

From Pastor's desk...

September-2021

Fellow Redeemed of Zion,

If all goes well, we will be spending one-third of September on a vacation to Boston by bus. We are told that everything on this tour is first class, and that we will see a lot of US history, landmarks, and even historical cemeteries.


Cemeteries are really fascinating places. There, the pre-resurrected folks await the trumpet call from heaven, the lightning flashing from East to West, and Jesus coming back to signal the end of the old world and the beginning of the new one.

The citizens of this new world will be the Redeemed who have passed away, as well as those who are living when that "Great Day of the Lord" becomes a reality beyond our comprehension.

On that day, history will come to an end, as those who died in faith in Jesus Christ come alive again, along with the living who will be changed in the blink of an eye.

Some will rejoice. Some will cry out in anguish. All will see Jesus "coming in the same way" as the disciples saw Him go on the day of His ascension. I want to be in that crowd of forgiven sinners, don't you?

And we are! By the gift of faith! By daily confession and promised absolution. "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Blessings!
Pastor R. 

Zion News....

Sunday School Classes have resumed. It's not too late for your little lamb to join their class. Children aged 3 years to 8th grade are encouraged to attend!! Sunday's at 9:00 A.M.

* * * * *

Pastor and Cindy will be on vacation September 11 - 21. Rev. Mark Miller, CID President will officiate at our Divine Services on September 12 and September 19.

& & & & & & & & & & & &

Confirmation Classes will begin on Sunday, September 26, 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M. Parents of confirmands are welcome to stay and attend the classes, too!

LuHi Volleyball Mum Fundraiser - deadline to order is Monday, August 30. Orders should be emailed to: k.mcculley@spiluhi.org. See bulletin on August 29 for more information.



YES, THERE WILL BE A SENIOR (OLDER ADULT) RETREAT

Because of the Pandemic, our Senior Retreat Scheduled for 2020, was rescheduled for 2021. This is to inform you that the Southern Illinois District and the Missouri District will hold the 19th Lutheran Older Adult Retreat on October 20 (Wednesday) and October 21 (Thursday) at the Pere Marquette Lodge & Conference Center in Grafton, Il. The theme is "20/20 Perfect Cross-Eyed Vision" ("Cross Eyed" simply means that our **Eyes** are focused on the **Cross** of Christ!) Our theme is based on John 12:21b ..."we want to see Jesus."

Dr. Rich Bimler, expert on aging & humor, will be our Keynote Speaker on Wednesday. Retired Seminary Professor, Rev. Dr. Jeff Gibbs, will be our Bible Study Leader on Thursday. His study is also based on John 12:21b. His title is "It Doesn't Look Like Glory to Me: Seeing Jesus as He wants to be Seen."

Each day features an Opening Devotion, followed by 8 one-hour workshops, which seniors may choose 2 each day. Wednesday dinner will be followed by Musical Entertainment from "The 60's Chicks", performing popular songs from the 1960's. During the Retreat you will also have time to relax, enjoys the sight, and fellowship.

The Retreat cost is \$100/per person for both days, \$75 for Wednesday only, & \$50 for Thursday only. Meals included are Lunch & Dinner on Wednesday, Breakfast & Lunch on Thursday. The cost for Lodging, however, is **NOT** included. Make your room reservations by calling the Lodge at 618-786-2331. Tell them your reservation is for "Lutheran Older Adult Retreat" at a rate of \$99 for a single or double, plus 11% tax. This rate is good until 10/06/21.

The Retreat Brochure/Registration Form can be found at www.sidlcms.org. Click on Forms/Registration. You will need to download and print the Registration Form and mail it. Each district congregation has been mailed a copy too. If you have questions call Margo Wolf at 618-979-3376.



The Camp CILCA Lowdown

September, 2021

217-487-7497 / camp@cilca.org

4124 Camp Cilca Rd.

Cantrall, IL 62625

Labor Day Weekend: September 4-6

Pitch your tent with others from across Central Illinois for a weekend of swimming, fishing, canoe rides, disc golf, squishy-ball, campfire devotions, Christian fellowship, and freshly fried chicken at the Sunday Chicken Fry. *Contact the camp office today to reserve a spot in the campground, a cabin, or a hotel room in the CGC.*

This year's auction will be live, and includes many gift baskets, crafts, homemade preserves and candy, a week of summer camp, a family dinner for 10 at CILCA, 2 guided youth hunts worth over \$600, and more great items.

