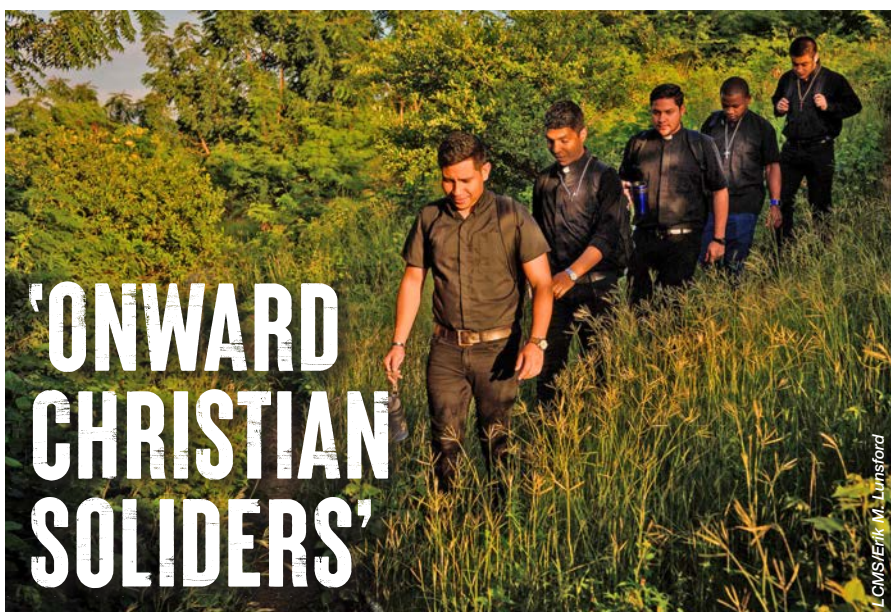




MID-SOUTH LUTHERAN



died, someone we loved said they no longer loved us, the company said they no longer needed our services, we got the phone call that said the diagnosis was cancer.

With all that happens in this fallen world, we remember through faith who we belong to, which gives us comfort, peace and strength. We are baptized, redeemed, forgiven children of God. Our identity is firmly in Christ our Savior and Lord. We remember what led Jesus to the cross in our place, and that was His great love for us — a love that led Him to live the life that we could not, but to die the death that we should have.

Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and victory over sin, death and the devil. Jesus sends us His gifts so that we might receive and take hold of what He has done for us and what He can still do for us through His grace and power.

When we hear God’s Word we are reminded of its timeless truths. We are further strengthened by those special verses in Scripture we memorized or that have significant meaning for us. In addition, when we receive the Lord’s Supper — the very body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ — our faith is bolstered to face the slings and arrows of this world.

As we move forward in the freedom and victory of the Gospel, we do so remembering everything that Christ has done for us. We don’t just leave it in our minds as a memory. We live out the Gospel in a spirit of joy, hope and thanksgiving as we share the love of



Rev. Lane Reuter
District First
Vice-President

We observe Memorial Day every last Monday in May. We remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. In all our wars and conflicts dating back to the Civil War, it has been estimated that 1.3 million U.S. soldiers have died in combat. When we are having our cook-outs, beach parties and vacations on that final weekend in May, we must never forget the sacrifices that were made for our country’s freedoms and liberties.

Remembering what those who came before us did in sacrifice and service to our country is meaningful. Memories can be very powerful and positive, reminding us of something bigger than ourselves. Likewise, memories can stir our hearts and minds into being thankful and grateful to our Lord for all that He has done and provided for us.

When I mention memories, what especially comes to mind?

Perhaps you remember the day you got your first car or the job you always wanted, when you met your spouse, when you had your children and grandchildren, when you bought the home of your dreams, when you received a promotion or recovered from an illness.

Not all memories are pleasant, especially those we don’t want to remember at all. For example, the day someone very special to us

See GOSPEL, Page 5

CONGRATULATIONS!

We share with you the Mid-South District pastors who will celebrate ordination anniversaries in 2022. We rejoice and give thanks to God for the gifts these men provide to His church.



20 YEARS

Rev. Tracy Nelson
Our Savior, Nashville, Tenn.

Rev. M. Chad Philipp
St. Paul, Gillett, Ark.
St. Luke, DeWitt, Ark.

Rev. Kent Schaaf
Grace, Little Rock, Ark.

