

Establish
the work
of our
hands!

Psalm 90:17

In This Issue:

District President's message	1
The Joy of Being Known	2
Gifts of Love	2
Fall Greetings	3
Rest and Reflect	3
Devotional Message from Rev. Gordon Smith	4
Sharing Faith in a Personal Way.	5
News & Updates	6
Why Talk LWML Bylaws?	7
Zones in Action	8
Submission Guidelines for Publications	12

Sharing the Hope

A message from District President, Sandie Harjala

As I write this the calendar tells me it is not autumn yet, but when I walked outside this morning it was 57 degrees! It sure felt like fall!

I am so thankful to be able to be outside enjoying the beauty of God's creation. The other morning I saw a dark tail by a shrub and thought maybe it was the fox we saw one Sunday morning. Then the body appeared and it was a ground hog! As I spoke to it he looked at me like "who are you?" Then it disappeared into the side of the gully, where I think it might have a den.

This summer I did a devotion about aging gratefully. Every day was a different aspect of life to meet all ages of women. I realized that no matter your age there was some aspect that related to most women. At some point it struck me that God could use me to do this job that I wasn't sure was meant for me. I knew he could and would guide me and the Mid-South District Lutheran Women in Mission through this next biennium. So I prayed for a verse that would set us on this journey of serving the Lord, sharing the hope we have in Jesus Christ, and acknowledging how He has worked in all of our lives. This is the verse (actually, two verses) I received:

Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! (Psalm 90:16-17).

As we work and serve, let us work together and know that it is God who establishes the work of our hands.

*Serving with gladness and gratefulness,
Sandie Harjala*

The Joy of Being Known

by Diane Reimold, 2nd Vice President

I recently visited my family in Indiana and, while there, enjoyed time with my 16-month-old great-nephew. I'd last seen him in April, and it took several days for him to feel comfortable with me. Since then, I've facetedimed with him so I wouldn't be such a stranger. It worked! When I spent time with him in August, he let me hold him and play with him. When he was asked "Where is Aunt Diane?" he looked straight at me! It made my heart swell.

It's nice to be known by others, especially people we don't see all the time. Jesus also knows us. Jesus tells the Pharisees *I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me* (John 10:14). Later in the chapter, Jesus is talking to some Jews in the temple and says *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me* (John 10:27).

Isn't it wonderful that Jesus knows us? He knew us before we were even conceived! *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet of the nations* (Jeremiah 1:5).

Jesus also wants us to know Him. I'm sure His heart swells when we pray to Him and spread the Good News of His gift of grace, salvation, and eternal life to others who may not know Him as well as we do. Don't keep Jesus a secret! Tell everyone about His love so they may know Him too!

It's Lutheran Women's Quarterly subscription time!

In November, zone *Quarterly* chairpersons or zone presidents need to send me the number of subscriptions for the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* for their groups for 2025. The price for each subscription is \$6.00 for 10 or more copies sent to the same address, and \$7.50 for quantities nine or fewer sent to the same address. A spreadsheet will be emailed detailing the number of subscriptions ordered for the zone's groups and the cost.

Quarterly subscription payments should be sent to the District Financial Secretary by February 15. Thank you in advance for keeping the numbers and receipts current. God's continued blessings to you and happy fall!

*Serving the Lord with gladness,
Diane Reimold, 2nd Vice President*



Returning God's Blessings

The gift planning process of an estate plan requires multi-channel communication. If you are married, for example, it is essential that both spouses buy into the whole process, expressing their wishes and becoming educated so the plan can stay in place over many years. If you have children, they should also know your plans — both for use of inheritance and your heart for creating a ministry gift. If you plan to make a gift to support ministry, it would be good to have a conversation with that ministry leader or pastor to make sure your intentions translate into practical support that will make a difference to the ministry. Your plan also requires an executor/trustee, as well as power of attorney responsibilities. You may also need the services of an attorney or financial advisor.

