



Central Illinois District
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

"Make Disciples of All Nations"

March, 2014

Opening Thoughts:

Romans 8:28 "ALL things for good," the Apostle Paul declares. Really? My recent illness, the passing of a loved one, beloved friend, or admired person? Yes, indeed. In God's economy, with only our present and eternal good in mind, His plans for us go forward. Note that Paul does not say that ALL things are good, but that they "work together for good." Obviously, the disappointments, reversals, and challenges of life in a fallen world are not good in and of themselves. But they WORK for good. That is God's promise to His people, the ones who "are the called according to His purposes." His "purpose" now unfolds again for us as we walk the Lenten path. His "purpose" further reveals just how bad something could be, as Jesus goes to the cross in our place. Nothing we have done or suffered is as bad as that! But His purpose is gloriously revealed, as Jesus walks out of the borrowed tomb alive forever! Nothing we ever could do could bring about this wonderful show of God's purpose. And so we rejoice, even in the down times and under the oppression of circumstance, because we know that God is always working for our good, both now, and forever. Blessed Lent!

Rev. Don Pritchard, Zion, Pleasant Plains

Prayers for CID Missions

During the next 30 days please pray for: Campus Ministry at Eastern Illinois University through Immanuel Lutheran Church, Charleston. Mr. Greg Witto and Pastor Ken Hoover provide the spiritual care for the students through worship, bible studies, service opportunities, leadership training, counseling, fellowship and more!

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis has a one-day event April 11th for prospective students college age and older. Classroom visits and information about financial aid and the admissions process will be available. There is no charge to attend. Call 1-800-822-9545 for registration information.

Mark Your Calendar: Trinity Lutheran Church – Taylorville will be hosting guest artist Kristine Stout, handbell soloist on Sunday, May 18, 2014. Trinity - Taylorville is located just east of Springfield Road (SR 29) near the corner of Webster and Bidwell. Call (217) 825-3310 for more information.

Announcing the 2014 Central Illinois District Youth Bible Bowl

The Central Illinois District Youth Bible Bowl is scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 6, 2014 at Trinity Lutheran School in Springfield, Illinois. The event begins at 3:00 P.M.

Topic: Romans and 1 Corinthians. This year we get to study the book which made Martin Luther Lutheran (Romans), and the epistle which answered some of the thorniest questions in the early Christian Church (1 Corinthians).

Are your youth participating? To get official questions for your circuit Bible Bowl, contact Pastor Mark Eddy markeddy@att.net at least a week before your Bible Bowl. If you do not know when or where your circuit Bible Bowl will take place, look into it right away! If your circuit is not holding a Bible Bowl, your youth may still participate in the District Bible Bowl on April 6th in Springfield. Contact Pastor Eddy for more details.

Two new books are now available, free of charge, from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF): the Arabic *Small Catechism* and the Spanish *Bible with Small Catechism* (3rd edition).

The Arabic *Small Catechism* is proving to be especially helpful in campus ministries and in English as a Second Language (ESL) settings.

As with all of LHF's materials, the Arabic catechism and Spanish Bibles are available at no cost to the churches, ministries and individuals who need them. For those who are able, donations help cover the cost of shipping and allows LHF to continue in its mission of translating and publishing Lutheran books around the world.

To order either of these books, call the LHF office at (800)554-0723 or send an email to info@LHFmissions.org.