

### Do you rest in peace?

Most often the expression “rest in peace” is wished to those who have passed away. We pray they knew Jesus as their Lord and Savior and are resting in His loving arms. But what about the rest of us? I don’t know about you, but I’ve often experienced periods of being anything but “at peace”.

There are many approaches to addressing things that rob us of peace. Our tortoise friend here takes the “ignore it and it will go away” approach. This might be OK in the short-term but probably isn’t going to be effective for the long haul. Our hard-shelled friend could use this advice from St. Paul:



*Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me (Philippians 4:11-13).*

Another approach is to pretend we’re OK. We look calm on the outside but on the inside we’re struggling. This lioness looks like she’s cool as a cucumber but maybe there’s some tension in the pride, or there’s a shortage of wildebeest, who knows?! But here is another powerful (and timely) reminder from St. Paul:



*I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. (Romans 16:17-20a).*

Then, there’s this baby elephant completely protected by its mom. Is that baby anxious or worried? Nope, because she knows that her mom has her back. And her front! She is surrounded by her mother’s love and protection. Isn’t that how we should feel when worries lurk? Our loving Savior has His arms wrapped around us. NOTHING can defeat Him, and we belong to Him.



*Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it (Psalm 139:4-6).*

So, my prayer for all of us is that we will recognize what makes us anxious, admit we are anxious, and then ask our Great God to take that away from us and to give us His Perfect Peace.

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ... do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:4,6-7).*

God’s Peace and Joy  
President Candy  
[Email](#)



## So What About Us???

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9).*

Several years ago, you may remember a movie starring that wonderful British actor, Dudley Moore, no, not Roger Moore, who for a while played the iconic character James Bond, but Dudley, who you may remember also starred in another movie opposite Judy Garland's daughter, Liza Minelli. Anyway, Dudley played a character who became infatuated with this lovely young woman, whom he felt was feminine perfection, hence the title of the movie "10". This actress, as you might know, was Bo Derek, who was married to another actor who you might also know. His name was John, and he played a young stonecutter in my favorite movie, *The 10 Commandments*, as Joshua, which led me to choose the above scripture verse. (Is this enough "10"'s for everyone?)

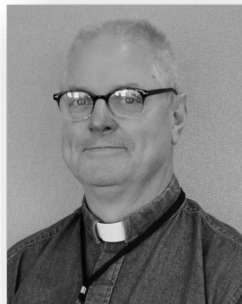
Joshua had just taken over the task of leading God's people after the death of Moses. A death that came about not because of any illness or injury, but because of a punishment. A punishment brought about because Moses had failed to believe and follow God's command, which angered God and caused Him to forbid Moses from entering the "promised land". God did allow Moses to see it, from high upon a mountain top, but there He ended Moses' life, and buried Moses Himself, once again personally and physically performing a task in service to His people and His desire that they follow His Word.

HIS WORD, just as reflected in the verse above, when He tells Joshua, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." God gave Joshua the same reassurance He gave Moses, as one of the very few alive at this time who had seen all the signs and wonders God had done along the Exodus journey, Joshua could and SHOULD have faith that since God had seen them this far, He wouldn't abandon them now, at the very door to that promised land.

So, what about us? Can we be "strong and courageous"? Do we still hold to those things God has commanded us? I pray so. God's Word, and the Word made flesh have led us this far, haven't they? We've been given God's "10 simple rules" and have had them simplified even more by God's "Messiah", the "Christ", the One He sent as that "Promised" savior, His "Second Adam", who was given because of God's great love for His people. A savior who could only do what God could – free mankind from all our sins, so that we just might be able to join our loving God in His "Promised Land".

And so, we here now, we who have been blessed with the understanding we now have, that the very same God who was with Moses and Joshua and all His people of old, is now with us wherever we go. We've no need to be frightened by anything in this world because that same Savior has overcome the world, having accomplished the very task He had been promised He would. He was born of a virgin, performing signs and wonders to show Himself to be "Immanuel", "God with us". He gathered His group of twelve disciples who He would spend three years leading them to know Him and who He was and what He needed them to do – to go and tell everyone else who He was, the One who had come to lead God's people out of their darkness into God's perfect light. All this while bearing a name given His earthly parents by God's messenger, "Jesus" or if you care to know it in His native tongue, Yeshua, because "He will save His people" (Matthew 1:21). Amen.

