



/ MARCH 2017

# MID-SOUTH LUTHERAN

## Jesus<sup>the</sup> High Priest

**"D**addy, what's a high priest?," a little boy asked his father. The father, a little nervous about this question replied, "He's the one from the Old Testament, appointed each year to offer the special sacrifice in the Holy of Holies."



Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola  
District President

"Why was the high priest so unfair to Jesus?," the boy asked. A little more nervous, the father answered, "I guess he was so caught up in his work that he didn't see that Jesus is the Christ."

"Will there ever be a perfect high priest," the boy asked. Relieved at the question, the father answered, "There already is! It's Jesus, the high priest in the order of Melchizedek, who offered the perfect sacrifice and accomplished final and complete salvation."

The writer of Hebrews likely heard similar questions. He wrote about the High Priestly duties of Christ, just like the time when Jesus and His disciples crossed the Kidron Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus knew what was about to happen to Him. He knew the sacrifice He'd offer was to be perfect — different from the sacrifices offered by the high priests of the Old Covenant.

Under the Old Covenant, the high priests — imperfect themselves — had to offer a sacrifice for their own sins, first on the day of Atonement, Yom Kippur. Then they could enter the Holy of Holies to offer the sacrifice for the people. The annual offering they brought foreshadowed the ultimate sacrifice God Himself would offer. It was necessary for the high priest to offer sacrifices day after day, year after year, because the sins couldn't be taken away by the incomplete and imperfect sacrifice of a common sheep. But the writer of Hebrews says that when Jesus offered Himself as the Lamb of God — the perfect sacrifice from God — Jesus sat down at the right hand of God because the job was finished, a perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice complete in Jesus.

As Jesus entered the Garden of Gethsemane, only He could comprehend the magnitude of what He faced. He told Peter, James and John:

"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch." **Mark 14:34**

His prayers punctuated the anguish of the task as tears streamed down His face. If one small sin is enough to send a human being into the depths of everlasting torment, we can only imagine the torment and pain Jesus bore, weighted with the sins of all the world on His shoulders!



The famous painting of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane depicts Him looking quietly heavenward in peaceful, quiet prayer. That's not the way it was. He knew His destiny and what the cross meant for Him. He agonized and wrenched inside that He would be forsaken by the Father, left completely alone to die. Luke describes the depth of that suffering:

"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.' ... And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground." **Luke 22:42, 44**

Puzzling words. Did Jesus have second thoughts about being our Savior? Did He wonder if His sacrifice was greater

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## HIGH PRIEST

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

than the victory that could be won? Of course, we can only respond in an overwhelming **No!** His love for the lost was far too great for those kind of thoughts. He was on a mission! He came to seek and save the lost from everlasting destruction. Being fully true God and fully true Man, Jesus was nearing the pinnacle of His ministry. He was about to become the Lamb of God. Go back and scrub the mission? Never! He only asked God to give Him the strength to help complete the task of salvation — the moment when the Christ would bathe in the glory of His appointed office — Himself the victim and Himself the Priest. God's salvation plan would be completed. The plan was not beyond His capabilities. The goal would be achieved in the perfect sacrifice.

Jesus walked the path of sorrow and our way of joy by His atoning salvation. The writer of Hebrews says:

“Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross.” **Heb. 12:2**

He explains:

“Although He (Jesus) was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.” **Heb. 5:8**

Jesus completed the work — perfectly. Every prophecy was fulfilled. Every bitter drop from the cup of suffering was swallowed to earn our soul's salvation. His High Priestly task was complete! His blood atoned for our sins so we may receive His victory over sin, death and the power of Satan.

In the Garden, Jesus sweated blood and it dropped on the ground. From the cross, when His head and back glistened with blood from His scourging and punishment, He declared our victory, “It is finished!” When He poured out His lifeblood, He gives and we receive His atoning blood — in the sacrament He Himself serves — for His forgiveness and strengthening of faith.

