

### What's Your Passion?

For some reason, God stuck the word "passion" in my brain this morning and I can't shake it. This God telegram thing happens often, usually when I'm driving or out for a walk. Then I must ask Him to please remind me again when I am back at home. So, here I am. Passion.

Well, lately I've been obsessed over the Passion Flower vines alongside the road near our house. They're super cool but I don't think that's what God had in mind.

Then, there's the Passion of Christ. I have given that much thought lately, especially since, in a few weeks I will be attending the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. It has been held every 10 years since 1680 when the townspeople prayed that God would spare them from the plague. The word "passion" isn't generally used in today's speech to mean suffering. However, the Latin root "pati" means suffering. And, when it comes to Jesus and His Passion, it's all about suffering.

Mostly I think of "passion" as in something one is passionate about. Maybe art, maybe sports, or like me, travel! But that's not exactly Biblical, is it? As Christians, we are all passionate, at some level, about the saving grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. So just how passionate are we? There was a harsh message for the church in Laodicea about their lack of passion:

*I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked (Revelation 3:15-17).*

Ouch! I'm feeling the heat on that one! It's easy to end up lukewarm when everything is going our way, isn't it? Maybe we need to be more like the Samaritan woman who was so passionate about her encounter with Jesus that she brought the whole town out to meet him.

*So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the town and were coming to him (John 4:28-30).*

Getting back to the root word, suffering, let's not forget the martyrs who even today suffer for their faith. We can support organizations such as Voice of the Martyrs to learn about and pray for Christians in other countries who are persecuted for their faith. And, here at home we can all "suffer" a little by sacrificing our time and talents to serve and support our neighbors, as St. Paul stated in Colossians 3.

*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ (Colossians 3:23-24).*

We can honor the Passion OF Christ by having Passion FOR Christ!

Oh, and this just in! The Passion Flower is named for Christ's passion! Check this out from Wikipedia: The tropical plant *Passiflora*, introduced to Europe in the 16th century, got its name from the Jesuit F B Ferrari, who saw in its flower emblems containing the instruments of the Passion of Christ. The 3 stigmas represent three nails, a circle of radial filaments - a bloody crown of thorns, 5 anthers - five wounds of the Savior, the tendrils represent the whips used in the flagellation of Christ, etc.

So, there was a reason God planted those Passion Flowers next to my road! They serve as a beautiful reminder that I should never lose my passion for sharing the Gospel message and for serving my neighbors.

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



## **"You never know what you have until it's gone."**

You know how the old adage goes. I'm sure you can think of some time in your life or something in your life that applies here. It seems at times things are only missed when you don't have them anymore. For example, my neighbor was just diagnosed with diabetes. So, they gave us some food items that they couldn't have anymore – cookie dough, jams, jellies, some breads. But now that they must live without those foods, they can only reminisce on the good ol' days when they **could** eat chocolate chip cookies and breads guilt free.

But this adage doesn't apply spiritually. Actually, it's the opposite. One doesn't look back on the 'good ol' days' when you went to church. When is the last time that you spoke to someone who no longer went to church, reminiscing on how great and fulfilling church was? Sure, they may talk about the external things of church – the potlucks, the free coffee, the friends. Oh, did I mention potlucks?? But if you listen carefully, hearing the Word of God isn't something they mention.

Here's another adage, showing just that: **The more you miss church, the less you miss church.**

The more we're absent from the church pews, the less we want to be there. It's easy to get into spiritually destructive habits – a Sunday designated to sleeping in can quickly turn into a month of missing church. How? Because the flesh is weak. Scriptures testify to this. You experience it in one way or another. But the best way to fight apathy is discipline.

Does any of this matter? Does it matter if I don't go to church or hear the Word of God? Well of course! In church, we hear the Word of God! His words are "Spirit and Life" says Jesus (John 6:63). Without hearing the word of God, faith dwindles and dies.

It's explained in the parable of the Sower (Luke 8:4-15). There's only one who receives the seed, that is the Word of God, rightly. That one is "the good soil." The ones who are the good soil who "*hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience* (Luke 8:15)." In everyone else, the Word of God is dismissed and rejected. Why? Because the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh are more important to the hearts of the hearers than the Word of God.

As people of the Lutheran faith, we believe in *sola scriptura*! This teaches that through *Scripture alone*, we have doctrine and faith. We believe that the Word of God is without error, and it makes no mistakes. We've been taught to love God's Word – but how well do we know it? Or, how often when we feel despair, do we turn to Word of God and prayer? Or to a Christian brother or sister in Christ for help? How can we love something if we don't use it?

A 2022 statistical survey from Christianity Today shows that only 10 percent of Americans read the Bible daily post-pandemic, which is down from 14 percent pre-pandemic. Why this stark decline? Because churches suspended in-person worship. People fell out of the habit of gathering with the brothers and sisters in Christ for worship (Hebrews 10:25). **The more they missed church, the less they missed church.** As a result, there was less engagement with the Word of God overall in their daily lives. Even though Christians held a high view of Scripture (believing that it IS the Word of God), there seems to be a consistent, constant decline.