15 YEARS

Rev. Donald Coulter
Athens Lutheran Church, Athens, Tenn.

Rev. Christopher Gorshe
Bella Vista Lutheran Church,
Bella Vista, Ark.

Rev. Jeffrey King
Our Shepherd, Searcy, Ark.

Rev. Robert Portier
St. Paul, Sevierville, Tenn.

Rev. David Vandercook
Shepherd of Peace, Maumelle, Ark.
Trinity, North Little Rock, Ark.

10 YEARS

Rev. Dr. Richard Davenport
Our Redeemer, Fort Smith, Ark.

Rev. Donald Welmer
First, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Rev. Joshua Woodrow
First, Chattanooga, Tenn.

5 YEARS

Rev. Eric Rudsenske
Concordia, Jackson, Tenn.

Rev. Adam Woldt
The Point, Knoxville, Tenn.

Rev. JohnDavid Zischke
Restoration, Fayetteville, Ark.

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS

65 YEARS

Rev. Paul Donner (*emeritus*)
Paducah, Ky.

Rev. Donley Hesse (*emeritus*)
Mena, Ark.

Rev. John Schulz (*emeritus*)
Knoxville, Tenn.

60 YEARS

Rev. Fred Hagemeyer (*emeritus*)
Fort Smith, Ark.

Rev. Wesley Toncre (*emeritus*)
Conway, Ark.

55 YEARS

Rev. James Evers (*emeritus*)
Oak Ridge, Tenn.

50 YEARS

Rev. Peter Ave-Lallemant
Faith, Fairfield Bay, Ark.

Rev. Philip Bohlken (*emeritus*)
Knoxville, Tenn.

Rev. Gary Heckmann (*emeritus*)
Cookeville, Tenn.

Rev. Paul Muench (*emeritus*)
Knoxville, Tenn.

45 YEARS

Rev. Jan Munch (*emeritus*)
Athens, Tenn.

Rev. Dr. Mark Press
Holy Trinity, Bowling Green, Ky.

Rev. Don Schmidt
Messiah, Memphis, Tenn.

40 YEARS

Rev. Keith Enko
Emmanuel, Hermitage, Tenn.

Rev. Bradley Heinecke
Shepherd of the Hills, Horseshoe Bend, Ark.

Rev. Stewart Marshall
Trinity, Pine Bluff, Ark.

Rev. Richard Mayer
Messiah, Pea Ridge, Ark.

35 YEARS

Rev. Steve Harmon
Bethlehem, Johnson City, Tenn.

Rev. Paul Leigeber
Faith, Union City, Tenn.
Trinity, Dyersburg, Tenn.

Rev. H. Christopher Sheets
Good Shepherd, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Rev. Russell Shewmaker (*emeritus*)
Gravette, Ark.

30 YEARS

Rev. Jon Bischof
St. Matthew, Corning, Ark.

25 YEARS

Rev. Mark Goble
Christ the King, Memphis, Tenn.

Rev. Mark Louderback (*candidate*)
Cordova, Tenn.

Rev. Clarence Martin (*emeritus*)
Bartlett, Tenn.

Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola
Mid-South District president
Cordova, Tenn.

Rev. Andrew Smith
Heavenly Host, Cookeville, Tenn.

District staff welcomes Pastor Zwick

THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE the recent addition of a new staff member. **Rev. William (Bill) Zwick** was installed as executive director for Missions and Ministry during the district's Board of Directors meeting on Feb. 8. Pastor Zwick is no stranger to the Mid-South District, having previously served as pastor of First Lutheran Church, Harrison, Ark.



Pastor Zwick has also served the church in other roles over the years, including elder, congregation president and lay delegate to the 2011 Indiana District convention, as well as a lay delegate to the 2016 LCMS convention.

He received training from Ambassadors of Reconciliation in 2016 to provide reconciliation coaching and mediation. Pastor Zwick had also served on the LCMS Board of International Mission since November 2020.

"It is always a privilege to serve Christ's church and His people as a pastor, and now it is especially humbling to serve the district as the mission executive," Pastor Zwick said. "I am looking forward to supporting the congregations and pastors in the district in proclaiming the Gospel to those around us."

Pastor Zwick was born in Decatur, Ind., and enrolled at Valparaiso University in 1994. After working almost two years for a U.S. congressman, he graduated from Valparaiso University School of Law in 1999.