Sunday Schedule:

10:30am ~ Matins at the Outdoor Chapel

11:15 ~ Dedication of Dining Hall

11:30-2:00 ~ **Chicken Fry** (Adults, \$8; Children, \$5)

1pm ~ **Live Auction begins!**

1-4pm ~ Beach open (weather permitting)

Jr & Sr High Catechetical Retreat: Oct 1-2

Students will experience the rhythm of worship, study, prayer, fellowship, play, and rest. Matins, Vespers, and Bible/Catechetical study will be led by the pastors of the Central IL District. Activities will be led by camp staff. This year's study will focus on **The Lord's Prayer** as our model for faith and hope in Christ before the world. Register at cilca.org/catechetical-retreat.html

HELP NEEDED!

Do you enjoy cooking and need some extra income? Camp CILCA is seeking to fill the position of **Assistant Cook**: \$14/hr, part-time, mostly weekends in the Fall-Spring. For more information contact the camp office today!



Whippoorwill Challenge

LUTHERAN
LEGACY
FOUNDATION

Hickory Point, Forsyth, IL
Friday, September 24, 2021

Check-in: 11:30am
Shotgun Start: 1 PM
Format: Scramble
(build or join a team)



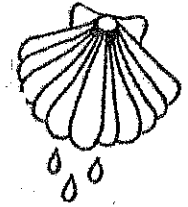
To Register: email individual or group
(include names and email addresses) to: revdms@gmail.com
call or txt: 309-335-1532 or check out CILCA.org

Costs: Due to the generosity of the Lutheran Legacy Foundation, much of the cost of the outing have been underwritten. Proceeds collected from sponsors and players will all go directly to Camp CILCA and the CILCA Endowment Fund! While \$60 will cover your basic cost (golf, cart, dinner), you are free to give more with the knowledge that it will go for the betterment of Camp CILCA.

Make checks payable to Lutheran Golf Fundraiser Grace Lutheran Church PO Box 493 Paris IL 61944-0493

Registration deadline: 9/22/2021

September

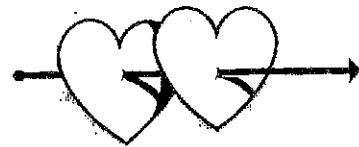


Birthdays

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Anna Bruce | 9/1 |
| Jim Krone | 9/1 |
| Jackson Kuhlman | 9/2 |
| Alexia Manker | 9/3 |
| Madison Maro | 9/9 |
| John Morgan | 9/9 |
| Debbie Sparling | 9/9 |
| Lisa Carter | 9/14 |
| Ainsley Gumbel | 9/14 |
| Carol Frantz | 9/16 |
| Michele Stremsterfer | 9/16 |
| Stephanie Goebel | 9/17 |
| Jeff Jurgens | 9/17 |
| Kendra Theilen | 9/17 |
| Bonnie Jurgens | 9/20 |
| Tammy Tewes | 9/22 |
| Dana Greene | 9/25 |
| Norman Stremsterfer | 9/26 |
| Ken Matzat | 9/27 |
| Joe Curry | 9/28 |
| Romel Nolting | 9/29 |
| Debbie Edie | 9/30 |

Baptism Birthday's

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Jeff DeGeal | 9/1 |
| Monica Boesdorfer | 9/2 |
| Colton Stremsterfer | 9/2 |
| Dawson Manuel | 9/4 |
| Carolyn Greer | 9/5 |
| Joyce TeRonde | 9/5 |
| Kevin Hecht | 9/9 |
| Bob Bernoteit | 9/15 |
| Courtney Wieland | 9/15 |
| Clifton Mahler | 9/18 |
| Amanda Wieland | 9/19 |
| Luke Oswald | 9/25 |
| Trenton Anderson | 9/30 |
| Ainsley Gumbel | 9/30 |



Wedding Anniversaries

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Carl & Sondra Hermes | 9/14 |
| Barry & Jean Morgan | 9/14 |
| Alan & Kris Cowhick | 9/27 |
| Eric & Ann Oswald | 9/27 |



Reason # 10

Jesus Upheld the Practice of Tithing

In contrast to the Old Testament where tithing is often referenced, tithing is rarely mentioned in the New Testament. Matthew 23:23 is one of two occasions when Jesus mentions the tithe.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.”

