

A Butterfly's Tail

This is about one butterfly and two photographs. It is also about how we associate butterflies with the resurrection of Christ because they too go through a "death" in the cocoon where they are transformed from a not-so-pretty caterpillar to a gorgeous butterfly. I always pictured the beautiful butterfly as a symbol of Christ. It just recently occurred to me that the transformed butterfly can represent US. It can be WE who are transformed and made beautiful through Christ's death and resurrection. Christ has born the ugliness of our sin.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted (Isaiah 53:4).

So, here is where the pictures come in. The one on the left, in profile, shows what appears to be a perfect butterfly. However, in the picture on the right, showing both of the butterfly's wings, we see it is less than perfect. Something happened to the right wing of that butterfly! That is what made me see US as the butterfly. WE are definitely not perfect! But we are FORGIVEN. So, is this butterfly any less beautiful? I don't think so. And we are no less beautiful in God's eyes. We are His children, forgiven and beautiful.

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4)



Even in its imperfection, this butterfly carried on, doing what butterflies do. Isn't that how we should behave as well? We sometimes use our imperfections as excuses for not heeding God's will for us. We might see ourselves as the butterfly in the second picture, but God sees us as the one in the first picture. He loves us despite our weakness, frailty, and imperfection. And HE can accomplish HIS will, through us, despite our imperfections.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

So, through our baptism and the leading of the Holy Spirit, we are brought to new life in Christ. And best of all because of God's infinite grace and mercy, our sins are forgiven and forgotten. What a blessed, precious gift! I pray that every day you remember this gift and that you realize just how beautiful you are.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (1 Peter 1:3-5).

Christ IS risen! Alleluia!

President Candy

[Email](#)



Life apart leading to life together

As I am sitting in the basement of our house, in the middle of my wife's craft room, I find myself alone and resting in the quietness. I can hear the birds chirping outside, as well as the frogs in the field out back. This noise is subtle enough to drown out the noise of passing cars, the ticking of the clock behind me, and many of the other noises that would distract me from keeping focused on the task at hand. This task at hand that I am working on is a sermon that I plan to share with the church in the weeks ahead. After much time apart and offering only on line service, we began coming back together again the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. After a couple months of staring at empty pews and not able to see their eyes, or share in their smiles that are the result of the joy and happiness they have coming together, I am over thrilled to have people back in the seats for service where they belong. My prayer is that as the weeks go by, we continue to see the numbers of those in our community who have contracted drop considerably, and that we can begin to move back to "normal", although the new normal will not be anything like what the norm once was.

As I am looking ahead to the readings that rest before, I found myself reflecting on the reading from Ephesians 2, which through the years has become more and more powerful for me in my personal life. Yes, I am sure that many of us can quote a portion of the text from memory, because we have leaned into it time and time again, but for me, given all that we have experienced and shared in over the past year, it has taken on a whole new level of meaning and understanding for me. Like I said I am sure that many of us can either quote word for word, verses 8-10 from chapter 2 of Paul's writing to the Ephesians. To help jog your memory, here it is; ***"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith. And it is not of your own doing; it is the gift from God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*** Yes, these words are encouraging and for us to understand that we are not saved by our works, but instead we are saved by what has been done for us, is awesome.

But, many times we fail to look back at the words or the verses that proceeded the verses we are so familiar with.

For example, let's look back at the opening verses from this chapter; ***"And you were once dead in your trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience."*** Quite a stark difference from the verses that fall just a couple of lines later. If we read this alone, we might feel isolated, alone and scared. But Paul does not leave us there to wallow in our filth and sin, instead he reminds us that we are not alone, instead, God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.

We are made alive... TOGETHER... in Christ. So even in the midst of this pandemic, looking back at the days we spent isolated and alone in our homes, keeping away from any real social interaction... even then we were not alone. We were still together, as one unit, as believers in Christ. So we begin to make the move back, in the months ahead to in person services, studies and visits, rejoice in the fact that you and I were never alone, but instead we have been fused together as believers in and through Jesus, and all that He has done for us. God is good and His steadfast love endures forever and ever. We are never alone... but together we are one.