Our Lenten preparation is all about

Jesus, our Savior. He isn't just a Man who did good things. He's our Savior. His work on the cross is for our eternal benefit. In Christ, we are truly blessed. We give thanks to God that Jesus didn't say, “I can't do this for you. You have to do it yourself.” He's our Savior — the atoning sacrifice for our sins and the sins of the whole world.

We have no need for a priest to offer sacrifices for sins. We go in faith to our Lord

Jesus Christ, who Himself took on our sins, bore our punishment and shame to the cross and made full payment to God so that we may be forgiven and declared God's children eternally. Today He serves us with the fruit of salvation, when He invites us to join in the foretaste of the unending banquet of victory of life. May this Lenten season bring true humility and joy that we might have life — life in the fullest and may we enjoy the abundance of His rich grace forever.

## Tennessee District LHM Convention



“Called. Equipped. Sent.”

**May 6-7 • Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
**5110 Franklin Pike, Nashville, TN 37220**

Convention begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday.  
Worship services will be held at Our Savior  
at 8 and 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, with Bible class  
to be held at 9:30 a.m.

**Highlights:** Bible studies, New Orleans Youth Gathering report,  
information on materials and programs, LCC Comfort Dogs,  
Rose Parade Petal Pushers, pizza party at noon on Saturday

**Nearby Hotels:** Sleep Inn, Drury Inn, Holiday Inn Express,  
Hampton Inn

### Speaker



**Kurt Buchholz**  
LHM CEO

### REGISTRATION FORM (reply by April 15)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

\$10/person or \$15/family (first-time attendees free) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Night Banquet-\$20 (children under 12 free) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks for the total amount payable to Tennessee District Lutheran Laymen's League. Mail Registration form and remittance to: Weldon Meienburg, 1421 Jackson Place, Hermitage, TN 37076-1767. Phone: 615-491-0147.

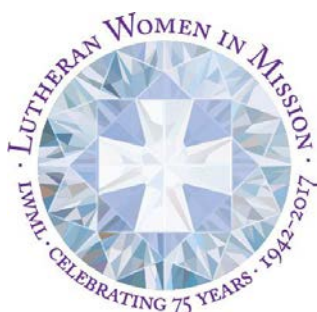


## Grants help braille workers

The LWML Mid-South District presented a mission-grant check for \$4,000 to Lutheran Braille Work Centers #156 and #160 before Sunday worship at Faith Lutheran Church, Hot Springs Village, Ark., on Jan. 8.

These funds will help to continue the vital work of getting God's Word into the hands of the blind. For more information on LWML District mission-grants, go to [midsouthlwml.org](http://midsouthlwml.org) and click on "Mission Grants."

Funding God's Word to the Blind: Shown in the presentation of LWML mission-grant funds are, from left, the Rev. Bob Benke, pastor, Faith; Don Putnam and Howard Graff, Lutheran Braille Workers; and Julie Keck, LWML Mid-South District media/marketing.



## LWML 37th Biennial Convention

Join us in Albuquerque, N.M., June 22-25, as we celebrate "Jesus Christ Above All."

### Save with early registration

Early Discounted Registration is now open, but hurry and register by March 14 to save \$20!

Registration and convention information is available in the 2016 winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* magazine, and also at [lwml.org/2017-convention](http://lwml.org/2017-convention).

Highlights of the convention include the celebration of a lifetime — the 75th anniversary of the LWML, service opportunities, Mites-in-Action speakers and other presenters and guests, tours, Bible studies and fellowship with your sisters in Christ.

# 2,000!

### Credit union reaches milestone

On Jan. 9, a significant milestone was achieved as Lutheran Federal Credit Union (LFCU) reached 2,000 members. Thank God for His blessings!

To those of you who already are members, LFCU looks forward to continuing to serve you with exceptional financial services and products within a faith-based environment. To those of you who are not yet members, you are graciously invited to visit [LutheranFCU.org](http://LutheranFCU.org) and join this movement that blesses individuals, ministries and the church body as a whole. LFCU looks forward to serving you — and to the next milestone!

