

# League Letter 3rd Quarter 2022

## Take the Pledge - Heed the Call!

First, I want to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who attended our 27<sup>th</sup> biennial convention in Clarksville, Tennessee! And, especially, countless thanks to the convention host committee who worked so hard to make it happen! What a joy it was to sing with Wendysue, attend opening worship at Grace Lutheran Church, and be on the edge of our seats as we listened to Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz! WOW!



Among all those incredible experiences, I was especially touched by saying the League Pledge as we always do at conventions. This time the words just hit me differently. I've included the whole pledge below but highlighted the words that jumped out to me.

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

Honestly, I think it was just the word "obedience" that caught my attention. Of course, I spend most of my time being disobedient, always plagued by those "sins of omission". How reassuring are these words from Paul's letter to Titus:

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:3-7, ESV).

Paul reminds me that, as disobedient as I am, God loves me and has made me his own. Then, following along our convention theme of "planting seeds of faith", I am reminded that it's not just the planting and watering but also the reaping. In John, chapter 4, we are reminded that "the fields are white for harvest" and just like those Samaritans who were eager to hear what Jesus had to say, there are people all around us today who need to hear the Good News.

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together (John 4:34-36, ESV).

So, let's all keep planting, watering, and sharing as we heed the call for workers in the harvest fields!

Love in Christ Jesus, President Candy Email



# And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Genesis 7:7

July...the 7<sup>th</sup> month, brings these words from the 7<sup>th</sup> verse of the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of the first book of Holy Scripture, and the report of Noah and his family leaving all they had come to know and boarding the Ark to survive the coming onslaught, the world-wide flood, the purging of God's creation of all that had come to spoil what was God's creation for His people to have dominion over. The creation that God had made with all kinds of things for man to enjoy, beautiful flora and fauna of all types and varieties would soon be washed away, because of man's inhumanity to man.

Only Noah, and his family, his wife, sons, and their wives would be given a vessel by which to escape. This vessel, whose very design had been given by God to Noah to craft as in such a way as to be able to provide living space and storage for their needed provisions to endure the trip not to any particular destination, but endurance of time, time to ensure God's will be done so as to accomplish His purpose... the complete cleansing of the earth to again make it a place where God's people might flourish.

So what does this mean for us? Didn't God make a promise that this wouldn't happen again??? Yes, He did, and He gave us a symbol of His everlasting promise to never bring about this kind of calamity. But His promise was about His never again flooding the Earth, not escaping His judgment and punishment. We've been taught that there will be a final judgment, an ultimate penalty for those who refuse His gift of love and faith.

But we have a refuge, a place that we ourselves can go to escape this impending doom...today's "Ark", the church, that wonderful structure that God has given to His people to go to in order to escape that judgment of total destruction. In the "church", not a place necessarily, but the "ecclesia" the "gathering" of God's people where we receive the provisions He gifts us with, His Word and Sacraments for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of our faith, to survive and endure the issues of these days as we wait for that blessed day that is to come, when finally, Christ returns to claim God's own.

But until then, we continue in this journey of unknown length, but knowing, God-willing, our final destination...paradise, basking in His presence, free from all those issues we've been made to deal with in the here-and-now...as His people, riding in His Ark, the church, weathering this storm we know as life... now and forever, Amen.

Blessings to all, Pastor Gordon

<u>Email</u>

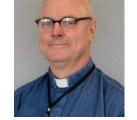


Photo - Vanessa Ikner

Ladies from **Middle Tennessee Zone** attending the LWML
Mid-South District 2022 Convention in Clarksville, Tennessee,
proudly standing in front of one of the many banners made by Ms.
Emma Hendrick. Ms. Hendrick was a long-time member of LWML and Faith Lutheran Church in Tullahoma, TN. She passed away in 2021 just before her 101st birthday.



### Thank you!

I had an amazing time at the 2022 LWML Mid-South District Convention! Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to put the convention together and made sure everything ran smoothly. I enjoyed spending time with my Sisters in Christ and studying and spreading God's Word.