No church is exempt from such realities. Even ours. Some of our brothers and sisters and Christ struggle to hear God's Word. If you know someone, call them! Encourage them! Show them their NEED for God's Word! For God calls His people to hold to the Word of God with a willing heart.

And so, I encourage you too – discipline yourself with the Word of God. Read it daily. Pray it daily. If you don't know how to read the Bible or don't know anything about it, come to Bible Study. Learn from others. Listen to a podcast.

There's a podcast called **The Word of the Lord Endures Forever** that goes verse by verse through books of the Bible. It's only 15 minutes a day, and you could listen to it in your car or in the shower in the mornings. Get a Bible reading plan. As I always tell people, if you make it to each Sunday over a year's time, you will hear a HUGE portion of the Scriptures! Whatever you do, be intentional in what you do. You will surely be blessed by it!

For a blessed life in Christ,  
Pastor Joshua  
[Email](#)



## Thankful for Fall!

I am so thankful that fall is approaching! I love the cooler temperatures and watching the leaves change colors. Soon it will also be time for zones to have their fall events. I pray that everyone enjoys their programs and spending time together.

During September, I met with the financial officers and the Nominating and Structure Committees. I enjoyed our visits and getting to meet the new officers and committee members. Each committee will be busy this fall.

The Nominating Committee is looking at what officers we will elect at the next district convention and asking people to run for these offices. If you are interested in running for an office, please contact the Nominating Committee using the Contact Us form on our district website.

The Structure Committee will start to make sure that every zone has a current and updated set of bylaws. If you have not sent a current set in or recently changed your bylaws, please send us a copy. We are also looking for someone to join the Structure Committee. If you are interested, please email President Candy Habich.

The new treasurer, Judy Gilbert, is working with our former treasurer, Mary Pruitt, to learn about the treasurer reports and making sure everything is current on our checking account.

I look forward to working with everyone! I pray that everyone has a great fall and that the temperatures cool down!

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven* (Galatians 6:9, ESV).

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



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## Mission Grants Committee Update

I am happy to report that we have paid six (6) grants and the first payment of the Professional Church Workers for a total of \$39,750.00 so far this Biennium. This means we have \$65,250.00 of the \$105,000.00 remaining.

Mission Grants that have been paid are as follows:

June, 2022

Eagle Rock Retreat Accessible Walkway Project	\$4,000.00
Trinity HOPE Spiritual and Physical Food for Children in Haiti	\$6,500.00
Lutheran Bible Translators Translation of the Subula* In Cameroon (* security pseudonym)	\$5,000.00
Ascension Lutheran Edison School Partnership Safety Improvements for school facility	\$6,500.00

August, 2022

Concordia Seminary St. Louis International Students: Making Jesus Known Throughout the World	\$6,500.00
Compassion Closet of Oak Ridge Operational Expenses for Foster Care Resource Closet	\$5,000.00

September, 2022

Financial Aid for Professional Church Workers (1st installment)	\$6,250.00
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The mission grant table can be found at the below link:

[https://www.midsouthlwml.org/web\\_documents/Mission%20Grants%20Table%202022%202024.pdf](https://www.midsouthlwml.org/web_documents/Mission%20Grants%20Table%202022%202024.pdf)

Serving our Lord with Gladness

Sandra Arnold  
Third Vice-President  
[Email](#)



## Family Ties



I have always said that one of the best things about LWML is the sisterhood we share. In a sense, we are a family - a fellowship of believers - who worship the same Triune God, wear purple proudly, look for ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and put every extra coin in our Mite Box.

A family isn't only formed through bloodlines. The Olive Garden restaurant's tagline on their commercials is "We treat you like family"! In July, I took a 2-week trip to Austria, Switzerland, and the Oberammergau, Germany Passion Play and I had an awesome time. The picture is of the Matterhorn at sunrise which was one of the highlights of the trip. My group consisted of 38 people on a 50-passenger bus for 2 weeks and we were "family" for that time. We looked after each other, greeted each other in the morning, and got to know one another during our time together. At one point of the trip, half of my group went with our tour director and another group because they weren't going to the Passion Play. Another tour director and some of his group joined my group for the Passion Play. Our "family" was split for 2 days. When we got back together, our tour director

commented that he was glad "his family" was all together again! I really liked that he thought of us as his family for the trip.

Families can take on many shapes and forms but one element should always be present - care and concern for each other - whether they are of the same bloodline or not. Take some time and think about how many "families" you are a part of and celebrate that sisterhood and brotherhood!

