

The *Gate* Post

Central Illinois District

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved" -John 10:9

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

www.cidlcms.org

Fall/Winter 2019



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What's New in Witness & Outreach?

When it comes to witness and outreach, there is nothing new under the sun. (Actually, according to Ecclesiastes 1:9, that's true of everything!) But there are trends in the current work of sharing the Gospel that we should pay attention to.

A recent report from Barna Research, "Reviving Evangelism," highlights the importance of sharing the faith in the context of relationships. While this is not new, it shows that some of the ways we share the Good News of Jesus are not well-received by people in our culture. Nonchurched people even find some of our traditional evangelism approaches offensive or off-putting. Worse than that, Barna reports that negative experiences of "depersonalized methods of sharing faith . . . significantly depress openness to exploring questions of faith."

What's the takeaway from this report? We need to consider how nonchurched people prefer to discuss matters of faith and spirituality. There are a lot of lost people who are open to discussing spiritual matters. Although 49 percent of people who say that spiritual matters are unimportant to them are not open to any form of evangelism, 27 percent of them are willing to have a "casual, one-on-one conversation" about faith.

Unfortunately, evangelism that gets this personal is not something we have always emphasized in the past. This has left us unprepared for evangelism in our current context. But there is good news. The Synod's evangelism program, *Every One His Witness*®, is designed to equip Lutherans to be witnesses of Jesus to the people in their everyday lives. The LASSIE (Listen-Ask-Seek-Share-Invite-Encourage) approach of *Every One His Witness* is focused on intentionally engaging nonchurched people in "casual, one-on-one conversations" about faith.

Everything that a congregation or group needs to conduct the basic *Every One His Witness* workshop is available as a low-cost kit from Concordia Publishing House. Since their release in September 2017, over 900 workshop kits have been distributed. Additional materials for witnessing to people in specific contexts (e.g., witnessing to Mormons, Muslims or adult children who have left the church) are available to workshop participants at no cost through the Synod's *Every One His Witness* website.

Every One His Witness isn't really new — it's a renewed effort to equip God's people to speak about Jesus as they go about their everyday lives, in a way to which the lost will really listen. By God's grace, that listening may lead to the Holy Spirit working faith in those who hear the Gospel. When and where He does, people are made new!

Contributed through the LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission monthly newsletter by Rev. Dr. Mark Wood, director of LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry. For more information about Every One His Witness, contact Dr. Ken Schurb at the CID office.

**EVERY
ONE
HIS WITNESS**
LUTHERAN EVANGELISM™

From the President's Desk

"Opportunity"

"You will be my witnesses," Jesus said before ascending to His Father and thus leaving the work of the Church in the hands of His Apostles, equipped with His Word, attended by His Spirit. The Apostles, especially, were eye- and ear-witnesses of the resurrected Jesus. They had heard how the Scriptures testified of Him as the promised Messiah, how He had fulfilled those promises, and they had handled His wounded hands and feet behind closed and locked doors now alive following His very real crucifixion and burial. The message meant for the world was that the Son of God would come to bring pardon and peace between God and man, and He would do it by His own Sacrifice. As the Spirit came upon the Apostles in Jerusalem, they preached Jesus. Their preaching flowed from what they themselves had witnessed.

From those humble beginnings, Christ's Church arose and expanded to its present state. Nowadays, the same Word is proclaimed, and the same Spirit testifies of Jesus, and many souls believe. One voice speaks to two ears and a heart is drawn to the Lord to the glory of our Triune God. Yes, even in 2019, the Lord adds daily, as recorded in the Book of Acts, to the number of these who are being saved.

He has given to His Pastors the obligation and privilege to speak the Word faithfully, but it is also expected that all Christians would give witness of Christ's goodness to them. The Church together is united in sharing the testimony of Christ's work done for the world by which it has benefitted that the whole world might enter the safe precincts of our God's grace and mercy.

"Missionary opportunities present themselves... even in the immediate vicinity," writes Volker Stolle in his book, *The Church Comes from All Nations*. We don't have to go far at all before we are called upon to speak of the faith to which we cling. The mission fields in our own backyard leave us with numerous openings

for doing the Lord's bidding of being His witnesses.

