



Central Illinois District
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

"Make Disciples of All Nations"

November, 2013

Opening Thoughts:

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

Wages are expected. When we hire on, an important question is, What will I be paid? We also know something about gifts.

Presents from loved ones or friends delight us. When it comes to my salvation, which will it be--my wage or God's gift?

Heaven has a pay window. God is the paymaster. Sooner or later everyone has to step up to that window and receive what he or she has coming. Strange, though, no one is in a hurry to draw the check each of us has earned. For on it in bold letters is written "DEATH." In sin each of us is born. In sin each of us lives. With all my sins I have to face the eternal Judge. I don't want the wage, but I can't escape it. Physical death on earth and eternal death in hell are what I have coming.

But look at what God offers me instead. "Eternal life," Paul calls it. God's gift to me is the exact opposite of what my sins have earned. Instead of death, I receive life. Not just my brief stay on earth but my forever life in heaven. How can he be so kind? "In Christ Jesus our Lord," Paul states clearly. God's free gift can come only through Jesus because he went to the cross and collected man's wages for sin. On the cross he received every penny of punishment for the sins of the world. On the cross he picked up my paycheck for sin so that I could have God's gift of life.

Lord, by your grace, let it be your gift of life when I step before heaven's window. Amen.

David Rohe: taken from "Together with Jesus" by Richard E. Lauersdorf

Camp CILCA is in need of a cook to work Monday through Friday during summer camp and perhaps some weekends. This could also include cooking opportunities on weekends beyond the summer. Call or email Pastor Dave at 217/487-7497 or 217/691-1252 or send email to camp@cilca.org .

Prayers for CID Missions

During the next 30 days please pray for:

Christ the King (Cristo Rey) Lutheran Church, East Moline and her pastor, the Rev. Pablo Dominguez. The pastor and members of Christ the King continue to share the Good News to many Hispanics in their community. Ask God to continue to bless their work and God's Word that they share that it may not return empty but accomplish the purpose for which He sends it!

Lutheran Hour Rally featuring LH Speaker Rev. Greg Seltz will be 2 PM on Sunday, December 8 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 203 E. Division St. in Altamont. A meal will follow at 4 pm for a free-will offering. Various musicians will sing, including Rev. Seltz!

The CID office will be closed November 28-29 for Thanksgiving.

Connect Youth: An important responsibility LCMS

congregations and parents have is to care for youth in their midst before and as they become young adults. The church should take seriously the challenge to not let young adults leave high school and then "figure it out." Young adult life and culture, perhaps like never before in our nation's history, provides more distractions and choices away from the church and her ministry.

A few tips:

- Ground children and youth in the importance of regular worship and the truth of God's Word.
- Pray for your young people and let them know you do so.
- Prepare youth for what is ahead after high school. Be honest about the trials, temptations and blessings that await them. Encourage them to stay connected to the Church and God's Word through it all. Help them see what has been instilled in them applies to where they are headed.
- Encourage those interested to consider church work careers (e.g., pastor, deaconess, DCE, teacher).
- Attempt to keep in contact with young adults when they go away from the community. Help connect them to LCMS congregations or LCMS U chapters if they depart for another community. (Visit: www.lcms.org/campusministry)
- Provide care packages for college students or military members to let them know their "home" Body of Christ still cares for them.

Shared by the LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission