

Here I am! Who me???

Greetings and blessings as we begin another new year! May the Holy Spirit lead you to new and great opportunities. Speaking of opportunities, many of you plan to attend our 2022 district convention in Clarksville, TN in June. There we will elect new officers for the 2022-2024 biennium. Those of you who attend the convention as delegates will have the exciting opportunity to cast your ballot for the new officers.



But here's the catch, we need to have people willing to run for those offices before we can do any voting! If you ever served on a nominating committee for any organization, you know what our district nominating committee is going through right now. Countless phone calls and countless rejections. Yet, onward they go, knowing that God has the perfect person for each job. They just need to keep asking until they get to that person.

I want you to stop and think about that. What if YOU are that person? If asked, what would your immediate response be? Too busy? Lacking skills? Over-committed? Fear of failure? What if, instead, you committed to pray about your decision, to ask God if it is YOU that He needs? What if you put your trust in God and allow him to develop new skills in you or to help you face your fears?

You know the song – “Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, who will go and work today?” – we love to sing that song! But do we sing it as if it really is Jesus talking to US, personally?

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me” (Isaiah 6:8).

I am very fond of and completely confident in the expression “God doesn’t call the equipped, he equips the called”. I can’t begin to count the opportunities God gave me which, when I yielded to His leading, led to new abilities, greater confidence, and much JOY. Certainly, there were challenges that came with those opportunities, but they only served to increase my faith and oftentimes my complete dependence on Him.

In 1 Corinthians 12 we are reminded that everyone is gifted. This passage doesn’t discriminate!

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

If you are wondering about the photograph at the top of the page, it’s a sculpture called Les Braves. It is dedicated to the Allies who landed at Omaha Beach on the coast of Normandy, France. My husband and I traveled to France in October and visited the landing beaches of Utah and Omaha. I repeatedly tried to imagine what it was like for all the men (and women!) who participated in that effort. I could NOT IMAGINE having that kind of courage. It certainly puts things in perspective, doesn’t it?

We too are called to have courage, the courage to accept the calling of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, (Ephesians 4:11-12)

So, what do you think? Are you ready to say Here I am! **Send me!**

Love in Christ Jesus,
President Candy
[Email](#)

Are you Ready?

Are you ready for 2022? I am sure we echoed similar things as we passed from 2020 to 2021 – “Maybe THIS is the year Covid will be behind us!” Perhaps this year, we’ll finally accomplish the New Years Resolutions that were set aside midway through 2021 (or if you’re me, after several weeks!)

In our Christian walk, the new year presents a similar message – are we ready? Are we ready to meet the challenges that 2022 seems to promise? Are we ready to speak the truth of God to our neighbor? Are we ready to love our neighbors as ourselves? Are we ready to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Readiness regularly defines the Christian life in Holy Scripture. One thing to be ready for is spiritual assaults from the evil foe. Ephesians 6:11 says, **“Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”** The Lord our God makes us ready for this battle – through His grace, His love, His mercy. But how easy is it to become wearied! Jesus’ own disciples experienced this! For example, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus pleaded with His sleepy disciples to **“watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation”**. How easy it is to let our weariness drift us away from being ready in Christ our Lord!

As Christians, it’s imperative to ready ourselves against the old evil foe. His attacks on the Christian are many! C.S. Lewis’ book *The Screwtape Letters* starkly reminds us of the ways the evil foe works against the mission of the Gospel! He may tempt us to be apathetic, or to simply throw our hands up in defeat against a world hostile towards the Gospel. But for these attacks of the evil one, we are to be ready. We are to be on alert, because the **“adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion”** (1 Peter 5:18). We are encouraged to be ready to make a defense for the hope that is in us to the hopeless world apart from Christ (1 Peter 3:18). The hope that we have comes to us through the merits, work, and mercy of Christ Jesus our Lord, whose blood spilt on the cross secures us for Himself and makes us ready for any spiritual battle.