Jesus also refers to tithing in the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector which is found in Luke 18:9-14.



While Jesus doesn't criticize the practice of tithing, He is critical of those who use tithing to excuse themselves from practicing justice, mercy, and faithfulness. While affirming the tithe in Matthew 23:23, He is really exhorting the Pharisees to examine their motives. When we tithe out of love and gratitude for our Savior, we honor the Lord. If we tithe out of duty or as a way to earn our salvation, the tithe is a meaningless, empty gesture. Apart from a relationship with Jesus built on faith; tithing has no value in God's sight. *“And without faith it is impossible to please Him”* (Hebrews 11:6). God wants us to give our gifts and offerings to Him out of a love response. Old Testament believers tithed under the Law; New Testament Christians tithe under grace out of a love response to our Savior. With the proper motive of love for God Who gave His only Son, the tithe acts only as a benchmark or a guide for our proportionate giving. However, nowhere in the New Testament does it suggest that we are to give less than the tithe. We give, not to fulfill a legal requirement, but out of love for Jesus.

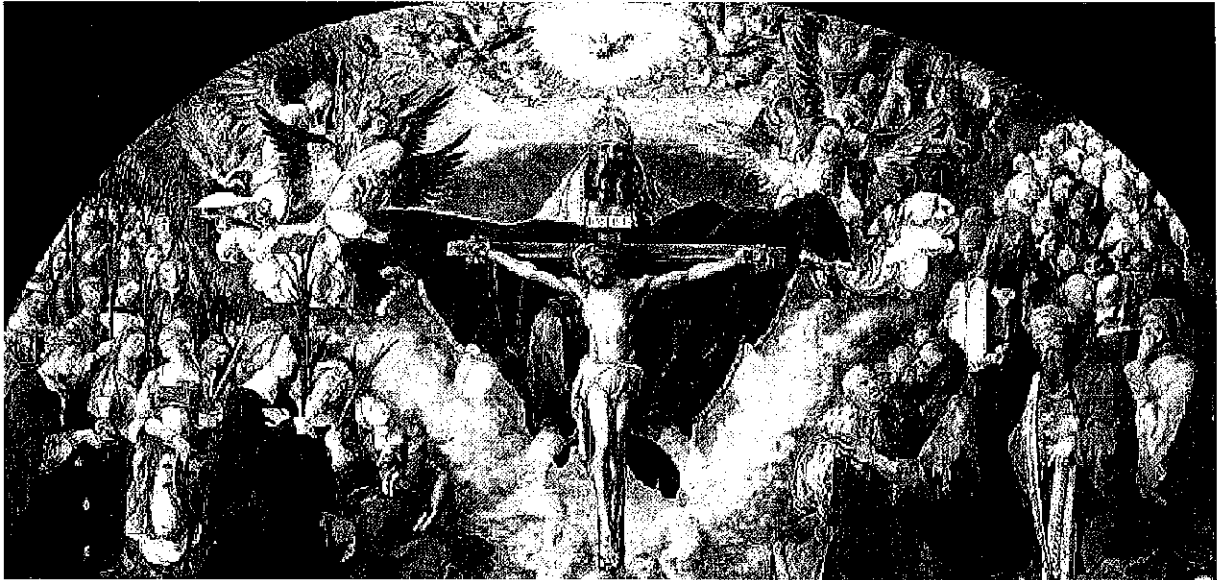
Because of what Jesus did on the Cross for each of us, our attitudes change from a “got to” give to a “want to” give. Through faith and trust, many of us will not only tithe but give beyond the tithe. Jesus said, *“Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required...”* (Luke 12:48).

