



Central Illinois District
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

"Make Disciples of All Nations"

November 2012

Opening Thoughts:

Martin Luther describes the Christian as being saint and sinner at the same time. Saints are not perfect people, nor those having that title because someone determined they earned it. Rather, saints are sinners that have been baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection; that trust in all Jesus did for them; that are covered with the white robe of his righteousness.

Being saint and sinner doesn't mean we have license to sin as much as we want, but it does bear witness to God's unending love for us. The Word saint means "holy one", and though we are not holy in and of ourselves, but sinful and deserving of eternal separation from God, He sent His Son to suffer and die in our place. God forgives our sins for Jesus' sake and declares us holy, and even though sin continues to be part of us in this world, God's mercy in Christ continues to cover us. In fact, we regularly confess this assurance in the divine service as we use a passage from the Apostle John: "If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:8-9).

So we are saint and sinner – sinners deserving God's wrath, but saints living in the reality of being God's sons and daughters through His dear Son. This also means we have fellowship with the saints above.

Though we are apart from loved ones that have died in Christ, the inheritance they have is also what God has in store for us, and in His time He will bring us together with them to incomprehensible joy in His eternal home.

All Saints' Day was November 1, and perhaps your congregation observed that day on the first Sunday in November. This was a while ago, and now with the month coming to a close our planning for Thanksgiving Day is foremost on our minds. Yet as we give thanks, the ongoing significance of being God's saints comes to the forefront again. For it is the greatest thing that in forgiving sinners, God qualifies us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Rev. Rick Milas, Campus Pastor U of I, Champaign/Urbana

Prayers for CID Missions

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

All four full-time campus ministries of our Central Illinois District:

University Lutheran Church, Champaign (University of Illinois); **Wittenberg Lutheran Center, Normal** (Illinois State University); **Immanuel Lutheran Church & Student Center, Charleston**, (Eastern Illinois University); and **Immanuel Lutheran Church & Student Center, Macomb** (Western Illinois University). These four campus ministries have the potential of telling over 100,000 college students the Good News of Jesus Christ (80% of college students typically do not attend church)!

"A BIG THANK YOU goes out to all who donated cash, supplies and physical labor that went into the Camp CILCA Dining Hall Roof this past weekend [Oct. 20]. Your response was overwhelming. Because of your generosity the dining hall roof was completed far ahead of schedule on Saturday morning."

Rev. Karl Eckhoff; *Chair of Camp CILCA Board*

From LCMS Rural and Small Town Mission

Christmas is the one time of the year when — even in the most commercial and secular of places — images, words and songs about Christ are not only acceptable, they are welcomed. The weeks leading up to the Church's celebration of our Lord's birth are full of ample opportunities to try to engage a secularized culture with the truth of Christmas. While children's programs and choral services are common among many LCMS congregations, there are many other ways in which congregations can step out into their communities through acts of mercy, service and witness. Consider new ideas or take things that you have always done and invite the community to be involved. Collections of clothing and food, presentations of gifts for families in need and events with children can all provide the means of proclaiming Christ's birth and inviting others to come and celebrate Christmas with your congregation.

Congratulations to Katie McCulley, volleyball coach at Lutheran High School – Springfield. Katie has been named Illinois Girls Volleyball Coach of the Year by the Illinois High School Association.