



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

October 2024 mid-month

News You Can Use

Habakkuk 3:17-19a

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength.

Habakkuk lived in a tumultuous time. Many people had fears about the future of Israel and Judah. Habakkuk was called by God to encourage the people and to direct them to our Lord and Savior. His hope and joy were not based on possessions and worldly wealth but upon God's mercy and strength.

We are now entering a season of thanksgiving, hope, and joy. Sadly, for many people this season is one of emotional and economic stress. If that is the case with us, we would do well to hear God's words through Habakkuk.

Our hope and joy are not found in feasts, decorations, and gifts. These things bring short-lived pleasure. We find true joy and hope in Christ regardless of our financial situation, personal losses, national and world problems, health issues, or family difficulties. Even if we must sit alone at an empty table on Thanksgiving or celebrate Christmas without loved ones, we still have hope and joy. For the Lord gives us strength to face and overcome any trial.

This Thanksgiving and Christmas, let us rejoice that our loving Lord is with us and will never forsake us. Then no matter what else happens, we can have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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 thank God for the outreach of the Gospel in Spanish at St. John's Lutheran Church, Beardstown. Pray for Pastor Pablo Dominguez, who travels to Beardstown from East Moline twice a month.

Items of Interest to Share

Witnessing HELPS the CID has released a series of videos on key witnessing skills: • Beginning a spiritual conversation • Listening discerningly to a nonchurched person • Making a simple statement of the Gospel • Defending the Resurrection. Visit the CID Website for current information.

<https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-witness-ministry.html>

**Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty
Springfield Circuit Fall Gathering
October 26, 2024 9am- 2pm**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
120 W Monroe St, Petersburg, IL**

The Rev. Mark Firth from LCRL in Washington, DC, is coming to Central Illinois. He will give a presentation on the Two kingdoms of God. Rev. Mark Frith of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty will join us for our twin circuits triennial Circuit Forum for parishes to meet and discuss important topics that affect our churches. (go to www.lcrlfreedom.org for more info on LCRL) During Rev. Frith's presentation, he will have time to answer questions on how religious liberty is under attack in many areas of our American society & law. (LCRL is a registered LCMS Recognized Service Organization, headed by former Lutheran Hour Speaker Dr. Greg Seitz.) In addition to the morning break, Lunch will be served at noontime. Free will offering will be accepted to defray the cost of lunch and for LCRL.

Springfield Circuits Reformation Service

Bethlehem Lutheran Church 120 West Monroe Street Petersburg, Illinois 62675
October 27th at 2:00 pm

Pastor Frith from the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty will preach at the Reformation Service.

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH FOR LIFE – ILLINOIS 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.

2025 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING

Looking for information: Ways to Connect

- CID Lutheran Youth Facebook Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/249327678480252>) – Find the latest district updates and information LCMS Youth Ministry Facebook Group – Lots of Gathering content and collaboration, but all things youth ministry too!
- End Goals: LCMS Youth Ministry Podcast <https://www.kfuo.org/category/lcms-youth-ministry-end-goals/> All things youth ministry and some great episodes on the Gathering! Be sure to check out www.lcmsgathering.com under the Resources tab for tons of information, worksheets, budgeting sheets, etc