## Students: apply now for financial aid

Students who plan to attend an LCMS seminary or university during the 2017-18 academic year in order to prepare for full-time church work may apply for financial aid through the Mid-South District office. Financial aid amounts are granted for a period of one year, and a new application must be made each year.

Applications for the coming school year must be postmarked by June 15, 2017

For forms, please contact the district office by phone (toll-free) at 866-373-1343, by email to [jtyler@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:jtyler@mid-southlcms.com), or by postal mail to 1675 Wynne Road, Cordova, TN 38016.



## Congregation mission commitment receipts as of Dec. 31, 2016 (12 months)

Anticipated amount (100% of budget).....	\$1,661,020
Actual receipts .....	1,607,925
Over (under) anticipated amount....	(\$53,095)

### Use of mission commitment receipts

Allocated to Synod for world missions .....	\$457,378
Allocated to Tanzania .....	25,000
Retained for district ministry/mission support (70% of receipts) ..	1,125,548
Total receipts .....	\$1,607,925

### Mission commitment receipts comparison

Actual receipts as of Dec. 31, 2016 .....	\$1,607,925
Actual receipts as of Dec. 31, 2015 .....	\$1,676,926
Over (under) prior year receipts .....	(\$69,001)



## A CALL TO PRAYER

This prayer was issued in January to all Lutherans by LCMS Mission Advancement. We share its message with the addendum that your prayerful support is still needed



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Marriage. Life. Religious liberty. They are all deemed “controversial” in the public square — buzz words for “Don’t talk about this at the neighborhood party” or “Stick to discussing the weather and sports — just to be safe.”

And yet each topic matters. Fundamentally, they matter because people matter. And people matter to us as Lutherans because they matter to Jesus.

We teach about these issues, we communicate and catechize about them, and we work to establish offices because we desire to bear witness to Christ, even in the public square, even in a culture where people don’t want to hear about Him.

### Remaining faithful

This month (January), as our nation prepares to swear in a new president, we ask you to join with your fellow LCMS Lutherans in prayer—for our churches, for our members, for our country, for her elected leaders. That, of course, is your joy and challenge in this intensely politically charged atmosphere: to remain faithful, to stay the course, to pray!

Our Lord hasn’t left you alone to be a voice for His gift of marriage or to speak for the value of the lives He creates. He remains with you. He is not absent. He is still at the helm, the head of the body, still leading, still guiding.

As you pray, know that as Christians we are together bearing witness to Christ



in and by all that we do, speaking truth in the public square, at our own kitchen tables and over our backyard fences, remaining firm in the faith.

And we trust that God — in His perfect time and way — will work all things for His good!

Holy Father, as Your People, we turn to You, our only refuge in every need. You see how confused and concerned our nation is. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy!

Show us the path forward that we, our elected leaders and those who have authority over us may be faithful in the

vocations you have given us to do. Cause us to be uncompromising witnesses to Your will and Your ways, both in our homes and in the public square.

Help us to proclaim in Christ the gift of forgiveness for every sin we have committed, every time we have not spoken the truth in love, every instance where we have remained silent. Give us a voice to speak for the unborn, the joy to lift up the gift of marriage, and the willingness to speak on behalf of people of faith who are, even now, persecuted for their faith in You.

We have no right to ask this, save through the merits and meditation of Him whose blood atones for the sin of the whole world, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### How can I get involved?

- Watch for insight from LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison. A mailing from Harrison may already have reached you.
- Keep on top of the issues. Email [freetobefaithful@lcms.org](mailto:freetobefaithful@lcms.org) to get the latest on the Synod’s Free to Be Faithful work as well as the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty.
- Pray! Print out a copy of the above prayer as a reminder to pray for the president, elected leaders and the nation.

Visit [lcms.org/lcrl](http://lcms.org/lcrl) to learn about the Synod’s work to establish an office in Washington, D.C.



## Dunn installed in Murray

The installation of the Rev. Jim Dunn as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Murray, Ky., was held on Jan. 15. Dunn comes to the Mid-South District from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Mo. Pictured are, from left, the Revs. Dr. Roger Paavola, (Mid-South District president), David Appold, Dunn, Daniel Ulrich, Larry Peters and Paul Donner.



