



Central Illinois District
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

"Make Disciples of All Nations"

June, 2013

Opening Thoughts:

"For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come."
Hebrews 13:14 ESV

The Church of God is made up of *pilgrims* and is on the move. Its members are "homeless" until we reach God's household above. Here, the Church is a haven for those homeless, but once established it can become smug and satisfied with the status quo. However, as Jesus foresaw, for its good, it will end up shaken when this world's hostility wreaks its havoc.

Against the evil foe's flaming darts the Lord Himself has clothed us in the "belt of Truth, the breastplate of righteousness, given us shoes – the Gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit." (Eph. 6:14-17) We wait with longing to be freed of our captivity and to return home.

As the owner of a trailer, during the summer, I briefly rent little parcels of land, and after a few days, we move on. The trailer is not meant to be a permanent home. Sometimes we camp in some very scenic spots where we might wish to remain. Yet, here is the reality. While being away is nice, after a while our own bed is preferred.

The evil foe is already defeated. Our crucified Lord Jesus has risen victorious. Our real and permanent home is with Him. The author of Hebrews makes it clear that our true affection lies in our heavenly fatherland of which we are citizens even now.

Lift up your eyes as we are "pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:14)

Rev. Mark A. Miller, CID President

Prayers for CID Missions

During the next 30 days please include the following in your church's and your personal prayers:

Please pray for our Central Illinois District pastors and other trained workers who serve the spiritual needs of many inmates at a time of change in our Illinois Prison System: Pastor Chuck Olander, Logan and Lincoln Corrections Center; Pastor Stephen Southward, work camps in Pittsfield and Roodhouse and the Western Correctional Center, Mt. Sterling; and the Rev. Pablo Dominguez, East Moline Correctional Center (Pastor Dominguez was recently named East Moline's Volunteer of the Year)!

CID Announces 2013 CID Volunteer Teacher

The CID Parish Education Committee selected Barbara Maske, of Zion Lutheran Church, Mt. Pulaski, as the 2013 Lutheran Volunteer Teacher of the Year. The Parish Education Committee congratulates Barbara Maske for her dedicated service, and thanks everyone who nominated teachers for the award this year.

District Bible Bowl (couldn't fit it in last month's newsletter)

The fifteenth annual Central Illinois District Youth Bible Bowl took place on Sunday afternoon, April 14, 2013. 12 teams from 6 circuits participated by answering questions about "The Exodus."

The championship team for the fifth year in a row came from St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Milan, Illinois. In 2nd place was Trinity – Coal Valley and 3rd place was Immanuel – Altamont.

Board Briefs from the Central Illinois District Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2013.

- Rev. Jensen presented to the Board regarding the work of the District at Wittenberg Center, Illinois State University.
- The Board has asked to be provided with a copy of revised congregational constitutions before voting to ratify changes reviewed by the Congregational Constitution and District Handbook Committee.
- Board approved appointment of Melissa Wren, Betsy Lash and Rev. Sam Janssen to replace members of the Education Committee whose terms had expired.
- Board appointed Deaconess Tiffany Manor as the District Disaster Coordinator. Deaconess Manor already works with Lutheran Church Charities in the area of disaster response.
- Board approved Salary Guidelines for 2014. Guidelines are available on the CID website.
- Board appointed Rev. Chuck Olander to a one year term as Planned Gift Counselor, succeeding Mr. Dave Rohe.
- Board approved a recommendation by the Stewardship Commission to reinstate publishing the annual report of congregational contributions to district.
- Treasurer reports both contributions and expenses are close to budgeted expectations.
- Board designated a recent unrestricted gift to be used to pay for roof repair on the Red Building across the parking lot from the CID Office Building.
- Board made several recommendations to the Synod for nominations to various boards.