Certainly, your own membership in a congregation, and your commitment to it, shows that the Word has taken root and Christ is your all-in-all... that He has preeminence. Your support of your congregation's work and its pastor speaks of the focus of your heart, implanted by the Lord, and shows forth your dedication of the Lord's gifts to you which you have pressed into His service. Your eagerness to grow in His Word speaks volumes about your Spirit-induced devotion. Living in line with His commands becomes evidence to your neighbor of who really and rightly rules you.

Your hunger and thirst for the righteousness of Christ to cover your weakness and failure to do all the before-mentioned acts is also witnessing for Christ over and against the clarion call of the world to do what it does in its spiritual ignorance and unspiritual revelry. To speak of your allegiance to the One who was loyal to you, even to death, despite your continued sinning, is a witness of who you will follow and that He is worth following. This witness can be as simple as "I am Christ's! He has made me His!"

We proclaim, "He is risen!" at Easter which is a message that the world would not readily receive but which leads some to join us. Our witness is still of the risen Jesus! Paul once preached the resurrection which led a government official to deduce that Paul was on the verge of madness, but he was interested to hear of this again. The resurrection has been downplayed as myth by the contemporary and sophisticated minds of modern times and yet other contemporary and sophisticated minds, by God's Spirit, confess and witness to the resurrection with us.

Missionary opportunities come in the form of questions, conversation, and as outcomes of close relationships and communication.



Rev. Mark A. Miller, President

We might be surprised by times when we were barely aware that our Christianity became a stepping-stone for the nations to come to know the Lord. What we say in line with the truth entrusted to us, the Spirit will use as an opportunity to draw others into the Church.

We worry too much when we hear of our responsibility to be missionaries but all we are called to be are His "witnesses" as He is the center and focus of all our life means and is. "I am baptized" has implications as to whom I belong. "I am His child" means that the Father loves me and provides for me. "I am Christ's brother/sister" speaks of the royal family of which we, together, are a part. That I feast on His body and blood for the ongoing forgiveness I am so in need of, shows that something more than mere bread sustains me. That I desire to hear a word of pardon for my broken life, shows that I cannot sustain myself for this life or longer in any meaningful way apart from what He did for me, you, and all. My hope for something beyond this present life bears witness that even what I can't see, but that the Word has revealed, has true and deep meaning. My yearning – God-given – is that all would find a haven in the promise of God's grace made certain by Jesus' birth, obedient life, suffering, death, and resurrection. This is our witness and mission!

— Rev. Mark A. Miller, President
1 Corinthians 2:2

Give Thanks to God for 100 Years of LCMS Campus Ministry

“Resolved, That districts, congregations, church workers, individuals, and all other campus ministry stakeholders be commended for their ongoing support of LCMS campus ministries, through their prayers, service, and financial gifts . . .”
(2019 Synod convention)

Since 1941, campus ministry is a perennial “specialty” of the Central Illinois District. We have had the privilege of supporting campus pastors at the largest universities in our state: the University of Illinois and Illinois State. In addition, “town-gown” ministries have served Eastern and Western Illinois Universities for years. Thank you for your support!

We are currently seeing big changes in CID campus ministry. Pastor Rick Milas has retired after 25 years at University Lutheran Church, Champaign. As a result of restructuring at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Charleston, Mr. Greg Witto will no longer be serving students at EIU. Pastor Mike Burdick is leaving Immanuel, Macomb, having accepted a call to St. John, Effingham. And Pastor Bill Jensen in Normal is recovering from a severe back injury that he sustained in a fall in August. Please remember all these ministries in your prayers.

Another way to support campus ministry is to provide the District office referral information on your congregation’s college students, whether they attend the above-named institutions or others. Please do not assume that this has already been done! Make sure our office knows how our campus ministries can contact your congregation’s sons and daughters while they are away at school.

"Connect to Disciple": What it IS and IS NOT

From recent issues of *The Gate Post*, you have learned about the Synod’s new “Connect to Disciple” (CTD). Let’s further clarify what CTD both IS and IS NOT.

CTD is NOT about individual witnessing. CTD focuses instead on a *congregation’s* corporate efforts to include newcomers — to move such folks from an initial *connection* to being gathered around the Lord’s Word and Sacraments with the rest of the congregation as *disciples*. Hence the name, “Connect to Disciple.”

