

The Potter and the Clay

There is a song that we always sing before beginning our Monday afternoon ladies' Bible study at church. It's called "Spirit of the Living God" and it goes like this:

Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me
 Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me
 Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me
 Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me



We also use it at the beginning of zone events like rallies and retreats. In fact, ladies in the East Tennessee zone know that I like to add motions to the parts about melt, mold, fill, and use. But I digress. The point here is that before we begin studying God's Holy Word, we need to invite the Holy Spirit into our hearts. The song is based on 2 Corinthians 3:3 - ***And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.***

I like to sing this song when I'm on my morning walk, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide me throughout the day. Recently, I started thinking more about the melt, mold, fill, and use parts.

We need to be MELTED or "refined" to remove all impurities. We should confess our sins and ask for God's forgiveness.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

(Jeremiah 18:1-4, ESV).

We need to be MOLDED or "reborn" to be "little Christs", thereby preparing ourselves to serve others.

But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use (Romans 9:20-22, ESV)?

We need to be FILLED with the Holy Spirit so that we are eager to do God's will.

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:31, ESV).

Finally, then, God can USE us according to His purpose.

But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand (Isaiah 64:8, ESV).

So, as we begin a new year, this is really the only "resolution" we need! If we become the yielding clay to God the Potter's will, everything else will fall into place. I'm going to try to remember to sing (or say) this song every morning. Will you sing it with me?

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



It is said that the only constant is change. That seems to be ever more true as time passes.

Air flight has only existed for a little over a century; now, planes zigzag across the globe every day. Smartphones have only existed for a little over a decade; yet look how dependent on them people have become. People are working on developing flying cars. Change is all around us, and there's no stopping it.

Life is a series of changes. People age; they get sick; they move; they marry; they change jobs; they retire. The list goes on and on.

Change can be interesting and fun, but it can be nerve-wracking. There is a certain comfort in consistency (some would say boredom is okay).

The idea that God doesn't change is a great comfort. Consider if God did change; would our salvation be assured? Don't you think He could stir up more wrath for we sinners even though His Son gave His life to redeem the world? Who could blame Him if He did?

If God changed, His promises would have to change. That would be disastrous; we all depend on His promise of salvation for deliverance from hell and eternal life in His kingdom of glory, since we can accomplish neither on our own.

In Balaam's Second Oracle he said, **"God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? Behold, I received a command to bless: he has blessed, and I cannot revoke it"** (Numbers 23:19-20).

Balaam declared a truth that is eternal in both directions—God doesn't change. If He promises, He keeps it. If He acts, man cannot stop Him.

How comforting it is to know that God came in the flesh to fulfill His Word—dying and rising to grant us forgiveness and life without end. **"It is finished!"** Jesus said (John 19:30), as the redemption of God known before creation came to completion. Despite the worst intentions of men, God let nothing stand in the way of our salvation. He said He would redeem us, and He did.

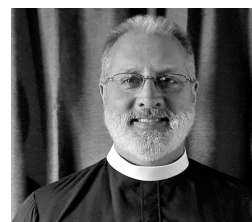
Indeed, God does not change. He is the same generous God who creates life; the same merciful God who forgives sin; the same victorious God who has conquered sin and death; the same loving God who baptizes us into Christ, making us new (Romans 6:4).

From eternity to eternity He is our unchangeable and always-gracious God who sent His salvation into the world, gaining for Himself a holy people through the cross and empty tomb of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Not boring, but consistently comforting.

Glory to God alone,

Pastor Krogen
[Email](#)



The following is a verse from **Across the Sky the Shades of Night**, Hymn 899.

Before the cross subdued we bow, To You our prayer addressing, Recounting all Your mercies now, And all our sins confessing, Beseeching You this coming year, To keep us in your faith and fear And crown us with Your Blessings.

My prayer for us is that we take these words to heart. It has been a year. Many of us have been affected by COVID, natural disasters such as hurricanes, flooding, tornadoes, fire, and earthquakes. We have suffered physical illnesses and depressions. We must keep our eyes glued to the cross of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We need to bow our heads in prayer. Prayer for our needs and the needs of others around us. We need to remember God showers His mercies on us daily. We have had food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, and Martin Luther's list goes on and on. Through our baptismal inheritance we have been crowned with our greatest blessing,

eternal life in heaven. Psalms 121:1-2 I lift up my eyes to the mountains- where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

My challenge to you in this coming year- How can we be a blessing to others. What can we do to serve others nearby and afar in this New Year. We are truly blessed to be a blessing

Early Bird Registration for the National Convention 2021, Lexington, Kentucky opens February 1st. See [Convention Central at lwml.org](http://ConventionCentralatlwml.org)

Blessings,
Frances Bacic
Media/Marketing
[Email](#)



What will 2021 hold?

