



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

September mid-month 2025

News You Can Use

In Autumn, we naturally think of change. Leaves change colors and fall to the ground. Our wardrobe changes as warm summer breezes give way to brisk autumn winds. Clocks change back to “regular time.” The days grow shorter and the nights longer.

As we deal with these and other changes, we can thank God that we are not buzzards, bats, or bumble bees! If a buzzard is placed in a 6x8-foot pen with no top, it is trapped because it must begin its flight with a 10-12-foot run. A bat placed on the ground will lie helplessly because it must take off from an elevated position. A bumblebee will remain trapped in an open jar because it can't look up, only down and sideways. The buzzard, bumblebee, and bat may become stuck in a difficult or unfamiliar situation.

God gave us the ability to adapt to change. He changes our hearts when we repent, deny ourselves, and trust in him for forgiveness and salvation. We can look up to God in prayer and search His Word for guidance. He lifts us up when we are down. And when we feel trapped, he enables us to soar above our circumstances. We can embrace change with confidence that he will carry us through any situation.

As we experience changes, it is comforting to know that God never changes. “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.” Isaiah 40:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8 According to his unchanging promises, he blesses us and gives us strength, courage, direction, and comfort when we face difficult changes and losses.

Rev. Jeff Harter

Pray For Our Central Illinois District Missions supported by your church's Mission Dollars to the District.

Our Lord Jesus said, “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into the harvest.” This month, please remember in your prayers all the students, particularly those from CID, who are studying at our Synod's colleges and seminaries to become pastors, teachers, and other kinds of church workers – many of whom are supported by scholarship money from CID.

Items of Interest to Share

OAFC Adult Teams:

Our District, along with two others (South Wisconsin and Southern Illinois) has been awarded a grant by the Bolick Foundation to partner with the Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ organization to develop adult teams of 3 to 5 people per District. These teams would travel to District congregations and offer either a 2-and-a-half-day or 5-day event that would provide evangelistic practice by a) canvassing neighborhoods; b) engaging in “dry run” practice of witnessing skills with church members; and c) helping a congregation to begin or to augment its evangelistic efforts in a nearby nursing home.

- Would you be interested in serving on such a team yourself? Do you know someone else who would?
- Might your congregation be interested in hosting such a team to work in your midst?
- If the answer is “yes” to any of these questions, or if you would like more information, please contact Evangelism Executive Ken Schurb.

(kschurb@cidlcms.org)

CID Junior High Youth Event – Save the Date

Theme: “Make A Joyful Noise”

Saturday, November 8th, 2025, at Camp Cilca
Time 9 am – 4 pm (sign-in will start at 8:30 am)

Cost \$40 per youth --- \$0 for adult leaders
(includes lunch, t-shirt, and a full day of activities)

Start planning now to attend this Junior High Youth Event. Registration, long-sleeve t-shirt orders, and additional information will be found at the following link: <https://forms.gle/KaSiitVeioUgLBQU9>

- Deadline for registration is October 20th.
- After that date, individuals can still register up to October 30th, **but will not receive a t-shirt.**

Announcing the 2026 Youth Bible Bowl

Date: Will be in the spring of 2026. We are still working on the date.

Topic: “The Gospel According to St. Matthew”

The Gospel according to St. Matthew gives a summary of what we need to know in order to have salvation from sin, the devil, and death. St. Matthew's Gospel records the most important teachings of Jesus and the key events in Jesus' life. Plan to study “the Gospel according to St. Matthew” with youth (junior and senior high [grades 6-12]) as thoroughly as you can, to prepare them to answer questions in your Circuit and at the District Bible Bowl in the spring, and (most importantly) so that by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit they grow in their faith that Jesus truly is the Son of God and our Savior.