MID-SOUTH LUTHERAN

PRAISE, EDUCATION, EASTER ... AND BEYOND

ach week around the world, thousands of Christian congregations may have raised their voices in worship with a song that may not even require reading its words. In countless languages, Christians confess the essential precepts



Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola District President

that separate our faith from world religions. The Doxology is a treasury of basic Christian doctrine that flows from the Catechism.

The "Common Doxology" — meaning "speaking glory" — was first published in 1709 by composer Bishop Thomas Ken. From his humble begin-

nings as an orphan, raised by an older stepsister and her famous husband, Isaac Walton, Ken attended Winchester University and received his first degree in 1661. He would later hold a number of academic and religious leadership positions.

After some trying times in the royal courts confronting Princess Mary on her immoral behavior, Ken was appointed chaplain to King Charles II. He had refused to let his office be used to harbor willful breaking of the Sixth Commandment. But instead of being dismissed, Ken was rewarded for his courage with a bishopric.

Among his most famous works, Ken wrote several hymns used to this day. For his "Manual of Prayers for the use of the Scholars of Winchester College," he wrote his morning, evening and midnight hymns. Two of his hymns begin with the words: "Awake, my soul, and with the sun." Using the Tallis Canon, he wrote the words to "Glory to Thee, My God, This Night," and "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night." All of these hymns end with a doxology.

But the most famous of Ken's work remains "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (*LSB* #805), sung to the tune of the Old 100th: Praise God, from whom all

blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

How does Easter and celebrating our Lu-

theran educational ministries apply to this Doxology? When it comes to the general subject of Christian education or catechism, most people will look at the broader story of the way our young (and not so young!) are brought into the Church through a basic catechetical understanding of Christian doctrine. But in the narrow sense, Christian education is the rich soil of the hearts of young people who will hopefully fill our church's pews in the decades to come.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

Our Christian educational foundation is based solely on the biblical principle that God offers His grace, mercy and providence for our very existence and essentials for life now and life everlasting. By His means of grace, God names us as His very own children and inheritors of His glorious and eternal Kingdom. For this we praise Him.

Praise Him, all creatures here afiow

Scripture reminds us that all creation sings God's praise. The psalmist writes:

"Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name;

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By Frances Bacic

Media/Marketing, LWML Mid-South District

During this season of Lent, we are reminded of the struggles we have in this world.

We may be the grandparent raising our own grandchildren when our children cannot do it themselves. We may be the young parent trying to balance life. We may be the young adult whom after four years or more of college can't seem to get a job that they feel a degree should grant them. We may be getting ready to have an empty nest. We may be a teenager

whose parents just don't seem to get it. We may be a widow who finds herself alone after 45 years of marriage. We may be the one recovering from a life-changing accident.

Ps. 34:17-19 says:

"When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all."

Whatever struggles we have in our life, we all have one thing in common. We all have the hope and promise that the empty tomb brings.

Lord help us to always remember that you are ever present in our lives, even when we are most needful. Help us to cling to your Word in all that we say and do.

38TH BIENNIAL LWML CONVENTION

- June 20-23
- Mobile, Ala.

Plan to join us at the 38th Biennial LWML Convention, "In Praise to the Lord!" The convention theme is based on 1 Chron. 16:23-24a:

"Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations."

Registration materials and more information are available in the Winter issue of Lutheran Women's Quarterly, or visit Iwml.org/convention to register online.

DOXOLOGY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

give to Him glorious praise! Say to God, 'How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that Your enemies come cringing to You. All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.'"

- Ps. 66:1-4

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host

In the Revelation to St. John, he records:

"When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke

of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel."

- Rev. 8:1-9:21

This is worship. This is the foundation of our Lutheran catechesis. This is the goal of Lutheran educational ministries. Yet the most amazing portion of this revelatory promise comes as a result of what Christ Jesus came to fulfill. He humbled Himself for the purpose of taking on human flesh to become the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all the world. Praise of our revealed God in Christ is central in our Easter worship that should not diminish the week afterward, nor any of the 51 weeks that follow.

