



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

June 2022

News You Can Use

Wrestling With God –

Many of us are familiar with the account of Jacob wrestling with God in Genesis 32. As we consider this story, we might wonder why God would want to wrestle with Jacob. Furthermore, we might wonder why the almighty God would allow Jacob to prevail.

Prior to his wrestling match with God, Jacob had put his own needs and desires ahead of others. By wrestling with God, Jacob was forced to focus on God rather than on himself. Too often, we focus on our own desires rather than on God and his will. When we are tempted, we tend to focus on Satan and try to fight him with our own strength. This is counterproductive. God sometimes puts us in a difficult or painful situation and graciously invites us to wrestle with him by prayerfully and diligently searching the Scriptures for guidance, strength, and comfort. As we do this, we can see our problem in the light of God's mercy and strength rather than see God in the shadow of our problem.

Jacob was humbled by the wound in his hip. God allows us to be wounded as a means to humble us and teach us that we are dependent on him for wisdom, mercy, and strength. Also, our wounds help us to become more empathetic towards others who are suffering.

Jacob's name was changed to Israel. God gives us a new name in our baptism: CHRISTIAN, which is the name of God's nation, the holy Christian Church. This new name reminds us that through wrestling with God in our trials and temptations, he empowers us to prevail against all adversaries and adversities.

Jacob gratefully realized that he had seen God face to face and his life had been spared. In Christ, we see God through the eyes of faith. Jesus, our Advocate, cleanses us of sin and makes us worthy of being in God's holy presence. Through Christ we are invited to approach God's throne of grace in repentance, prayer, and worship. And we rejoice that one day we will see God face to face as we gather with all the saints before his throne of glory.

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 connect with us on Facebook and Instagram -- [Central Illinois District-LCMS](#)

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SHARE **60th Regular Convention Central Illinois District** **Crowne Plaza – Springfield, IL** July 17-19, 2022

Nominations for District President:

- † Rev. Karl Eckhoff - Christ, Peoria, IL
- † Rev. Mark Eddy - Zion – Taylor Ridge, IL
- † Rev. Michael Mohr- Holy Cross, Vandalia, IL

CID Convention Information and Updates are located at the CID Website Watch for the Convention Workbook that will be published soon on the District's website. (<http://www.cidlcms.org/events-2022-district-convention.html>).

Reimbursements for Prison Ministry Materials

Consider donating printed Gospel-centered materials to a nearby state or federal prison or county jail. Thanks to central Illinois LWML, you or your CID congregation can make such a donation and receive at least partial reimbursement from the District.

This is important work. The materials you donate can get into a facility even if something like a COVID spike occurs and keeps chaplains from getting in. Here is an opportunity for you to participate in prison ministry, even if you yourself never personally visit an inmate. <http://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-prison.html>

(Church) Planting Season

At its last convention, our Synod resolved "That congregations and circuits be encouraged and supported by their respective districts to investigate and identify new mission plants" (2019 Res. 1-02).

To enable pastors and others to begin talking about church planting, CID is cooperating with the Synod's Office of National Mission to produce these resources: a.) a brochure, in two parts and b.) a set of four short videos. These tools will help inform and stimulate church plantings conversations in congregations. For more information visit: <http://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-church-planting.html>

Congregations are urged to use these tools. Talk church planting at Bible classes. Devote time at a regularly scheduled meeting to a discussion of church planting. Hold a special meeting for such discussion. Or encourage church members to view the videos and read the brochure, then talk amongst themselves. The District will be discussing church planting at its convention in July.

CAMP CILCA OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

The Central Illinois Lutheran Camp Association (CILCA) sits on 225 acres of woodland and open fields just north of Springfield, Ill. It offers a summer program of week-long camps and outdoor experiences for students of all ages and abilities; Outdoor Education programs for area students; and camping of many kinds for individuals, families and groups. Rustic and all-weather sleeping cabins, campsites for tents, trailers, RV's and pop-ups, swimming lake with beach, athletic fields, Challenge Course, and indoor and outdoor chapel spaces are among the camp's features.

To register or information on summer camp, visit their website <http://www.cilca.org/>