Once our hearts and minds are set in the crucified and resurrected grace of God toward us, we are prepared and ready to engage in mission! I often hear of Christians being hesitant in sharing the Gospel with people because they aren’t confident in themselves and their knowledge. But thanks be to God that we are never alone in the mission of Christ. The Holy Spirit brings the forgiveness of sins won by Christ through Word and Sacraments, preparing our hearts and minds to speak the truth of the Gospel. And we always have the assurance of never being alone in mission, for the Holy Spirit is always there working through the words of the Gospel.

Many people may not have very much hope in 2022. After the last two years, one doesn’t have to wonder why for very long! But each of us in our individual contexts must never forget how the Lord makes us ready for the upcoming challenges in mission. He smothers us with His grace in Christ, He sends His Holy Spirit to prepare us with the Gospel, and He centers us in the hope we have in the Gospel.

So are you ready for 2022? With the help of God, yes! May the Lord bless you and all the ladies of the LWML this year of the Lord!

Blessings,
Pastor Ralston
[Email](#)



Time to Register!!! The Paducah Zone invites you to the:

LWML Mid-South Convention

June 10-12th

Clarksville, TN

Convention Theme: "Planting Seeds of Faith", 1 Corinthians 3:6.



The convention location is the TownePlace Suites by Marriott in Clarksville which is conveniently located at exit 4 off Interstate 24. In addition to the TownePlace Suites, sleeping rooms will be available at the Fairfield Inn & Suites and Courtyard by Marriott which are both within walking distance. Book your room before May 26 to get the convention rate. Housing Information page is available [HERE](#).

Keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty and Speaker Emeritus of the Lutheran Hour!

Song leader and banquet entertainer Wendysue Fluegge. Some of you may remember Wendysue as the song leader at the 2017 LWML convention in Albuquerque.

Convention offerings to Mara Evangelical Church at Holy Trinity, Bowling Green, KY and Loaves & Fishes, Clarksville, TN.

Ingathering recipients Hope Unlimited Crisis Pregnancy Center, Paducah, KY and Hope Pregnancy Center, Clarksville, TN.

Seminars:

- Learning about the Mara Evangelical Church and Burmese Culture
- LWML Tech Tips -- learn to navigate the LWML website, how to use the LWML app, how to set up and use podcasts and much more!

Come join your fellow LWML sisters and friends for a fun weekend! Encourage ladies from 13 and up to attend! Check out more convention details through this [LINK](#)



This QR code will take you to the convention webpage. Just point your phone camera at the code and click on the midsouthlwml.org link when it appears

Change and Consistency

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23

In reflecting on the past year, it may have looked much like the year before with many uncertainties: sickness, travel, meeting in person, new job, old job, retirement, births, and deaths. Maybe you experienced many changes throughout the year. As the Greek philosopher Heraclitus said; "Change is the only constant in life." Sometimes we face a change that we don't like. Sometimes we are the ones to initiate a change. Despite all the changes we have experienced, isn't it wonderful to know that we can depend on Jesus Christ! Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13: 8) We can hold on to Jesus, knowing that He holds us, and He holds our future. We can trust that He knows what is best for us and is orchestrating the events of our lives to deepen our relationship with Him. Even if our circumstances continue to change, we can go to Jesus, He is our constant amid change.

What are you doing differently next year? Have you attended a District Convention? If not, why not make the change and plan to attend June 10 – 12 in Clarksville. The theme is "Planting Seeds of Faith" based on 1 Corinthians 3:6. If you have attended a convention, make a change, and bring along a friend who has not. Have you taken advantage of the online LWML resources? We have monthly [eNews updates](#) about what is happening around the district. We have bi-monthly Munch Bunch Zoom meetings with a Bible study and special guest. Information for both can be found on the Mid-South LWML website (www.midsouthlwml.org).