While at the convention, we elected several new officers. Thank you to everyone who ran for an office, and I look forward to working with those elected. Our new officers are:

Recording Secretary – Laurie Smith
Junior Counselor – Pastor Gordon Smith
Treasurer – Judy Gilbert
Nominating Committee – Becky Grese (chairman), Stephanie Rohrer, Rebecca Maplesden
Second Vice President – Diane Reimold
Fourth Vice President – Vicki Eubanks

I would also like to thank everyone who is either staying on as a committee member or accepted a position on a committee. It takes everyone working together to spread God's message and I look forward to the next two years.

I pray that everyone has a wonderful summer, and I can't wait until we get to see each other again at the next district convention.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace (1 Peter 4:10, ESV).

Sincerely,

Jane Hubsch 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Email

# **Mission Grant Committee Update**

During the 27th Biennial LWML Mid-South District Convention, voting delegates voted on which of the 23 mission grants on the ballot would be funded. They chose 13 grants to be fully funded and 1 grant to be partially funded. Voting delegates also approved a \$105,000.00 budget for Mission Grants.

The new mission grant table can be found at the below link:

http://www.midsouthlwml.org/grantinfo/grant%20table22.pdf

There are two pages for this table. The first page lists the grants that will be funded with the amount requested, paid, remaining, and date paid. Also listed are the vote sequence and request for payment sequence. Grants are paid in the order in which they are requested.

The second page lists the grants that were not funded. These are listed in vote sequence. These can be funded in the order they are listed if there are any remaining funds after all 14 grants listed on the first page have been paid.

On both pages, each grant name is a link to a fact sheet with information about the grant, website link, and a Facebook link.

I am happy to report that we have paid four (4) grants already for a total of \$22,000.00. This means we have \$83,000.00 of the \$105,000.00 remaining to be paid.

I know many local groups do not meet during the summer. However, I urge you to continue sending your mites so we can pay additional grants during the month of August.

Serving our Lord with Gladness

Sandra Arnold Third Vice-President Email



# **Hello Again!!**

Greetings to everyone!! It's been 2 years since I was a member of the Mid-South District Board of Directors but since I was elected as your new 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President in Clarksville, I'M BAAACK!! Thank you for the confidence you have shown in me to serve in this position for the next 4 years. I have big shoes to fill but with God's help and the file box Becky Grese passed on to me I will serve to the best of my ability and with gladness!!

The main job of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President is to keep up with the Quarterly subscriptions. Zone and group presidents will be hearing from me in early November about the number of subscriptions they are receiving this year and if they want to increase or decrease for 2023. If anyone has a question about Quarterly subscriptions, please contact me.

The Christian Life Committee, Media and Marketing Chairman, League Letter Editor, and Social Media Administrator are under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President umbrella, so I will be checking in with those people to offer my assistance when needed. They have been doing an outstanding job so I'm not going to interfere with them too much!!

God's continued blessings to you this summer. Keep sowing those seeds so they can be watered and grow according to God's plan.

Your Sister in Christ, Diane Reimold 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Email



A wonderful day was had by all that attended the spring work day. We began our day with worship and fellowship at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fort Smith, AR. Fifteen(15) LWLML members were remembered that we had lost to their heavenly home in the last 2 years.

Thirty-five(35) ladies attended with 1 pastor and 1 quest. After the service we began our work projects:

- Eighty(80) heart shaped pillows were stuffed and closed for cardiac patients at Mercy Hospital Fort Smith
- Eleven(11) loomed knit caps were made for the newborns at Mercy Hospital Fort Smith
- Eighty-three(83) cards were made for Phil's Friends, a Lutheran support group for cancer patients.

A love offering of \$284 and 2 quad canes were collected for CURE( Compassionate Utilization of Resources), a nonprofit local organization that provides needed supplies and equipment to foster kids through DHS and others who request assistance with medical equipment and they also send items to third would countries in need.