After 16 years as a deputy prosecutor and working in a private practice, Pastor Zwick traded law for the Gospel and enrolled at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. He then served First, Harrison, as a vicar for the 2018-19 school year and was eventually ordained and installed as First pastor in June 2019.

Along with Pastor Zwick, a gracious welcome is extended to his family. He is married to Kyeong-eun ("Carrie"), who was born in Seoul, South Korea. She graduated in 1995 from Ehwa Women's University in Seoul with a degree in vocal

performance, and then received her master's degree in vocal performance from Butler University in Indianapolis. Carrie has given piano or voice lessons to children for over 20 years. Pastor Zwick is quick to note that he married the true talent! They have two children, Mi-ree (17) and Will (15), who are homeschooled through Wittenberg Academy.

The Mid-South District is very pleased to welcome Pastor Zwick to the staff and his family to the Memphis community. He is eager to begin connecting with our ministries and workers, and the district will surely be blessed by the unique perspective his experiences will bring to its ministry.

Congregation mission commitment receipts

as of
Feb. 28, 2022
(2 months)

Anticipated amount (16.67% of budget).....	\$252,482
Actual receipts	\$218,691
Over (under) anticipated amount	(\$33,791)
Use of mission commitment receipts	
Allocated to Synod for world missions	\$61,441
Allocated to Tanzania	\$4,167
Retained for district ministry/mission support (70% of receipts)	\$153,084
Total receipts	\$218,691
Mission commitment receipts comparison	
Actual receipts as of Feb. 28, 2022.....	\$218,691
Actual receipts as of Feb. 28, 2021.....	\$219,451
Over (under) prior year receipts	(\$760)

Aid available for church work students

To support students pursuing a career in full-time church work, the Mid-South District is pleased to once again offer financial aid. To be considered, a student must be a member in good standing of a district congregation and be enrolled in an LCMS seminary or university preparing for full-time service to the church as a rostered worker. Rostered workers are pastors, teachers, deaconesses, DCE, music ministers and more.

To be considered for the student financial assistance program, you must first inform the Mid-South District office that you are or will be a student enrolled at a Synod school. All related forms, including the financial aid application, are available at mid-southlcms.org (go to "Resources" and select "Student Financial Aid" from the drop-down menu

The application deadline is June 15. Forms may be sent to Julie Tyler at tyler@mid-southlcms.com or by postal mail to Mid-South District LCMS; Attn: Julie Tyler; 1675 Wynne Road; Cordova, TN 38016.



Photos: LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

At LIME, **CHRIST** is at the center

By Rev. Dr. Joseph Randrianasolo
President, Lutheran Institute of
Management and Entrepreneurship (LIME)
Fianarantsoa, Madagascar

“Good Teacher, what must I do
to inherit eternal life?” MARK 10:17

We are familiar with the story of a man asking Jesus to tell him the deeds to be done in order to inherit eternal life. Jesus referred him to the commandments. The man responded that he had kept them from his youth. Jesus loved him, told him to sell what he had and give to the poor, and to follow Him.

Maybe, you said to yourself: “What is the relationship of this story to LIME as a school?” Yes, there is a relationship. First, Jesus is called “the Good Teacher.” Second, the man related how he had spent his youth. Finally, Jesus gave an invitation to follow Him.

A school is composed of teachers and students. Usually, students are young. A confessional school educates staff, teachers and students to have Jesus as their Good Teacher. The students’ future constitutes their motivation. Spirituality is the energy that makes the school to produce good fruit. Therefore, it is another way of following Jesus.

Building the spiritual life through the environment

We at LIME are proud to be Lutheran — *Sola Scriptura, Sola fide, Sola gratia*. LIME follows Jesus of Nazareth in the Holy Scripture. LIME believes in Jesus of Nazareth, the Savior of the whole person. LIME is alive out of the grace of Jesus of Nazareth. The dynamic Holy Spirit pushes LIME to progress through income-generating projects, job trainings and more.

Building a spiritual environment begins with the staff and students. Their environment shapes the inner spirituality



Rev. Dr. Randrianasolo is pictured with students at graduation in 2020.

and behavior of the school. This is the reason why LIME has stressed the importance of the spiritual life of its staff and students. Staff members are not only recruited according to their competence. They also have to be practicing Christians. Four out of the five LIME staff members have responsibilities in their own church.