CTD is NOT separate from re:Vitality. Actually, CTD is the first in a series of *re:Vitality* (revitalization) modules. It is the only one in the series presently available. The next two, coming out soon, will be on strategic planning and inactive members.

A congregation’s CTD workshop is NOT informed by the re:Vitality Self-Assessment (SA). This assessment, which is free and available to every CID congregation, does not exist to enable the CTD facilitators to calibrate their workshop to a particular congregation. Really, the assessment serves to let the congregation know where its most crying needs lie, and possibly to provide guidance as to which of the *re:Vitality* modules it should try to schedule.

CTD does NOT address all the matters on which the self-assessment touches. No, CTD finds its focus in *outreach*. As noted above, other workshops take up other subjects, like strategic planning and inactive members.

CTD is NOT a “one shot” deal. While the workshop itself takes place on a Friday evening and Saturday morning, it will leave the congregation with a lot of “homework” to do in following up. Partly for this reason, the workshop works best for a group of 12 to 18 members of the congregation (or dual parish). If a church has trouble recruiting 12 participants, or if now just doesn’t seem to be the best time for it to mount an appropriate follow-through, something other than CTD is probably needed.

It does NOT cost a lot of money to get started with CTD. Thanks to generous grants from the national Synod and the District LWML, CID is able to provide congregations with the CTD workshop basically for the cost of the materials — about \$200 to \$300, depending on the size of the church. A team of facilitators is being trained to offer the workshop within our District.

CTD is NOT for every congregation. **But might it be for yours?** Please contact Dr. Ken Schurb at the CID office to talk about it.

Official Notices

7/1/2019 – 10/1/2019

Ordained

Change In Status

- **Rev. Steven Becker**, St. Paul, Strasburg to EM
- **Rev. Lester Dumer**, Concordia, Warsaw to EM
- **Rev. Theodore Gall**, St. John, Effingham, Associate to EM
- **Rev. Mark Peters**, Faith, Lincoln to EM
- **Rev. Clarence Rogers III**, St. John, Chatham to EM

Transferred Out

- **Rev. Lynn Podoll**, EM, to OH
- **Rev. Philip Doublestein**, Redeemer, Peoria, Associate to TX
- **Rev. Karl Gibbs**, Our Savior, Milford to MO
- **Rev. Kendall Meyer**, St. John, Quincy to IDW

Ordained and/or Installed

- **Rev. Jeffrey Siegel**, IDW, candidate to St. Luke/Christ, San Jose/Delavan
- **Rev. Michael Burdick**, Immanuel/Student Center, Macomb to St. John, Effingham
- **Rev. David Anderson**, IDE, installed at Trinity, Coal Valley

Congregation Disbanded

- **Beautiful Savior, Colona**
(September 13, 2019)

Called to Glory

- **Rev. Richard Benke**
(May 12, 2019)

Retirements Announced

The following CID teachers/principals retired at the end of last school year. We give thanks to God for their years of service to their various ministries and the families of their schools. We pray that they will enjoy their retirement. Listed are the names that have been submitted to the District Office, we regret if any names were missed.

- Carl Benning** Altamont Lutheran Interparish School, Altamont
- Karen Benning** St. Peter's Lutheran School, St. Peter
- Phyllis Miller** Trinity Lutheran School, Arenzville
- Lynne Schone** Trinity Lutheran School, Arenzville
- Jane Post Henderson** Salem Lutheran School, Jacksonville
- Sandy Lebeck** St. Paul's Lutheran School, Milford
- Lisa Schuldt** St. Paul's Lutheran School, Milford
- Lynette Hoyum** Bethel Lutheran School, Morton
- Reva Simpson** Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Pekin
- Sue Rosenak** Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Pekin
- Bill Kammerlohr** Lutheran High School, Springfield

“Fight the good fight for the faith. Keep holding on to eternal life, to which you were called and about which you gave a good testimony in front of many witnesses.” 1 Timothy 6:12

SAVE THE DATE: Planning for Church Worker Retirement

It's not too early to begin planning for retirement. To help our church workers with this, Mr. Paul Snyder from Concordia Plan Services will come to CID in February. He will present a day-long workshop, doing so in two different places to make it maximally accessible. On Feb. 8, 2020, he will be at Redeemer, Peoria, and on Feb. 15, 2020, he will be at St. John's, Effingham. Feb. 22 is the “snow date,” in the original location, if inclement weather forces a cancellation on either Feb. 8 or 15.