Where are you being consistent? Are you participating in your local group with Bible studies and projects? Are you bringing a friend to a Christian Life workshop or retreat? Are you serving the Lord with gladness where He has placed you? Have you paid for your subscription to Lutheran Woman's Quarterly and maybe added some extra to pay for someone else to enjoy the Bible studies and articles?

Payments for the LWQ from each society are due to the Zone treasurer by January 15. Zone payments to the District Financial Secretary are due February 15. Each zone president and Quarterly chairman will receive a spreadsheet showing the number of subscriptions ordered by each society and the cost for each society. **Thank you** for your assistance in closing the gap between requested subscriptions and total receipts. By encouraging payment early in the year, we can more easily match costs with receipts.

I hope to see you on Zoom at the Munch Bunch and in Clarksville in June!
Serving our faithful Lord,

Becky Grese
2nd Vice President
[Email](#)



Greetings from the Department of Administration

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we are starting a new year. I had many blessings this past year but am looking forward to all the blessings this new year will bring. I am also especially looking forward to the district convention!

My committees were busy this past year but will be even busier now that we are preparing for our district convention. The Structure Committee will be going through and finalizing the updates to the District Directives. The Nominating Committee has been and is still searching for people to run for the different offices. The Budget Committee is working on the proposed budget to be voted on at the convention.

I would like to say thank you to everyone on my committees and for all of the work everyone has done this past year! Without everything each one of you do, I could not be 1st Vice President. I hope everyone in our LWML family has a blessed new year!

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace (Numbers 6:24-27, NIV)."

Sincerely,
Jane Hubsch
1st. Vice President
[Email](#)



Mission Grant Update.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

At this time all grants except the following have been paid.

Healing Hearts with the Gospel - Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Ministry 10 yrs Later (Partial Funding) -- \$6,600

Fourth and final installment for Financial Aid for Professional Church Workers (to be paid in February, 2022) -- \$3,750

Those that were paid this quarter were as follows:

Third installment for Financial Aid for Professional Church Workers (to be paid in October, 2021) -- \$3,750

Oasis Women's Ministry - Renovating an area for Bible study - Furniture, cabinets, Bible St program -- \$5,000

Trinity Lutheran Childcare Ministries - Purchase of playground equipment to meet new DHS guidelines -- \$7,500

Concordia Seminary Ft. Wayne - Financial Support for the Food Co-op to purchase food -- \$1,000

As we go forward into the new year, the Mission Grant committee will be selecting the Mission Grants for the ballot for the 2022 Mid-South LWML District Convention in Clarksville, TN. Please pray for us as we go through this process.

If you have any questions concerning mission grants, please feel free to contact me.

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



Chattanooga Zone Rally

Michelle Goble, Director of Happiness from Welcome Home of Chattanooga spoke at our Fall Rally on October 23, 2021. Pastor Christopher Sheets of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church gave the devotion. Our theme was "Showing Mercy through Healing and Care." Our Bible verse was Matthew 5:7. Michelle shared with us the compassionate care provided by Welcome Home. Their mission is to create a community of hope, healing and compassion for those who are facing a serious illness or death and need safe shelter. Our Ingathering was a cash gift and a supply of paper goods, personal care wipes, latex gloves, coffee, creamer and cleaning products. The LWML of First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, hosted and prepared a delicious lunch. We were blessed with fellowship and offerings designated for Mites. Hope, Peace and Joy to everyone in 2022!



Grace Lutheran, Little Rock to Host Retreat

All ladies are welcome to join us on January 15, 2022 at Grace Lutheran Church in Little Rock, AR. The theme is "Precious Jewels". All the details may be found [HERE](#).



2022 - A NEW YEAR OF BLESSINGS COMING YOUR WAY!

This time of year is usually a time for companies, governments and ministries to evaluate their past year and set their sights on goals for the new year. I'd like to use the analogy that came in our Better Health leaflet.