Praise of God is not a singular event. Praise of God is a life-long reflection of faith for the Christian. Jesus, our risen and victorious Lord says:

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before

others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

— **M**ATT**. 5:14-16** (*emphasis added*)

Praise of God is our Christian life; and there is no better way to encourage this privilege than in our family devotions, life-long family catechesis, and the splendid gift of Lutheran educational ministries God granted to our beloved Synod.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

This Trinitarian doctrine offers the cornerstone of faith and our blessed hope. Bishop Thomas Lee simply repeated in a lyric poem what the whole creation, the prophets, apostles and historic Christian Church have embraced by faith since the beginning of time. The beauty of this reality is that we will sing His praise forever because of what Christ has done for us, and what God's Spirit has taught us. What a blessed reason for our Easter celebration and our educational ministries.

Studying to be a church worker?



Apply for scholarship

To support the education efforts of individuals pursuing a full-time career in church work, the Mid-South District is pleased to once again offer opportunities for student financial aid.

Pastoral candidates sing during a Service of Praise with Assignment of Calls at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in April 2018.

The student must be a member in good standing of a Mid-South District congregation and be enrolled in an LCMS seminary or college/university to prepare for full-time church service as a rostered worker.

To be considered for the student financial assistance program, you must first inform the Mid-South District that you are or will be a student enrolled at an LCMS school. This information may be sent to Julie Tyler at jtyler@mid-southlcms.com or Attn: Julie Tyler; 1675 Wynne Road; Cordova, TN 38016.

All related forms, including the financial aid application, are available at *mid-southlems.org*. The application deadline is June 15.

Seminary to give glimpse of student life

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., is offering Christ Academy High School June 16-29.

This two-week academy for high school students enables them to experience life at the seminary and learn more about pastoral or diaconal ministry. The academy operates with two tracks: Timothy School for young men and Phoebe School for young women.

Students will worship in Kramer Chapel, participate in classes taught by seminary professors and enjoy fellowship with other like-minded youth while forming lasting friendships on the seminary campus. The academy is also filled with fun events, both on and off campus.

For more information or an application, visit ctsfw.edu/CA; call 260-452-3140; or email ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu.



Congregation mission commitment receipts

as of Jan. 31, 2018 (1 month)

Anticipated amount (8.3 percent of budget)	\$127,690
Actual receipts	.\$118,127
Over (under) anticipated amount	(\$9,563)

Use of mission commitment receipts

receipts Allocated to Synod for	
world missions	\$33,355
Allocated to Tanzania	\$2,083
Retained for district ministry/ mission support (70 % of receipts)	\$82,689
Total receipts\$	118,127

Mission commitment receipts comparison Actual receipts as of

Jan. 31, 2019	\$118,127
Actual receipts as of Jan. 31, 2018	\$113,795

Over (under) prior year receipts \$4,332

District support helps students graduate

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Randrianasolo, founder and first president of the Lutheran Institute of Managerial Enterprise (LIME) in Madagascar, shared news of the latest cohort of students to benefit from the Institute's college-level course of study.

"It is with joy and happiness that we send you pictures (showing the result) of our partnership and cooperation," Randrianasolo wrote to Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, Mid-South District president. "LIME graduated 38 students Jan. 27. This was possible because of the support of the LCMS Mid-South District as a whole under your leadership. You provided us many very useful pedagogical tools. Indeed, we do mission through education."

The district's support of the Malagasy Lutheran Church has helped in the renovation and upgrading of LIME's building, and to help fund the purchase of materials and equipment, including technology, for the students to use for their education. The first LIME class matriculated in 2017.



Rev. Dr. Joseph Randrianasolo leads a procession of proud LIME graduates in January.

"I am honored to be a part of the support of the district and LCMS's support of the Malagasy Lutheran Church,"

Paavola said. "We pray the LCMS in convention will graciously agree to recognize that partnership next July."