The ingathering was for the blessing box at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. 192 nonperishable items and cash were collected.

Two of the projects exceeded the 80 for the 80th year of LWML!!!!!!







# Planting Seeds of Faith – LWML Mid-South District 27th Biennial Convention

Under the theme of Planting Seeds of Faith and based on 1 Corinthians 3:6, we gathered in Clarksville, TN from June 10 to 12. There were 172 registered attendees and several special guests and exhibitors.

We attended a wonderful opening worship service at Grace Lutheran Church on Friday evening. What a joy to hear their pipe organ played by Dr. Jonathan Rudy as well as the choir and handbell choir. Many thanks to Senior Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Bill Ondracka, for his inspiring sermon.

Song leader, Wendysue Fluegge had us on our feet as we started each business session with song. We were also treated to a concert by Wendysue at our Saturday evening banquet.

LWML Meeting Manager, Arlene Naasz, brought greetings from LWML President Debbie Larson and shared news from the LWML.

LCMS Mid-South District President, Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola and his wife Pat also joined us. We are so thankful for President Paavola's support and encouragement! Keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz , Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, encouraged us to be like Esther and to act as "blockers" for those who bring the Good News to others.

We heard from representatives of our two Gifts from the Heart recipients - Hope Pregnancy Center, Clarksville, TN and Hope Unlimited Crisis Pregnancy Center, Paducah, KY. The collection of items for these pregnancy centers included 128 packages of diapers, 143 packages of wipes, 123 baby toiletry items, 34 jugs of detergent, and \$1,429 in gift cards and cash. Praise the Lord!

Three of our Young Woman Representatives to the 2021 LWML convention in Lexington, Kentucky shared their experiences with us. We are so thankful for these young women!

All the YWRs and Junior YWRs attending the convention had dinner with our special guests and then a Bible study after the opening worship service.

Countless thanks to the convention host committee for their gracious hospitality!













# **Celebrating the Sanctity of Life**

The recent reversal of the Roe v. Wade decision by the Supreme Court of the United States prompted me to look back at a monthly mission service activity that I wrote while a member of the LWML Gospel Outreach Committee during the 2017-2019 biennium. In it, there is a quote that could not be timelier. It is from Diane E. Schroeder, former president of Lutherans for Life and says:

"Young women within our churches are watching how we as the Christian community treat unplanned pregnancy within our own four walls. Yes, it is very important to educate our people on the dangers of abortion and the value of life. But we will fail as life advocates if we do not demonstrate compassion for those among us who find themselves caught in the web of unplanned pregnancy." – A Life Quote from Lutherans for Life

Now, more than ever, we Christians must strive to teach girls and boys life lessons about chastity, abstinence, and consequences of their actions. We must "speak the truth in love" to young women and men who are caught up in popular but un-Godly lifestyles. And we must certainly reach out with love and compassion to anyone who is struggling to raise a child for whom they chose life.

The complete Mission Service Activity article can be found at https://www.lwml.org/posts/mission-servants-activities/january-2019.

Serving HIM with Gladness! President Candy



# **Gifts of Love Ministry**

Two years ago, Marie's husband was called home to Jesus. Bud had always taken care of the financial matters: paying bills, investing, and planning for the future. They had been married for seventy years. Now Marie was feeling overwhelmed as people were regularly calling her about investments, insurance coverage, and whether or not she was ready to move into assisted living. Even her daughter asked her if she had reviewed her will. The burden of these decisions was overwhelming and Marie became angry and just wanted everyone to leave her alone.

It is wise to do good planning while both spouses are alive. It is even better to make sure that those plans are written down, detailing an organized, planned approach to caring for the financial gifts God has placed in your care. It is unwise to expect that children or other relatives will be able to jump in, without any prior involvement, to make the same kind of choices you have chosen all your life. They will lovingly do their part, but you may be asking them to carry out a difficult or impossible task. Planning can bring peace of mind. When a good plan is in place, seeking interaction with professional legal, financial or tax advisors can be seen as continuing that plan. Asking children to help will also be part of that continuance.