What a year 2020 has been! Pandemic, virtual convention, stay at home, work from home, school at home... the list goes on. Yet we know who holds us and gives us that peace that the world does not understand.

John 14:27: ***Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.***

I thought of the words of the old hymn Peace, Perfect Peace by Edward H. Bickersteth, Jr.
Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin? The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

***Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed? To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.
Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging round? On Jesus' bosom naught but calm is found.
Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far away? In Jesus' keeping we are safe, and they.
Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown? Jesus we know, and He is on the throne.
Peace, perfect peace, death shad'wing us and ours? Jesus has vanquished death and all its
pow'rs.***

It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease, and Jesus calls us to Heaven's perfect peace.
Because of the Prince of Peace, we can look forward to a new life with Him eternally, but also life together with Him on earth. Though we live in uncertain times, we can trust Jesus for that peace that no one can take away from us.

What will 2021 hold? I do not know, but I know the One who does know. I can look forward to serving the Lord with gladness however He wants to use me. How about you? What are your plans for 2021? Will you be attending a Christian Life workshop in person or virtually? Will you be serving in your church and in your community? Will you be leading a Bible study with a few friends, virtually or in person? Will you be "Running the Race... Looking to Jesus" in Lexington June 24 - 27 for the 2021 LWML Convention? It is so close to all of us in the Mid-South district. If you have not been to an LWML Convention, this is your chance! If you have, you know what I am talking about! Imagine hearing from Mission Grant recipients about their work? Participate in wonderful Bible studies and oh, the singing! Worship our awesome God with others from around the country (hopefully)! Meet new friends and share with old friends! There is registration information in the winter 2020 Quarterly as well as on the lwml.org website under Convention Central. I hope to see you in Lexington! May the Peace of God be with you!

A quick thank you to all the society and zone treasurers! We have closed the gap between Lutheran Women's Quarterly subscriptions and the remittance for them. Thank you! The new subscription year starts with the Spring issue. Invoices were sent to each zone. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Serving joyfully and resting in His Peace,
Becky Grese
2nd Vice President
[Email](#)



Dear Sisters in Christ,

Wow, has 2020 been an interesting year! Through the pandemic, bad weather, and other things that happened this year, I still feel that I had a blessed year. It has also been a busy year. I have been working with the Endowment Fund committee and am excited that the fund is now ready to accept contributions! Our Structure Committee has been busy working on updating the district directives. I look forward to working with all of my committees in the new year and seeing what we will accomplish with God's blessing. I also know that whatever happens in 2021, God is with me.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand (Isaiah 41:10, NIV)."

I hope everyone has had a Merry Christmas
and I wish that everyone has a Happy New Year!
Sincerely,
Jane Hubsch, 1st. V.P.

[Email](#)



The Fixer

(Patricia Hesse - Zion Lutheran Church, Waldenburg, AR)

I am a fixer. I retired from teaching six years ago, immediately returning to a calling I love, along with the bag of tricks I use to fix many problems that plague learners. I am a pianist who impersonates a church organist; foot pedals were my enemy, but I fixed that too by boldly pressing on the wrong ones for two months until they became my friends (the Pastor actually suggested at one point that I forget the pedals). I can fix the notorious, multi-step German Chocolate Cake and my husband's computer problems. I can fix my French hand sewing on a grandchild's baptismal gown when the lace I so carefully measured is just short of the side seam. I am, indeed, a fixer.

In the late fall of 2018, my precious granddaughter went through a very difficult time in her life. I encountered a challenge I could not fix. Fear consumed my thoughts. Powerlessness drained me. Hope hid, and my imagination darkened what I knew to be true. In my helplessness, I reached for a practice I had heard of --praying for loved ones based on God's Word. I looked for a journaling Bible, but did not like the cutesy format of most. Finally, I found one that was plain with a brown leather cover. The print was somewhat bigger than most Bibles, and the side journaling or note-taking area was a fairly generous width. I purchased a set of multi-color, 01 Pigma Micron pens, knowing the fine tip, archival pens would not smear or fade.