An LWML Gift Planning Counselor uses a special survey to incorporate wishes from both spouses into a final design, and can assist in facilitating group communication. This may sound like a daunting task, but it doesn't have to be. LWML's Gift Planning Counselors have helped hundreds of people prepare a gift plan and they are here to help you too! To get started, contact Linda Gage at linda.gage@lfnd.org or call her at 800-741-4138. Diane Reimold has put a gift plan together and is also available to answer any questions you may have.

Fall Greetings, Dear Ladies in Mission!

I grew up in a small rural German town in South Arkansas — Ulm, Arkansas. There is a lovely Lutheran Congregation, Zion Lutheran, that has been there for 143 years. I recall in my early childhood sitting in church next to my grandmother, who loved to sing. I remember looking up at her and thinking, “I want to sing like that.” While watching her and observing her as a child, Jesus laid upon my heart: “I want to walk with Jesus like her. I want to be close to Jesus like that.” In that time together my grandmother shared with me her love for Jesus and her love of serving Jesus. I wanted to do that when I got big. Well, now I am big, and she is walking with our Lord in the fields of Heaven after serving Christ in profound ways for 96 yrs. The mustard seed of faith that was planted — the seed that God allowed me to experience through her — continues to grow. So remember, as you sit next to someone, whether a child or an adult, that God may use you, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to plant and grow the seed — to bring someone to faith in Jesus or grow someone’s faith in Jesus.



Planting mustard seeds of faith with you,

*Laurie Sanders
3rd Vice President and Mission
Grants Committee Chairman*



Rest and Reflect

by Teri Miller, Nominating Committee Chair

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!
Greetings from your newly elected District Nominating Committee.

We are excited to be serving our Lord and the LWML in this capacity and look forward to tapping the valuable resources in our district (if you are reading this, that’s you!).

As autumn settles in around us, nature begins winding down for its winter rest. Rest is something we all need but is sometimes replaced with “busyness.” All busyness is not necessarily productive or the most efficient use of our time.

Rest gives us time to reflect on God’s Word and His plans for us. During those quiet moments, are we listening for that still, small voice — a gentle whisper that might be encouraging us to reevaluate some of our unproductive busyness? Consider, for example, the activities we continue simply because we’ve always done them! Are they

the best use of the time God has given us?

Take some time this season to wind down, even if it’s just for 15 minutes in the morning for you busy moms. Use this time to let God speak through His Word and listen! Reflect on your “busyness” and consider if there is room for change. Focus on God’s will for your life. Allow His peace and comfort to help you cast off some of that emotional and physical busyness.

In just two short years, we will elect a new 2nd VP over Christian Life and Communications, 4th VP over Servant Resources, recording secretary, treasurer, and of course a new Nominating Committee.

When that time comes, we pray that you are rested, refocused, and ready to take on a new challenge, serving the Lord in a different way.

God’s Peace!

*Teri Miller, Lois Hobby-Clayton, Tiffany Nelson
LWML Mid-South District Nominating Committee*

Blessed With a Season of Praise

A devotional message from Rev. Gordon Smith, Senior Pastoral Counselor

Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.”
(Daniel 2:17–22).

This portion of Scripture comes just as Daniel is given the task, along with all of King Nebuchadnezzar’s “wise men,” of interpreting his dream of a humongous statue made of several differing substances. God reveals this information to Daniel, which saves Daniel’s life (and the lives of three fellow Jews, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah — whose names King Nebbie changes to Shadrach, Mishach, and Abednego — and who later find themselves in a rather “heated” situation).

I’m focusing this devotion on Daniel’s praises to God, as he says, *Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding* (Daniel 2:21). These words are what I wish to reflect on now that we’ve arrived at a “change of seasons” which officially happens as we reach that “autumnal equinox” around the 21st of September.

The Creator God, who fashioned all living things, also fashioned the non-living ones to function in a very particular way. God established creation as He saw fit. He also fit each aspect of His creation to fulfill its portion in a very wonderful way — marking time, allowing for periods of growth and rest, ebb and flow, wakefulness and slumber — all in keeping with His will. And as a part of His plan, we who are those of whom He called His “Very Good” creatures now mark

these seasons as they come and go.