Blessings to all,  
Pastor Smith  
[Email](#)



## Working Together

I am so ready for my fall weather! I enjoy cooler weather much more than I enjoy hot weather. I also look forward to fall knowing that I will get to spend time with my sisters and brothers in Christ at our zone rallies. I am also looking forward to the district convention which will be here before we know it.

The people on my committees have been working hard to make sure they have everything ready to go for the convention. The Nominating Committee has been meeting and calling people who might be interested in running for offices. We are still currently looking for women to run for the Nominating Committee. If you are interested, please contact the district using the link to [www.midsouthlwml.org/contact-us](http://www.midsouthlwml.org/contact-us).

The Structure Committee has been working to make sure the bylaws and district directives are updated and ready to be voted on at the convention. I am so thankful for all the women on all my committees! It is a team effort to make sure everything will be ready for Memphis.

*"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."*

(1 Thessalonians 5:11, ESV)

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



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## Deaf Ministry Update

I hope that each of you is enjoying the sights and sounds that come with the changing of the seasons. Our senses are heightened this time of the year. The eyes behold a beautiful array of color with the trees on display center stage. The smells of soups and chili simmering linger in the air and have our taste buds at full attention just waiting for that taste. We occasionally get to feel the changes when we touch comforting blankets and have jackets to warm our bodies and our hearts! And then there is the sound -- the sound of crowds, excitement, celebrations, homecomings, reunions, and I could go on as to what our ears pick up!

And this is where it gets hard because some of us don't get to hear those things or have trouble hearing them. I will never forget the day I got my hearing aids, 16 years ago. When I left the office that day, proudly wearing them for the very first time, the first thing I heard once outside the door, was birds chirping from a nearby tree. Tears came to my eyes as I had not heard the birds for a long time and didn't even realize it. Now I try to make sure I say thank you Jesus every time I hear a bird chirp!

Most important to me is that when I can communicate, then I feel included and that is what I pray for our group. I pray that every woman in every congregation and community is included in whatever way we can reach out to them. Be diligent in finding what works for you and be in prayer that God leads you to those He has already picked out. Just follow Him. Sounds very easy, doesn't it? And actually it is, but we do have to take that step and be willing. God will do the rest!

Let all women everywhere "hear" you tell them how you love them!

May God bless you and yours  
Vicki Eubanks  
Deaf Ministry Liaison  
[Email](#)



## Changing Seasons

Did you have a busy summer with a lot of activities, out of town trips, and/or seeing relatives? Were you “on the go all the time” and are now glad to see summer end so your days and weeks are a little less hectic? Summer days are usually more carefree and we are up to spur of the moment events or outings, but that usually means we are also out of our normal routines and that may include being in the Word and personal time with God. Our schedules get so full and by the end of the day we are too tired to do anything else – including spending time with our Bibles open.

As the temperatures cool down, the days get shorter, and pumpkin spice flavor is everywhere, make sure you set an appointment with God and your Bible. Personal devotion time and being in the Word can set the tone for your day and prepare you for what you know is planned and maybe what is unplanned. *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work* (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV). Our daily schedules should never be so full that we don't make time for God!

In November, I will be sending an updated list of the number of subscriptions for the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* to the zone *Quarterly* chairpersons. If the zone doesn't have a *Quarterly* chairperson, the list will be sent to the zone president. 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 copies sent to the same address. If ten or more copies are ordered and shipped to the same address, 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.

God's continued blessings to you and have a wonderful fall season!!

Serving the Lord with gladness,  
Diane Reimold  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
[Email](#)



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## Mission Grant Presentation

LWML Mid-South District President, Candy Habich presents a mission grant check to Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, LCMS Mid-South District President.

On Wednesday, September 20, a check was presented for mission grant B. Cultivating Innovative New Ministry Programs in the amount of \$15,000. This grant will support Mid-South District congregations and schools that seek to launch bold new ministry initiatives marked by innovation. The LCMS Mid-South District has established a fund and application process to help support those creative outreach and evangelism efforts. This new resource for Mid-South ministries is called the GROW Grants program. Through these grants, the district will encourage and support innovative ministry programs that emphasize the Gospel Reaching Our World so that knowledge of God's love, grace and mercy may grow.



We face many challenges to faith in a changing culture—and the Gospel's message cannot be diminished. The district's GROW Grants program is a strong response to these challenges, as it encourages ministries to think “out-of-the[1]box” for creative new ways to share the Gospel. GROW Grants are envisioned to be an ongoing resource for ministries in our district.