## *Little Rock servants help keep pantry stocked*

**By Carolyn Ziemer**  
Chair of Evangelism, First, Little Rock

**M**embers of First Lutheran Church, Little Rock, recently partnered with Arkansas Foodbank for a volunteer work day. Arkansas Foodbank, the largest food bank in the state, provides food and other resources for more than 300 food pantries, soup kitchens, schools, colleges, shelters, senior centers and other agencies that directly aid hungry Arkansans.

Thirteen members of all ages participated on Nov. 5 for this first dedicated workday, although the congregation supports the food bank year round with food donations.

Our duties included sorting food by category, checking food expiration dates, taping damaged packaging and breaking down boxes.

The work crew enjoyed their experience and hope to make it an annual event.



## **Faith, Hot Springs Village, to sponsor free concert**

**By Don Putnam**  
Concert Chair

Faith Lutheran Church, Hot Springs Village, Ark., is privileged to once again sponsor the Wind Symphony and Jazz Band of Lutheran High School South, St. Louis, at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 11, at the Woodlands Auditorium, Hot Springs Village. The band previously performed at the Woodlands to great reviews in 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012. The symphony and band are conducted by John W. Miller, who will retire in June.

The 60-member Wind Symphony will perform works by Curnow, Holst, John Williams and Holsinger. After a brief intermission, the 25-piece Jazz Band will



delight you with sounds of jazz greats Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra and others. There will be a wide variety of music to please many different musical tastes.

Tickets are free and may be obtained at the Ouachita Building office at the Woodlands Auditorium; at the Faith

The Lutheran High School South, St. Louis, Mo., Wind Symphony performed at a Reformation anniversary service on Nov. 6 at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Lutheran Church office (8 a.m.-noon, Monday-Friday), or by e-mailing [dfputnam@hsnp.com](mailto:dfputnam@hsnp.com). The concert is a free gift to the community from Faith Lutheran Church.

Call 501-922-5700 (church office) or 501-984-2144 (Don Putnam), for tickets, HSV gate access and other information.



# What we believe

*Be ready to share!*

By Rev. Robert Portier  
St. Paul, Sevierville

## Five hundred years!

A lot can happen in 500 years. In a few months, it will have been 500 years since Martin Luther posted his famous 95 Theses. What has any of that history got to do with anything we are doing in East Tennessee in 2017?

Well, our daily walk through God's Word — and our practice of faith — are directly affected by this historic reality. All of what we believe, teach and confess from Scripture is neatly wrapped for us in *Luther's Small Catechism*, a short work that summarizes the basics of the Christian faith.

Many other questions were further clarified for us in the *Book of Concord*, which contains the *Small Catechism*, along with nine other works and was published in 1580. God's truth is clarified for us in these works and guides how we apply it today.

Past generations have warned against the distraction of anniversaries causing

people to lose focus on what is important. I remember being in middle school when our nation celebrated its Bicentennial, and it seemed that was all anyone ever talked about and it probably led to some important things being overlooked.

I do not think we have a distraction to worry about, but we need to be concerned about how this can and will affect our ability to share the Gospel. When people hear about Martin Luther through this year, as worldwide celebration of the 500th anniversary makes the news, your non-Lutheran neighbor might, for the first time, make a connection between the German Martin Luther and the American Martin Luther King Jr. Or they might ask, "Aren't you Lutheran?" or "What do Lutherans believe?"

You have just had a softball tossed in your direction, so how do you respond?

Here are a few quick ways to answer those and other questions about your faith:

- ▶ We believe the 66 books that make up the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired word of God.
- ▶ All that we know, believe and teach about God comes from those 66 books.