I have to admit, Fall/Autumn is one of my favorite times — and while I’m not a HUGE fan of all things pumpkin spice, I am a big fan of cooling temps, the colors of the foliage, the college football season and many other wonderful things particular to the season. There’s also Oktoberfest, our celebration of the Reformation, and the Thanksgiving holiday. (Yes, we (American) Christians should treat that as a “holiday” — a HOLY day — as we set aside that 4th Thursday in November to remember who it is we give thanks to.)

And we also should be grateful that another “season” comes to an end, that being the church season of Pentecost. We don’t stop focusing on church growth — that should always be a focus as we strive to bring more and more of God’s people to come to know Him and His great love for them and to have Him acknowledged and accepted as Lord. But the change is to our remembering something else — that He’s promised to come again and we’re drawing ever closer to that very return.

So dear ones, as we turn a page on our calendars, may we remember the maker and giver of time, of seasons — and continually remember to praise Him who was, is, and will ever be. All as we marvel at His creation, seeing change all around — and the one constant we are blessed to know — God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — now and forever, Amen!

Sharing Faith in a Personal Way

Contributed by Erin Foster, from conversations with Terry Bledsoe

When you first meet Terry Bledsoe you may look askance, as I did.



Terry has numerous tattoos on her arms and legs. I wondered why a mature woman would cover herself in tattoos and color her hair in

bright blue. But knowing Terry, I understand.

Terry is an energetic, vivacious, woman who is witnessing to the Lord. When her husband Jim was alive, she talked about getting a tattoo, but he would discourage it and she did not think he wanted her to get one. After her husband passed away in 2020 of Covid, she got her first tattoo to honor him. Now she has numerous tattoos and uses them to profess her faith.

None of Terry's tattoos are covered. They can all be seen by anyone who is looking, and they have started many conversations about her faith. She has had people ask her why she did that, or why does she have those tattoos and that starts a whole conversation. Her tattoos are not about her. They are about God's glory and what He has done. Here, she describes each image.



Figure 1
I will Praise You in the Storm

"No matter what comes my way I will always remember that God is sovereign, and He is in control. It is easy to praise God when things are going your way but in the middle of a disaster, it is much more difficult."



Figure 2
Psalm 40:2

"In my younger days I was pretty wild and headed way down the wrong path. If it had not been for God's intervention by bringing my dear sweet Jim to me I just can't imagine where I would be right now. The Lord pulled me up out of the miry depths and placed my feet on the solid rock where I stand."



Figure 3
This Too Shall Pass

"No matter what trial I am facing or going through, I know that it is just temporary, and God will see me safely through it. Not all who wander are lost —God has set me on the right path. Sometimes I wander away from that path, but I know what I must do to get back on track."



Figure 4
On Eagles Wings

"And he has lifted me up on his wings, and kept me away from the snare of that wily serpent Satan."

News & Updates

WHOOOOO is a YWR?

A Young Woman Representative is a gal with a heart for Missions! She is interested in meeting new friends who share her passion for helping others.

She is a friend, a sister, a daughter, or even a mom, who is between the ages of 20 and 40, that YOU can invite to the Lutheran Women in Mission Convention in Omaha, NE, June 26–29, 2025. She can represent the Mid-South District of the LWML and the district will cover expenses. An application, due by the end of 2024, and more information can be found at <https://www.midsouthlwml.org/ywrs/>.

A YWR could be YOU, that's WHO!

—Kathleen Bohlken, YWR Committee Chair



Joyful Service Starts with a Dedicated Team

I am a planner. I like to plan movie nights with my family and events at church. I even made my own planner book for 2025. With four kids and their activities, I have to stay on top of things. Since becoming the First Vice President, one would think *more* would be added to my planner book, but it hasn't.