I began by reading a chapter in Psalms and a chapter in Matthew each day, marking and writing a prayer for my granddaughter in the margins based on what spoke to me in the passage. I copied verses of hope and strength in the front and back of the Bible's pages. In late September of 2020, I finished praying the entire Bible and will give it to my granddaughter one day.

What I learned during this intimate journey through God's Word surprised me. What I learned forever changed me:

- At first, the prayers focused solely on God's healing of my granddaughter. A month later the prayers completely changed. What I read continually pointed an accusing finger, revealing my need was greater than hers—my sins deeper, more troubling. She was only 16, I was 69. My written prayers were now for both her and me, uniting us in an overwhelming need for the Almighty.
- I finished the New Testament books long before the Old Testament. My journey left the good news of the Gospel message; I now traveled solely through the Old Testament. I felt burdened by the repeated rejection of God by his people. I felt weighed down by my ever-present judging, especially as I read of the blatant practices of many of the kings. I longed for the merciful, life-giving words of Jesus and the comforting beauty of Corinthians. While the Old Testament prophecies gave hope, the continuous rebellion of God's children and the destruction

- of the temple were disheartening. The stories of Ruth, of David, and other heroes of the faith were uplifting, but much of the Old Testament focused on a people rejecting the faith --a people whose weaknesses I shared. The mirror's reflection was glaring, accusing. This steady diet of the Old Testament, month after month after month was at times, grueling. However, I eventually came to see my absence from the New Testament as a type of needed object lesson--providing me a tiny glimpse of the "waiting," experienced by those Old Testament believers, and their longing for the promised Messiah that was to come.
- I learned the more you read and write about God's word, the easier it becomes to see connections to your life and the life of those you love. Inspiration might be found in a passage, a verse, a phrase, or a word. What first began as a somewhat "guarded" response became a freely flowing pen of expression, of raw emotion, revealed guilt, and yet, the deepest reverence and awe of the Almighty.
- My early morning prayers with God's Word were the best alarm clock I've ever had. I looked forward to getting up, grabbing a cup of coffee, and seeing what the Holy Spirit would show me in the day's reading and writing.
- There were times I cried -- and surprisingly, many of those were in the Old Testament. Knowing God's mercy, God's faithfulness, and God's love is painful. I hope you understand what I mean by that.
- I discovered you really don't know what you think and what you believe until you write it --until it looks at you in all its rawness, helping you better understand the rants of David in the Psalms, the desperate confusion of Job; theirs were not the rants and agony of those who had lost their faith, but instead spoke of relationship, a close relationship with the Father. I, too, wrote as David. I wrote as Job --writing what was in my heart, not what I knew ought to be in my heart. The relationship grew.
- I wondered why I had spent so many hours of my life reading about prayer and faith and trust and fear in books authored by man, when the Word, authored by God Himself, was within my reach. Amazing --how foolish, how blind. I had taken for granted and disregarded the very voice of the Creator.

I learned you might think you really don't NEED God when you think you can fix things --having no unsolvable problems is a dangerous problem. Oh, I will still add to my bag of teaching tricks, I'll still hit a wrong foot pedal from time to time, I'll make the German Chocolate cake at Christmas,
CONTINUED

→

The Fixer continued

and fondly recall the days when the grandchildren were babies wearing the baptismal gowns I made. I can fix quite a few things, but "THE" Fixer is not me.

I ordered several more of the same journaling Bible and have started another prayer journey through God's Word for my grown daughters. I hope to continue this practice for my other grandchildren, as long as the Lord grants me life. I hope to continue it ...for me.

Recently, I decided to compare the prayers I had written in the two Bibles and was not surprised to see each was very different. God's Word had not changed, I had. I believe the Holy Spirit works in us as we read God's Word, revealing what we are ready for --helping us grasp and hold tightly to God's message, strengthening our obedience --all according

Along the front flap on the outside of the Bible is a long strap that must be wrapped three times around the Bible to close and protect it.