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



RESTRUCTURING the Directives

Time sure does fly by! I feel like just yesterday I was writing my article for the January issue of the League Letter. It does not seem like it should be nearing the end of March already! God has truly blessed my family already and I am looking forward to the rest of this year and seeing what God has in store for me!

The Structure Committee is still busy working on the District Directives. We will have an updated copy on the website once we are finished with all of the updates and revisions. The committee is also making sure they have an updated copy of each zone's bylaws. If you have not sent an updated copy, please email one to me through the district website. You can click on the contact button and upload your zone's bylaws and they will be forwarded to me. Thank you to everyone for helping us keep the directives and bylaws updated!

I pray that everyone finds God's peace and comfort in whatever comes their way this year and know that your Sisters in Christ are always here for you.

"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" (John 14:27, ESV)."

Jane Hubsch
1st. Vice-President

[Email](#)



A new year! A different year! Yet a year still filled with uncertainty.

One thing I can be certain of, I know that my Redeemer Lives. I love this Easter Hymn by Samuel Medley! The words remind us of the confidence we have. "He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives my ever-living head." Each of the verses remind us of all the ways Jesus provides and cares for us. "He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save; He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears; He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives and I shall conquer death; He lives and loves me to the end; He lives all glory to His Name; I know that my Redeemer Lives." So, since we have this confidence, how can we share that Good News with the world? Or maybe start in our own neighborhood? LWML has some great resources: Bible studies, Mustard Seed, Daily Devotions, and online options too. The LWML has updated their mission statement and begun a new campaign "I am the Heart of the LWML" so that each woman in the LCMS understands that she is special, gifted by God, and can share her heart, her Savior, with others as a Lutheran Woman in Mission. Check out the LWML website for more information.

Another certainty is that Spring meetings and the National Convention in Lexington June 24 - 27 are fast approaching. Are you ready to be "Running the Race... Looking to Jesus?" As sure as a new spring follows winter, there are new things to try; meetings via Zoom, Brunch Bunch, Mid-South District eNews, on-line voting, and the Mid-South District LWML Facebook group. Would you be willing to step out in uncertainty and assist at a Zone Rally or a Fall Retreat? We are certain we do not know what the future will bring. We do know in Whom we have our confidence; "Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives; I know that my Redeemer lives!"

Why not share the certainty you have in Jesus as your Redeemer to a new friend in a new way? You are the Heart of the LWML!

I look forward to seeing you in Lexington or at a Spring Rally or Fall Retreat or maybe even on-line!

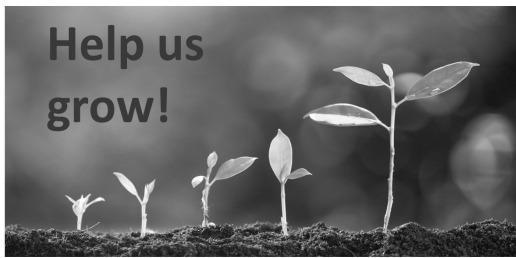
Go forth in confidence; Our Redeemer Lives!

Becky Grese

2nd Vice-President

[Email](#)





ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS

Do you enjoy your membership and participation in the LWML? Does it bless you with Christian friends and opportunities to serve our Lord? Would you like others to enjoy the same things you get out of LWML? There is now another vehicle for you to share these blessings with others. It is the Mid-South District Endowment Fund.

The Endowment Fund has two goals. The first is to provide scholarship assistance and the other is for leadership development. With your contributions to the Endowment Fund, you can share the gift of serving our Lord with others who are thinking of being leaders and by encouraging others who may think the conventions and retreats are beyond their personal budgets. Even if your spiritual talent does not lie in evangelism you can support others who do have this gift with a contribution to the Endowment Fund. You can find more information and a contribution from [here](#).