Topics to be covered include: envisioning retirement; retirement finances; retirement income; healthcare and health costs; and more. By the way, a single “follow up” workshop is being projected for Saturday, April 18, 2020. If you have questions, contact Ken Schurb in the District office. More details are to come, but for now, save the date!

Circuit Convocations

The year 2020 includes neither a District convention nor a convention of the national Synod. The Synod sets apart this “third year” for Circuit Convocations: occasions for inspiration, edification, and motivation within your Circuit. These triennial convocations give opportunity to discuss theology and mission right in your backyard and beyond.

What plans might your Circuit be making? Ask your Circuit Visitor. One place to start is with the possible presentations listed at www.cidlcms.org/missionpresentations.html.

It's Time to *Bring Giving Home*

This fall, pastors and lay leaders in CID congregations will have the opportunity to attend a *Bring Giving Home* workshop. It will take place within or at least near their circuits.

The workshop will lay out the big picture of Stewardship and encourage participants to see their responsibilities as stewards as aspects of their Christian vocation. It will take up monetary giving for New Testament Christians, and suggest the broad outlines of a process that involves teaching God's people in congregations, asking them to respond, and planning accordingly.

The workshop will challenge each church in our District to take the "next step" in Stewardship ministry, whatever that may be for the particular church. The workshop will conclude with a word about the congregation as a member of the Synod and the District.

If you cannot attend a workshop in your circuit, please come to another. Each hosting congregation would probably appreciate an advance "nose count" as it plans this meal. Contact Dr. Ken Schurb in the District office with any questions you may have.



Fall Workshops

Date	Circuit(s)	Workshop Location
Tues., Sept. 3	Altamont Circuit	St. Paul, Blue Point
Tues., Sept. 10	Mattoon Circuit	Immanuel, Tuscola
Mon., Sept. 23	Springfield East & West Circuits	Christian Growth Center, Camp CILCA
Mon., Sept. 30	Rock Island Circuit	Immanuel, Rock Island
Tues., Oct. 1	Quincy Circuit	St. John, Quincy
Mon., Oct. 14	Iroquois Circuit	Trinity, Cissna Park
Tues., Oct. 15	Champaign Circuit	St. John, Champaign
Mon., Oct. 21	Shelby & Effingham Circuits	Faith, Shumway
Tues., Oct. 22	Decatur Circuit	Trinity, Decatur
Mon., Oct. 28	Bloomington North Circuit	Our Redeemer, Eureka
Tues., Oct. 29	Bloomington South Circuit	Good Shepherd, Bloomington
Mon., Nov. 4	Peoria & Tazewell Circuits	Our Savior, Washington
Tues., Nov. 12	Lincoln Circuit	Zion, Lincoln

Meal begins at 5:30pm. Workshop starts at 6:15pm and will end by 8:45pm.

**The majority of the Workshops have already been held,
but there is still time to get to one of the remaining Workshops!**

**Thank you to Church Extension Fund for supporting
Bring Giving Home with a generous grant.**

Now the Ears Have It, Too: *GatePost* Audio

Portions of this *GatePost* issue are available as companion audio on the CID website. The front-page article and the President's column are available for your listening at: www.cidlcms.org/gatepostaudio

Also available there is an item that you will not find in this *GatePost* issue, a mission story. We hope you listen, and let us know what you think of this audio feature.



YOUR *FIRST* SOURCE
for LCMS insight and perspective

Our new LCMS Leader Blog is now online and is the place to get the inside track on the work of our Synod – straight from your national and international leaders.

lcms.org/leaderblog



Sign-up now at
www.cidlcms.org
 to get
**The GatePost and
 Monthly Bulletins**
 emailed to you.



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT
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REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

2019 LCMS Youth Gathering | Minneapolis • July 11-15, 2019

“I believe in God, the Father Almighty, ... and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...”
 Over 22,000 people spoke these words in unison at the 2019 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Youth Gathering, giving evidence to the work of the Holy Spirit, who keeps the whole Christian church on earth “in the one true faith” (Luther’s Small Catechism, Third Article). Even more remarkable was the demographic of the group: the vast majority of those confessing the faith were teenagers.