Now is a good day to start. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can highlight areas of decision and point you to the right professionals to help you write down a plan, all the while expressing your love for your family and your devotion to the Lord. Contact Linda Gage at <a href="mailto:linda.gage@lfnd.org">linda.gage@lfnd.org</a> or 800-741-4138, Ext. 1. Diane Reimold, Gifts of Love Advocate for the Mid-South District, has gone through this process and would be happy to answer any questions. Contact Diane at <a href="mailto:giftsoflove@midsouthlwml.org">giftsoflove@midsouthlwml.org</a>.

#### **Gifts of Love Logo Definition**

Have you ever wondered what the Gifts of Love logo is trying to convey? The right line of the heart represents our once perfect relationship with God broken by the sin committed in the Garden of Eden. The script, Gifts of Love, represents God the Father who gave us life and all the provisions we need to live while here on this earth. The color red represents the blood of Jesus who restored our broken relationship with the Triune God, thus assuring us of eternal life. The unseen left side of the heart represents the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, who is with us until we are called to our eternal Home. "Returning God's Blessings" represents our offering to God in response to His love for us. Now you know!!





The LWML SonShine Committee at **Faith Lutheran in Collierville, TN** had a great time creating six floral Love Bugs and delivering them to church members. One visit was to a memory care facility and it was so much fun to share joy with not only our friend from church, but other ladies at the facility. Definitely blessings and love shared by all!



Do you know what it is? Does everyone in your congregation know what a great resource it is? Why should you want a copy?

As you consider Quarterly subscription numbers for next year, think of ways you can increase the number of issues, to make sure every woman in your congregation knows about the LWML and its mission.

# The Quarterly is a mission tool!

Once you have finished reading it, you can pass it along to a friend or leave in an office if they are looking for reading materials.

You may order a subscription for each woman in the congregation so she may learn more about Lutheran Women in Mission.

In the stories and features that are shared you may gain ideas for ways your group can be involved in missions.

# The Quarterly can spiritually uplift others!

The devotions and Bible studies can be used on your own or in a small group.

The Quarterly provides stories of Lutheran Women in Mission and reveals the missions the LWML supports!

The Quarterly shares news from districts around the nation!

The Quarterly is doctrinally sound; each Bible study, devotion and feature is reviewed by LCMS pastors and by LCMS doctrinal review.

Check it out! The Lutheran Woman's Quarterly is fantastic!

(Excerpted from an article by Sheila Lutz, Editor-in-Chief, Lutheran Woman's Quarterly)





The East TN Zone met at Grace, Knoxville, on Sat. April 9 with 75 ladies present to learn about Human Trafficking. Rana Zakaria from the Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking presented a Power Point with many helpful facts about this problem in our area. A love offering of over \$450 and a "van-load" of hygiene and cleaning supplies, canned goods, and mac 'n cheese were collected for the survivor's house. During the Bible Study each table of ladies considered the churches response and our personal commitment to be on the alert and help those who struggle. We were treated to the song "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" by Sara Collins and remembered the Bible Verse: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." from Proverbs 31: 8-9.

#### **Middle Tennessee Zone**

The MTZ held their Spring Prayer Service on April 23, 2022 at **St. John Lutheran Church, Burns TN.** Our theme was "Sowing the Seeds of Jesus' Love" based on James 3:18.

We had a wonderful turnout with 49 in attendance. Our guest speaker, Sabrina Dodd, Vice President of Conquering CHD-TN, is heart mom to two sons, Dakota (19) and Brody (17), both diagnosed with congenital heart disease shortly after birth. The boys have been through a combined 9 surgeries over the last 18 years, and are blessed to be living a normal teenage life with dreams of college and home ownership in their near future.