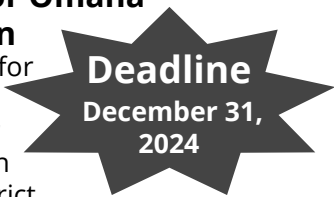


Why? Because we have an amazing group of ladies under the department of administration who take their roles seriously in the LWML and work hard to take care of the task in front of them. The financial secretary, treasurer, Endowment Fund Committee, archivist-historian, Nominating Committee and Structure Committee are working hard. We have a Zoom meeting planned for our Endowment Fund in October. The Structure Committee has been working on bylaws and obtaining zone bylaws. Monthly reports are being sent from our financial secretary, treasurer, and endowment fund committee chair. Our archivist-historian patiently awaits items from the zones.

—Lauren Robertson, 1st Vice President

Deadline Approaching for Young Women to Apply for Omaha Convention

The deadline for applications for up to four young women from our district to attend the 2025 national LWML convention is **December 31, 2024**. Instructions for applying may be found at www.midsouthlwml.org/ywrs. Information about the convention is available at www.lwml.org/convention. Questions may be directed to contact@midsouthlwml.org.



No District Bus to Omaha Convention

Research into a possible bus from our district to the 2025 LWML convention in Omaha has indicated that it would be cost prohibitive. Also, routing would not allow for both the east and west portions of the district to share a bus. Please do plan for other options such as flying or carpooling.

Be in the Know!

Keep up with what's happening in the LWML Mid-South District by checking Facebook regularly and subscribing to the quarterly newsletter, the League Letter, and the monthly eNews email. Here is a list of our social media outlets:

Facebook

www.facebook.com/MSD.LWML

Website

www.midsouthlwml.org

Event Calendar

www.midsouthlwml.org/event-calendar

Subscribe

www.midsouthlwml.org/e_news

Why Talk LWML Bylaws?

by Linda Nutter, LWML Mid-South District Structure Committee Chair

Well, with bylaws, we define ourselves such as our name and our purpose. We divvy up responsibilities to get the most done in the most organized way.

Bylaws are simply the bones on which we can be strong and effective in ministry.

We've heard the call to proclaim Christ, support missions, equip women, and serve others . . . So, let's take a look. Do our bylaws reflect who, what, where, when, why, and how we do what we do as Lutheran Women in Mission? Do we need to make some changes?

Bylaws are not to bind us, but to help us carry out our goal to help each woman use her God given gifts and abilities to work together to carry out the Lord's work.

You'll find the amended **LWML Mid-South District Bylaws** posted on our website: www.midsouthlwml.org under the *About* tab, dropdown *District Bylaws*.

There are three notable changes:

- *Societies* are now called **Groups**.
- Our district **name is rearranged** to be *LWML Mid-South District*.
- *Meetings may be held by electronic means* so long as the members are able to hear each other and participate during the meeting.

As you are updating your bylaws, there is help!

On the national website, www.lwml.org, under the *About* tab, you'll find this very helpful information:

- **Who We Are** www.lwml.org/who-we-are
- **Membership** www.lwml.org/membership
- **Structure** www.lwml.org/structure

There are multiple links to information on bylaws for zones and groups.

When you are **updating your Zone Bylaws**, please send a copy of your proposed amendments to me for the LWML Mid-South District Structure Committee to review and approve before voting on your amendments at your zone meeting. Thank you.

Groups who are amending their bylaws should send their proposed amendments to their Zone Structure/Bylaws Chairman for review and approval before they vote at their group meeting.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Love in Christ, and serving the Lord with you, Linda.



Linda Nutter
nuttli@yahoo.com
(931) 247-9821

Zones in Action

News, reports, and activities from the
10 Zones of the LWML Mid-South District

Grace Lutheran LWML, Knoxville, East TN Zone

This is the House that Grace Built

This is “The House that Grace Built” in Tanzania, for a widow and her three children, ages 14, 11, and 8. Colonel Sandy Harter made a presentation to our Grace LWML ladies in Knoxville, Tennessee, about the needs in Tanzania. Funds were collected from our congregation in the spring of 2023, resulting in \$3,280 being sent to the Tumaini Fund. In July of 2024, we received photos of the family outside their old house, standing at the door of their new home, and of a plaque on the house that acknowledges Grace Lutheran. We praise the Lord for this family and their new home in the Nyarututu Village of Africa.



Clockwise from left:
old house, new home,
plaque of recognition.