UNA to host district youth retreat

High school and middle school youth from Mid-South District congregations are invited to attend the Summer Youth Retreat at the University of North Alabama, Florence, June 4-8.

Attendees will participate in worship and study. Also on the agenda are a visit to the Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve to build trails and have fun; and trips to the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in Muscle Shoals to record music made for the retreat, and to the cave-sheltered Rattlesnake Saloon for burgers. The group will worship at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Florence.

Youth will learn about Helen Keller, who was blind and deaf, and discover how her tutor, Anne Sullivan, was able to reach her and become her teacher. Keller's story will frame the retreat as a focus on merciful actions.

The cost will be determined (last year's cost was \$200).

For more information, contact Rev. Curt Hoover (pastor, Faith, Thompson's Station, Tenn.) at 615-533-4636 or pastorcurthoover@gmail.com.

Teacher recognized for 40 years of service



Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, Memphis, was privileged in January to recognize and honor **Kris Pudwell** for 40 years of service in the teaching ministry. Pudwell was recognized during the school's BBQ & Bingo Night and presented with an award, a bouquet of 40 red roses and a big card signed by Immanuel students, faculty and staff. On Jan. 27 (pictured above), she was recognized during Immanuel's worship services and was presented with a Certificate of Recognition by Allen Piepenbrink, Mid-South District Education executive. A reception was also held between services.

Celebrating our LUTHERAN SCHOOLS







FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL, FORT SMITH

First is excited to welcome basketball back to our program! We were able to form three teams to compete against other area private and small public elementary schools. We have a fifth/sixth-grade boys' team (seen here huddling in prayer before their game), and a third/fourth-grade boys' team and girls' team. They are improving every week! Each team has a few wins to its name and plays with Panther Pride to the last second of the game, no matter what the score is. We are excited to add and grow this opportunity for our students.

CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL, LITTLE ROCK

Our school wants our community to know that God is indeed Real and Present. Our school and church families generously purchased and wrapped Christmas presents for 55 children in foster care. From infants to teenagers, we hope and pray they feel the joy and love of our Savior and know He cares for them. Our theme this year is "Just Jesus" our reminder that He alone saves and His grace is sufficient for us. Our Real and Present God calls us to be His hands and feet for the people around us!





CONCORDIA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, JONESBORO

Concordia Christian Academy is a family of learners and servants. We begin each day studying God's Word as a basis for building Christian character — integrity, respect, responsibility, courage, justice, diligence and self-sacrifice. We strive to help our students develop academically, taking into consideration the way each child learns. Students, staff and families join together in growing and serving. Most of all, we are thankful as we grow in grace through our Lord Jesus Christ.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL, STUTTGART

St. John's, 50 miles southeast of Little Rock, has a 2018-19 enrollment of 190 students, including the preschool program for infants through preschool four; and kindergarten through grade six. Our active Parent/Teacher League raised money to lay a concrete pad on the playground and for accordion doors to create classrooms. The league is also very instrumental in our annual auction. Students participate in a variety of school and community activities. In the fall, they collected more than 1,500 items for a local food pantry. The school and church also worked with The Call, an organization that helps place foster children.





CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN SCHOOL, MEMPHIS

Students decided they wanted to make someone's Make-A-Wish dream come true and were matched with 10-year-old Weston of Walnut, Miss. Weston (pictured with



his family, third from left) had been part of the St. Jude Make-A-Wish program since undergoing a kidney transplant.

After months of selling candles, popcorn and other items, the students reached their \$5,000 goal and invited Weston and his family to the gymnasium for some basketball hijinks and then a surprise: "We're going to send you on a trip to Disney World!" everyone announced at once. Weston's smile said it all, and the joy of helping others was equally easy to see on the students' faces.