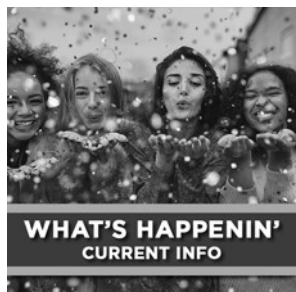
We are working to reach a minimum balance of \$25,000 so we can begin making distributions from the Fund to support these efforts. Any amount of contribution you can make will get us closer to that balance.

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

Chairman
Mid-south District LWML Endowment Committee



Browse Resources for Young Women



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Sign Up!

THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT HAS IT'S OWN DIRECT eNews SERVICE

Issues are sent out when information on upcoming events, ongoing projects and district planning is available and needs to be disseminated to all members.

The form on the left is what you see when you click [HERE](#) or go to the website,

eNews Issue #2

February 13, 2021

Four Young Women to Attend 2021 Convention!

We are thrilled to announce that the district is sending the maximum number of four young women to the 2021 LWML convention in Lexington, KY. Get to know them [HERE](#).

Mission Grant Paid -- Last Call Radio Ministry

There is much excitement to be able to expand the radio ministry to proclaim the Gospel message of Jesus Christ throughout southern middle Tennessee. This grant will allow the weekly radio devotion to become a daily devotion and increase the population base by broadcasting in a greater geographical area! Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Mission Grants Update

For the latest information on mission grant payments click - [HERE](#)!

Mission Budget Grant Update

As of January 15, 2021

2021 LWML Convention

Make plans now to attend the 2021 LWML convention in Lexington, Kentucky! All the information you need is right [HERE](#)!

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 group.



Making plans takes up a sizeable portion of our time, doesn't it? We make plans to travel, attend performances or shows, outline ministry goals, take family vacations, outline career strategies, and on and on.

Making plans is not a bad thing. In fact, careful planning is a necessary step to achieving any long-term goal. But if our plans don't line up with what God has planned for us, we are in for an arduous journey.

Each time we enter a new year, the lure of planning every aspect of our lives is tempting. Plans to eat right, exercise more often, stick to a financial budget, engage in more family activities, spend daily time in God's Word, devote time to regular prayer, and so much more.

At the end of the day, no matter how many lists or plans we've created, they will not come to fruition if God has a different plan for us. God knows the plans He has for us. He has the "big picture" so to speak. So how do we discern God's plans? **"Our Hope and Future" helps us gain insight by replacing the worries of the world with God's truth and reassurance. Discover God's plans for a life of hope, faith, and support in Him.**

WEST - Sep 10-12 -

[Mount Eagle Retreat Center](#)

MIDDLE - Sep 17-19 - [Camp](#)

[Garner Creek](#) - Dickson, TN

EAST - Sep 24-26 -

[Eagle Rock Camp](#) - Tallassee, TN

For registration forms and other information [click here](#)

NEW DISTRICT DEAF MINISTRY LIASISON

Vicki Eubanks here, the first **Mid-South District Deaf Ministry Liaison** and current West TN Zone President.

I have often wondered how I could serve LWML in the future as I am hearing impaired. It is impossible for me to have normal phone conversations with most people. I hear some better than others due to variables like decibels and pronunciation, but it is hard for me at times to decipher what is being said, on the phone and in person. So many of the volunteer positions with LWML require phone calling.

I was so excited when President Candy asked about a volunteer for this position. This I know about and this I can do! My job is to reach out to everyone to see if there are ladies in your congregations that want to be included in your LWML meetings but have not joined due to being deaf or hearing impaired. We want everyone to be included and know that they are loved and welcomed. I am in the process of reaching out to you to see if you have ladies that need to be contacted. I am also trying to gather information about volunteer interpreters in the different areas. I am not an interpreter but I am trying to learn sign language. I encourage each of you to take the time to learn some as well.

One thing that I would like to mention is that it is FUN to take a sign language class and is great work for your brain. There are so many [Youtube](#) videos and in person classes available. I encourage you to look on the LWML [website](#) and see all the resources that are listed under a deaf ministry search.

