



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

February 2025 mid-month

News You Can Use

As you come to Him, the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4-5

Have you ever noticed the pattern in which bricks or cement blocks are arranged on a wall? In the middle of the wall each one is touching six others. The church of Christ is to be like that. Each one of us is touching others that we may support one another. Of course, we are not limited to supporting six people and we ourselves may be supported by more than six.

Have you ever watched a small child build a tower with wooden or plastic blocks? They tend to place each one directly on top of the others. Even if the blocks snap together, the wall easily falls. In business or in church that is what we call “silo thinking.” Departments or families “stack” themselves together without giving any real support to other families or departments. Just like the small child’s block tower, such an arrangement is doomed to fall or to function at much less than its potential.

Christ is our solid Rock upon whom we are securely founded and supported. If things fall apart in a congregation, we cannot blame God. Rather, we must look at ourselves and assess how we are built together and upon whom we are founded. Lack of members or money are symptoms and not the cause of a fall. In rural areas where the number of members may decline because the area population is declining, the congregation can serve God and members can grow in faith as they support one another. Remember, Jesus called twelve apostles, not twelve hundred. And as far as we know, none of them was rich. Yet those few people made a huge difference in the world as God blessed them, supported them, and used them.

Rev Jeff Harter

Items of Interest to Share

CID-LLL Convention –Central Illinois District Lutheran Laymen’s District Convention on March 1st, 2025. It will be at Camp CILCA in the new dining hall room. Doors open at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be served. The guest speaker will be the past Lutheran Hour Speaker and retired Concordia Seminary President, Dr. Dale Meyer. **The registration deadline is Feb 23.** Register by emailing Deloris Blessman at delorisblessman@yahoo.com

LWML CID District Convention: April 25-26, 2025, at Zion, Lincoln, IL. Friday, the 25th, we will have servant events, an evening meal followed by worship service and fellowship hour at Zion Church. Saturday, the 26th, is convention day at Zion School. We are thrilled to have Old Missionary Gary Thies of Mission Central as a keynote speaker. Also, we are equally happy that LWML President Eden Keefe will be with us. Delegates will tend the district’s business and select mission grants for funding. Six Breakout sessions will be held. **Registration and hotel information will be available from your church’s LWML group or at <https://lwmlcid.org> beginning March 10th.**

2025 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING

Registration is now open for our All Illinois district event! The event will be on Sunday night at the Dome! It will be a meal, entertainment, t-shirt, giveaways, and seating on the floor for the mass event. This event will save you from having to make dinner plans for one night at the Gathering, and you get to go into one of the club areas in the dome! **Deadline to register is April 1st!** Here is the link: <https://www.cidlcms.org/2025nyg.html>

- Stay up to date on all the Gathering resources for leaders! Here is the link: <https://www.lcmsgathering.com/resources>
- The event policy has been added to the website, so make sure you take time to read so your group is ready: <https://www.lcmsgathering.com/eventpolicies>
- Reminder that for any youth wanting to be a part of the Gathering Wind Symphony and or Choir, the deadline to submit their **auditions is March 4th.**

2025 Illinois Pro-Life March is scheduled for March 25th in Springfield

On March 25, 2025, concerned citizens from all over Illinois will gather in Springfield for the annual state Pro-Life March. Appropriately, March 25 is the festival of the Annunciation. Annunciation Day will make a great occasion for the Pro-Life March.

Trinity Lutheran Church (220 S 2nd St, Springfield, IL, 62701), across the street from the state capitol building, will again conduct a Matins service at 11:00 a.m. Northern Illinois District President Allan Buss will preach. Immediately thereafter, worshipers may walk to the ballroom of the State House Inn, one block north of the capitol building, to pick up a light lunch consisting of a four-inch ham or turkey sandwich, bag of chips, cookie, and bottle of water. The suggested donation is \$6. The Pro-Life rally outside the capitol is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. Actual marching should step off at about 2:00 p.m. Worshipers may park in the State House Inn’s west parking lot at the corner of Adams and First Streets.

CID Convention Reminders:

- **Convention Date: July 13-15, 2025- Springfield, IL**
- **Overtures and Reports due date: February 26th**
- **Floor Committee meeting date: March 15th**