I will soon be sending an updated list of the number of subscriptions for the *Lutheran Women's Quarterly* to the zone *Quarterly* chairpersons. The spreadsheet will detail the number of subscriptions ordered by each group and the cost for the group. The price for each subscription is \$7.50 for up to nine sent to the same address. If ten or more are ordered and shipped to the same address, then the price for each subscription drops to \$6.00 each. We are asking each group to confirm the number of subscriptions being sent and to send a check for the total amount to the zone treasurer. The zone treasurers will forward the subscription receipts to the district treasurer in January or February to pay for the subscription costs as they become due. The *Quarterly* subscription costs are separate from any mite offerings or membership contributions. Thank you in advance for keeping the numbers and receipts current. Just a note: If you order 10 subscriptions for \$60, it is like getting one free, since the cost of nine subscriptions is \$67.50. And surely there is another woman in your congregation who would love to get a copy!

God's continued blessings to each of you  
as we Serve the Lord with Gladness!!

Diane Reimold  
2nd VP  
[Email](#)



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## Gifts of Love Ministry

Life in this world God created is full and rich, with multiple blessings and opportunities. That is terrific, but it also means that we never seem to complete everything we wish to complete. Sharing our faith with family, others at church, or in our communities should never end up on the regret list. We should rather give up a trip to the lake or our favorite concert than miss sharing the best news of all: that Jesus conquered sin, destroyed death, and brought life forward with His resurrection and ours.

Myrna and Sid decided to not live in this regret. For a couple of months, they began thinking about their favorite Bible verses, the best moments of faith shared with family and friends, and the hope to which they were focused as they prepared to finish their earthly lives. Then they each spent a week writing some thoughts down. They shared them with each other. They laughed. They wept. They hugged, thanking God for the richness of life. They then shared these statements of faith with their pastor, asking him to share them at their funerals someday. They printed off a copy for each child and grandchild and placed it in a card with a handwritten note to each one, with notes that they should be distributed when the Lord called them home. It took some time, but they really enjoyed this deliberate process. They knew that their lives were now deliberate testimonies of faith in Jesus. It all felt really good. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you begin your process. Contact Linda Gage at [linda.gage@lfnd.org](mailto:linda.gage@lfnd.org) 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 [giftsoflove@midsouthlwml.org](mailto:giftsoflove@midsouthlwml.org).





## Greetings to all,

I was elected as your 4<sup>th</sup> Vice-President at the District Convention held in June.

The Leader Development Committee consists of Bonnie White, Ruth Scheiderer, Esther Toncre, and myself.

We want to provide you with any servant resources that you might need. We can all become better leaders if we have information readily available to us. Please be sure to let me know if I can assist you with finding resources for your group.

I hope you have participated in some of our Munch Bunch Zoom meetings. We are spread out geographically and this is a way that we can all stay in touch. The meetings are informative with various speakers and include a Bible Study so if you haven't tried one yet, be sure to check it out in the future.

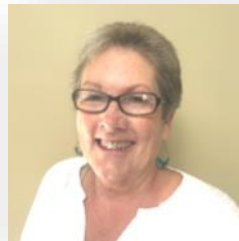
One particular resource that I want to mention is that of the Mailbox Member Program. Every group at every church seems to have those that can't attend an actual meeting for whatever reason. This program is for them! Every single thing you need to have to start it is available and ready for your use. The link for the LWML Mailbox Member Program is <https://www.lwml.org/posts/mailbox/mailbox-member-program?month=2&year=2021>. This program can be adapted to your situation but can include anyone that can not actively or has not actively participated in the traditional LWML meetings that you have held. Be sure to check this program out as it covers EVERYTHING! And includes EVERYONE! It is a sure way to get more ladies involved!

I want to be sure to welcome aboard Trinity Lutheran from Sallisaw Oklahoma. Yep, you saw that right. We have expanded! They are a part of a dual parish now with Bethel Lutheran Church and they brought their LWML group along for the ride! You ladies be sure to let us know if we can help you in anyway!

The YWR committee is under the Leader Development umbrella. We have had a couple of zoom meetings with President Candy and I can attest that we have great leaders on the YWR committee. We will be readily available to guide them as needed. Please pray for them as they work to include more and more young women in our organization.

Keep us in your prayers as we go about working to advance LWML to all! If you have suggestions please do not hesitate to let me know. I am new at this and will take all the advice I can get!

Blessings,  
4<sup>th</sup> Vice President  
Vicki Eubanks  
[Email](#)



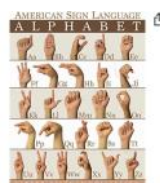
How many of you have seen the commercial where the teenage boy practices signing a question before his mirror before leaving home to go to his high school? When he arrives he walks to the locker of the girl he has his eye on and he SIGNS to her – Do you like chocolate bars? She signs back with the biggest smile ever that she LOVES chocolate bars!

I was so happy to see this commercial on TV and I usually don't even like commercials! It showed me that signing is so very important to learn at any age. And most of all it makes the recipient feel included and that is what we want with LWML or with any organization. We want everyone to feel included!

