

### 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



## 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?)

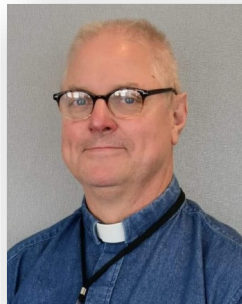
Joshua had just taken over the task of leading God's people after the death of Moses. A death that came about not because of any illness or injury, but because of a punishment. A punishment brought about because Moses had failed to believe and follow God's command, which angered God and caused Him to 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](#)



## 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



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## Mission Grant Presentation

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.

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## 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



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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 grow 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.

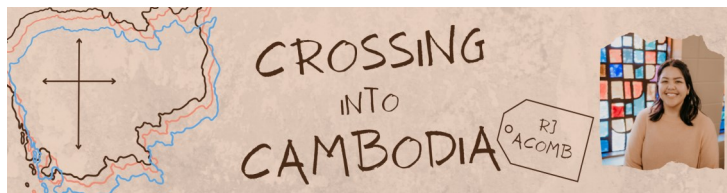
Praise and Serve the Lord!

Becky Grese

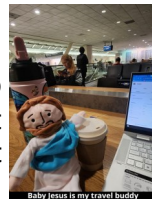
Stephanie Rohrer

Rebecca Maplesden

Nominating Committee



Well, hello there! Currently, I am sitting in the San Francisco Airport, munching on an overpriced turkey sandwich, and listening to a random coffee shop playlist as I type out this newsletter. A week ago, I would not foresee myself doing this.



A couple weeks ago, for my birthday, one of my dear friends, Hayley, gifted me this tiny stuffy of Jesus, which I have been dubbing "Baby Jesus". Along with this doll, she wrote a note saying: *"I thought I would send you the giver of life, peace, and hope for your 23rd birthday. What better thing to have with you in Cambodia than Jesus."*

This note sparked a reminder in my head of why I am going over in the first place. Through the ups + downs of fundraising, there were times I lost sight of the whole reason why I felt called to go back to Cambodia.

I have been blessed to know a God who's love and promise is so powerful He became flesh and conquered death. I cannot fathom a life without Him in it. I cannot fathom my reason for existence without His love, and I want people to know the joy of being His child.

Don't mind the ramblings of a girl who's jetlagged. As I type this, it is nearly 11pm and I am about to get on a 13 hr plane headed for Taiwan. Long story short: I love Jesus. I love Baby Jesus. And I cannot wait for opportunities to share Him.

### Send Off + See You Later

With only a week's notice, my lovely mother put together a send off party, inviting everyone from our church to come and say goodbye. There was food, drinks, and more drinks as we enjoyed one another's company. A HUGE thank you to my mum + dad, **Christine + Bruce Acomb** for planning this last minute. Another huge



thank you to **Don + Lois Clayton** for being such generous hosts. Last but not least, a huge thank you to everyone who showed up!

In the midst of the fun and laughter, it was revealed to me that they wanted to do a send off blessing/ prayer for me. Surrounded by close Christian family + friends, it was overwhelming and emotional as Pastor Rob spoke Biblical words of encouragement and commission. Though there were some sniffles + tears (mainly from my dad and Lois), I felt an immense amount of spiritual support and love.

**I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank every one of you.** Without you, I would not be able to do this. Without your words of encouragement, prayers + financial support, I would not be sitting in this airport eating this \$15 turkey sandwich. Without you, I would not be able to serve overseas. It is incredible to witness the Body of Christ in action. Thank you!

### Prayer Requests

- Prayers for safe + smooth travels (It's about a 2 day trip)
- Prayers for Stronghold Cambodia, their staff, ministry + students
- Prayers for preparing my heart + spiritual strength as I enter a whole new world
- Prayers for me, my family + close friends as we say our goodbyes

### Fundraising Update

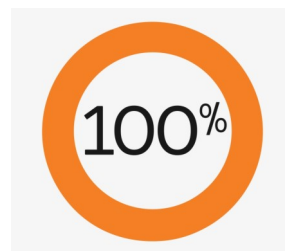
(We put the FUN in fundraising)

God. Is. So. Good. (And so are you guys!) I am **100% fundraised** for my first year serving as a missionary! I cannot express my love and gratitude for everyone's support. I truly would not be here without you! However, I still have to continue fundraising for my 2nd year overseas. Would you prayerfully consider supporting me?

### To Donate by Mail:

Send a check made out to "Mission of Christ Network" with "RJ Acomb" in the memo line

Mission of Christ Network, P.O. Box 533, Concordia, MO 64020



### Arkansas River Valley Zone Rally

***I am the vine, you are the branches***

John 15:5

**October 21**

**Bethel LC-MS, Fort Smith**

**Speaker: Community Rescue Mission**

**Offering: Catholic Charities, Sallisaw**

**Ingathering: Community Rescue Mission**

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### North East Arkansas Zone Rally

***12 Women of the Bible***

Proverbs 31: 10-31

**September 23**

**Peace Lutheran Church, Cherokee Village**

**Offering: Mites**

**Ingathering: Hope Food Pantry**

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### Chattanooga Zone Rally

***The needy shall not be forgotten***

Psalm 9:18

**September 16, 0930**

**Cross of Christ, Chattanooga**

**Speaker: Chambliss Center for Children**

**Offering: Mites**

**Ingathering: Isaiah 117 House**

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### South Arkansas Zone Rally

***Women Of Faith***

Matthew 9:22

**October 14, 0930**

**Our Savior, El Dorado**

**Offering: Zone Treasury**

**Ingathering: Salvation Army**

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### Mid Arkansas Zone Rally

***But the Greatest of These is Love***

1 Corinthians 13b

**October 14, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Zion Lutheran Church, Alexander**

**Speaker: Breanne Burton, RISE House**

**Ingathering: RISE House**

**Offering: District Mites, Rise House, The Call**

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### West Tennessee Zone Rally

***He Who Drinks, Never Thirsts,***

John 4:14

**October 21 0930**

**Trinity, Memphis**

**Speaker: Verdetta Edelman**

**Offering: Hospitality Hub, Memphis**

**Ingathering: Hospitality Hub, Memphis**

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### Middle Tennessee Zone Rally

***Fully Rely On God***

Prov. 3:5

**October 14 0900**

**Faith, Tullahoma**

**Speaker: Amanda Eddelman, Catholic Charities**

**Ingathering: Catholic Charities**

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### Northwest Arkansas Zone Rally

***"I Know The Plans I Have For You..."***

Jer. 29:11

**October 11, 0900**

**Redeemer, Mountain Home**

**Speaker: Sandra Anderson, Ozark Center of Hope**

**Offering & Ingathering: Ozark Center of Hope**

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### East Tennessee Zone Rally

***"This Is the Day The Lord Has Made..."***

Ps. 118:24

**November 11, 1030**

**Our Savior, Morristown**

**Speaker: Wycliffe Bible Translators**

**Offering: R.J. Acomb in Cambodia**

**Ingathering: Isaiah 117 House**

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### Paducah Zone Rally

***In Christ we Have Hope and a Future***

Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Nov. 4 0930 - 1430**

**Grace Lutheran, Clarksville TN**

**Speaker: Janet Simko, Disaster Relief**

**Offering: Mission Fund**

**Ingathering: Isaiah 117 House**

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