

Nbr. 46 – November, 2022

A Thought for another Election Day . . .

Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal;
Earth-born they are and soon decay.
Vain are their counsels at life's last portal,
When the dark grave engulfs its prey.
Since mortals can no help afford,
Place all your trust in Christ our Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!

See? **WOW!** We are privileged to point people to their real Source of help and hope, Jesus Christ.

E1HW Context modules: Witnessing to –

- People Influenced by Critical Theory
- People after an Abortion
- People with Depression or Anxiety
- New Veterans
- Grieving People
- LGBTQ People
- Jewish People
- De-churched Adult Children
- People influenced by Scientism
- Mormons
- Muslims

Find these at <https://www.everyonehiswitness.org/>

Making Disciples for Life Resource Center

It is worth some time to look around at <https://makingdisciples.lcms.org/> This is the Synod's Making Disciples for Life Resource Center. It is designed to be a cumulative collaboration of people all over the Synod.

The site is still in its early stages. There is no guarantee that you will find a resource for every conceivable contingency. It's worth a look, though!

AGENDA FOR 2022 C-WOW MEETING

Saturday, November 19, 2022

9:30 Opening Devotion

9:40 The 2022 CID Convention and Evangelism

9:50 DFM Funding and Church Planting

10:05 Short reports from C-WOWs:

What's happening in your Circuit?

What are congregations doing in Evangelism?

Note the question in italics and ask around!

How can CID help?

10:45 Break

11:00 Beyond the Classroom (see below)

11:15 Books: *Connected to Christ* and
Meaningful Outreach from CPH

11:30 Reminders: Demographic Studies,
CAD/DS survey, re:Vitality modules

11:45 General discussion . . . end by noon

Beyond the Classroom

Beyond the Classroom is from the *re:Vitality* outreach module *Connect to Disciple*, which is about moving new people from initial connection with a congregation and its members to being gathered around Word and Sacrament with the members as a disciple. "Beyond the Classroom" applies *Connect to Disciple* to churches with Lutheran schools.

CID has been awarded a multi-year LWML grant to bring Beyond the Classroom to our schools. This will be a discussion topic at our upcoming C-WOW meeting. This is a great time for Lutheran schools and outreach through them!

Media Kits

The Synod has two customizable media kits to invite people to Advent and Christmas services. See <https://resources.lcms.org/media-kits/>



Circuit Witness and Outreach Workers

Worth considering:

But I Can't Witness!

(based on Joel Heck, *Evangelism* 4:2 – Feb., 1990)

"Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame" (1 Peter 3:14b-16, ESV).

Why do people not want to tell the Good News about Jesus? This newsletter issue and the next will present, and respond to, several reasons.

1. *"I'm afraid."*

People fear rejection or ridicule. They worry about how an attempt at witness on their part may end up souring a valued relationship. Fear is probably the number one reason why Christians don't tell the Good News.

If you doubt this, just ask yourself: "If I knew with certainty that my words would be well received, then it be more likely that I would speak?" Did you say *yes*? Then fear looms larger for you than you may have thought.

Peter wrote, *in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy*. When we so reverence the Lord, then what He wants and what He does will stand out as of much greater importance to us than anything that the people around us might think or do. *Have no fear of them, nor be troubled*, wrote Peter.

And as Paul recalled what the Lord once said, His power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). It should not surprise us that we are weak. Our weakness throws us back upon the only One Who truly is strong, our Lord, the Victor over

sin, death, and all the devil's might. He gives us His Spirit. "Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts" (Zech. 4:6). We can rely on the One Who answered for our sin and lives to tell the tale. In baptism, He made it our tale too.

We can address some of the fear directly. Listen to someone telling the Good News about Jesus, perhaps on an evangelism visit. Then give it a try. Try it on other Christians before you approach an unchurched person. The butterflies may not go away, but they won't fly so haphazardly!

2. *"I don't know what to say."*

In other words: *I'm unprepared*. And the response here greatly resembles what someone might tell you in other areas of life, i.e.: *Then get yourself prepared!* Peter wrote: *always [be] prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you*.

Actually, as Peter hinted, you are already more prepared than you might think. On account of Christ, you do have a hope. Jesus has given you a reason (in Greek, a *logos*) for this hope. He Himself is that reason. What do you say about Him?

This is not as hard as we sometimes make it out to be. You need not learn answers for every possible question, objection, or situation. People are converted not because of our expertise or eloquence, but by the Holy Spirit working through the Word. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom 1:16). God's Word is "living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword" (Heb. 4:12). It has the power to save souls (Jas. 1:21).

And, of course, we can always learn more of the Word. The more we both know the Lord and know of the Lord, the more confident our witness will be.

– Ken Schurb kschurb@cidlcms.org



Circuit Witness and Outreach Workers