Let's approach this process for LWML with K.I.S.S. What should we KEEP; what should we IMPROVE; what should we START doing; and what should we STOP doing?

None of our groups will ever be perfect. Seriously take a close look at your society and discuss these steps for your group and for your leadership. Most of all thank God for the blessings you have all received and seek God in prayer that your group will continue and improve ways to get God in the hearts of others.

Shirley Piepenbrnk
4th Vice-President
[Email](#)



ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS

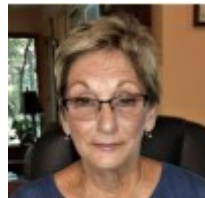
The Endowment Fund committee has great news. The \$25,000 required minimum balance in the fund has been reached. An anonymous bequest has been received which pushed us over the goal.

Mid-South LWML Endowment Fund income is now available to start funding its mission goals of scholarship assistance and leadership development.

Good job and congratulations to everyone for their hard work and commitment to extending the efforts of the Mid-South LWML. Our legacy will live on many years after us and continue to work for God's kingdom.

We are not done though. The fund still needs more contributions to increase our results, so please continue to pray about and consider contributing or bequeathing a gift to this fund. Per the guidelines, the balance of the fund can go as high as \$100,000. All the information you need, including the donation form and access to gift counselors to make either type of contribution can be found at www.midsouthlwml.org/endowment-fund/.

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



Please, Please, Please

send me the minutes to your zone events (including board meetings). A completed Zone Historian Report form for this year is due by the end of January. You can find the form on the district website under "resources", then click on "[Zone Historian Report](#)" in the drop-down window. You can even fill it out online if you like. Your zone secretaries should have all the information for that form at her fingertips.

Our archives are sadly lacking, so please take the time to help me get them up to date.

Judy Graham,
District Archivist/Historian



**Click on the eNews logo
to enter the district's
archives**



Returning God's Blessings

Do you like to build puzzles? Some have thousands of pieces. As the pieces come together, so does the picture the pieces form. Often, when someone gets stuck on a puzzle, a new set of eyes can insert a piece that gets the whole project running again. Your life is a puzzle. It has many beautiful pieces, all constructed by our Lord. As we move through life, more and more pieces get put in place, reflecting God's marvelous plan. But sometimes, we need that special someone to come along to figure out how to put a piece in place when things have been stuck for a while. That can be true about getting your estate plan in place, or your plan for gifts to family and ministry found inside of that estate plan. Your trusted advisors can help get you going again. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can be the encourager and organizer to keep you on track. Working together we get to see God's good things unfold in front of our eyes, enabling us to do far more than we could have ever imagined. For help getting started, contact Linda Gage at linda.gage@lfnd.org or call her at 800-741-4138, Ext. 1. Diane Reimold has

gone through the process and would be happy to answer any questions you might have. Contact her at giftsoflove@midsouthlwml.org or 901-679-0626.

2021 Grace Quilts for Lutheran World Relief

The Grace Lutheran of Knoxville quilting group worked joyfully to complete 85 quilts during 2021. Many of this year's quilts were "Linda's Quilts" which had been completed in memory of Linda Mahan using fabric that had been donated from her fabric collection by her husband, Byron. The group packed and shipped the quilts to Lutheran World Relief in early November. Prior to packing the quilts, Pastor Danny led Byron and the quilters in prayer to bless the quilts for God's use. Members of the group who helped with packing are (from left) Mary Krempasky, Sandy Heath, Nancy Duthey, Marj Jergeson, Mary Schultz, Cydne Albers, Sandie Harjala, Kathy Bohlken, and Deb McFall. Lutheran World Relief distributes these quilts around the world to areas where the need is greatest.