I read reviews stating that those who have this particular Bible dislike the strap and find it in the way. I love the strap. When I finish responding to God's Word, I reread the prayer I've written, and then enclose the strap around the Bible, thankful all is in God's wise and loving hands, and saying, "In the name of the Father (the first loop), the Son (the second loop), and the Holy Spirit (the third loop). AMEN

The Bible I used can be found at: <https://www.christianbook.com/nkjv-journal-premium-leather-letter-edition/9780718090920/pd/090920?event=ESRCG>

Mission Grant Update.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 2020 has been a tough year for everyone. I am hoping and praying that 2021 will be better.

I am happy to report that we have paid out three Mission Grants since the first of October. We have presented the first installment of \$3,750 to Financial Aid for Professional Church Workers and \$7,400 to Camp Scholarships - Camp Petit Jean in October. In November, we presented \$4,500 to Paradox Teen Center. We will be presenting checks to Pregnancy Resource Center for \$6,000 and Lutheran Heritage Foundation - Witnesses to the Ethiopians for \$4,500 next. We also will be presenting the second installment of \$3,500 to Financial Aid for Professional Church Workers around the end of January or first of February.

Keep those mites coming.

Sandra Arnold
Third Vice President
[Email](#)



LWML Mid-South District Mission Grant Recipients for 2020-2022

Grant	Zone	Vote Seq.	Req. Seq.	Requested	Paid	Remains	Date(s) Paid
A Financial Aid for Professional Church Workers (4 installments)	Mid-South District	2	0	15,000.00	3,750.00	11,250.00	Oct-2020
B Camp Scholarships - Camp Petit Jean	Mid AR	3	1	7,400.00	7,400.00	0.00	Oct-2020
C Healing Hearts with the Gospel - Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Ministry 10 yrs Later (Partial Funding)	Mid AR	14		6,600.00		6,600.00	
D Pregnancy Resource Center - Medical and Program Services	East TN	1	3	6,000.00		6,000.00	
E Oasis Women's Ministry - Renovating an area for Bible study - Furniture, cabinets, Bible St prog	East TN	10	10	5,000.00		5,000.00	
F Paradox Teen Center - Trips to Christian venues: Ark Encounter, Creation Museum, etc	East TN	11	2	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	Nov-2020
G The River Ministry - Women and Children - Replace 6 washers and 6 dryers, service contract	East TN	4	7	10,000.00		10,000.00	
H Faith Lutheran Child Care & Preschool - Flooring for renovated house /Sun shade or Sail for playground	Mid TN	8	8	6,000.00		6,000.00	
I In Spiritus - Building Healthy Families - Purchase program supplies, caring closet items, meeting meals	Mid TN	6	9	5,000.00		5,000.00	
J "Last Call" Radio Ministry - Proclaiming the Gospel by "daily devotion" radio thru south middle TN	Mid TN	13	5	6,500.00		6,500.00	
K Trinity Lutheran Childcare Ministries - Purchase of playground equipment to meet new DHS guidelines	Mid TN	9	11	7,500.00		7,500.00	
L Concordia Seminary Ft. Wayne - Financial Support for the Food Co-op to purchase food	Lutheran Organization	5		1,000.00		1,000.00	
M Concordia Seminary St. Louis International Graduate School Students' Support	Lutheran Organization	7	6	6,000.00		6,000.00	
N Lutheran Heritage Foundation - Witnessing to the Ethiopian: Catechisms and Devotions	Lutheran Organization	12	4	4,500.00		4,500.00	
New Beginnings - Children with learning needs - EXTENDED				5,000.00		5,000.00	
				96,000.00	15,650.00	80,350.00	

Click on image above for a printable copy



The 1st of 4 installments of \$3,750 to the LCMS Mid-South District Financial Aid for Professional Church Workers was made to President Paavola at the Fall Pastor's Conference on Monday, Oct. 19. Past LWML Mid-South District President Diane Reimold Made the presentation, witnessed by 35 district pastors.



On December 13th, East TN Zone President Teri Miller was privileged to present Bill and Susan Kucenski with a \$4,500 check for The Paradox Skatepark and Teen Center. Several of the youth were on hand at Faith Lutheran Church that morning as they were participating in the children's Christmas program.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEES SERVICES

The November project for Esther Guild at **Trinity Lutheran Church in Pine Bluff, AR** was making Spanish language Christmas Cards to be distributed by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) at U.S. Refugee Detention Centers. This was a remarkably simple, inexpensive, and fun project that will help bring a little joy to families at Christmas time that are being held at detention centers.

