



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

July 2024

News You Can Use

[Jesus said] “If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.” Matthew 5:29

Jesus isn't teaching us how to maim ourselves into heaven with these words. But neither is he just trying to reveal our inability or unwillingness to truly repent. What he IS doing is teaching us about prudence, discipline, and self-control for the sake of our eternal salvation. A wise Christian recognizes that there are particular people, places, and things that are prone to lead him into sin, AND he knows that if he would curb their influence, he ought to avoid them. So, for example, someone who is given to Drink, should avoid bars or people that make him want to drink. Someone who is a glutton should avoid going to buffet restaurants. It's a matter of “cutting out” of your life anything that you know leads to sin — regardless of how otherwise neutral or even good it is, such as an eye or a hand. This is the wisdom of God's law applied, particularly in its curbing use. With these words from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is giving us practical advice — not to save ourselves, but to keep us safe from spiritual harm, and like all gifts from him, we ought to receive it in good faith and with thanksgiving.

Rev. Aaron Uphoff from Calvary Lutheran Church – Watseka

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

Items of Interest to Share

Apply for Dollar for Mission funds in 2025: All CID congregations are invited to submit proposals for projects to be funded with 2025 Dollar for Mission funds. Well-conceived projects will be considered in the following order of priority: first, brand-new church plants; second, mission-focused augmentations to existing ministries (e.g., adding a new ethnic ministry to a present congregation); third, established CID missions (e.g., Ministry in Spanish, Campus Ministry, Deaf Ministry, Prison Ministry). The application deadline is Sept. 1, 2024. For more information, see <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-apply.html>

Illinois March for Life – Save the DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2025, As last year, Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Springfield (across the street from the state capitol building) will host a Matins service in the morning before the rally and march, and a light lunch will be provided at a nominal cost. Precise times are being determined. Again this year, parking will be available to you downtown at the State House Inn, a block north of the capitol and near Trinity. However, please make plans now to carpool whenever possible. Let's bring as few cars downtown as possible.

CID's District Coordinators for the 2025

We want to introduce you to the LCMS Youth Gathering! DCE Jonathan Guse, Bethel Morton, and DCE Christy Malinowski, Trinity Bloomington, will serve this year, and both have many years of experience with the Gathering! You can contact them at cidcoordinator@gmail.com with any questions about the Gathering planning or for information and tips on leading a group! Also, email us your primary youth leader's name and contact information.

All Illinois Youth Workers Gathering

September 26th- 28th, 2024 - Camp Cilca

All Illinois Youth Workers are encouraged to put September 26-28, 2024 on their calendars for the gathering at Camp CILCA in the Central Illinois District. David Reuter will lead the retreat, focusing on the topic "Growing Young." He will discuss the six core commitments that research through the Fuller Youth Institute has found in common across congregations demographically growing younger. The overarching goal for our time together is to begin developing a plan to aid the LCMS congregations in the Illinois Districts to grow young together through the leadership of, and assistance to, the Districts' DCEs.

- If you come on Thursday night, we will provide dinner at 6:00 pm with time to relax with other youth workers. The formal program will start on Friday morning.
- Friday's discussion will be geared toward professional church workers (DCEs, Pastors, and Deaconesses). Attending the Saturday discussion will also be helpful for those who attend Friday's discussion.
- Saturday's discussions will be geared towards lay youth workers.

[Register now online](https://www.nidlcms.org/illinois-parish-professional-retreat/) for the gathering @ <https://www.nidlcms.org/illinois-parish-professional-retreat/> Registration deadline is September 13, 2024.

Registration cost for events:

\$80.00 for 3 days, Thursday-Saturday, September 26-28, 2024

\$50.00 for 2 days, Friday-Saturday, September 27-28, 2024

\$20.00 for either Friday or Saturday