It is easier than you think. Google ASL Basics (American Sign Language) and start with some conversational expressions. You might not become a professional signer, but you will be able to make someone feel less intimidated if they visit your group or perhaps you run into them in a public setting and can calm them a bit by being a friend. It makes all the difference to just be able to let them know that you have tried to take the time to be able to have a conversation with them – no matter how small or insignificant you think it is.

Pray for all that are deaf and or hearing impaired and pray that we can make a difference in their lives.

Vicki Eubanks  
Deaf Ministry Liaison



Click on image to

start "basic training"



## Do you know someone who is hurting? Do you wish that there was something you could do for them?

Taking a meal to them is nice. Maybe watching their children would help. Maybe just spend an afternoon with them and listening would be good. All these might be helpful. But maybe you aren't comfortable offering these, or maybe you just don't have time to do these things right now. When my husband died, his office set up a meal chain. We had great meals for 2 weeks. What a blessing they were.

Yes, taking care of their physical needs is a wonderful service that we should strive to do. But nothing we do on earth has the power of prayer. It is the one thing you can do for them that will definitely help. You do not need to set up a time with them. It will only take a few minutes of your time. You can add their name to our LWML district prayer chain. We cannot heal their illness or take the pain of a losing a loved one from them. We cannot give them our strength or our peace. But with prayer we can ask God and He can and He will. He will heal their diseases, comfort them in their loss. He will give them His strength and His peace. What a gift it is to pray for someone. The hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus", Lutheran Worship page 516 reminds us

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer!

Oh what peace we often forfeit; Oh what needless pain we bear-

All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!"

With our prayer chain the prayers are multiplied several times. Sixty plus people will pray for them. They will feel His presence. They will have His strength and His peace.

Any member of our LWML district can be a member of our prayer chain. To join, send your name, email and home church affiliation in an email to [lwmlmsdprayer@gmail.com](mailto:lwmlmsdprayer@gmail.com). Please be sure to put your email address in the body of the email. Sometimes if it is just at the top I don't get your email. I get something encoded that does not work for sending. I send all emails blind copy, so your email is not shared. For further security all emails are stored in excel and not in the contacts of our email address. We ask that you check for requests at least once a week.

To ask for a prayer request. Send it to the above email. Please share a first name of the person needing prayer and the reason for the request. I try to respond within 24 hours. We will pray for anyone who needs prayer. It is not limited to our LWML sisters or even to members of our churches. All prayer requests are confidential and should not be shared outside the prayer chain. God wants us to take our requests to Him. There is no request too big or too small.

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.* Romans 12:12 ESV

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God.* Philippians 4:6 ESV

Jen Yonkers

Mid-south District LWML Prayer Chain Coordinator

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## Greetings from the Endowment Fund

Let me introduce myself. I am Mary Pruitt. I was tasked with becoming the Endowment Fund Chairman when Erin Foster left to be on the LWML Information Technology Committee at the national level. We all wish her well in that area which is a very broad, helpful, and demanding area these days. I have served in the past at the district level as your Treasurer. I am looking forward to serving as the chairman of this committee that by the grace of God will help further LWML in the areas of promotion and encouragement by the receipt and managing of special gifts for the benefit of the mission and ministry of the LWML-MSD through scholarship assistance and leadership development.

As our endowment continues to grow after its beginning in 2020, funds from the income are being used for scholarships and leadership development. At the end of 2021 the endowment had an income of \$790.87. We received 3 scholarship requests for district convention registration for a total of \$480.00. The remaining \$310.87 is available and will be added to the income for 2022 for distribution. So be searching for ideas to use these funds. It will be announced early in 2023 what will be available for distribution.

Visit the website at <https://www.midsouthlwml.org/endowment-fund> for more information.

Your Sister in Christ

Mary C. Pruitt

Chairman

LWML Mid-South District Endowment Committee [Email](#)

## From Collierville to Cambodia

One lovely day in the spring of 2011, I ran into my good friend Kathy. She asked if I would I go with her to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League convention in Peoria, Illinois in June. "Of course, I would love to go" – I said – especially since Kathy was driving!

While at this incredible convention with over 5,000 other Lutheran women from all over the USA and beyond, Kathy put her name in a drawing for a chance to win a trip to meet missionaries in the field. As drawing winners were announced, Kathy's name was called as the winner of a trip to Cambodia. Kathy and I weren't sure how this would work. Kathy had been dealing with health issues and was sure she could not go on this trip, so she offered it to me. It was for two people, and I could ask my husband to go too. The only problem was that we did not know how to find out what mission team we should visit. Oddly, the organization offering the trip did not supply details about how to execute it.

We did a lot of praying together to ask the LORD for guidance. We contacted the LCMS Office of International Mission, but they had no missionaries in the field in Cambodia at that time.