Every morning on class days, all staff members, including directors, gather for a short devotion, led by a staff member. The devotion consists of prayer, hymns, a short homily based on the Scripture text and ends with the Lord’s prayer. Sometimes there are no hymns and homily. But each staff member takes a turn to pray for the school and the future of LIME students.

At the end of the class day on Fridays, all staff members end the week by gathering for a short prayer and thanking Jesus the Good Teacher for the week.

LIME holds a worship service for all students and staff members every Tuesday morning. A staff member leads the service, which includes hymns, Scripture readings and a sermon that I preach.

Through these times consecrated to devotion and worship, LIME shapes the life of its staff and students — life in and with Jesus Christ, the Good Teacher. Eternal life means a life that gets better and better until it reaches perfection in heaven. This motivates staff to work better and better, and students to produce better and better results in their studies.

Building the spiritual life through relationships

Staff members are encouraged to get close to students so that the latter may have the courage to unveil their troubles and aspirations. Then concerned staff members may advise them and pray for them.

As president, I try to balance authority and friendship with staff and students. I tell our staff and students that my door is always open so that they may say or wave hello when they pass by. I respond in the same way.

I also visit staff in their offices for conversations about anything. Good relationships between me and the school community facilitates spiritual growth.

My objective is to offer an image of authority mixed with friendship and trust. Consequently, I may become a trusted confidant. Sometimes, students or staff visit my office for spiritual guidance or a short prayer for a specific concern.

Following the Good Teacher

Attending university for a prosperous future is a noble ambition. But faith in Jesus Christ, the Good Teacher, is the point of departure for our students.

Cyclone Batsirai hit Fianarantsoa very hard on Sunday morning, Feb. 6. The wind broke some of our windows. Seven students who rent rooms at LIME were awakened when their windows were broken.

Rain got into my home and the rooms of our students. When wind and rain

Continued on next page

had stopped, we gathered in one safe room to pray for Madagascar, for Fianarantsoa and for those who might have lost their belongings or loved ones.

Following Jesus involves living out one's faith in love for others. That is the outward sign of an inner spiritual life. To study at LIME is not limited to individual success in life. Individual freedom is guided by the freedom of Christ to serve others with a heart motivated by love for others.

Academic achievement resulting in jobs, crowned by a spiritual life in and with Jesus Christ summarizes the LIME motto. In that sense, following Jesus embraces the person in full wholeness for the wholeness of others. That is a sound, intelligent spiritual life.

The Mid-South District has supported LIME since 2013. For more information, visit mid-southlcms.org/mds-missions/madagascar.

GOSPEL

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Christ with others. Essentially, we are soldiers for our Lord in a world that needs engaged Christians now more than ever.

With everything happening in our world, there is an answer — a solution — because there is a Savior. Jesus is that Savior. He is alive and on the throne today, and that changes everything! We are not left helpless or hopeless, no matter what has happened or could happen in our lives.

We live out our baptisms as soldiers for Christ, having been called by Him to share His love with others at home, in the workplace, in the community and throughout the world.

The hymn “Onward Christian Soldiers” says it very well (LSB 662:1):

Onward Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.
Christ, the royal master, Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle See His banners go!
Onward Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.

2 Cor. 5:15 says:

and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised.

Soldiers on the battlefield put sacrifice and service over self. That is what Jesus has done for us, and that is how we live our lives, loving God first, followed by loving those around us.



Ascension Lutheran Church, Madison, Tenn., is pleased to host The Henkel Conference on Aug. 22.

The Henkel Conference is devoted to Christian theology and cultural engagement by featuring dedicated Lutheran theologians and experts on Christian subject matter.

Presenters include Rev. Dr. Thomas M. Winger, president of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada; Ryan T. Anderson, president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center;

Brent P. Waters, director of the Stead Center for Ethics and Values; and Leonydus Johnson, host of the *Informed Dissent* podcast.

Although not yet finalized, the presenter topics are anticipated to be worship, the mystical union, gender theory, race theory, religious liberty, bioethics, children's rights, and Christian education.

Visit ascensionmadison.com/henkel for more information and to register. Your greatest support for this new endeavor is your attendance!

Grace to hold seminary class

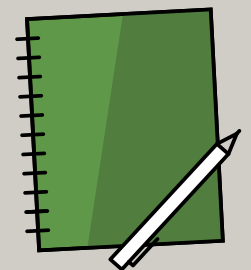
Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, will host a Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), Ind., extension class June 8-11.

