

Nbr. 45 – October, 2022

Boldness for Witness – in Christ

The Word they still shall let remain

Nor any thanks have for it.

He's by our side upon the plain

With His good gifts and Spirit.

And take they our life,

Goods, fame, child and wife,

Though these all be gone,

Our vict'y has been won.

The Kingdom ours remaineth! (*LSB* 656:4)

See? **WOW!** What do we have to lose?

Annual C-WOW meeting

Customarily, we have held a C-WOW meeting with ongoing training on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. This year, that will be Nov. 19. As we began doing during the pandemic, we will meet via Zoom, although anyone wanting to join me at the District office is welcome to do so.

I propose that we plan to meet from 9:30 to noon. I need to know whether this is workable.

Please e-mail me by 8:00 a.m. on Oct. 6 if you KNOW this will be a bad day/time. Otherwise, please save the date. I look forward to it!

Apologetics

This fall I am making apologetics presentations for the campus ministry at EIU and the CID Pastors' Wives Retreat. I would be glad to do likewise elsewhere.

A listing of presentations I can offer, on apologetics and other matters, can be found at <http://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-presentations.html> These could be possible topics for one of your Circuit Forums or Convocations!

Set Apart to Serve

I have mentioned this point before in this newsletter, yet it bears repeating: part of our involvement in evangelism as Christians is to do what each of us can train and equip others to tell the Good News about Jesus. Back of all that is recruiting our fellow Christians for evangelism, "getting them into it," as it were.

And we have a special opportunity to recruit pastors, as well as other church workers in to serve in the various helping offices that our Synod has established. *Set Apart to Serve* (SAS) is the Synod's initiative for church worker recruitment. Make your Circuit aware of it.

The Synod web page for SAS says: "Since church work is rooted in Baptism and a lifetime of hearing the Word, SAS encourages young people to consider church work vocations primarily through their continued and faithful involvement with their congregation." This is a key point: Catch them while they are young! Even to wait until they are confirmed may be to miss an opportunity.

This web page also says: "Parents/grandparents, pastors, professional church workers, Sunday school teachers and others in your congregation help influence children to consider serving the church in these sacred and joyful vocations." Part of the "cheerleading" you do as a C-WOW can be for church worker recruitment. See <https://www.lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve>

Last month, when I was at River Forest recruiting students to be CID evangelism interns for summer, 2023, I had the honor of preaching in chapel. *What I said there is on the next page of the present issue.* I was recruiting, all right . . . and not only for CID's summer evangelism internship!



Circuit Witness and Outreach Workers

Worth considering: What is in Your Hand?

The President of Concordia University Nebraska wears a specially-crafted medallion. Written on it are the words that God spoke to Moses in the burning bush scene of Exodus 3 and 4. There the Lord said: “What is in your hand?” He was telling Moses what Moses really had.

At the moment, it looked like all Moses had was a bunch of excuses. “It’s not me, it’s them – the people, they won’t believe me.” Then, “It’s not them, it’s me. I don’t talk good.” Finally, it was God. He should be more creative: “send someone else.”

Yet the Lord gave answers for everything Moses said. For, in fact, Moses did have *resources*. What was in his hand? A staff that would become a serpent then turn back, in a hand that would turn leprous and back, all by the almighty power of God. Moses may have been slow of tongue, but the Lord would teach him. The Lord also provided Aaron to speak to the people on Moses’ behalf.

Beyond this or that resource, though, and in the midst of them all, the Lord was giving *Himself* to Moses. God got angry when Moses did not grasp this. What did Moses have? He had *God*, no less – the Lord, the God of his fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob! God had promised Abraham an Offspring, a Seed, Who would be none other than the Seed of the woman and would roll back the curse from the fall into sin. In this Seed, the Lord declared, all the families of the earth would be blessed.

What did Moses have? He had *opportunity*, an opportunity bigger than anything he, a murderer, deserved. It came from the God who told him to take that staff along with him, the staff that reminded Moses of everything in his hand.

In the 2005 *Fantastic Four* film, Victor von Doom says of Reed Richards: “Reed’s always right, but he doesn’t always know what he’s got.” How

about you? You may not always be right. But do you know what *you’ve* got . . . what is in your hand?

Like Moses, you have *opportunity*. It’s not the same opportunity. Still, you have an opportunity to impact people with God’s Word, and it goes broader and runs deeper than anything sinners like you and me deserve. The good you can do far exceeds the boundaries of this place and time – be that Illinois in 2022, or anywhere you go in your whole life – and this good reaches into eternity.

For like Moses, you have *the Lord*. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe. It is His power to save you. What is in your hand? First, nothing. “Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling.” What is on your forehead? The sign of the cross made when it was touched by water with the Word in your baptism. What is in your mouth? The body the Lord gave for you, the blood He shed for you.

And like Moses, you have *resources*. What is in your hand? Right now, a Bible, and all kinds of helps to enable you to learn this Word of God that centers in Christ. There are books and so forth, but also people: professors, counselors, and classmates. Some of you are already on track toward full-time service to the Lord and His church. Others among you may be headed to serve Him in a different way.

Or you may switch to a church work field. You’ll never have a better opportunity to make the change than right here and now. I put it to you that every Christian should consider church work first, before anything else. If there are good reasons for you to serve God in another way, they will become clear. And if you are making excuses – well, the Lord has a way of overwhelming excuses. Just ask Moses.

What is in your hand? What do you have? Resources. Opportunity. Best of all, the crucified and risen Lord! – Ken Schurb kschurb@cidlcms.org