## Mission Grant Committee Update

This past quarter we have paid the grant for "Cultivating Innovative New Ministry Programs" which is an LCMS Mid-South District program. This grant was for \$15,000 and was paid in August.

This leaves the following grants to be paid:

- ◆ Concordia Seminary Ft. Wayne Financial Support for the Food Co-op to purchase food: \$2,500
- ◆ Financial Aid for Professional Church Workers (Last two installments): \$12,500

Keep sending in those mites!

The Grant Table can be found at the below link:

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

The new Grant Application is online and can be found at this link <https://www.midsouthlwml.org/mission-grant-request-forms/>. Also at that link are the guidelines for the new grant application process. If you have any questions concerning this new form, please contact us at our email [missiongrants@midsouthlwml.org](mailto:missiongrants@midsouthlwml.org)

If the grant is a local group sponsored grant, check with your Zone President for their deadline. I need to receive all grant applications by the end of December.

Serving our Lord with Gladness

Sandra Arnold

Third Vice-President

[Email](#)



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## LWML Mid-South District Endowment Fund

At our district WEST retreat last month, I spoke about our endowment fund and how it is used for the benefit of ladies in our district. One question I received was what the endowment fund can be used for. There are two purposes identified in the Endowment Fund Guidelines:

**Scholarship Assistance** – Will provide for but not be limited to scholarships/subsidies in full or in part for LWML Mid-South District members. This monetary assistance will be eligible for use in attending LWML national events and conventions, LWML Mid-South District events, conventions, and retreats or for other events that may be of benefit to service in the LWML.

**Leadership Development** – Will focus on, but not be limited to, any expenditure or purpose related to leadership development of current LWML Mid-South District leaders offered by national LWML or a district. It may also be used by current LWML Mid-South District leaders or members to attend events, seminars, meetings, on-line courses, and college courses that will enhance their skills and be of benefit to ministry in the LWML.

The amount that is available for distribution will be made public around January 15. Forms are available on the LWML Mid-South District website under Resources and can be filled in online and then emailed to [endowmentfund@midsouthlwml.org](mailto:endowmentfund@midsouthlwml.org). An accounting to the endowment fund committee is requested when the funds are used. It's really easy to apply! Questions may be directed to Mary Pruitt at 479-651-7410 or email [endowmentfund@midsouthlwml.org](mailto:endowmentfund@midsouthlwml.org).

Mary Pruitt

LWML Mid-South District Endowment Fund Committee Chairman



# LWML Mid-South District 28<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention June 7-9, 2024 Christ the King Lutheran Church

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Are you ready for some excitement! Then plan to attend the LWML Mid-South District convention in Memphis, Tennessee, June 7-9, 2024! The West Tennessee Zone host committee is well into the planning. Here are some key items you'll want to know:

The **location for business sessions and opening worship** is Christ the King Lutheran Church. The church is just a 5-minute drive from where we'll be staying.

Our **housing, banquet, and closing worship** will be at the Hilton Memphis which is conveniently located at exit 15A off Interstate 240 West.

The **keynote speaker** will be Mrs. Kaye Wolff, former LWML Vice President of Special Focus Ministries. Kaye was also instrumental in the production of the documentary "The First Rosa".

Our **"humorous interrupter" and banquet entertainer** will be Wendysue Fluegge. We are very happy to have Wendysue with us again!

Get this date on your calendar now! You do not want to miss this convention!!!

**DETAILS COMING SOON!**

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For information about past LWML Mid-South District conventions click [\*\*HERE\*\*](#).

## Chattanooga Zone Spring Christian Life Workshop



The workshop took place on March 25th, 2023 at Athens Lutheran in Athens, Tennessee. We gathered at Table Graces Food Pantry in downtown Athens and volunteered to pack bags. We packed over 300 food bags and filled them with peanut butter, rice, vegetables, canned meat, desserts, snacks and other general shelf-stable staples.

Afterwards, Pastor Don Coulter led us in devotion and prayer. Guest speakers were Janie Ehmig, Table Graces Coordinator and her daughter, Brittany Hcks, who talked to us about the Table Graces Food Pantry ministry. Janie saw a need in Athens with a poverty level being one of the largest in the state.

Food insecurity continues to grown for many in Athens and McMinn County. Table Graces is now serving over 600 families on a regular basis. For the Ingathering, the LWML Chattanooga Zone ladies donated 200 lbs. of food. It was a very good day and we enjoyed working together in support of Table Graces. Finally, a delicious lunch was served by the ladies of Athens Lutheran LWML.