BELVOIR CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, CHATTANOOGA



Students have been busy learning in engaging ways that encourage further learning. Students attended a Young People's Concert featuring the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera, celebrated Black History Month, took mini-courses in woodworking, origami, yoga, arts and crafts, fishing and more, learned basic cooking skills at The Sweet and Savory Classroom, dressed up for a 100th-day-of-school celebration, read "Mr. Lemoncello's Library" and enhanced its discussion through creative role-playing.

Meanwhile, staff and parent volunteers remodeled the teachers' workroom with carpet, paint and new countertops, aided by the Thrivent Financial Action Grant program.



FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL, KNOXVILLE



Our theme this year is "Called to be Kind," based on Eph. 4:32.

God's love and kindness was on full display as the students generously gave to a local mission. For their second quarter chapel offerings, they supported Knox Area Rescue Ministries, an organization that supplies rescue services of food and shelter for those in need. Families gave enough to provide about 250 meals.

In addition to the offerings, students decorated a Christmas tree with hats, scarves, gloves, and socks to help people stay warm during the cold winter months. God is certainly good.

FAITH LUTHERAN SCHOOL, COLLIERVILLE



Rev. Clayton Sellers, Faith pastor, baptized preschool student Audrey Smith during a Chapel lesson. Audrey's parents, who are new Faith members taking adult instruction classes, made her baptism one of their first priorities.

Over the past nine years, more than 30 students and families have joined the church through attendance in the preschool. What a great ministry opportunity to bring others to Christ through the church and preschool ministry.

We were so excited to share this baptism experience with our student body during chapel. We are hoping it spurs many conversations with the children and their parents!

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN ACADEMY, NASHVILLE

Our children had a busy Christmas season. Our students and families strive to make positive impacts throughout our community. For example, they shared the love of Jesus by Christmas caroling for nursing home residents, collected toys for children in need for Metro Police Christmas Charities, and collected food for families we adopted at a elementary school.

Our Savior's ministry not only touches the lives of the families and children who come through our door, but we reach out and set an example by spreading God's love throughout our community.









HEAVENLY HOST LUTHERAN SCHOOL. COOKEVILLE



Heavenly Host is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2018-19, and did so in grand fashion in September with three events in one exhilarating weekend. The Eagle Run/Grandparents' Day kicked off Friday morning's activities on Sept. 28, and the church held its annual Oktoberfest on Sept. 29.

Perhaps the most interesting innovation to Heavenly Host this year isn't a student information system, iXL or Google Classroom; instead, it might be our new GaGa Pit, in which students love to play GaGa Ball. The construction lasted one morning, but the memories will endure.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL. MEMPHIS



Students at Immanuel are focused not only on academics, but also on demonstrating and sharing the love of Jesus in reaching the community and beyond.

Some highlights include providing diaper bags, baby items and encouragement to mothers at Porter-Leath; collecting hats and gloves for children at Youth Villages; reading to residents at an Alzheimer's facility; collecting funds for survivors of Hurricane Michael and California fires; providing hands-on STEMM Lab experiences for residents of an Alzheimer's facility; sponsoring "Forgotten Angels" on Salvation Army's Angel Tree; and sponsoring two students in Colombia.





HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL, BOWLING GREEN



We reach out to families and children with the Good News of Jesus by involving our students in volunteering and service projects that benefit our community, helping them see the needs and seek out more opportunities to make a positive impact and share the love of Jesus on their own. This year preschoolers collected items for Hospice and adopted children from the Salvation Army's Angel Tree. Older children collected clothing and toiletries for a domestic violence shelter and volunteered at an animal shelter, and shopped for items needed by a local food pantry and for toys to donate to the Marine Toys for Tots Christmas program.

'I am able to tell my students about Jesus.'



CTK teacher honored by magazine

By Genie Swan

Coordinator, Community Relations Chirst the King, Memphis

Jeanette Keath, a preschool teacher at Christ the King Lutheran School (CTK), Memphis, was recently named Outstanding Teacher of the Month by *Memphis Parent* magazine. Keath, serving in her 25th year at CTK, was featured in the February issue. We spoke with her about her calling to teach.

