



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

January 2022 mid-month

News You Can Use

Removing the Stone

They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb. Luke 24:2

Why did the angel remove the stone from the entrance to Jesus' tomb? He did not need the stone to be rolled away for Him to rise. The resurrected Jesus had come through locked doors to assure his disciples that he had risen. The stone was rolled away for our sakes, so that with Mary, Peter and John we could look into the tomb to see that he had risen.

I believe that rolling away the stone can also be a metaphor for us to consider when we are at odds with someone. We can picture the issue of contention as a stone that separates us from someone we love. Such stones, if not dealt with appropriately, threaten to separate us from God's love. Too often, when in a conflict, we try to "roll the stone" on top of the other person by attacking them instead of addressing the issue. As a result, even though we may have "won" an argument, we have crushed the other person in the process.

Rather than rolling the stone on top of the other person, Christ would have us join with the other person and push the stone together. As brothers and sisters in Christ, God works through both people to accomplish his goal of resolution and reconciliation.

As the women walked to Jesus' tomb, they were concerned that none of them was strong enough to roll away the stone. The same is true with us. We are not strong enough to roll away the stones that separate us from those we love and threaten to separate us from God. But together, with prayer and mutual cooperation, and by using God's strength, we can remove even a great and heavy stone that stands between us and another person.

Rev, Jeff Harter

60th Regular Convention Central Illinois District July 17-19, 2022

Crowne Plaza Springfield, Illinois (additional information of the CID website under the *News and Events* tab. (<http://www.cidlcms.org/events-2022-district-convention.html>))

- Before March 10th, once you have chosen your congregational lay delegate, please send that name to the District Office at cid@cidlcms.org so that we will have a pool from which to select floor committee members.

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SHARE

Members of One Body is the next in a series of *re:Vitality* modules from the Synod's Office of National Mission. The subject of this module, currently in its final phases of development, is assimilation of new church members. As part of a pilot project, Dr. Ken Schurb will teach the preliminary **Members of One Body** Bible study at Trinity, (515 S. MacArthur Ave-Springfield) on a series of four Tuesday evenings: (starting 6:30 pm) February 1 and 15 and March 1 and 15. All are invited! If your church might be interested in *Members of One Body*, you can take a taste of it, so save the dates now. Please let us know if you are planning on attending or for more information, contact kschurb@cidlcms.org

Bring Giving Home

CID's stewardship and mission education initiative, *Bring Giving Home* officially started at the District Pastors' Conference in Spring, 2019

This February Pastor Heath Curtis, Coordinator for LCMS Stewardship, will be in Central Illinois to duplicate part of the presentation he made at our Spring, 2019 pastors' conference. This is the "pastor" portion of what LCMS Stewardship calls its "Philippians" workshop. In it, Pastor Curtis outlines the basic approach that marks all the Synod's Stewardship materials, including CID's *Bring Giving Home* initiative.

Pastors new to CID since spring, 2019 are especially invited to his presentation in February. Also invited are pastors who were in the District in spring, 2019 but somehow or other missed his talk at the conference then. And invited, too, are pastors who heard his talk but would like a "refresher." Because of a generous grant from Church Extension Fund, the District will reimburse all of them for their mileage to travel to and from Pastor Curtis's repeat presentation in February.

The presentation will be at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sherman, from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. It will take place on Monday, Feb. 7, 2022. If the weather is bad on that day, the alternative date (same time) is Monday, Feb. 21, 2022.

Please register for this presentation by sending a message to Stewardship Executive Ken Schurb before Feb. 1. His e-mail address is kschurb@cidlcms.org

92nd CID Lutheran Layman's League Convention

The Convention will be held on March 5th, 2022 at Mt Calvary Lutheran Church, 2055 South Franklin Street Road, Decatur, Illinois. We are pleased to have as our speaker Dr. Walter Maier III
For more information contact Danny Magelitz dmagelitz@hotmail.com. Or (217) 622-7015

Camp CILCA'S ANNUAL BANQUET

Sunday, March 20, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. **At Camp CILCA's Dining Hall!**

Tickets are \$40 each. Call the camp office (217-487-7497) or email (camp@cilca.org) to reserve your tickets today! The Annual Banquet is an evening celebrating God's work of *Creation* and *Redemption*, especially as those works are enjoyed, proclaimed, and taught at Camp CILCA. Join us for an evening of music, food, great speakers, and friends. **This year's speaker will focus on, "Why Beauty Matters."**