For five days in Minneapolis, July 11–15, Lutheran youth woke up to listen to God’s Word in their morning sessions and closed their day with “mass events” centered on the Gathering theme, “Real. Present. God.”



Photo by Erik M. Lunsford

Thousands participated in some 72 servant events — both on location at the convention center and throughout the Minneapolis area. During the Gathering, participants:

- Packed more than **1.5 million nutritionally balanced meals** for malnourished children in Africa in cooperation with the Minnesota-based Feed My Starving Children organization
- Created over **1,000 kits for the homeless**
- Made **1,128 fleece stocking caps for the poor**
- Contributed **926 inches of hair to Wigs for Kids**
- Wrote **574 letters of encouragement to veterans**
- Donated **463 units of blood to the American Red Cross**
- Spent an estimated **12,500 hours at servant events** in the Twin Cities area

No one knows each person’s reasons for spending a week of their summer focused on Christ in Minneapolis. But the message to all who came was clear. We sinners stand before a real, present God. If He were to deal with us according to our sin, we would receive what we deserve — His wrath and punishment. But because of Jesus, the One who came to be our real, present God, we receive forgiveness — by grace through faith on account of Christ.

The next LCMS Youth Gathering will be held in Houston, Texas, in 2022.



Read more of this story by Kevin Armbrust at <https://engage.lcms.org/youth-gathering-fall-2019>



CHURCH EXTENSION FUND, INC. (CEF)
Central Illinois District - LCMS (CID)

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EMAIL: cef@cidlcms.org www.cidlcms.org



New Investment Application

Enclosed \$ _____ investment in CID-CEF should be issued as follows:

INVESTMENT CERTIFICATES - Minimum Investment: \$500 - Interest paid/applied semi-annually

- _____ 5-year term Interest Rate: 2.25%
- _____ 3-year term Interest Rate: 2.00%
- _____ 1-year term Interest Rate: 1.00%
- _____ 6-month term Interest Rate: 0.50%
- _____ 2-year term Interest Rate: 2.35%
(Special Term and Rate – limited time)

INTEREST PAYMENT METHOD (Choose one)

- _____ Accumulate interest and add to investment
- _____ Investment check semi-annually (if over \$25)
- _____ Direct Deposit – requires completed enrollment form
Go to www.cidlcms.org or contact CEF to request the form.

INTEREST RATES ARE EFFECTIVE 11/8/2018 AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE – CALL TO CONFIRM CURRENT RATES

FLEXIBLE SAVINGS – Interest added to account quarterly.

- _____ Regular Flexible Savings Account Interest Rate: 0.25% Minimum: \$25 – available to all customers
- _____ Capital Campaign Flexible Savings Account Interest Rate: 1.00% Minimum: \$500 – available only to CID LCMS church Capital Campaign Funds.

OWNERSHIP TYPE (CHOOSE ONE)

- _____ **Individual Ownership** - Name _____
- _____ **Joint Ownership** – Primary Owner Name _____
(See below to complete Secondary Owner Information)
- _____ **Minor Ownership** – Child’s Name _____
(See below to complete Adult Custodian Information)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____ Church Congregation _____

Social Security or I.D. Number _____ Signature _____

CERTIFICATION: Under penalties of perjury, I certify (1) that the number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer Identification number and (2) that I am NOT subject to backup withholding under the provisions of section 3406(a)(1)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code.

JOINT OWNERSHIP: circle one: _____ **AND OR** Secondary Owner Name _____
As joint tenants with right of survivorship and not as tenants in common

MINOR OWNERSHIP: Adult Custodian Name _____
Under the Illinois Uniform Gifts to Minors Act

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone Number _____

Social Security or I.D. Number _____ Signature _____

CERTIFICATION: Under penalties of perjury, I certify (1) that the number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number and (2) that I am NOT subject to backup withholding under the provisions of section 3406(a)(1)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code.

BENEFICIARY INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)

- | | (Name) | (Address) | (Social Security Number) | (Percentage) |
|----|--------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1) | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2) | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3) | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4) | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |