



Central Illinois District  
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

*"Make Disciples of All Nations"*

February, 2015

### Opening Thoughts:

If the "life of a Christian is one of continual repentance," as Luther states in his 95 Theses, then humility is demanded in recognition of who we are in light of who our God is. God is perfection in every way, yet we are so broken. He is holy and we are not. There are "none who do not sin" and "none who seek after God." We are "dead in our trespasses and sins..." What room is there for boasting?

If one has not grown complacent like the present-time world in which we live, as the Judgment approaches, the spiritually-minded become acutely aware that we must be humble before His throne. Rightful humility is the sinner's course. "Pride comes before the fall..." None ought to praise himself. Sin is the awful condition in which we are enslaved and the prison from which we cannot free ourselves.

Any saved alive and forever, it is by God's gracious action in Christ. Our worth depends on who Jesus is for us. If He is just someone to help us over the hump, then you're too big and He's too small. If Jesus is just an example who shows the way to something higher and better that we ourselves can attain, then your Savior is hardly the Jesus of the Bible. But if Jesus is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," the only One who came to "crush [the serpent's] head," the only One by whose humble obedience death, devil, and grave are defeated, then, God's Word and Spirit have led you to the Jesus who is our only Redeemer and Lord. Those who are humble trust in Him alone and are saved!

– The Rev. Mark Miller, CID President, Springfield IL

### Prayers for CID Missions

Your prayers are requested for Hispanic Outreach through St. John's Lutheran Church, Beardstown (Pastor Doug Evenson and Vicar Jason Gullidge)

**Woodcutters Retreat - Feb. 20-22:** Each year Camp CILCA has a retreat when men can gather to clear out some fallen trees and prepare firewood for the coming camping season and be strengthened in their walk with the Lord. We will be staying in the Christian Growth Center. The suggested donation is \$25 for housing, meals, and snacks. We begin with registration on Friday night at 7:00 pm and conclude at 11 am on Sunday morning. Please call and let us know if you will be coming (Camp 217-487-7497 or Pastor Dave 217-691-1252).

### LERT (Lutheran Emergency Response Training)

#### Volunteer Training Events

All events start with registration at 8:00am and go until 4:30pm

Sessions begin at 8:30 am

**April 18, 2015**

Immanuel, Macomb

(Student Center) 303 N. Clay Street, Macomb

**May 2, 2015**

Trinity, 1010 N. Webster Street, Taylorville

**Concordia University Chicago Kapelle** will present a choral concert at Our Savior's – Springfield on Friday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

**Shepherd's Canyon:** The new 2-minute Shepherd's Canyon Retreat video is available on YouTube with Shepherd's Canyon Retreat written in the blank box.

**Vacation?** LCMS church workers and families, who are coming to Arizona for 2015 Summer vacations, are invited to stay—inexpensively—at Standing Stones Retreat Center near Wickenburg, AZ. Information: [info@ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org](mailto:info@ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org) or 480-588-8837.

### Board Briefs

- CID Board of Directors met Tuesday, January 27 at the District Office. In the Focus on Mission segment, Board members heard from Rev. Stephen Southward on his chaplaincy work in various correctional facilities in the western portion of the district.
- CEF continues to offer grants to assist congregations in updating to more energy efficient fixtures. Contact District Office for more information on the Green Initiative.
- Appointment of Rev. Shawn Boylan to the Youth Committee was approved. There will be no CID Day at the Ballpark for 2015.
- Congregational contribution reports will again be published.
- New bookmarks detailing the mission work of the district are being distributed.
- Constitutions from St. John's-Louisville, St. John-Effingham, and Mt. Calvary-Peoria were ratified.
- Board approved a budget for 2015 that anticipates a .3% increase in expenses and a 1% decrease in revenue. 2014 expenses were .01% less than budgeted, 2014 revenues were 1.9% greater than anticipated.

Board next meets Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at the District Office.