Since starting their heart journey, Sabrina has made it her mission to be a voice for those living with Congenital Heart Disease, CHD. Her primary focus has been expanding relationships with the pediatric and adult clinics at Vanderbilt University, and shining a spotlight on the need for continued follow up and treatment as children transition into teen and then adult care.



## **Grace Lutheran Church, Murfreesboro**

In collaboration with the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System, the Murfreesboro VA holds a drive-thru baby shower once a year in May, collecting much needed items for expecting veteran moms. This May, the Women of Grace helped this endeavor by donating many baby items, including 15 handmade baby blankets.









# Young Women's Representative Gets Married

Susanna Beeler, one of our four YWRs who attended the 2021 LWML convention in Lexington, KY, married Nick Dorsey in an outdoor ceremony on May 29. Pastor Rich Elseroad, who had baptized and confirmed Susanna, presented the Gospel to family and friends from Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville. The LWML sponsored a Bridal Shower for Susanna on May 15 with 29 ladies wishing her well. The event feature usage of the word "Love." We pray that she continues to share her heart for missions!

### **Athens Group - On A Roll**





#### Greetings,

So happy to report that we had a wonderful convention. I was able to share a brief summary about our Mid-South deaf ministry. As I told those present, every single speaker that took the podium used their hands to convey their message. That is what learning American Sign Language does. It provides a uniform way to communicate with those that can not hear or are hard of hearing.

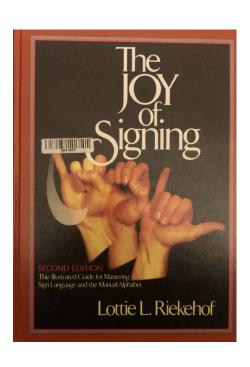
We are working on applying for a grant for the 2024 District Convention that will allow us to provide interpreters or other methods so that we can enjoy the fellowship of any deaf sisters in our District.

Please take a look under special ministries at <a href="www.lwml.org">www.lwml.org</a> and see all the information that pertains to the deaf ministry. Take the time to learn a few common phrases so you are prepared to welcome anyone that is deaf. You will be so glad you did!

If you have the chance and like books better than YouTube, this book is one that I used in the class I took. Most libraries have it available.

Pray for our ministry and, pray that we reach many sisters with encouragement and the Word of God!

Blessings Vicki Eubanks



#### LWML Mid-South District Mission Grant Recipients for 2022-2024

			Vote	Req.				Date(s)
	Grant	Zone	Seq.	Seq.	Requested	Paid	Remains	Paid
		Mid-South						
Α	Financial Aid for Professional Church Workers (4 installments)	District	1	0	25,000.00		25,000.00	
		Mid-South						
В	Cultivating Innovative New Ministry Programs (2 installments)	District	13		15,000.00		15,000.00	
D	Camp Trinity Camperships Camp Petit Jean	Mid-AR	10		6,000.00		6,000.00	
Е	Change Point Pregnancy Center Purchase of Mobile Unit	Mid-AR	11		5,000.00		5,000.00	
J	Welcome Home Chattanooga Groceries for Welcome Home residents	Chattanooga	3		5,000.00		5,000.00	
L	Pregnancy Resource Center Medial and Program Services	East TN	6		5,000.00		5,000.00	
M	Hope House (Crisis Pregnancy Center) Roof Repair/Replacement	East TN	8		8,000.00		8,000.00	
N	Eagle Rock Retreat Accessible Walkway Project (PARTIAL)	East TN	14	1	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	Jun-2022
	Compassion Closet of Oak Ridge Operational Expenses for Foster Care							
0	Resource Closet	East TN	4	6	5,000.00		5,000.00	
	Ascension Lutheran Edison School Partnership Safety improvements for							
Р	school facility	Mid TN	9	4	6,500.00	6,500.00	0.00	Jun-2022
R	Trinity HOPE Spiritual and Physical Food for Children in Haiti	Mid TN	2	2	6,500.00	6,500.00	0.00	Jun-2022
	Concordia Seminary Ft Wayne Financial Support for the Food Co-op to							
U	purchase food	Lutheran Org.	12		2,500.00		2,500.00	
	Concordia Seminary St. Louis International Students: Making Jesus Known							
٧	Throughout the World	Lutheran Org.	5	5	6,500.00		6,500.00	
	Lutheran Bible Translators Translation of the Subula* Bible in Cameroon		7	_	F 000 00	F 000 00	0.00	2022
vv	(*security pseudonym)	Lutheran Org.		3	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	Jun-2022
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Funds are distributed on a "first requested, first served" basis.