We downloaded the Spanish language cards from the LWML website under "The Word" tab, then click on "Coloring Scripture". You will find the note cards to print on that page. We are a small group, so we were able to gather in November, with masks, to color the cards and add notes in Spanish and English. They will be mailed to First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baltimore, MD which is helping LIRS to get the cards to the immigrants.

These cards will let those people being held **know** that they have not been forgotten and we are praying for their families and their safety. We also enjoyed getting together to visit and catch up for a little while. The photo below shows the cards we prepared. Here is the address for the LIRS instructions if you have interest in this as one of your projects.

<https://www.lirs.org/take-action/hope-for-the-holidays/>.



Elf Jean Root,
LWML member at
Faith,
Tullahoma,
loading Angel
tree gifts.



Once feared destroyed, quilts and kits found near site of Beirut blast

A few months ago it was reported that three containers with more than \$600,000 worth of **Lutheran World Relief** quilts and kits had been destroyed in the explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, on August 4.

In late August, when LWR's partner organization was given access to the port, they discovered that, **against all odds, the containers were intact!** Later they learned that despite the magnitude of the blast, the seal of the containers was not broken. The placement of the containers at the port inside a concrete storage building and surrounded by other shipping containers, protected the containers enough to even prevent chemical contamination!

These much-needed items are now being shared with the people in Beirut and across Lebanon.

Thanks be to God!



Mission Service Activity

ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS



CELEBRATIONS!!!!

The LWML Mid-South District Endowment Fund Committee is celebrating. After 2 years of thought, work, and prayer, the Endowment Fund is now ready to accept donations. As noted in the last newsletter, the committee was in the process of establishing an account with the LCMS Foundation for our endowment. We now have that account established and it is ready to accept your donations.

The endowment fund will be promoted at District Conventions, District Retreats, and Zone Rallies among other opportunities identified to get the word out. If you are interested in donating or leaving a legacy through your estate, please contact Erin Foster. There is a [donation form](#) located on the [LWML MSD website](#).

Sincerely,
Erin M. Foster
Chairman
[Email](#)



The ladies of the **Middle Tennessee Zone** met via Zoom on Saturday, September 26. Due to the pandemic, we combined the Spring Prayer Service, that should have taken place in April, with our Fall Rally. Many thanks to all the women of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Nashville, for all they did to prepare for our virtual meeting. We had a total of 50 in "attendance," 4 of which joined us from the West Tennessee Zone. Our guest speaker, Elizabeth Parker, shared the mission and her passion for Students for Life of America, a non-profit organization that exists to recruit, train and mobilize the Pro-Life generation to abolish abortion. We ended our meeting with the election and installation of new Zone officers. Thank you, Linda Nutter and Joilyn George for agreeing to another term as Zone President and Vice President, respectively. Additionally, we welcome Pastor Greg Bauch of Ascension Lutheran, Madison, as our newly elected Pastoral Counselor.



Linda Nutter, Zone President, leading participants in the League Pledge

Pastor Philip Young, Redeemer Lutheran, led the worship service based upon 2 Corinthians 5:17



Women in Mission - Immanuel Lutheran Church

At the October meeting of the Immanuel, Memphis Ruth and Carol Circle, members assembled 35 school kits and 17 personal care kits for the district's CARE-Van. These kits will go to Lutheran World Relief where they will be distributed to those in need. \$200 was also given to LWR to help with the shipping costs of these items.

Arkansas LWML Fall Rally

On October 24, 2020 the Northeast Arkansas LWML Fall Rally was held at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Paragould, Arkansas. The theme was Nehemiah 8:10b **"And do not sorrow for the Joy of the Lord is Your Strength."** Pastor Kirk Neugebauer of Redeemer had the opening service on Luke 4:14. Pastor Aaron Neugebauer of St. John's led the Bible study from Nehemiah. Attendance 21, 19 ladies and 2 pastors.: We kept our distance according to Covid-19 guidelines.

Guest Speaker Valerie Long from Option on Main Pregnancy Center,

After lunch, we filled boxes for OCC Operation Christmas Children Boxes. Which was our Mission service for the Convention,

but since it was virtual we filled them at the rally. Offering went to OCC Boxes for shipping.

Ann Batey reported on the Virtual Convention, offering for the Mites \$1482.56; Paragould Mission Outreach \$1327.56; Foster Children Families \$1327.56.

