis LWML** sells baked goods, sewing and craft items at the local Farmers Market. A great way to get out in the community and raise funds to support mites and our ministries.



With this being the "new normal" for meeting these days, the **Middle Tennessee Zone** held their latest board meeting on Saturday, August 22, via Zoom. For many of us, this was only our first or second time using Zoom, but everything seemed to work out well and we got all the business done we set out to do. Next up, our Fall Rally via Zoom! (We sure are going to miss the delicious luncheon the LWML host always puts on!)



Arkansas River Valley Zone Spring Work Day

After registration and a Brunch of apple dumplings, cheese puff, and berries, we began the day with worship led by Pastor Josh Willadsen using the Morning Prayer worship service in the hymnal.

Mary Pruitt, Bethel LWML President, then welcomed the attendees and gave instruction of what would follow.

The attendees were divided into groups that provided social distancing as well as good fellowship. The projects done were as follows:

6 fleece quilts that were tied that will go to the Community Rescue Mission in Fort Smith.

6 completed tied quilts that will go to Lutheran World Relief.

76 Personal Care Kits that will go to Lutheran World Relief.

54 Birthday Bags for Bethesda.

Offering for the Good Samaritan Clinic was:
\$162.05

Ingathering:

217 Trash Bags

880 Napkins

664 Plastic Ware

15 Reams of Copy Paper

346 Plates

44 zip Lock bags

140 stamps

1 roll of paper towels.

Attendance: 1 Pastor, 18 Attendees, 1 Guest

Thrivent funds that were available for use on the project was up to \$1000 through 4 grant submissions. A lunch of salads and ice cream was served.



LWML Gifts of Love

What are your desires for your family after the Lord calls you home to be with Him? As Christians, our primary desire is that our family and friends will continue in their own faith in Jesus Christ. Writing down your confession of faith and sharing it with family is something with which your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help.

When your earthly life is complete and the Lord has called you home, someone will need to manage the affairs of your estate, either a personal representative for your will or a trustee for your trust. But who should that be? Your attorney will provide guidance regarding legal considerations for that choice. But your choice also includes consideration of someone who will respect your faith and the attitude about Christian stewardship that lives within you today. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you think through and pray through your list of choices.

A focus on wills is focusing on what happens to you after the Lord has called you home. But Power of Attorney documents or even a Revocable Trust can lay out your wishes for what happens to you while still alive on earth if you become incapable of making your own decisions. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you to start thinking about those wishes, preparing you for working with your attorney.

You may have been asked at a hospital if you have a "Living Will." A living will expresses your desires about how aggressive efforts by health care workers should be on your behalf. Short of an easy decision, many practical, ethical and faith decisions are linked to this document. Your careful deliberation gives you a chance to confess your faith in Jesus. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can connect you with reading resources to inform your decision.

I am the Gifts of Love Advocate for the Mid-South District and would be happy to answer questions you might have about any of the above topics or estate planning through LWML's Gifts of Love program. You may also contact Gift Planning Counselor Linda Gage directly at Linda.Gage@lfnd.org or Phone: 800-741-4138. This service is free and invaluable if you don't have your final wishes organized yet.

Diane Reimold
Memphis, TN.



**The LWML
of Faith,
Tulahoma,**

got together for the first virtual Mid-South District Convention.

We donned our masks,

spaced ourselves in the Fellowship Hall and watched on the big screen. The six of us participated in Bible Study, sang the songs and watched all the reports on this new adventure. We were grateful we could participate during this COVID-19 time.



We also had a rummage sale in August. We made several adjustments and still raised more than we had expected. These funds will be distributed to several selected mission organizations. To God be the Glory!!

The Ladies of Ascension Lutheran Church in Madison, Tennessee, have been busy through the pandemic preparing Personal Care Kits and School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We met Saturday, September 19th, after our meeting to prepare the kits and box them for shipment in October.

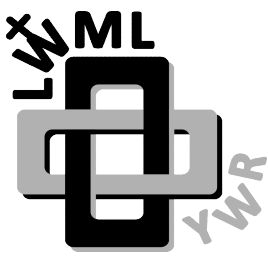


We completed 66 Personal Care Kits and 30 School Kits. Thrivent Action Team funds were accessed to help us provide needed supplies for the kits. Pastor Greg Bauch will bless the kits as part of our observance of LWML Sunday in October before being shipped to Lutheran World Relief.

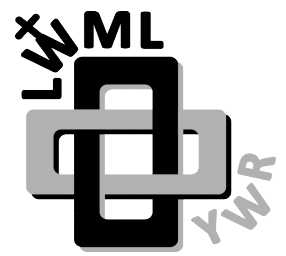
**Ladies from Grace Lutheran,
Murfreesboro,**

getting ready to participate in the 2020 Virtual Mid-South District LWML convention. Although it was a small group, it was nice to get together after months of quarantine.





They're Out There



Now you have to understand what will bring them in and keep them active.

An Editorial.

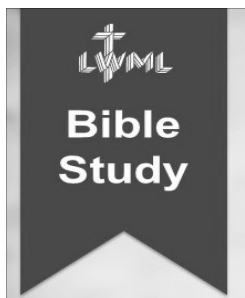
On a recent trip, I was a guest at a Gideon's International Dinner where recruiting was discussed and a comment was made that the Gideon's are made up of old men.....and their fathers. My thought was "old women and their mothers." A lot of us do not like change, but as we age we find we **have** to change our way of doing our everyday activities as we are unable to use the methods of our younger days.

And so it is with the LWML societies; we will have to change the way we operate because the "old" methods do not fit the life styles of the current generation. We **can** make changes without affecting God's message and the goals of the LWML.

We have a great blessing in Nikki Holcomb as our YWR Chair. But she can only be as effective in her efforts as we let her be. Give her the support she needs to educate and motivate the young women of our district. You can contact Nikki ([here](#)) through the web site's CONTACT Form

Blessings,

George Allen



Lutheran Woman's Quarterly All Archived Bible Studies Here

Summer

- [Peace Makers — Leader Guide](#)
- [Hold on to His Promises when Overloaded](#)
- [Hold on to His Promises when Overloaded — Leader Guide](#)

Spring

- [Comfort Ye, Comfort Ye, My People — Leader Guide with list of sample actions of comfort](#)
- [Prayer Gives My Life Balance](#)

Winter

- [The Shepherd's Peace — Leader Guide](#)
- [Shh! Peace. Be Still. — Bible Study](#)
- [Shh! Peace. Be Still. — Leader Guide](#)
- [Lord, I Can't Handle This! — Leader Guide](#)

Fall

- [Grace Upon Grace — Leader Guide](#)
- [His Blessing of Showers](#)
- [His Blessing of Showers — Leader Guide](#)

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