Also, I was not sure I could go on such a long trip due to back trouble. I spent a lot of time in a wheelchair since walking was painful. Fortunately, God guided me to a chiropractor who found a bone spur which was the cause of my pain. The chiropractor recommended a personal trainer who could help alleviate my back pain. The personal trainer's name was Serian Frahm.

As I trained with Serian several days a week, we talked together about our families. I learned that Serian's parents were missionaries to CAMBODIA. Of all things! Serian helped us connect with his parents and we started planning a visit. What a miracle!

We again contacted the LCMS Office of International Mission, and they were comfortable with our plans. They even sent us resources to help us better prepare.

When our prayer partners learned about the trip, several wanted to come. Again, we went to the LORD in prayer to determine who should be on our team and how we could pay for extra people. The LORD was quick to answer. Kathy visited her next-door neighbor to tell her about our trip and the dear lady gave Kathy a check for \$5,000 - another miracle! We were able to send 5 people altogether on the trip, including our pastor Josh Hatcher, a registered nurse Nita, my prayer partner Connie, my husband Nat, and me. What a blessing!!

We studied about Cambodia and ways to present the Gospel. We worked with the Frahms in Cambodia via internet and with Serian here. And then we were off! While there, we shared our faith through crafts and songs. We also brought water filters for the local wells. We stayed for a week with the church in Snor, near Phnom Penh. George and Shary Frahm were perfect hosts. We met the local pastor, Samuel, and his lovely wife Sophena. Hundreds of local people came to see us – especially the children - as we shared God's love through the Gospel message. Sixty-five new Christians were baptized, whose testimony has increased the church by hundreds in 3 villages. God knows the plans He has for His people – in both Cambodia and the United States!

### **Pat Ellis, Trinity Lutheran Church, Memphis Tennessee**

**Pat Ellis** was a member of Trinity Lutheran Memphis. Pat and I had talked a bit and she had shared with me the story you see above. When I read it, I thought THIS is exactly what LWML is, Missions in Action – action that takes place right HERE within our midst. I found her story to be very inspirational so I asked her if I could have it reprinted in the League Letter to share with everyone. Pat Ellis, a sister in Christ, passed away August 24th.

Even though Pat has left us physically, I pray her words lead someone to be able to say the same as she did, "This mission trip changed my life"! I thank God for women like Pat! May her story inspire you.

Vicki Eubanks  
West TN Zone President



## We Are All A Piece in God's Masterpiece

This jigsaw puzzle was completed by the ladies attending our fall 2021 retreat at Mount Eagle. Each lady received a blank puzzle piece on which they placed their favorite scripture and a picture. Once everyone completed their puzzle piece, we put them all together. Some of the ladies worked together to have their pieces match up to each other for a small masterpiece within the larger puzzle. It turned out quite good, and made me think about the larger puzzles that I am accustomed to putting together.

As the puzzle slowly comes together, it begins to display a beautiful picture. Once completed, those 1000 pieces which individually are just a jumble of colors and shapes, become a beautiful piece of art. So it is with the body of Christ. Each of us is like a piece of the puzzle, only fitting perfectly into one place, and when we are all fitted together, create this amazing masterpiece. In 1 Corinthians, the apostle Paul tells the people that we are all a part of the body of Christ. We each have our role to play as the body of Christ, and none of us have a more important role. *On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, ... But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another* (1 Corinthians 22-23a and 24b-25, ESV).

Some of us may share the same gifts. Some of us may have been blessed with a rarer gift, but everyone in the body of Christ has been given a gift or a talent to share. We all are contributors to the body of Christ. And just like each piece of the puzzle has its designated spot, we just have to find where we and our talents fit in with the building up of God's kingdom. As I said earlier my process of putting a puzzle together involves trying the same piece in several different places until it finally fits into the right spot. We might attempt to do that when searching for the right ministry of which to be a part. Let God lead you to the ministry that is right for you. It is there waiting for you to become an active part of it.

Do not let your precious God given gifts go to waste. Find where you belong, where you fit, and put your talents to work. You may be the piece that has been missing from this wonderful masterpiece called the body of Christ.