Blessed Opportunities to Serve Are Available!

We still have some appointed positions on the district board that need that need to filled. Is God pulling at your heartstrings to get out of your comfort zone and answer His call to serve? Please prayerfully consider these opportunities:

1. Mission Servants Committee Member: Gospel Outreach.
2. Leader Development Committee: We need new leaders in all areas of service. Find creative ways to lead in service to all the women in mission.
3. Social Media: promoting LWML events and actively spreading the Gospel on social media.

If you are interested in serving the Lord through any of these positions, please contact Sandie Harjala at president@midsouthlwml.org.

Zones ⁱⁿAction continued

Tullahoma, Tennessee: Faith Lutheran Church's Successful Rummage Sale

Faith Lutheran LWML in Tullahoma, Tennessee, held their annual rummage sale in August. Items were donated from the congregation, friends, and family members. More than \$9,700 was raised to help numerous local, state and international mission-focused charities.



Middle Tennessee Zone Spring Prayer Service, *Transformed in Christ*



The Middle Tennessee Zone Spring Prayer Service was held on April 27, 2024, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville. Transformed in Christ was the theme, inspired by, If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come, the old has gone, the new is here (2 Corinthians 5:17). We had a wonderful turnout with 54 in attendance. Judy Felts, Founder & Executive Director, Oak Cottage for Women, was the guest speaker. Oak Cottage is a faith-based home for women who are entering back into society after release from prison. They are mentored, educated, provided life skills, and loved, as they make this transition. Judy shared her story, from identifying a need for such housing, to turning her vision into reality. An in-gathering was held and offering collected to help support this important ministry.



Supporting First Responders at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville



Above: A delivery to the Midtown Hills Police Precinct. Right: the 400 stuffed animals collected!

The Women in Mission group at Our Savior Lutheran Church (OSLC), Nashville, have developed a bond with the local emergency responders. Every month, home baked cookies are delivered to the Midtown Hills Police Precinct of Nashville, and Fire Station 27. Throughout the month of March, this group, with the help of the congregation and academy, collected over 400 stuffed animals that were delivered to the Midtown Hills Police Department. The stuffed animals are kept in the trunks of patrol cars to provide comfort to children in crisis situations.



In May, for Emergency Responders Month, with the help of our Pastors and other church members, 150 gift bags were delivered to the Police Officers and 15 to the Firefighters. In addition to cookies, each bag included a cooling towel, sunscreen, powdered Gatorade, scripture cards, an “In God We Trust” sticker and a protein bar. We love and appreciate our Emergency Responders!



Mission Grant Check Presented to Last Call Radio Ministry

Vicky Kline, Vice-President of Faith’s LWML, Faith Lutheran Church, Tullahoma, TN presented Pastor Martin Nutter with the check for the Last Call Radio Ministry mission grant. This ministry brings God’s Word to people in middle Tennessee. You can read more about this ministry at midsouthlwml.org/grantinfo/O-LastCallRadioMinistry2024.pdf. You can also find links to all the 2024-2026 mission grants at midsouthlwml.org/grantinfo/MissionGrantsTable.pdf.

Upcoming Zone Events

Mid AR Zone Fall Event

SEPT. 21, 2024

9 AM TO 3 PM

Peace Lutheran

Conway, AR

*I am the Vine; You are
the Branches*

John 15:5

Program: City of Hope,
and Life Choices

East TN Zone Fall Retreat

SEPT. 27 • 4:00 PM TO
SEPT. 29 • 10:00 AM

Eagle Rock Camp
Tallahassee, TN

Joy in the Journey

Romans 8:28

Registration Form [Here](#)
Flyer Available [Here](#)

Mid TN Zone Fall Event

SEPT. 28, 2024

9:00 AM

Trinity Lutheran
Columbia, TN

Proverbs 31:8

Program & Ingathering:
Rescue 1
Flyer Available [Here](#)