They are placed "in the queue" and paid in that order as funds become available.

Last Updated 6/21/2022 11:14 AM

# Click on either photo for an interactive chart on the web site

#### LWML Mid-South District Mission Grant Recipients for 2022-2024

Г			Vote	Req.				Date(s)
L	Grant	Zone	Seq.	Seq.	Requested	Paid	Remains	Paid
	The following grants were not funded at the 27th biennial convention. However, if funds become available after all the funded							
	grants have been paid, there is a possibility that some of these grants may receive funding.							
Г	First Lutheran Church and School Middle School Expansion Curriculum	AR River						
С	Upstart Costs	Valley	15		7,000.00			
Г	Table Graces Community Food Pantry To Alleviate Food Insecurities in							
K	McMinn County	Chattanooga	16		5,000.00			
Н	St. John's Lutheran School & Eagle's Next Preschool Playground Upgrade	South AR	17		4,000.00			
G	POBLO International Cross Cultural Outreach Ministry Training	Mid-AR	18		5,000.00			
Q	Lutheran Heritage Foundation Daily Walking with the Lord Spanish Devotions	Middle TN	19		4,500.00			
Т	Faith Lutheran Preschool Risograph Machine	West TN	20		4,000.00			
F	Zion Lutheran Church Gymnasium Refresh and Repair	Mid-AR	21		10,000.00			
I	St. John's Lutheran Timothy Fund Scholarships	South AR	22		5,000.00			
S	Christ the King Lutheran School Playground and Park	West TN	23		5,000.00			

The LWML Group of **Christ the King** with the Easter baskets they assembled for their homebound members.





Baby Shower Gifts for Hope of the Delta Esther Guild at Trinity in Pine Bluff

Hope of the Delta is a non-profit Christian organization that helps women and men with pro-life pregnancy decisions and offers support for those who need medical help during and after their pregnancies.

Fathers are also included to recognize it is not just the mother's responsibility but both parents' responsibility to care for a child.

This photo shows all the gifts our group was able to gather for this project, as well as two of the employees and the president of **St Paul's Lutheran Church in Wartburg** is celebrating their 175th anniversary this year! Our LWML, treasurer Alisia Freels is the Chairperson of events planned each month supported by LWML and whole congregation! Anniversary weekend will be October 1 and 2 with William Weeden, guest speaker!



"Nothing is impossible.

The word itself says
I'm possible!"

- Audrey Hepburn

**The South Arkansas Zone Spring Fling** was held in Pine Bluff. The ladies collected items for, and put together 84 hygiene kits and 80 pairs of socks for the Neighbor to Neighbor program in Pine Bluff. Praise the Lord!!!





The Clara Kleimann Guild from St. Johns in Stuttgart, along with our whole congregation, well exceeded our goal of 80 stuffed animals for Children's Hospital in Little Rock, collecting 167!!! Praise the Lord!!!



Kaye Meins and Julie Shorts deliver 80 pair of socks to CASA women's shelter in celebration of the 80th year of LWML.



The South Arkansas Zone ladies collected items for, and put together 84 hygiene kits for the Neighbor to Neighbor program in Pine Bluff.

The deadline for the 3rd Quarter issue of the League Letter is September 26. **So, please get with it now.** 

webmaster@midsouthlwml.org

Make Time To Slow Down and relax