**Terry Bledsoe, President  
Mid-Arkansas Zone**





## EAST TENNESSEE ZONE

**"For I Know That My Redeemer Lives,  
And at the Last He Will Stand Upon the  
Earth,"**

November 5, 2022 9:30-2pm  
Christus Victor Church, Knoxville

**Theme Bible Verse:** JOB 19:25

**Speaker:** Representative from Saving Grace

**Offering:** Volunteer Ministry Center

**Ingathering:** Saving Grace Women's Home

## CHATTANOOGA ZONE

**"Be Anxious for Nothing -  
Hope in Christ Endures Forever"**

September 17th, 2022 9:30am  
First Lutheran Church of Cleveland

**Theme Bible Verse:** Philippians 4:6

**Speakers:** Beth Henderson, Director of Operations,  
New Hope Pregnancy Center

**Offering:** Mites

**Ingathering:** New Hope Pregnancy Center

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE ZONE

**Hope for Today, Tomorrow, Eternity**

October 1st, 2022 9:00am  
Concordia Lutheran, Nashville

**Theme Bible Verse:** Psalm 31:24

**Speaker:** Mike Coles, Nashville Rescue Mission

**Offering:** Food Bank CTFWSW, Nashville Rescue Mission

**Ingathering:** Nashville Rescue Mission

## PADUCAH ZONE

**Essential Church**

October 15, 2022 9:30am  
Faith Lutheran, Union City

**Theme Bible Verse:** Romans 10:13-14

**Speaker:** Robin Kuntz, St. Louis Pantry Director

**Offering:** St. Louis Seminary Students

**Ingathering:** St. Louis Seminary Students

## NORTHEAST ARKANSAS ZONE

**"Feed My People"**

October 22, 2022 9:00 am  
St. Johns Lutheran, Lape

**Theme Bible Verse:** Matthew 14:16

**Speakers:** Martha Rodriguez and Sally Shepherd, spent  
years in our Lord's service, mission trips and feeding the  
needy.

**Offering:** Meals on Wheels

**Ingathering:** Meals on Wheels

## WEST TENNESSEE ZONE

**Good News - Thank God,  
Bad News - Fear Not - Pray**

October 22, 2022 9:00 am  
Messiah Lutheran, Memphis

**Theme Bible Verse:** Isaiah 41:10

**Speaker:** April Thompson, News Anchor TV-3 [Poster](#)

**Offering:** Neighborhood Christian Center

**Ingathering:** Shelby County Education Foundation

## SOUTH ARKANSAS ZONE

**"I Am the Light of the World, Whoever Follows Me,  
Will not Walk in Darkness, But Will Have the Light of Light"**

October 15, 2022 9:00am  
Zion Lutheran, Ulm

**Theme Bible Verse:** John 8:12

**Speaker:** Jerry Cox, Family Council, Little Rock

**Offering:**

**Ingathering:**

## ARKANSAS RIVER VALLEY ZONE

**Rock Solid in Christ**

October 15, 2022 10:00am  
First Lutheran, Ft. Smith

**Theme Bible Verse:** Psalm 62:6

**Speaker:** Bry Tucker, Community Rescue Mission

**Offering:** Community Rescue Mission

**Ingathering:** Heart to Heart Care Center

## MID - ARKANSAS ZONE

### Let your light shine! Give glory to God!

November 15, 2022 9:30am

Trinity Lutheran,  
North Little Rock

**Theme Bible Verse:** Matthew 5: 14 - 15

**Speaker:** Arkansas Alzheimer's Association

**Offering:** Zone & Arkansas Alzheimer's Association

**Ingathering:** Arkansas Children's Hospital

## ARKANSAS NORTHWEST ZONE

### His love is constant and unstoppable!

October 08, 2022 9:00am  
St. John Lutheran, Fayetteville

**Theme Bible Verse:** Romans 8:38 - 39

**Speakers:** Edwina Mosby, Shorter College  
Kim West, Global Prison Ministry Outreach

**Offering:** Cooperative Emergency Outreach

**Ingathering:** Cooperative Emergency Outreach

## Lutheran World Relief at Immanuel

Women in Mission of Immanuel, Memphis assembled 35 school kits and 25 personal care kits at their September monthly meeting to be donated to Lutheran World Relief via the district's CARE-Van this November. We also donate to LWR's shipping fund. We have been participating in CARE-Van for many years and it's one of our favorite projects. It's not too late for your group to participate in CARE-Van. Apply for a Thrivent Action Team to help with the purchase of the supplies and set a date to assemble the kits or donate to LWR to help offset shipping costs. A good way to be the hands and feet of Jesus!!



## Serve the Lord with Gladness! Who Me?

LWML Sunday is fast approaching. Your congregation may sing the hymn "Serve the Lord with Gladness" with the words written by Prof. Ernest Lewerenz. Do you remember the chorus?

*Onward, then, for Jesus!*

*Let this be our aim:*

*"Serve the Lord with gladness!"*

*Glorify His name!*

Where are you serving the Lord with gladness? In your family? In your church? In your vocation?

Would you consider serving the Lord by using your talents in the LWML? There is a position for everyone, from serving in your local group to serving at the zone or district level. Or even serving at the national level? Your Mid-South District Nominating Committee is beginning the process to fill the slate of candidates for election in 2024.

The positions for election are President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President, Financial Secretary, Nominating Committee, and Counselor. Would you consider serving? Do you know someone who might be interested in serving. The positions, requirements, and responsibilities are listed in the district directives on the Mid-South District website. ([www.midsouthlwml.org](http://www.midsouthlwml.org))

If you have any questions, please let any of us on the Nominating Committee know.

Thanks!