The class will be taught by Rev. Scott Stiegemeier, who teaches theology, church history and bioethics at Concordia University Irvine, Calif. He has a master's degree in bioethics from Trinity International University, Deerfield, Ill., and a doctoral degree in bioethics from Loyola University in Chicago.

He has served as a pastor in Pittsburgh, Pa., and Elmhurst, Ill.; and as director of Admission at CTSFW.

The class will address “What It Means to be Human.” It will consider questions concerning human nature and personal identity and congregational responses to transgender ideas and goals, as well as the increasingly important issue of genetic engineering, or transhumanism. The topics will be considered from a biblical perspective.

For more information and registration, contact Rev. Kent Schaaf at 501-663-3631 or kent.schaaf@glclr.org.



A mortgage, and debt of sin, paid off!



Gathered for the celebratory burning of the church mortgage note were, from left, congregation president Victor Karvelius, Rev. Brian Pummill, and facility team leader Jim Leible.

By Rev. Brian Pummill

Pastor, Peace Lutheran Church, Cherokee Village, Ark.

The Holy Spirit inspired King David to write in Ps. 122:1:

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the
LORD!”

As the Peace Lutheran Church family, we had the joy of sharing this sentiment as God allowed us to “go to the house of the Lord” together on Feb. 13 and celebrate the blessing of retiring our mortgage on our blessed church facility.

A once-in-a-lifetime event for many of us, we were blessed to share this moment in our church’s history as we are also celebrating our 50th anniversary as an LCMS congregation. Our current facility was built in 1994 in a central location of the community, which has allowed us to provide many community service and outreach projects in addition to Word and Sacrament ministry.

As part of our experience together that Sunday, we each filled out a “Certificate of Indebtedness and Freedom.” The Bible reminds us

that we each owe an eternity worth of suffering in hell for our sins — a debt we can never pay off.

But thanks be to God, for Jesus came as our Savior and paid the whole price for us, declaring “It is finished (*tetelestai*)” on the cross (John 19:30). A specific business-world term is “debt is paid, in full.”

So we each acknowledged our debt of sin and rejoiced in Christ’s payment on our behalf by signing our “debt certificates.” We marked them with the cross of Christ as His signature, declaring our debt paid off and then depositing the certificates into the bin to be burned up along with the church mortgage note. Praise God for His marvelous gifts!

It is our prayer that this celebration of a significant milestone will be a powerful motivation for our church family to press forward in serving the Lord and our community in His precious name, while He grants us time and opportunity!

Thank you for your brief prayer for us as we share our district’s work together in the Lord’s harvest field!



‘PRECIOUS JEWELS’

By Deborah Leach

Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock

On March 5, Grace, Little Rock, hosted a one-day retreat. The theme was “Precious Jewels,” based on Prov. 3:15:

She is more precious than jewels; and nothing you desire can compare with her.

About 40 women from five surrounding Lutheran congregations attended. Several of the ladies drove over two hours from Faith, Fairfield Bay.

Deaconess Eileen Esget coordinated a team of Grace members who helped with IT, elegant decorations, homemade pastries, hymn singing, lunch and more.

Rev. Kent Schaaf, Grace senior pastor, opened with devotion and prayer and Deaconess Esget led the post-luncheon devotion. Through ice breakers, music, stretching exercises, games (including purse swapping) and prayer partners, the emphasis was on building community.

I spoke on my journey “From Pentecostalism to Lutheranism” and Mary Catherine Senander delivered a presentation on “Vintage Jewelry and More.”

Following COVID restrictions, it was a blessing to gather together as sisters in Christ. Attendees agreed, with one noting that they had so much fun playing a game called “speed friend-shiping” that no one wanted to stop.



Interpreter B.T. Jones explains features on a relief map at the new Visitor Center at Petit Jean State Park. The visit was part of Camp Trinity's Outdoor Classroom session on orienteering.

Summer plans taking shape

Lodge opening slated for September

Although winter weather caused construction delays for the retreat lodge at Camp Trinity, work has resumed and the building is rapidly taking shape. Camp board and staff are praying it will be ready for use by September. The lodge has already been booked for four family reunions and one retreat this fall.

Many generous friends of Camp Trinity have made it possible for the camp to keep up with the work without securing a loan. But more must be raised to cover the costs. The camp invites those who have been blessed by outdoors ministry, especially at Camp Trinity, to consider joining in this new mission opportunity.