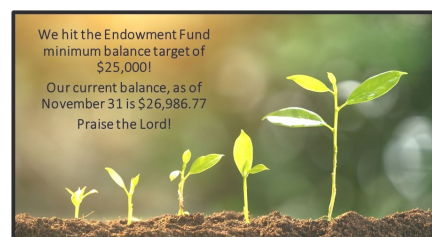
The quilting group welcomes volunteers of all sewing abilities; if you can thread a needle and tie a knot, you can be of service. We will begin quilting for 2022 on Friday, January 14 at 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.



West TN Zone met at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Olive Branch. MS for their Fall Rally on October 16th. The theme was JESUS IS THE WAY, John 14:6.

The speaker was Jake from House of Grace. An offering of cash and the in-gathering of gift cards from Kroger and Walmart were given to House of Grace.

Pastor Sawyer Meyers installed Diane Reimold (left) as our new Vice-President and Meg Lowitzer (right) as our new Treasurer. Ellen Frye has agreed to serve another term as Recording Secretary. We thank Denise Doyle and Ashley Tieman for their past service in these positions.



On November 14th at **Concordia Lutheran Church**, we had the privilege of presenting a mission grant check for \$5,000.00 to The Oasis of Kingsport TN. This is a local women's ministry that has expanded into a larger building and will use the funds to enhance their Bible study area and program. Pictured are Teri Miller, East TN Zone President; Dorothy Edwards, Concordia LWML President and District Mission Grants Committee member; Laura Mitchell, Oasis of Kingsport Board Member; and Candy Habich Mid-South District



Mission Grant for Building Healthy Families

On Sunday, November 7, a check for \$5,000 was presented to the Inspiritus - Building Healthy Families program at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Nashville, TN.

Pictured are Sandra Gean, Our Savior LWML, Sandra Arnold, LWML district 3rd Vice President, Pastor Lane Reuter, Sr. Pastor, Our Savior, and Janet Arning, Regional Director of Inspiritus for Middle TN.

Meet our Life Ministries Leaders

- Rev. Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Mission and Ministry, Lutherans for Life
- Deaconess Tiffany Manor, Director, LCMS Life Ministry

Thursday, January 27, 2022
7:00 pm Central / 8:00 pm Eastern

[Click on this photo for joining instructions](#)



The **Northeast Arkansas Zone Fall Rally** was at Peace Lutheran Church, Cherokee Village, Arkansas, October 2, 2021.

Theme was "The Armor of God", Ephesians 6:11 "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes". Pastor Brian Pummill of Peace Lutheran Church opened the morning with The Message-"I like a Good Fight".

Bible study and video "Armor of God", led by Darlene Karlolus, was attended by 30 members and 1 pastor.

The ingathering went to the guest speakers from the Sharp County Search / Rescue Team (SCSR). Election of new officers for 2022 Treasurer, Tammy Christian of St. Johns, Lafe, Counselor Pastor Kirk Neugebauer of Redeemer, Paragould.

It was a great day to be with Christian Ladies in PURPLE serving the LORD with Gladness.

NEA Zone President
Ann Batey

The Ruth and Carol Circle baked and sold fruit pies to help fund the Youth Ministry at **Immanuel Lutheran Church Memphis**. The youth will be attending the National Youth Gathering and it is our hope that we can help defray some of their expenses.

There were cherry, blueberry and apple pies offered. We prepare the homemade crusts and peel the apples at the home of Dee Sobocienski. Dee always opens her kitchen to us for the day. Actually several days as it takes 2 or 3 times to get all the orders out. The pies are sold frozen with baking instructions included. Dee is an excellent host and always prepares a lunch for the workers and has wonderful flavored coffees and hot chocolates to enjoy. We have done the pies for several years now so it is down to a fine science we think! There is always an abundance of laughter while the work is done!



THE SOUND OF SILENCE.

Hello there!

I just wanted to share something from my heart about those of us that are hard of hearing and or deaf!

Christmas and the holidays are always filled with so many sounds - bells jingling, children laughing, storytelling and lots of singing! New Years Holiday is the same! Imagine being deaf for just a moment. There is total silence, not a sound of anything!