- ▶ We believe in the Ten Commandments. (Know them in case people ask about them: Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5.)
- ▶ We believe in the three historic creeds. (Know them, for people may ask about them: Apostles', Nicene, Athanasian.)
- ▶ We believe in and use the Lord's Prayer. (Be ready to share it.)
- ▶ We believe that God connects us to Himself in the waters of Holy Baptism.
- ▶ We believe that the forgiveness Jesus bled and died for is delivered by His means.
- ▶ We believe that Christ gives us forgiveness in the Lord Supper

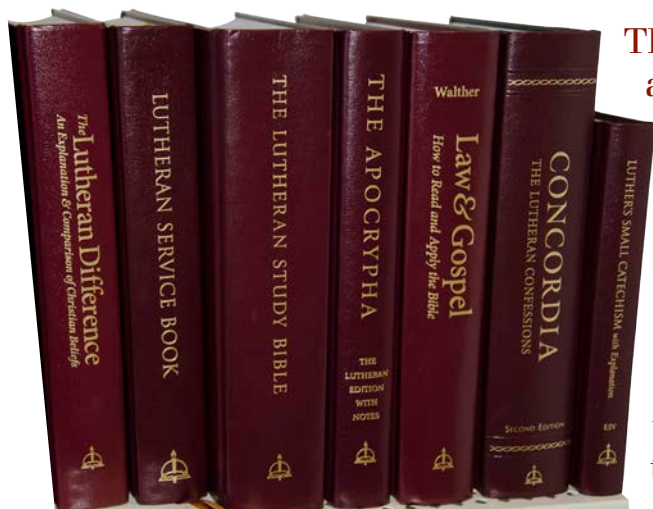
(These last three will cause much conversation, so if you bring them up, be ready to explain them.)

Since the world has only about 80 million Lutherans and we are part of a small minority (about 3.5 million people are in what is called the International Lutheran Council [ILC]), it is helpful to know what sets us apart from other Lutherans. That would be how we apply the Bible and the confessions.

How that plays out in ILC congregations is that only men are ordained to be pastors and we are uniformly pro-life. However, with the larger Lutheran World Federation (LWF), which has some 72 million members, pushing in recent years for gay rights, many of the Lutherans in the global south are shifting to or have already shifted to the ILC. So while there is a global shift happening, we are still part of a very small minority.

Historically speaking, the church is used to being part of a persecuted minority: Seth, Noah, Abraham, the prophets, the exiled remnant, the early church and martyred Christians for the past 2,000 years know the same persecution that Abel suffered at the hands of Cain. But we trust in God and press on.

Have a blessed quinquennial celebration year of the beginning of the rebirth of the biblical, apostolic Christian church. And be ready to share your faith when given the opportunity.



The 500th anniversary of the Reformation may provide more opportunities to answer questions on what it means to be Lutheran.

# School goes 'all-in'

**IMMANUEL, MEMPHIS**, adds STEM lab to curriculum, with an extra 'M' for 'Ministry'

About two years ago, Todd Baringer, principal, Immanuel Lutheran School, Memphis, started to explore the possibility of incorporating STEM into the school's curriculum. If the acronym is new to you, STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and represents a formal push to connect students with practical, hands-on learning experiences related to these critical fields.

As Baringer researched options for STEM, he found a wide range of possibilities, from schools that incorporated STEM "elements" to those that made a full investment in the concept with the long-term goal of producing students who are better "thinkers." Immediately, Baringer knew what he wanted for Immanuel: the "all-in" approach.

Fast forward two years, and the school is now embarking on a facility expansion that will include a 2,000-square foot dedicated STEMM SmartLab™. Yes, there's an extra "M" there, which stands for ministry.

As Baringer says, "We're a Lutheran school and this new education resource is going to be a blessing to our students and our community. It's a ministry."

The new resource will be significant not only for Immanuel, but for the entire state of Tennessee. It will be the state's first full-blown SmartLab for grades kindergarten through eighth.

Baringer admits that getting from the concept phase to the ground-breaking hasn't been easy, mostly because "it's hard to make people understand how significant and game-changing this is going to be," he says.

With the help of the experienced STEM

consultants at Creative Learning Systems, however, Immanuel has designed a space that will include all the technology resources needed to engage students in practical, collaborative learning.