The camp also asks for prayer for the project: safety for the workers and Christian witness to them, availability of building materials, progress on construction, additional funding and fruitful use of the facility once it is completed, that Christ is proclaimed and God is glorified at all events in the lodge.

To learn more about how you can help, visit lutherancamp.org/retreat-lodge.

Staff reunion is May 28

Former summer and year-round staff are invited to a staff reunion on Saturday, May 28, at Camp Trinity. Staff alumni can stay overnight in the cabins at no charge.

Former staff are invited to come early in the day to hike, canoe or play games. Alumni can also see progress on the lodge construction, walk the new camp trails and check out other camp changes.

The afternoon will include a cookout, organized competition and a panel discussion in which new staff can ask questions of those who served in past years. The evening will include a campfire, singing old camp songs and a message.

The current and former staff will also spend some time in prayer for their needs and concerns, both spoken and unspoken, and for a Christ-filled summer season at Camp Trinity.

Former staff planning to attend are asked to email the camp office at director@lutherancamp.org.

Enrollment record

Camp Trinity registered more than 40 students (ages 6-17) for its spring semester of the Outdoor Classroom for homeschoolers. More than a dozen parents and younger siblings joined the registered children at most sessions. The surge in enrollment forced the camp to close the classes to new registrations for the first time.

A fifth semester is planned for the fall, and the camp staff is exploring ways to accommodate the larger enrollment. Details will be posted in August at the camp website: lutherancamp.org/for-home-schoolers.

Summer registration continues

Most summer camp sessions still have openings, but parents are encouraged to register now to ensure a spot. Check out more information and availability at lutherancamp.org (find the links at the top of the page).

'Faith in Action' at CTK, Memphis

Members of Christ the King's Faith in Action committee were at the Down Syndrome Association of Memphis and the Mid-South Teachers Conference on Police Safety on Feb. 23. The event provided training to help law enforcement to have safe encounters with those who have a developmental disability.

Faith in Action provided breakfast and served the teachers and staff who attended the conference, as well as the police, sheriff and fire personnel who worked that evening one-on-one with self-advocates.

Thank you to Caroline Johnson, Joni Wolfe and Patti Higginbotham for their hospitality on behalf of Christ the King.



LWML Mid-South District Convention

June 10-12 • Clarksville, Tenn.

HURRY:
Registrations
will be
accepted
until May 20

Register at
[midsouthlwml.org/
district-convention](https://midsouthlwml.org/district-convention)



Location: TownePlace Suites, 120 Fair Brook Place, Clarksville

Convention Theme: "Planting Seeds of Faith" (1 Cor. 3:6)

Keynote speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty and speaker emeritus of "The Lutheran Hour."

Song leader: Wendysue Fluegge

Gifts from the Heart recipients: Hope Unlimited Crisis Pregnancy Center, Paducah, Ky., and Hope Pregnancy Center, Clarksville, Tenn. Please pray for these organizations and consider bringing:

- Diapers in sizes newborn, 4, 5 and 6
- Pull up style diapers
- Baby wipes and toiletries (please limit to shampoo, soap and lotion)

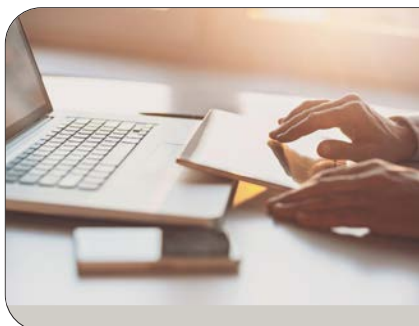
- Laundry detergent (dye and fragrance free)
- Dish detergent
- Gift cards in \$5 or \$10 denominations to either Kroger or Walmart (must have dollar amount on card)

Seminars:

- Learning about Mara Evangelical Church and Burmese Culture.
- LWML Tech Tips (led by Erin Foster)

Know before you go: June can be hot in Clarksville. Bring a sweater in case the air-conditioning is too cold for you.

Remember to tag photos of your preparations, travel to convention and convention activities for social media with [#lwmlmidsouth2022](https://twitter.com/lwmlmidsouth2022).



Deadline for August issue is June 15

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

Send email submissions to LW@mid-southlcms.com or send by postal mail to:

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