New officers for 2021 President Ann Batey; Vice President Sharon Anderson; Corresponding Secretary Angie Hoggard, were installed by Pastor Kirk Neugebauer.

Spring Rally 2021 will be at Hope Lutheran Church, Batesville, Arkansas.

Thanks be to Jesus for a great day of fellowship with our sisters and brothers in Christ. To God we service in Gladness.

GIFTS OF LOVE

When something is present simply because of tradition, its value is diminished. Take for example the advent wreath found in our churches and even many of our homes. The circle reminds us of eternity. The green reminds us of the life Jesus has given us. The four candles around the outside remind us of hope, peace, joy and love. The middle candle reminds us of Jesus. Do you think about all this every time you walk past an advent wreath?

In that same thinking, what is the purpose of your estate plans? Certainly, there are directions for legal matters that need to be in place for the day you die. But your plan is for so much more than just dying. Your estate plan contains a gift plan, through which you will give gifts to the family or friends you love and the ministries you care about. Your estate plan is not about dying. It is about using God's gifts well, to continue the reflection of Jesus and His gift to us, long after the Lord has called you to your rest in Him. Don't let fear of death get in the way of planning for the giving of God's gifts of life. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help. For more information, contact LWML Mid-South District Gifts of Love Advocate Diane Reimold at dianereimold@hotmail.com or Gift Planning Counselor Linda Gage at linda.gage@lfnd.org or 800-741-4138. Christmas Blessings and Happy New Year!!



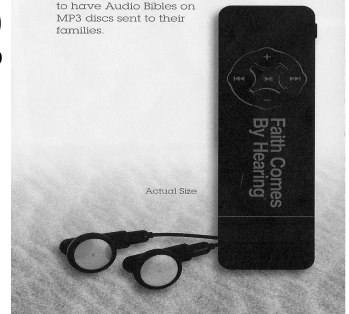
MESSIAH, MEMPHIS LWML Society completed its 4th and final Military Rummage Sale for 2020.

The weather was great, the FREE table was full. There were 13 prayer requests, 232 customers, and we grossed \$4,820 for the Military Bible Stick Project of the Faith Comes By Hearing organization.

This profit, added to other sale money, enabled us to send a check for \$5,000 And with matching funds available, our efforts enabled 400 military families to receive Bible Sticks.

The 1st Rummage Sale of 2021 will be March 20th.

- A portable, digital audio player, pre-loaded with the complete Audio Drama New Testament
- Matte black design and low-light ensure safe use in the field
- Pocket-sized
- Military tough – withstands bad weather
- No beeps or bright lights
- Includes a response card for service members to have Audio Bibles on MP3 discs sent to their families.



HELP *Love* GROW



"Hey, you're in LWML, aren't you?"

The question came from a "pew buddy" – we weren't really friends yet, but our families sat next to each other every Sunday, and slowly we had gotten to know each other a bit through shared jokes or warm small talk.

I'm sure you know what I told her in response: an enthusiastic "YES! I love LWML! Our next meeting is on Tuesday, why don't you come with me?"

"Well...." her voice trailed off as she reached down to settle a dispute with her two kids. "It's just that we're so busy with school and soccer..."

I knew exactly how she felt. Every mom I've ever met feels too busy. Whether she stays home or drops her kids off at daycare on the way to the office, whether she's 23 or 43, whether she knows Jesus or not, all us moms feel overworked. So much of our time is spent in service to our families, and yet it's easy to feel like even that is not enough as we compare ourselves to "moms on Pinterest" with spotlessly clean rooms and educational kids' activities and inexpensive-but-healthy meals on the table. So we feel even more pressure to keep up with her so everyone else won't see how truly exhausted, stressed, and overwhelmed we really are.

Back to the mom in front of me, honestly wondering if she could find time in her life for ONE MORE anything. With a smile, I reached for her hand. "LWML isn't like that," I said. "We're all super busy. We meet just once a month, and if you can't make that, that's ok. We can get you an agenda and a quarterly later. At our meetings we pray for each other, have a Bible study, and talk about different community projects we want to do, but it's always with an 'everyone does what she can' attitude. No one can help with everything! We all just help a little. There's so many of us that all of it can get done little by little like that. It's really cool actually, because I can't really do a big project by myself right now. But LWML gives me opportunities to serve in little ways that I CAN do with kids and work and stuff. I can buy some cookies and fruit for a party at a women's shelter; I can write an article for the League Letter; I can pray for my sisters and their burdens; I can collect my change in a mite box."