Becky Grese, Chairman

Stephanie Rohrer

Rebecca Maplesden

[Email](#)





## Middle Tennessee Zone is Busy, Busy!



**Faith Lutheran Tullahoma's**, LWML group prepared 64 meals for the homeless and delivered them to [Good Samaritan of Tullahoma](#)



## COOKIES FOR COPS

"Cookies for Cops" is a new on-going activity for **Our Savior Lutheran Church (Nashville)** LWML Group. Monthly, throughout the year, the group take home-baked cookies to the precinct. These fire responders look forward to "delivery days" each month!



**Our Savior Lutheran Church (Nashville)** and the **LWML Group** have developed a close relationship with the Police Officers, Firefighters and EMTs that serve and protect the community where Our Savior and many of the LWML group members live. The LWML group organized a new and gently used stuffed animal drive. Between donations from congregation members and the OSL Academy, approximately 400 stuffed animals in all shapes and sizes were provided to the police Officers who distributed them to the children during stressful/crisis situations.

On the 4th Thursday of each month, a small group of volunteers from the **Our Savior Lutheran Church (Nashville) LWML Group** prepares and serves lunch and interacts with the ladies attending their weekly educational class. Special bonds have formed between these appreciative women and our volunteers. LWML members have also donated and delivered items to place in their Caring Closet.



**Inspiritus Lutheran of Nashville's Building Healthy Families (BHF)** program offers an educational support group for women living in the low-income neighborhood, Cheatham Place. This program is focused on encouraging healthy family skills. Participants gather weekly for a class, meal, and the opportunity to choose personal or household items from the Caring Closet. As it says in the BHF Community statement, it is "a time for multi-generational therapeutic sisterhood to learn, grow, and become "more powerfully whole."





## Middle Tennessee Zone is Busy, Busy



Fun craft of the manger scene made by **Redeemer LWML, Nashville**, during their Christmas Open House.



In August, Operation Saving Life visited **Redeemer LWML, Nashville**, and gave an introduction on what they do as a Pro-Life organization. Daniel Breedan, Nikki Tigg and Lizzi Alignamath presented the daily workings of the organization and showed how groups and congregations can help.



Keith Logan and Candi Cook from Trinity HOPE receiving an LWML District Mission Grant of \$6,500 from Sandra Arnold at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Nashville

Redeemer LWML, Nashville, is blessed to be able to send cards to assisted live in facilities several times during the year, coordinated by Janey Tiesler. Every facility has told Mrs. Janey Tiesler that every recipient is so thankful to be thought of by someone from the outside world. Such a small way we can bring JOY to the world.



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

Grant	Zone	Vote Seq.	Req. Seq.	Requested	Paid	Remains	Date(s) Paid
A <a href="#">Financial Aid for Professional Church Workers (4 installments)</a>	Mid-South District	1	0	25,000.00	6,250.00	18,750.00	Sep-2022
B <a href="#">Cultivating Innovative New Ministry Programs (2 installments)</a>	Mid-South District	13		15,000.00		15,000.00	
D <a href="#">Camp Trinity Camperships Camp Petit Jean</a>	Mid-AR	10	8	6,000.00		6,000.00	
E <a href="#">Change Point Pregnancy Center Purchase of Mobile Unit</a>	Mid-AR	11	10	5,000.00		5,000.00	
J <a href="#">Welcome Home Chattanooga Groceries for Welcome Home residents</a>	Chattanooga	3	9	5,000.00		5,000.00	
L <a href="#">Pregnancy Resource Center Medical and Program Services</a>	East TN	6	7	5,000.00		5,000.00	
M <a href="#">Hope House (Crisis Pregnancy Center) Roof Repair/Replacement</a>	East TN	8		8,000.00		8,000.00	
N <a href="#">Eagle Rock Retreat Accessible Walkway Project (PARTIAL)</a>	East TN	14	1	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	Jun-2022
O <a href="#">Compassion Closet of Oak Ridge Operational Expenses for Foster Care Resource Closet</a>	East TN	4	6	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	Aug-2022
P <a href="#">Ascension Lutheran Edison School Partnership Safety improvements for school facility</a>	Mid TN	9	4	6,500.00	6,500.00	0.00	Jun-2022
R <a href="#">Trinity HOPE Spiritual and Physical Food for Children in Haiti</a>	Mid TN	2	2	6,500.00	6,500.00	0.00	Jun-2022
U <a href="#">Concordia Seminary Ft Wayne Financial Support for the Food Co-op to purchase food</a>	Lutheran Org.	12		2,500.00		2,500.00	
V <a href="#">Concordia Seminary St. Louis International Students: Making Jesus Known Throughout the World</a>	Lutheran Org.	5	5	6,500.00	6,500.00	0.00	Aug-2022
W <a href="#">Lutheran Bible Translators Translation of the Subula Bible in Cameroon (*security pseudonym)</a>	Lutheran Org.	7	3	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	Jun-2022
				105,000.00	39,750.00	65,250.00	
					38%	62%	

## Mission Grants Chart

A printable copy of the Mission Grant Chart is available [HERE](#).

