



"Make Disciples of All Nations"

Central Illinois District
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

March, 2015

Opening Thoughts:

Leaving Despair Behind

Abraham and Sarah had no children. They were old and had given up hope of having their own children and heirs to inherit the blessings God had given them. Today some people choose not to have any children. Abraham and Sarah wanted a child.

It must have seemed outrageous that at ninety-nine years of age God came to Abraham and said he would be the father of a multitude of nations. Sarah was 90 years old. Surely long before this they had despaired of having a child of their own.

What has led you to despair? What might happen that could plunge you into despair? Childlessness, physical or emotional suffering, not realizing your dreams for life?

Our challenge for Lent is to give up the possibility of despair and replace it with the living hope of the resurrection. In the Bible, the opposite of despair is hope. "Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Romans 5:5). Leaving despair behind means clinging to the words of Jesus as He leads us into the future. It means holding on to hope despite our feelings. No matter how bad we may feel, it doesn't change the fact that God loves us so much He would go to the cross and die for us!

Leaving despair behind isn't easy. It's a life long struggle. We can't do it unless we hold on to the hope of our resurrected Jesus. The temptation to despair will still come, but the Spirit of God working through the Word raises us heavenward with hope.

Board member Rev. James Wright, Immanuel - Altamont

Wittenberg Dedication - If you would be interested in attending the dedication of the "Old Latin School" in Wittenberg, Germany (May 3) contact pastordave@bueltmann.org for more information (217-691-1252). Registration deadline is **March 15**.

Prayers for CID Missions

Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Jacksonville and district wide ministry to the hearing impaired (Rev. Thomas Phillips)

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

Ambassadors of Reconciliation Conference this April 16-18.

Welcome to Ambassadors of Reconciliation's very first international conference. This conference is packed with inspirational speakers from around the world and dozens of educational workshops led by peacemaking experts and centered on God, His Word and His plan for cultivating lifestyles of reconciliation. Whether you are new to biblical reconciliation or you have been through training and already serve as a reconciler, this conference has something for you! This conference will include opportunity to attend any or all of our seminars and training plus much more! For information and registration, go to their Website <http://www.hisaor.org/web-content/Conference2015.html>.

"Secrets to Parenting – Parenting is Heart Work" Sponsored by the Central IL District. Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining, and Bad Attitudes in Your Children. Lavern Kruse, the DCE executive for the LCMS English District, is coming to our Central IL District to conduct the *Parenting is Heart Work Seminar* at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Saturday, **May 2, 2015** from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The seminar is open to congregations of our district as well as the community as a program to strengthen families.

The cost for this seminar is \$20 per single and \$30 per family. Yes, that means you may bring the children too, child care will be provided. Teens are encouraged to participate along with their parents. Lunch will be included in this cost. Please make checks payable to: **Central Illinois District**.

To register online go to:

<http://www.oursaviors-church.org/effectiveparenting> or register on the Biblical Parenting Website at

<http://www.biblicalparenting.org/schedule.asp> and scroll down to Illinois to check the details.

The address for Our Savior's is 2645 Old Jacksonville Road, Springfield.