NE Arkansas Zone Fall Event

OCT. 5, 2024

9 AM - 2 PM

Redeemer Lutheran

Paragould, AR

Discipleship

Matthew 9:37-38

Program: Families
at the Seminary

Paducah Zone Fall Event

OCT. 5, 2024

9:30 AM - 3 PM

Faith Lutheran
Hopkinsville, KY

*Steadfast
Under Trial*

James 1:12

Program:
The Challenge House
Registration \$10

NW Arkansas Zone Fall Event

OCT. 12, 2024

9 AM

Salem Lutheran
Springdale, AR

*I Am the Vine; You are the
Branches* John 15:5

Program & Ingathering: Compassion House
Offering: Mission Fund • Flyer available [Here](#)

West TN Zone Fall Event

OCT. 19, 2024

9:45 AM

Christ the King Lutheran
Memphis, TN

The Fields are Ripe

John 4:35b

Program & Offering: Room
in the Inn, Calvary Men's
Rescue Mission

Arkansas River Valley Fall Event

OCT. 19, 2024

9 AM - 1:30 PM

Grace Lutheran
Greenwood, AR

*The Lord is my light and
my salvation. • Psalm 27*

Program and Offering:
Good Samaritan Clinic
Flyer [Here](#) • List [Here](#)

Chattanooga Zone Fall Event

OCT. 26, 2024

9:30 AM

Good Shepherd Lutheran
Chattanooga, TN

Program: Welcome
Home of Chattanooga

East TN Zone Fall Event

Nov. 2, 2024 • 9 AM - 2:30 PM

Praise Lutheran • Maryville, TN

Psalm 62:8

SafeSpace of East TN & Pregnancy Resource
Center, Maryville • Flyer [Here](#)

Southern AR Zone Nov. 9, 2024

St. John's Lutheran • Stuttgart, AR
*Children are a Heritage from the
Lord, Psalm 127:3*

Program & Offering: Hope of the Delta
Pregnancy Center

SHUTTERSTOCK

LWML Mid-South District

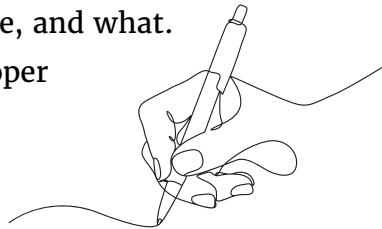
Guidelines for Submissions to League Letter and Other Publications

We LOVE to hear from all of you in the LWML Mid-South District. However, sometimes the information we receive needs a little tender loving care before being published. Help us out by following some simple guidelines listed below. And ALWAYS honor the deadlines!

If you have any questions about or suggestions for these guidelines, please contact us using this link — midsouthlwml.org/contact-us or send an email to contact@midsouthlwml.org.

For the Body of the Item

- Use the LWML style sheet which may be found at www.lwml.org/logos-style-sheet.
- Bible references should be from the English Standard Version (ESV).
- Include who, what, when, where, and what.
- Use complete sentences and proper punctuation.
- Have someone else proofread before submitting.
- Don't use acronyms unless you've spelled them out the first time referenced.



For Photographs

- If you know a professional photographer, ask if they'd mind attending your event to take a few photos; if not, find a 20-year-old!
- Move closer to the subjects instead of using the zoom.
- Fill the frame with the subjects, not the background.
- Be sure the light is on the front of the subjects and not behind.
- Use the best possible camera or phone camera available.
- Text photos directly from the phone rather than emailing them.
- Whenever given a choice of size (number of megabytes or MB) for texting or emailing choose the largest possible.

Thanks for helping us get the news out about what's happening in the LWML Mid-South District!

DATES TO REMEMBER

in 2025-26

LWML 41st biennial convention

Omaha, Nebraska
June 26-29, 2025

LWML Mid-South District fall retreats

Various locations
September 2025

LWML Mid-South District convention

Springdale, Arkansas
June 12-14, 2026

mark your calendar!



Website:

midsouthlwml.org

Facebook:

facebook.com/MSD.LWML

Email:

editor@midsouthlwml.org

Event Calendar:

midsouthlwml.org/event-calendar

Subscribe:

midsouthlwml.org/e_news

The League Letter is published quarterly by the LWML Mid-South District. All rights reserved. ©2024