The chart is up-dated as the grants are awarded and is available on the district's web site.



## Happy fall, y'all!

I want to take this opportunity to tell all of you that my husband and I will be moving on September 24th. So please write down my new address is **Judy Graham, PO box 434, Heber Springs, Arkansas 72543**) and send your information for the archives there. And please remember that all I need are copies of your executive, board and rally meeting minutes, and a completed Zone Historian Report form every year. That report is due on January the 31st each year. You can find it on the district website. Zone Historians, please help me do my job by doing yours.



### Collecting Canceled Stamps

Our district was recently contacted regarding saving cancelled stamps to donate to raise funds for various charitable programs. The two charities that are collecting these are Wycliffe Associates to fund Bible translation around the world and Sisters of the Holy Cross Ministry with the Poor.

Perhaps your group already does this or maybe you would like to start. If this is something you would be interested in doing, we would be willing to get you information about the program. You can mail them to me and I can see that they get to the proper charities.

Stamps that have their perforations intact, are not too heavily cancelled, and are not torn, cut or stained can be saved for charity. When they are cut from the envelope or postcard, it is best to leave at least 1/4 inch on each side of the stamp. These nonprofit and not-for-profit organizations take the donated used stamps and sell them individually or in bulk through auctions directly to stamp dealers or collectors. If you have stamps to donate, You can contact me through this [email address](#) for the organization's address

Sheryl Neff

### The "Compassion Closet" in Oak Ridge,

recently received a \$5000 grant from the LWML that will help with rent for the facility, and provide tangible needs for foster children. Items like beds and mattresses and also foster parent training and age-appropriate Bibles and Christian books are part of their needs.

Sandie Harjala, LWML Mid-South District Financial Secretary, presented the check to Julie Gillen, Project Administrator, along with Pastor Danny Anderson, Associate Pastor at Grace Lutheran, Knoxville, TN and Kathy Bohlken, President of the Grace Lutheran LWML.



### Bethlehem, Johnson City, 80 for 80

The Esther-Mary Circle at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Johnson City, collected 80 rolls of nickles (\$160.00) to celebrate LWML 80 for 80, but being over achievers the total collected and donated to Agape Women's Services was actually \$224.00. Agape Women's Services is a Christian Non-profit that provides free lab-grade pregnancy testing, free pregnancy consultations, free STI testing and free limited OB ultrasounds. Additionally, Agape women's Services offers a wide range of parenting education, life skills classes, and post-Abortion class, Forgiven and Set Free.

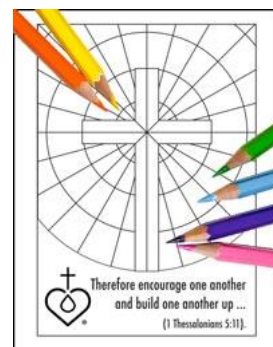
Our celebration of 80 for 80 will continue as we began 80 days of prayer for the sanctity of life on September 18th. Everyday for 80 days members of the congregation will receive a prayer or bible verse for reflection.



### Encouragement Bookmarks and Notecards

FREE Printables for you to color! They come as one-sided notecards 4/page for you to print on paper or cardstock, color, and cut apart. Then use them as notes or to include in care packages or meals to brighten someone's day.

[Learn more here.](#)





## Mark your Calendars... Christian Life is busy working on the Fall Retreat next yr...

Mark Your Calendar for Our 2023 District Retreats!

WEST – Mount Eagle Retreat Center, Clinton AR - September 15-17, 2023

MIDDLE – Camp Garner Creek, Dickson, TN - September 22-24, 2023

EAST – Eagle Rock, Tallassee, TN – Date TBD

Stay tuned for details!

*Darlene Buckner* Christian Life Chairman.....

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## Fall Resources

From Reformation to Thanksgiving, along with celebrating LWML Sunday and Pastor Appreciation ... here are devotional resources and service ideas for you and your LWML group.

### Devotions

[God's Plan for One Ordinary Woman](#) — Discipleship, Mites, Missions

[Harvest Time – Ready! Set! Go!](#) — Witnessing

[Our Father's Care](#) — God's Care, Praise and Thanksgiving

[Pray for a Bountiful Harvest](#) — Prayer, Harvest

[Reaping a Bountiful Harvest](#) — Thanksgiving

[Recover Your Life: Sing to the Lord a New Song](#) — Christian Living, Relationship with God, Christ the King Sunday

[Serve the Lord with Gladness](#) — Joyful, Service

[Showing our Pastors and Church Workers Love and Respect](#) — Relationship with Others

[The Lesson of the Candy Corn](#) — Witnessing, Service

[You Look Like Your Father](#) — Serving the Lord, Lutheran Women in Mission



The **deadline** for the next issue:  
**December 26.**

So, get with it now and email your  
material ASAP  
**webmaster@midsouthlwml.org**

Make time to  
slow down  
and  
**relax**