That's when I realized that the mite box is a perfect picture of what LWML is. A penny here, a dime there...it's not much when it goes in the box on my windowsill. But when I join together with my sisters in Christ and we ALL share our pennies here, dimes there it can transform the world! That mom and I, we were also like two pennies. On our own not a lot...but when we step into our "mite box" together, we can help ministries around the block and around the globe alike, just by doing what little we can.

In His Service,
Ashley Tieman
Immanuel LC-MS
Memphis



This Year's Fall Retreats.

A great place to get reinvigorated for
The up-coming LWML "season" of meetings and projects.
A great start for a new member of your society.



WEST - Sep 10-12 -
Mount Eagle Retreat Center – Clinton, AR



MIDDLE - Sep 17-19 -
Camp Garner Creek –
Dickson, TN



EAST - Sep 24-26 -
Eagle Rock Camp – Tallassee, TN



Introducing district's YWR Team

YWR Chair NiKi Holcomb



My husband and I decided to visit Cross of Christ Lutheran Church back in September of 2015. I grew up Presbyterian and my husband grew up in a Church of God church. We both felt at home. I was approached by Nyssa Hunt and she told me about the LWML. I decided to check it out and attended one of the meetings. I found out more information about the group. I attended my first district convention as a YWR in June of 2016.

Nyssa and I took a nice road trip out to Arkansas without using the radio or music. We talked the entire time. She told me about her YWR experience. After the conference I knew I wanted to get more involved in LWML and the church. I jumped head first into it. I did have to take a step back because I was going through a rough time with infertility. I had so much support with the LWML ladies during that time. I attended the next district convention in Chattanooga in June 2018. Shortly after that I found out I was pregnant and we welcomed our daughter in March of 2019. The ladies of LWML are wonderful and understanding. I'm so excited to be a part of this group.

Chattanooga Zone LWML Fall Rally

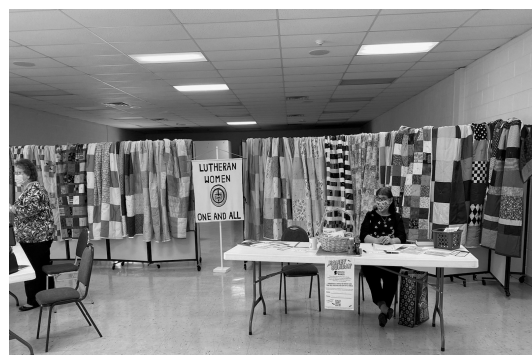
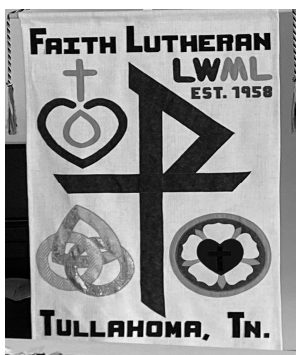


The Chattanooga Zone LWML Fall Rally took place on October 24, 2020, hosted by Athens Lutheran. The LWML ladies chose the theme "The Lord Comforts". The program of Mental Health and Suicide Awareness was presented via Zoom, by Rachel Gearinger, of the Tennessee Prevention Network. Additionally, Susan Peglow was on hand to share her real life experiences of running a food pantry benefiting veterans in need of help and support. The LWML Chattanooga Zone ladies brought canned food items to help stock the food pantry and provided a monetary gift to help our veterans. Athens LWML President, Janis Wenzel presented the check to our honored guest, Navy Veteran Dick Kelly from the American Legion Post in Athens, TN. Free confidential support and crisis intervention is available 24hrs a day, 365 days a year. To reach the crisis line, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net, text to 838255 or call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.

Winter Resources

From Advent to Christmas to Epiphany, along with New Year's and Valentine's Day, here are devotional resources and service ideas for you and your LWML group. All are [available here](#).





Faith, Tullahoma has been busy this fall even though we are having this pandemic. Oct. 4, was LWML Sunday... The quilts were displayed for the members of the church to see and we also at that time sold the honey for the Dakota boys and girls ranch.

In November, we collected extra supplies for the Monteagle TN. school. To the LWR caravan, we sent 93 personal care kits, 22 fabric kits and 19 quilts.