Prayer: Dear Jesus, grant me a giving and generous heart. Help me loosen the grip on my money. I pray that my generosity will give You honor and glory. I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

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Galatians 5:1-6

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait

Freedom from Slavery

Bernard of Clairvaux, Hymnwriter and Theologian
19 August 2021

Our Christian moral convictions are under attack today primarily by the new religion, which has been imposed upon us by our cultural elites: the religion of free sex. What I mean is that every sexual practice must now be accepted within our culture today. It may not be disapproved of in any way. Indeed, it must be lauded and encouraged. To disapprove of any sexual act in our culture today is tantamount to a religious heresy. And you know what happens to heretics.

The freedom of which Christ speaks in John 8 is not the freedom to do as we desire. It is not the freedom of tolerationism. Indeed, what our world calls freedom is in fact a horrifying and insidious form of slavery. What our world calls freedom is to be enslaved to sin and depravity. How odd to call the very thing that enslaves a freedom! Yet this is extremely common in our culture. We mis-name

for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. (ESV)

many things. Take for example, the “Affordable Care Act;” which is neither affordable nor does it provide better medical care. Are we also so foolish as to confuse sin and freedom, so that one is called the other? Perhaps so, much to our shame.

Have you ever wondered if a pig thinks it’s free? How would the animal fed unto slaughter in small pens, living with their own filth know whether they were free or captive? He never sees beyond this very small world. The hog is free to eat, sleep, and perhaps copulate. This is the same thing that our world calls freedom, I think.

How could we go back to this slavery to sin, since we have been freed by our God who has opened paradise through the precious blood of Jesus our Lord, reconciled us to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility and putting to death the lust that makes us enemies of God and abusers of each other. How could we go back?! “Thanks be to God, that we who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which we were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness” (Rm 6:17–18). Paul is turning over the word “slave;” harnessing it for the purposes of true freedom. We have become slaves of God, who frees His slaves from their depraved lives by offering His Son for them, and He draws them to Himself, takes them into His arms and blesses them by baptism and through the Son they become sons. The pigs are pigs no more! I am glad of such slavery where the master dies for the slave and makes him a son.

As the Johann Heerman hymn says of the cross of our Lord:
What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him,
Who would not know Him (LSB 439:4)?

Here is a freedom full of gratitude that will return to the neighbor faithful service to the Ten Commandments in full thanksgiving to God. As Luther said, “The Christian bears and holds with [the neighbor] what he is not obliged to do. But

this he does freely, for he is certain that this is pleasing to God also, and he does it gladly, accepts it as any other free work which presents itself without his selecting it, because he desires and seeks no more than to do in faith the works which are pleasing to God." Here is freedom from slavery to the world.

Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray
Memorial Lutheran
Church



Martin Luther

"Let us learn to place a high value on this freedom of ours; not the emperor, not an angel from heaven, but Christ, the Son of God, through whom all things were created in heaven and earth, obtained it for us by His death, to set us free, not from some physical and temporary slavery but from the spiritual and eternal slavery of those most cruel and invincible tyrants, the law, sin, death, the devil, etc., and to reconcile us to God the Father. Now that these enemies have been defeated and now that we have been reconciled to God through the death of His Son, it is certain that we are righteous in the sight of God and that all our actions are pleasing to Him; and if there is any sin left in us, this is not imputed to us but is forgiven for the sake of Christ. Paul is speaking very precisely when he says that we should stand in the freedom for which Christ has set us free ([Gal 5:1](#)). Therefore, this freedom is granted to us, not on account of the law or our righteousness but freely, on account of Christ. Paul testifies to this and demonstrates it at length throughout this epistle; and Christ says in John 8: 'If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed' ([Jn 8:36](#)). He alone is thrust into the middle between us and the evils that oppress us. He conquers and abolishes them, so that they cannot harm us any longer. In fact, in place of sin and death He grants us righteousness and eternal life, and He changes slavery and the terrors of the law into the freedom of conscience and the comfort of the gospel, which says: 'Take heart, my

son; your sins are forgiven' (Mt 9:2). Therefore, he who believes in Christ has this freedom."