**F - E - A - R**  
**HAS TWO MEANINGS**  
**Forget Everything And Run**  
or  
**Face Everything And Rise**  
**THE CHOICE IS YOURS!**

**It's that time of year!** Fall brings a welcome change in temperature, schools starting, leaves changing, football games, Fall retreats, Fall Rallies and PSL!

Of course I mean Praise and Serve the Lord (PSL)! We will be praising the Lord as we learn from Esther and Joseph at the Fall Retreats. We will be praising and serving the Lord as we make plans for the year at our Zone Rallies.

Where are you willing to praise and serve the Lord? Are you willing to serve in your local group? How about at the zone or district level? The District Nominating Committee is looking for five women to serve on the 2024 – 2026 Mid-South District LWML Nominating Committee. We will also be electing a President, 1st Vice President, 3rd Vice President, Financial Secretary, and Pastoral Counselor.

The responsibilities for each position are listed in the District Directives and By-Laws which can be found on the Mid-South LWML website ([www.midsouthlwml.org](http://www.midsouthlwml.org)) under the ABOUT tab. Each potential candidate for a district position should have served as a voting member on a zone board of directors.

Praise and Serve the Lord!

Becky Grese

Stephanie Rohrer

Rebecca Maplesden

Nominating Committee

## Leader Development Update

Confession time. I had said last newsletter that I hoped to get a Munch Bunch Zoom gathering together for the quarter and even asked you all for ideas as to what might interest everyone. Well, it didn't happen and that is my fault, 100 percent. Let's just say that after the Convention, I had one thing after another that bombarded me to where I was simply at a loss. I had health issues and several surgeries. Spent the summer recovering and rehabbing from all. I even lost myself somewhere on that journey and had to focus hard to get back to the start sign. I am there now and pray that God will lead me forward.

I learned a lot from all the experiences and can now relate a little more to a lot of things that I didn't have a clue about and maybe that's why God said, "Hold up, time for a lesson".

Many of you prayed for me and I thank you so much. God never leaves us on our own and He is always there for us! He holds our hand so we have that traveling partner and I for one am so thankful.

I just wanted to say thank you for being so patient. I pray that God helps me to be a better servant so that I can help any of you who may need it. We have so many resources to share, so many projects, ideas, and meeting helps – all just ready to use to help you within your groups.

I pray that the new year finds us ready for action in many ways. Please continue to pray for me and pray for the Leader Development Team. Pray for us to have meaningful zoom meetings and prayers for other ways to connect with each other.

Don't forget to let me know any ideas you may have. My email is [vleubanks65@gmail.com](mailto:vleubanks65@gmail.com). Blessings to each of you!

Vicki Eubanks  
4<sup>th</sup> Vice-President  
Leader Development Committee Chairman



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## Gifts of Love Ministry

Ministry leaders often appreciate unrestricted gifts to their organization that allow leaders to apply the dollars to the current pressing needs when received. A danger of such unrestricted gifts is that they can become generic in our minds, and we don't imagine what the benefit will be some day, robbing God's intended response of joy from giving ("God loves a cheerful giver"). However, predicting future needs can be tricky.

Three sisters taught Sunday School for all their adult lives. They loved children and appreciated the chance to share Jesus with them. Their estate plans all included gifts to support the Sunday School. But today, that same congregation is planted in a community where only 1.5% of the people are below the age of 18. You can see how difficult it would be for the congregation to use substantial gifts for supporting Sunday School when there are no children.

Gifts can be earmarked for certain ministry projects. Yet it is always a good idea to include language that gives ministry ability to redirect dollars if the planned need no longer exists in the future. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you think about the language that makes the most sense for your favorite ministry. Contact Linda Gage at [linda.gage@lfnd.org](mailto:linda.gage@lfnd.org) or 800-741-4138, Ext. 1 to get started. 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).

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### Church Workers are Rock Stars!



How wonderful that we set aside one month per year to celebrate and appreciate our church workers! Did you know there is an LWML committee that focuses on church workers? And did you know they have all sorts of resources? If not, check out their webpage at [www.lwml.org/church-workers-in-mission](http://www.lwml.org/church-workers-in-mission). For specific ideas on how to show your appreciation this month, go to the Gospel Outreach page that features toolkits for a variety of purposes at [www.lwml.org/posts/free-resources/lwml-toolkit-kits](http://www.lwml.org/posts/free-resources/lwml-toolkit-kits). There is a toolkit for pastors and another for teachers. Show them some love this month!