Imagine a classroom where students build bridges, design homes, work with hydropower or code an app for a smartphone — a classroom where knowledge is used to solve real-world problems.

Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, this dynamic learning environment will be a reality for the 200 students at Immanuel.

"How many times have we heard kids ask, 'When will I ever use geometry or algebra in the real world?'" says Jason Yates, Immanuel's STEMM facilitator. "In the SmartLab setting, you get to answer that question in so many ways."

Yates joined the Immanuel faculty this school year to lead the implementation of the STEMM program. Both his

degree in science education and military background in avionics made him a perfect fit for the school's STEMM facilitator role.

When the SmartLab opens next school year, Yates will teach exclusively in the facility, leading both STEMM-specific classes and special projects for the math and science curriculum.

But the SmartLab will do more than show kids the relevance of algebra and geometry. As Yates says, "It will be a setting that gets kids interested in engineering disciplines and breaks down gender stereotypes related to these fields. But more importantly, the SmartLab will emphasize group collaboration and critical thinking, which are skills that are declining in kids across the nation."

Immanuel's STEMM SmartLab is slated for completion this spring, with faculty orientation and training taking place in June to prepare for the full launch next school year.

The coming months will be very exciting at Immanuel as the STEMM program transforms from concept to reality. Immanuel's initiative to bring this one-of-a-kind education venture to the Memphis community is an inspiring example of Lutheran schools leading the way.

The project is being funded through a combination of generous donor support and a SMART loan, which is a school-specific lending program from Lutheran Church Extension Fund.





# 'You did for me'

## Roane County resident helps hospital provide clothing for patients

(This article appeared in the Dec. 5, 2016 issue of the *Roane County News*, Kingston, Tenn. and has been reprinted with permission.)

Roane Medical Center recently received a generous donation from a couple of community partners. Alison Savard, a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Harriman, Tenn., in partnership with Thrivent Financial, worked with the hospital to provide new clothing for patients in their care.

Many times patients in the facility are in need of clothing. Depending on their situation, they may not have been prepared for their visit to the hospital, especially if in an emergency, or they just might not have what they need to get discharged and returned home appropriately. Sometimes these patients are sent home in gowns or staff has traveled to local stores to purchase clothing for their patients.

Savard, a Roane County resident, heard about a grant through her church to provide service to a local organization. After her daughter was a patient at Roane Medical Center for an emergency surgery, she noted the generosity of other community groups to that facility. Alison then turned to her family at Redeemer Lutheran Church and Thrivent Financial and was able to get enough funds to provide a community service to the hospital.



“Thank you is not enough to express how we feel about our local partners supporting our hospital.”



Alison Savard with her children (and needed clothing for patients) at Roane Medical Center. From left, Wyatt, Gracie and Quintyn.

“I saw first-hand the generosity of other folks in the community when my daughter was in need,” Alison said. “I thought we need to do something like that, so I reached out to Roane Medical Center and was happy to be able to provide something to my local facility.”

Through Alison’s organization of the initial donation to Roane Medical Center totaling \$500, staff at the hospital are able to have access to the clothing in a timely manner when they identify a patient in need.

“We have an extremely giving staff at Roane Medical and an exceptionally

giving community,” said Carolyn Shipley, Chief Nursing Officer at Roane Medical Center. “Alison’s gift is most definitely well received and fulfills a great need for our facility. Thank you is not enough to express how we feel about our local partners supporting our hospital. We are here for our community, and blessed to know they are here for us,” she said.

Members of Redeemer Lutheran Church have expressed interest in replenishing the clothing when the hospital runs low. Their continued gifts will help a long way in an area most would not think of first hand as something a hospital provides to patients they care for.

## Deadline for the May issue is March 15

Digital files, sent via email, are preferred. Email submissions to [lw@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:lw@mid-southlcms.com), or mail via U.S. Postal Service to:

Judy Otto  
150 N. Maury St.  
Holly Springs, MS 38635

Our submission deadline is the 15th of each month, two months before publication.