Many people experience the holidays this way. That is why it is important to me that we all learn just a tiny bit of sign language so that we can give the gift of conversation to those that can not hear it otherwise.

Please join me in learning just a few conversational phrases so that you can use them when needed. We just never know who God may place in our path!

[25 common ASL Phrases /ASL Basics for Beginners is available on YouTube.](#) This is a simple YouTube that is a good basic starter for us all to practice over and over.

Deaf Ministry Liaison
Vicki Eubanks
[Email](#)



ASL Finger Spelling Chart

Letters				
	Numbers			

Printable Copy



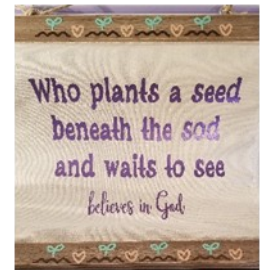
The ladies of the **Middle Tennessee Zone** met on Saturday, October 23rd, for our Fall Rally. A big THANKS to all the women of **Grace Lutheran, Murfreesboro**, who helped make it a huge success. There were 48 in attendance. What a great turnout! It was wonderful to fellowship with so many LWML sisters. Our guest speaker, Pastor Alan Thoe, shared an informative presentation on Katie's Garden, Grace's community garden. The inspiration for the garden comes from Martin Luther's wife, Katharina. Our meeting ended with the election and installation of new Zone officers. We welcome Geal Goldbeck, our new Secretary, and Carie Coon, our new Treasurer.



Grace Lutheran, Murfreesboro, raffled the "How Does Your garden Grow" quilt for the benefit of Katie's Garden. The embroidered blocks are the loving handwork of Dolores Castle, an avid quilter and long-time member of Grace who generously donated her time and talent. The treasure of this unfinished project was discovered among the many items he donated to the Grace quilters. In her honor the work she had begun was completed in 2021.



Blessing of the Quilts
LWML Sunday, October 3
Grace Lutheran Church, Murfreesboro



A few handmade door prizes and favors for the Middle TN Zone Fall Rally

DUE DATE IS JANUARY 31st.

Archivists / Historian
The annual report of society and zone activities
Is now due and is available [here](#).





Calling all Prayer Warriors!

We have established a prayer chain and invite all Lutheran Women in Mission to participate. If you would like to be a Prayer Warrior, send an email with your name and email address to lwmlmsdprayer@gmail.com. Prayer requests should be sent to the same email address. Please review the prayer chain guidelines [HERE](#) or by going to www.midsouthlwml.org, selecting Christian Life, and then selecting Prayer Chain Guidelines.

Faith, Tullahoma, TN "On a Roll",

Faith Lutheran Tullahoma LWML has been quite busy this fall. October 3 was LWML Sunday/ Honey Sunday. LWML members served as ushers and readers for the service. The quilters displayed the quilts they made for LWR. We raised \$450.00 for the Boys and Girls Ranch in Minot, ND from the proceeds of our bottles of honey and other donations.

In November we sent 16 quilts, 83 personal care kits and 42 fabric kits to the LWML Care-van in Nashville for Lutheran World Relief. We had 6 people from Faith who attended the Fall Rally at Grace Lutheran in Murfreesboro. We sent a donation to the Waverly flood victims.

In December, LWML hosted the first of the Advent meals before the worship service.

We put together 11 gift bags for the Alternative School children. We also received donations from our church members for our Angel Tree families. We were able to provide a shirt, pants, coat, hat, shoes, socks, underwear, a toy and a copy of the New Testament for 13 children.

Our new officers for 2022 are Pres., Darlene Buckner, VP, Vicky Kline, Sec., Phyllis Meech, and Treas., Darlette Miller. They were installed at our Dec. meeting.



It's such a gift to be able to share God's blessings with others as we serve the Lord with gladness.

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

So, please get with it now.

webmaster@midsouthlwml.org

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

