



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

January 2023

News You Can Use

“Going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts...” (Matthew 2:11).

The first record of worshipping Jesus took place in a house. The Magi bent low and acknowledged Him as God and Lord. They even brought offerings.

Do you worship Him at home? Perhaps, like our family, you put away your Advent wreath this week, around which you listened to His Word for the past forty-one days. With the wreath stowed away until late this year, let's hope you haven't stopped holding home devotions. It's vital to worship the Triune God in the Church, and in our homes. As I saw on the outdoor message board of one of our circuit congregations this week: "Daily devotions are more important than yearly resolutions."

The vitality of such worship at home isn't in your routine. It's in His gifts, just like in your weekly worship in the Lord's house every Sunday. He's the great Giver. Come, let us adore Him ... every day. A blessed Epiphany,
- Pastor Mike Burdick St. John's Lutheran, Effingham

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.”

Dear Father, we pray Thee, give us thy Word, that the Gospel may be sincerely preached throughout the world and that it may be received by faith and may work and live in us. So we pray that thy kingdom may prevail among us through the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit, that the devil's kingdom may be overthrown and he may have no right or power over us, until finally the devil's kingdom shall be utterly destroyed and sin, death, and hell exterminated, and that we may live forever in perfect righteousness and blessedness (from Luther's Large Catechism).

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SHARE

Christian Citizenship – Living as Christian Citizens in the Here and Now

In January of 2023, the Illinois General Assembly will conduct a "lame duck" session and begin its regular 2023 legislative session. Visit our District website to read current and updated information regarding your role as a Christian Citizen.
<http://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-human-care-christian-citizenship.html>

A Night of Hope: Where God, Art, and Mental Health Meet

Trinity Lutheran Church, Auburn, IL

Sunday, January 29, 2023, • 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

High school youth and adults of any age are welcome!

Join Blake Flattley, Tanner Olson, and Heidi Goehmann for an afternoon of poetry, music, and tools for meeting our mental health with hope. This event connects people to resources that help them breach stigma, rest in God, and build strength to love themselves and those around them well, no matter the challenge. All three presenters will have merchandise available for sale and will do signings.

Cost is FREE (by God's Grace and generous donors). Registration is open now through January 15th at www.trinityauburn.org. Please reach out to Trinity, Auburn, at tlcauburnil@gmail.com with questions.

Sponsored in part by Trinity Lutheran Church, Auburn, Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, Camp CILCA, and Thrivent

Reimbursements for Prison Ministry Materials

Consider donating printed Gospel-centered materials to a nearby state, federal prison, or county jail. Thanks to a generous grant from central Illinois LWML, members of CID congregations or these churches can make such donations and receive at least partial reimbursement from the District. CID will reimburse up to \$200 on a donation.

For the present program's reimbursement voucher, guidelines, and list of approved materials, please see
<http://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-prison.html>.

2023 CID Youth Bible Bowl

Announcing the 2023 Central Illinois District LC-MS Youth Bible Bowl: "Judges and Ruth." In the best way, you know how to study these two biblical books about a difficult period of history for God's people. And talk within your circuit about holding your Circuit Bible Bowl in the weeks before the District Bible Bowl scheduled for Sunday, April 16, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at Camp CILCA.

The Bible Bowl provides an opportunity for our youth (6th-12th grade) to be involved in Scripture study and thus to grow in their knowledge of God's Word and deepen their faith. Each circuit gets to send its top two teams to Springfield. For more information on holding a Bible Bowl in your circuit, please contact Pastor Mark Eddy at Zion Lutheran Church, Taylor Ridge, Illinois. (email at zionlcms@juno.com)

CPH FaithCourse

All CPH FaithCourse (Video based Bible Study) printed materials will no longer be available after February 1st. So, you are encouraged to visit CPH at <https://cphfaithcourses.com/> and print off any and all printed materials before February 1st. This would include handouts, leaders' guides etc. The videos for these courses will remain available at CPH website via their YouTube channel.
<https://www.youtube.com/c/ConcordiaPublishing/playlists>