In December, we collected money and clothing items and toys for 18 children in the Tullahoma Schools. Each child received a shirt, pants, coat, hat, shoes, socks, underwear a toy and copy of the New Testament . Each child's items were placed in individual Christmas bags and delivered to the school.

In January, 2021 we will begin collecting coats for the homeless..

All of our activities were done as we social distanced. Faith Tullahoma LWML is looking forward to a better 2021.....



Installation of Officers 2021:
Treasurer Darlette Miller, Secretary Darlene Buckner, President Vicky Kline,, Vice President Phyllis Meech, Pastor Marty Nutter

Grace, Knoxville

The ladies at Grace, Knoxville collected old Christmas cards, envelopes, and crafting supplies for a "Christmas Card Making Party." With some Christmas music in the background and individual glue sticks, ten Women in Mission made cards for Shut-ins and members in Assisted Living situations.

Even while distanced at a large square of tables, 48 cards were made, so some cards went to recent visitors and friends of Grace who are isolated due to Covid. and recent visitors. The collection of cards also netted over 100 new cards to pass-on to a local shelter for others ladies to share with their friends and family. Blessings multiplied!



Christ the King, Memphis

Seeking to find a service project to safely do during the pandemic, the ladies of the LWML Society of Christ the King decided to donate items for 40 LWR Personal Care Kits. 10 members and 3 children gathered on Oct. 31st to assemble the kits. After assembling, the ladies went to the Memphis Botanical Gardens for lunch and to walk around the gardens enjoying the beautiful day and surroundings the Lord blessed us with.



WEST TENNESSEE ZONE



The West TN Zone met in person at Immanuel Lutheran, Memphis on Saturday morning, Nov. 14 for their Fall Rally. Pastor Sellers was installed as Pastor Counselor by Pastor Prauner. Vicki Eubanks was installed as President by Pastor Sellers and Gina Hampton will continue as secretary. Ashley Tieman and Denise Doyle designed and presented the new banner for West TN Zone.



Grace Lutheran, Murfreesboro LWML held their annual Christmas gathering on Monday, December 14th. Even though we had to adjust how we gathered this year, we had a wonderful time. Cracker Barrel catered our delicious lunch. We read the Christmas story from Luke and sang our favorite Christmas carols. Of course the best part was just the socially distanced fellowship with each other.



Christmas came early to the Grace Lutheran, Murfreesboro Quilting Group. A friend of the congregation donated three Singer sewing machines to our group, which will be very helpful for sewing the quilts we make for Lutheran World Relief.



Delicious Nothing Bundt
Cakes for dessert



All who attended received a mask
made by one of the ladies in our group



LWML Toolkit Kits



LWML Toolkit Kits are kit suggestions that you can use for **Gifts from the Heart** in your district, zone, and local groups. Be sure to know where your kits will be given before you start collecting. It is suggested that agencies be contacted to be sure they can take the kits and in what quantity. Different agencies may also request certain items to better serve their clients. These kit lists are simply a "jumping off" point to use as you share God's love and serve the Lord with Gladness.

LWML Tool Kit Ideas for Ingatherings

[Baptism Kit](#)

[Cancer Care Kit](#)

[College Kits](#)

[Construction Worker Treats Kit](#)

[First Responder Kit](#)

[Homeless Kits](#)

[Military Kit](#)

[New Mom and New Baby Kits](#)

[Orphan Grain Train and Lutheran World Relief Kits](#)

[Pastor Support and Involvement Ideas](#)

[Prison Inmate Kit](#)

[Shut-In and Nursing Home Kit](#)

[Sick or Hospitalized Child Kits](#)

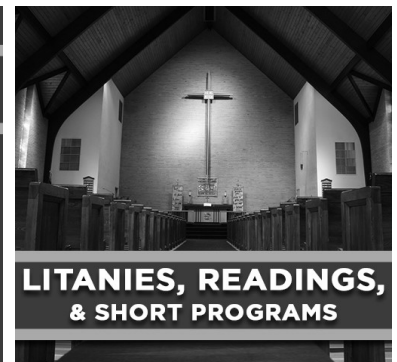
[Teacher Kit](#)

The deadline for the April issue of the League Letter is March 26.

So, please get with it now,

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Dive into the Word with these resources ...



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