Jeanette Keath shares the limelight with some of her 3-year-old students.

What is your favorite aspect of teaching preschool at CTK and in general?

At Christ the King, I am able to tell my students about Jesus. Our children need that desperately now more than ever. Often the lessons they bring home about Jesus are the only opportunities their families have to hear about the love of Jesus. It gives me great pleasure to know that I am making a contribution not only to the children, but in the lives of their families as well.

In general, I enjoy teaching important life skills. I am focused on giving the children a firm foundation of how to accomplish the things they need to do — how to ask questions, how to get help if needed, how to help others. They learn to be independent and confident. An independent learner becomes a child who is ready and eager to learn.

What teaching techniques do you use to help foster this independence?

I have developed a play-based curriculum that allows the children to handle things, to create, to use art and games to learn. We learn the games together as a group to encourage patience and working together as a team, and then they choose the games they play individually. The best part of my day is seeing them "get" it — when they are successful at reaching a particular goal or solving a particular problem.

Are you able to see the fruits of your labor in teaching the children about Jesus?

Yes. For instance, earlier this year one of my former 3-year-olds was baptized and taken into membership with her family. I have seen other families through the years develop a stronger relationship with their Lord, have their children baptized, join the church. But the best evidence of the legacy of teaching them about Jesus is in how the children themselves have grown in their own faith life. I see former students now being active members of our youth group and still evidencing a strong foundation of faith.

What advice would you give a future preschool teacher?

Find a faith-based preschool like Christ the King. Continue learning and growing as a professional educator. Also, keep in mind that the bonds you create with your fellow teachers are very important. At Christ the King, we share ideas with each other, we encourage each other, we celebrate triumphs that others may not see. Let your faith shine through in all you do.

What are you most proud of as a teacher?

Parents know that their children are safe with me and that their children are going to receive a good Christian education. CTK School's mission statement is "Equipping children for Christian leadership." We do that at the preschool level by teaching kindness, love for others and how to care for each other. Parents know that I will take care of their children as if they were my own.

Note: The next time you visit the Memphis Zoo, be sure to find the bongo exhibit. One of Keath's preschool families had the opportunity to name a baby bongo, and it proudly bears the name "Mrs. Keath."

Sign up for Trivia Night

Camp Trinity fundraiser moves to April 27

or an evening filled with fun and laughter, it's hard to beat Trivia Night, the annual fundraiser for Camp Trinity, the Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean Mountain. Now in its 11th year, the event is moving from August to the last Saturday in April.

Trivia Night 2019 will be held on April 27 at Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, Ark. The contest begins at 6 p.m., but doors open at 4:30 to give teams time to decorate their tables, check out the silent auction items and visit the concessions.

LCMS congregations from around Arkansas compete with one another in the contest. In addition to competitors, the event draws many spectators who come just to sit back and enjoy the show.

The "show" features Patti Airoldi, former member of the camp board who serves as emcee. The veteran stage actor's quirky sense of humor and arsenal of accents keep the audience in stitches.

The night is not all about knowledge. Trivia Night's silent auction offers more than 50 valuable items to bid on. These typically include sports gear, luxury lodging, shop tools, food and wine, hunting packages, kitchen gadgets, books, University of Arkansas souvenirs and original artwork.

Trivia teams will compete for gift cards and the coveted Dinner Bell Trophy. The winning team will be able to take the trophy home for one year (longer if they repeat) and get their team name added to the list of names inscribed on the trophy.

Teams don't have to win the trivia contest to go home with prizes. The evening includes three additional contests which contestants go all out to win: Most Clever Team Name, Best Costumes and Best Table Decorations.

No need to eat beforehand — the kitch-



Trivia Night is about a few frivolous facts, fellowship with friends, fabulous auction finds and flavorful food. But mostly it's about fun, fun and more fun.

en will be serving up burgers, hot dogs and more.

Trivia Night is fun with a purpose. Since its inception, the event has raised more than \$50,000 for Camp Trinity, providing much-needed funds for camp improvements.

