



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

May 2024 (mid- month)

News You Can Use

Upon this, your confession...

In Luther's Small Catechism we are often asked, "What does this mean?" We might ask this question regarding the words above. The pastor speak these words after we have prayed the confession in the Divine Service.

It is easy for us to say the confession by rote, with little thought. If we find ourselves doing this, we should check ourselves and prayerfully consider these words. David wrote by the Holy Spirit in Psalm 32:5, "I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, and you forgave the iniquity of my sin." He also wrote in Psalm 51:17, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." These words imply that we prayerfully consider the words we are speaking as well as the gravity of sin and its consequences. St. Paul reminds us in Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is death." When we consider how death touches each of us, we have reason to say, "I, a poor, miserable sinner."

When we honestly and sincerely confess our sins and trust that God graciously forgives us through our Savior Jesus, then we hear and receive the absolution. "Upon this, your confession..." basically means, "Having truly confessed your sins, the words that follow are for you!" The opposite is also true. "If you have not truly confessed your sins, the words that follow are not for you!"

If we feel we have not truly confessed our sins, we can take heart! We can confess our sins many times during the worship service: The Lord's Prayer, during the sermon, in the Offertory, as we receive Holy Communion, and other times. God hears and accepts our confession at any time, even when we are not in church. The absolution is a blessed pronouncement of God's grace. And to that we say with confidence: "AMEN" this is most certainly true!

Rev Jeff Harter

Stay Connected with Your District

Looking for additional information, visit <https://linktr.ee/cidlcms> or connect with the following items:

- † 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). Application deadline is Sept. 1, 2024. For more information, see <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-apply.html>

Small Church Summit

Saturday June 8th, 2024

Zion Lutheran Church 501 S. Broad Street- Carlinville, IL

This year's summit will start earlier; opening is scheduled to start at **9:30 a.m. and finish at 2:30 p.m.** An ice cream social will follow. The special guest presenter will be Rev. Dan Galchutt, Executive Director of the Synod's Office of National Mission. A former parish pastor and Mission and Stewardship in the Kansas District, Rev. Galchutt has been in his current position for about a year. Rev. Galchutt's topic for the SCS is "Engaging Your Community . . . with Jesus." He will give answers to two questions that emerged last time SCS met: a.) How can a small congregation engage its community so as to "make a dent"? and b.) How to make sure we are not simply providing refreshments, fun, or food, but are also pointing people to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

In the afternoon, participants can choose two of the following three breakout sessions: 1. Continuing discussion with Rev. Galchutt

2. Walking Through Your Community's Demographics with Mr. Trip Rodgers of CID staff

3. Front Line Reflections on Forming a dual parish from a pastor who has just been through this process, Rev. Matthew Berndt of St. Paul and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Manito, Illinois

To make sure demographic studies will be at hand for the congregations of all participants, the registration deadline is a little earlier this time: Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day).

Each person attending should register. Start by clicking <https://forms.gle/pEuFuENrygSBDtWG6> There is no cost to attend SCS.

Remember, if you think your church is small, YOU are invited

LCMS Center for Religious Liberty

Join Dr. Greg Seltz Director of LCMS Center for Religious Liberty

Saturday, June 1, 2024

6 - 8 pm

At Immanuel Lutheran Church

203 E. Division St, Altamont, IL 62411

The center provides input, education, advice, advocacy, and resources in the areas of life, marriage and religious liberty and seeks to engage in discussions in Washington D.C. to establish partnerships and resources in our national capital for the sake of our churches, schools, universities and seminaries. For more information go to lcrifreedom.org.