



Central Illinois District
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

"Make Disciples of All Nations"

January, 2014

Opening Thoughts:

For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness." 1 Corinthians 3:18-19

In recent years the Word of God has been the focus of a great many attacks. Atheist and agnostic have all gleefully thrown their barbs and darts at Holy Scripture. If it weren't so sad, it would be almost laughable to see how they pounce on an imagined and what they believe to be newly discovered inconsistency of Scripture.

Holding their breaths and stomping their feet, they demand the church explain these errors. Unfortunately, they seldom listen to anything that is said in response.

Their actions all remind me of the time when churchman John Wesley received a critical note, which, in part, read, "The Lord has told me to tell you that He doesn't need your book-learning, your Greek, and your Hebrew."

Humbly, Wesley answered, "Thank you, sir. Your letter was superfluous; however, as I already know the Lord has no need for my 'book-learning,' as you put it. However, although the Lord has not directed me to say so, on my own responsibility, I would like to say to you that the Lord does not need your ignorance either."

God neither needs our book-learning, nor does He need the ignorance of His self-appointed detractors. What the Lord needs is people who see themselves as sinners and Him as a God who saves. What He wants is people who say, "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner" and, who believe, because of His Son's sacrifice that He is.

What He needs is people who know they need the Savior and people who are willing to share Him. Prepared to make a defense of the Gospel, we share the Savior with those who need to hear it the most.

It is for such people that we pray today.

Taken from Ken Klaus' daily devotions.

Correction: Last month it should have been made clear in the report on Board of Directors actions that although the present property of Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Buffalo is for sale, the congregation continues and just recently added new members. The Rev. Keith Bueltmann is pastor. Sunday Worship is at 10AM at 110 West McManus, Buffalo.

Prayers for CID Missions

During the next 30 days please pray for:

Our Central Illinois District campus ministry at the University of Illinois, Champaign. The Rev. Rick Milas is the campus pastor at University Lutheran Church. Sunday morning Bible Class is at 9:30AM and Worship at 10:30AM at 604 E. Chalmers, one block west from the University of Illinois Quad.

Cancer Companions Available at Our Savior's, Springfield

Unfortunately, we all know someone who has been touched, directly or indirectly, by a cancer diagnosis. When you get that diagnosis, your family members, your loved ones, your intimate circle of friends, your caregivers, your neighbors, and your co-workers get it, to some degree, also. It is a diagnosis with far reaching impact. What if you could find hope on that journey?

While it does not ignore the physical issues of a cancer journey, Cancer Companions is a unique ministry whose focus is on the impact cancer can have on your relationships. Any crisis in one's life has the potential to strengthen or to erode those relationships...with your friends, your family, and with God. What if, on your cancer journey you could find hope... and peace and strength and understanding and kindness? A recent participant wrote, "I knew we needed something, but I had no idea what. Then I heard about Cancer Companions. God knew what we needed and He provided it for us."

This 9-week ministry is open to the public and is available at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Springfield under the direction of Kim Meyer, RN, PN, CLLM. Registration is required as group size is limited. If you are a current or previous cancer patient or the friend, family member, or loved one of one and would like to register or receive additional information, please call Kim at the church office, 217-546-4532.

The 69th Annual LWML Convention will be held April 25-26th 2014 at St John's Lutheran Church, Effingham, IL. The theme of the Convention is "Soar on Wings Like Eagles", Isaiah 40:31. The speakers, Todd & Jan Luedtke, are Lutheran teacher/missionaries with over 27 years in the mission field.

The convention will be hosted by the Effingham-Shelby Zone. Rooms have been reserved at the new Hampton Inn & Suites on Keller Drive. The hotel phone number is 217-540-5050