The entry fee is \$20 per person.

Individuals can enter and join a team the night of the contest. To register, you need not have all team members committed at the time of registration; anyone can enter as a team captain and then recruit teammates between now and the contest.

To register, visit lutherancamp.org.

Register **NOW** for summer camp



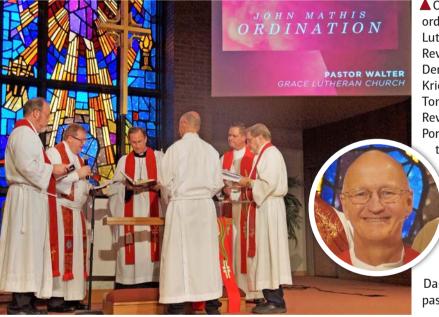
As of mid-February, summer camp registrations for 2019 were well ahead of last year's record-setting pace for Camp Trinity. Parents are encouraged to register soon to ensure a spot for their children.

The camp season includes four traditional sessions for children and youth, as well as four special sessions: Adventure Camp for high school students; Arts Camp for fifth grade and above; Overcomers Camp for youth with disabilities in sixth grade and above; and Family Camp, which gives families with small children opportunities to enjoy camp activities together.

Parents can check for openings, learn more about any session and register their children at *lutherancamp.org*.

INSTALLATIONS





▲ On Feb. 2, **Rev. Raymond D. Krieg** was ordained and installed as pastor of Celebration Lutheran Church, Seymour, Tenn. From left, Revs. Paul Kritsch, Paul Becker, John Freitag, Derek Roberts, George Smith, Michael Miller, Krieg, John Schulz, Dr. Roger Paavola, Deacon Tom Kyner, Rev. Bill Ondraka, Deacon Tim Carter, Revs. Lou Trebus, Paul Muench and Robert Portier. At the end of the service, Dr. Paavola led

the pastors in the doxology, which he said was a first for an ordination/installation service of his participation.

▼ Participating in the Jan. 13 ordination of Rev. John Mathis (in circle) at Christ, Little Rock, were, from left, Revs. Mark Tooley, John Gierke, James C. Walter, Mathis, Dan Hauser and Larry Seiferth. Rev. Walter, pastor of Grace, Little Rock, officiated.

Seminary to host deaf-ministry Church Interpreter Training

If your ministry includes the deaf or hearing impaired, don't miss this opportunity to improve your ability to share God's Word more effectively and clearly.

The Church Interpreter Training Institute (CITI) will offer an educational program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., June 13-16. CITI has been serving the Church by equipping interpreters and providing deaf ministry training to reach deaf people with the Gospel of Christ for more than 30 years.

Participants may earn Continuing Education (CEU) credits for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. For more information or to register for



the program, visit *lutheranfriendsof* thedeaf.org/citi or email Deaconess Heidi Sias at hsias@millneck.org.

CELEBRATIONS



DESPITE THE CHALLENGES in a troubled country,

where unrest seems to be growing, with increased protests and sometimes violent demonstrations that interfere with the children's attendance, Trinity HOPE continues to grow its support for the schools, thanks to generous donor and sponsor support, says Keith Logan, Trinity HOPE director.

"You are certainly a tremendous blessing to the children in Haiti, and we want to share our most sincere thanks," Logan said. "At the beginning of this school year, we added six new schools to our feeding programs, representing an additional 172,000 meals each year. We are now serving 121 schools each day, and providing well over 4 million meals each year. God continues to bless our ministry beyond measure.

"We thank you — and the children thank you. We hope you will continue to keep them in your daily prayers."





Deadline for the June-July issue is April 15

Send email submissions to: LW@mid-southlcms.com or send by postal mail to: Judy Otto 150 N. Maury St. Holly Springs, MS 38635

Digital files, sent via e-mail, are preferred. Our submission deadline is the 15th of each month, two months before publication.

June and July are combined into one issue, out in early June.