Please let me know if you have a deaf ministry need that I can help with in your area. I will be more than happy to try and help. You can contact me via email at vleubanks65@gmail.com or text me at 901-870-8706.

Vicki Eubanks

West TN Zone President

Mid South District Deaf Ministry Liaison



Mission Goal vs. Mission Grants Explanation

A recent question was asked relative to the MISSION GOAL (\$130,000) versus the MISSION GRANTS GOAL (\$96,000). The simple answer is that the mission grants goal is just a part of the total mission goal. Of course, that may lead to another question – what’s the other \$34,000 for? That question can be answered by looking at the section of the Treasurer’s report that contains the Mission Fund budget.



The color coding indicates there are three different elements included in the Mission Fund.

The blue-highlighted items are all directly tied to mite contributions. So, the Mission Goal must cover not only the Mission Grants that we vote to fund but also the additional 25% of mites that we pledge to the national LWML. Furthermore, our mites send our YWRs and other district representatives to the national LWML conventions. These include the Christian Life Committee chairman, the Jr. Pastoral Counselor and the President (partial). The national equalization fee covers the expenses of the LWML representative to our district convention.

The green-highlighted items reference the district retreats held in odd-numbered years. These are expected to break -even so you can see that the income and disbursements are equal. In the event that the disbursements are more than the receipts, the deficit is paid from the mites we collect.

Finally, the yellow-highlighted items are the Quarterly subscriptions. You can see that the disbursements are considerably higher than the receipts. This is because not all groups pay the total amount for their subscriptions. Sadly, that deficit must come out of the mites we collect. The district is working hard to communicate this deficit and ask that all groups pay for the total number of subscriptions they receive.

Another thing you may notice is that the total receipts are less than total disbursements. The Finance Committee deliberately developed a deficit budget because of a surplus in the Mission Fund toward the end of the previous biennium.

Mission Fund	Budget 2020-2022	
Receipts		
Mites	\$130,000.00	 Mission Goal
Other Mites		
Quarterly	\$15,500.00	
Christian Life Retreats	\$15,000.00	
	\$160,500.00	
Disbursements		
25% Mites	\$32,500.00	 Mission Grant Goal
Quarterly	\$17,500.00	
National Equalization	\$700.00	
Mission Grants	\$96,000.00	
District Rep to Natl Convention	\$2,000.00	
YWR to National Convention	\$2,000.00	
Christian Life Retreat	\$15,000.00	
Mite Boxes	\$0.00	
	\$165,700.00	

CHALLENGE!

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the warmer weather.

First I want to thank everyone for their mites. We have been able to pay two grants and a second installment for another since the end of December.

January, 2021 -- Lutheran Heritage Foundation - Witnessing to the Ethiopian: Catechisms and Devotions -- \$4,500.00

February, 2021 -- 2nd Installment -- Financial Aid for Professional Church Workers -- \$3, 750 -- Total Paid \$7,500

March, 2021 -- Concordia Seminary St. Louis International Graduate School Students' Support -- \$6,000

The next grant we will be paying (hopefully in April and May) is The River Ministry -- Women and Children - Replace 6 washers and 6 dryers, service contract to be paid in 2 consecutive installments of \$5,000 a piece. This ministry is located in Johnson City, TN which is part of the East TN LWML Zone.

The Mission Grant Committee has been working to provide fact sheets for each mission grant recipient. On the Mission Grant table you can click on the name of the grant and it will take you to the Fact Sheet. On the Fact Sheet you will find the name of the recipient, the grant amount, a description, the link to the convention video, a link to their website (if they have one), and a link to their Facebook page (if any). We will work to complete the remaining grants within the next month or so.

I want to issue a challenge for the month of April. There are monthly LWML Mite Challenge Calendars on the LWML website. To see the current month's calendar [CLICK HERE](#).

Let's take this challenge together.