Martin Luther, *Lectures on Galatians*, 5.1

Prayer

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

For Rebecca McCalmon, that the Lord would grant her strength as she recovers from burns

For all deployed military personnel, that the holy angels would watch over them in all their ways

For all those who are confused about who they are, that they would know the joy of having their identity assured by Christ and His unstinting love for them

Art: DÜRER, Albrecht *The Adoration of the Trinity* (1511)



Contact Us



Visit Our Website

Central Illinois District The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod



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Springfield, Illinois 62702-1626

(217) 793-1802
Fax: (217) 793-1822
Email: cid@cidlcms.org

“We Are One in The Spirit”

August 13, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and Christ Jesus our Lord. We continue to hold you in prayer as we all are currently navigating through “unchartered territory” as another academic year begins. We thank you for your service and dedication to the mission and ministry of sharing God’s great love with so many; students and families, throughout this difficult pandemic.

St. Paul wrote to the Ephesians in chapter 4:1-7, “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” The very first thing Paul mentions is Christian unity, we are all saints in the Lord united together by our Christian faith. As we have been united with God, we are also aligned with each other. This unity is the single most significant marker of our life in Christ. As we relate this to the current circumstance, a mask mandate, some for and some against, we must realize that people are not the enemy, but COVID is. We can have our differences and still be one in Christ. The power of the devil is constantly pulling and tugging at us trying to divide and conquer. We cannot allow the devil to get a foothold. He certainly uses anger and division to lead people to other sins.

The Holy Spirit gives faith in order to produce unity among believers. The faith that believers have as members of the Holy Christian church is vitally important and powerful. Faith dwells in the hearts of believers. This means God dwells in the hearts of believers. Faith unites us as believers to live united lives for the benefit of the world. We are united by God’s word to live God’s word. God’s word reveals to others and us His great love for all sinners.

As we go forth into this academic year, we all are concerned about the health and safety of the students, and not just their physical health and safety but their Spiritual health as well. We want the children at the feet of the teachers hearing and learning the Gospel message of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ along with all of the academic learning and extra curriculums. Academic learning must be in person instead of remote for this to take place. The most important issue is

that the Word of God is shared with students and families and nothing should get in the way of allowing that to happen.

We are monitoring Religious Liberty Issues with our Districts. We have been in consultation with religious liberty advocates as has the leadership of the LCMS.

The Roman Catholic Diocese in Illinois have “mandated masks” in their schools and we understand that we do not have that authority, but want you to be aware.

Our Districts will be monitoring ongoing development in this matter and others! You have our encouragement and support in this important work.

Thank you again for your dedicated service and unity to our Lord. We keep you in fervent prayer as we are in this together and the Lord will see us through. God’s grace, mercy, and peace be with you now and always.

In Christian love,

Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, President
Northern Illinois District – LCMS

Rev. Mark Miller, President
Central Illinois District – LCMS

Rev. Timothy Scharr, President
Southern Illinois District - LCMS

Lois Stewart
Mission Facilitator for Schools
Northern Illinois District – LCMS

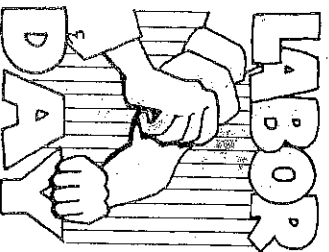
Trip Rodgers
Education and Congregational Life
Central Illinois District - LCMS

Jeffrey Fick
Schools and General Executive
Southern Illinois District - LCMS



September

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M. | Labor Day - Office Closed | | | | | Pastor begins vacation |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Rev. Mark Miller, CID President - Officiant | | | | | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service 10:15 A.M. Rev. Mark Miller, CID President - Officiant | | Pastor returns from vacation. | October Newsletter Articles Due | Church Council 6:45 P.M. | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |
| Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Divine Service with Communion 10:15 A.M. Confirmation Class 6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M. | | | | | | |
| 3 | 4 | Notes: Elder Bob TeRonde Pastor will be on vacation September 11 - September 21. | | | | |



Zion's Newsletter
September, 2021

Zion Lutheran Church
Rev. Don Pritchard
525 North Cartwright
P.O. Box 167
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677
(217) 626-1282

Sunday School 9:00 A.M.
Adult Bible Class 9:00 A.M.
Divine Service 10:15 A.M.

LCMS

Email: zionpp@casscomm.com
Website: www.zionpp.net