



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

February 2021

News You Can Use

I carry different keys for the house, the car, the church, etc. on my key ring. Also, there is a small flashlight made in two pieces. I don't know how many times I have lost it. I lost it a few days ago. I didn't realize when I lost it or how it happened. I searched for it in the house, in the car, but nothing. The next day, I found it next to where I park my car. This little flashlight doesn't look brand new like it once did. This little flashlight has helped me so much whenever I have needed it. It even helps me to share with you this brief meditation.

All human beings are lost. We are born in sin and commit sin daily. The devil catches us with his claws and drags us into his dark abyss. We do not have the solution to help ourselves with this problem of sin. It is God, who in His infinite goodness, searches us and calls us to repent through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It doesn't matter if we are mistreated, hurt and without a remedy of our own. Jesus cleans us and cures us of our sins. He restores us and gives us the hope of eternal salvation. We should be thankful that our gracious God takes the time and has the patience to search for us. We are important to Him and He wants to give us His love. We are "lights to the world". To people around us God makes us a light that shines in the darkness even though they may look upon us with disdain or disinterest.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:14a & 16 "You are the light of the world.... In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven". It is important to say that our attitudes and actions are being observed by other people: our neighbors, friends, coworkers and family. Perhaps, they are desirous to be part of the church where we worship. Maybe they see that somehow, we are different. They also need the light of the gospel that changes and transforms people. Any task that we do for the glory of God, be it small or be it big, we are testifying to others that He reigns in our hearts. We ask God that we might be the light for others who still live in the darkness.

Have no fear. If I would have lost my old flashlight, I could have replaced it. Blessings in Christ.

This little Gospel light of mine
I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine, all the time,
Let it shine!

Pastor Pablo Dominguez-Cristo Rey Lutheran Church-East Moline

Pray For Our Central Illinois District Missions supported by your church's Mission Dollars to the District. "Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored."

Please remember in your prayers all our CID campus ministries, especially Rev. Michael Schuermann and University Lutheran Church in Champaign, serving students, faculty, and staff of the University of Illinois and other institutions. And pray for the "Keeping Christ on Campus" campaign, building endowments to help CID support our campus ministries.

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SHARE

Central Illinois District Youth Bible Bowl (April 2021)

Introducing the 2021 Central Illinois District Youth Bible Bowl: The Exodus. As, God willing, we have our own exodus from home confinement to meeting together as God's church in our various congregations, we seek God's guidance for our exodus by studying the historical portions of the biblical book of Exodus (chapters 1-20, 24, 32-34, & 40). We are working on developing an "online" Bible Bowl for this year. Contact Pastor Mark Eddy at zionlcms@juno.com if you would like more information about how your congregation's youth might participate in this year's Bible Bowl.

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SHARE

LCMS- Virtual Life Conference.

March 19-20

Cost: For \$20, you get access to the event live. For \$40, you get that, plus ongoing access to the recordings for another 90 days.

Each participant must register individually. See the following link for additional information and to register. https://www.lcms-life.org/?r_done=1.

Here I Stand Sunday

April 18th

More information will be released from the Synodical Office in the future. As a reminder in its 2019 convention, the Synod adopted the following resolution:

4-09, To Declare April 18, 2021, as "Here I Stand" Sunday and to Encourage Multi-Congregation Celebrations

- † "Resolved, That April 18, 2021 be declared "Here I Stand" Sunday throughout The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, its districts, circuits, and congregations; and be it further
- † "Resolved, That these entities be encouraged to gather for worship celebrations to commemorate this event; and be it further
- † "Resolved, That a synod wide thank offering be coordinated and collected for this day, to be used toward the continued proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world . . ."

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Looking for additional information visit <https://linktr.ee/cidlcms> or

connect with the following items:

- † CID's GatePost (newsletter)
- † Subscribe to the E-GatePost/News You Can Use
- † Stay connect with us on Facebook and Instagram -- [Central Illinois District-LCMS](#)