Blessings
Sandra Arnold
3rd Vice President
([Email](#))



CURB SIDE WITNESSING

Those of us with mail boxes at the curb or close to it have the opportunity to witness our faith to the folks driving by.

Mail box covers are readily available on line from several sources. In a search engine , type in "religious mail box covers". There are not a lot religious covers available, so you will have to search through the inventory of each source to find one that "fits" you.

Mail boxes come in several sizes, so measure your mail box to make sure the cover is the proper size.





Concordia Kingsport winter 2021 activities:

Concordia Kingsport LWML hosted a "Souper Bowl Sundae" event on Super Bowl Sunday, immediately after church. Attendees lunched on a choice of soups, breads and then ice cream sundaes. We passed around a basket and collected - wait for it - \$885. We have been truly blessed during the pandemic. Our normal giving has been maintained but we needed a way to get the entire congregation back into giving to mites. We have renamed this event the "First Annual Souper Bowl Sundae" it was so successful



On the first day of Spring a seminar "Unholy Mess, what the Bible says about Clutter" was held. 9 sisters from Bethlehem, Johnson City joined 23 members (and husbands) from Concordia in the fellowship hall for a really eye opening lecture by the author of the book. We learned that clutter is not just stuff but anything that doesn't contribute to our best life. It gets in the way of what we want and need to do. What do we have that is just taking space in our lives that would be a blessing to someone else. It was a very convicting 2 hours.

Brunch Bunch!

What a blessing it was to attend the first Brunch Bunch zoom meeting on Saturday, March 20th, with other Mid-South District Women in Mission. District President Candy Habich packed the hour and a half full of great information. The event included a devotion on the Parable of the Sower, an introduction to the recently revised LWML mission statement, presentation about "I am the HEART of the LWML" campaign, video on our district grant recipient Lutheran Heritage Foundation, prayer and some much needed fellowship - even at a distance! If the opportunity presents itself in the future, be sure to take advantage of visiting with your sisters in Christ online and getting the latest scoop on the LWML. We look forward to getting a larger group together next time!



Submitted by Meg Lowitzer
Faith Lutheran
Collierville, TN

GIFTS OF LOVE MINISTRY

Why do I need an estate plan? Without thoughtful preparation, discussion with legal counsel and the legal documents that flow from that process, you are leaving things "up in the air." Someone else will decide. That means a court will make your decisions for you and that judge may not care about the Christian faith, your family, or the support of Christ's kingdom. Led by God's Spirit, you can put that plan together, and it will be followed. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you get organized and to think and pray through your goals and getting you ready to meet with legal counsel. For additional information, contact Diane Reimold, Mid-South District Gifts of Love Advocate, at dianereimold@hotmail.com or Linda Gage, Gift Planning Counselor for the Mid-South District, at linda.gage@lfnd.org.

HELP *Love* GROW



In December, 13 LWML ladies from **Redeemer Lutheran, Nashville**, met for fellowship at Cheekwood Botanical Gardens. They enjoyed the Holiday Lights and Chihuly exhibit, but most importantly, their fellowship time.



In February, a small group of ladies from **Grace Lutheran, Murfreesboro**, assembled fruit baskets for some of the church family that are unable to attend service on a regular basis to let them know they are thought of and not forgotten. Ten baskets were assembled, delivered and received with great appreciation.



Messiah-Memphis' LWML group, with support from the congregation, held it's first of four Rummage Sales to support the Military Bible Stick project of the Faith Comes By Hearing organization.

The sale was March 20, from 7:00am to 12:00pm. 233 costumers spent \$4851 on furniture, clothes and other items. There were sales during the months before the sale day totaling \$1459, for a grand to total of \$6310. There were 23 prayer requests made.

The Faith Comes By Hearing organization has procured matching funds, so the efforts of the LWML society are worth over \$12,000 to the project.

We are grateful for Thrivent's Action Team funding for covering our expenses for the event.



The next issue of the League Letter is **July**. Please send your articles and other material to the editor by **June 26** - George Allen at: allenshare2@comcast.net

Take time to slow down and RELAX

