

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

Spring 2020



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**Making
Disciples
for Life** 

Stewardship of the Gospel

Talk of Stewardship often concerns "time, talent, and treasure" — all "First Article of the Creed" type gifts which the Lord has given all people to manage to His glory and for the good of others. In addition, however, for the church another aspect of Stewardship stands out.

Our most important Stewardship is Stewardship of the Gospel.

"For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instruction – because he is the messenger of the Lord Almighty" (Malachi 2:7).

One Stewardship leader put it this way: "Stewardship without mission is pointless. Mission without Stewardship is impossible." This is an overstatement, yet it contains a lot of truth. No question, mission is supported by Stewardship. And the church's most important Stewardship is Stewardship of the Gospel.

Malachi spoke the Lord's judgment on people who brought animals for sacrifice that were sick, lame, and blind, and on the priests who offered these sacrifices. They had showed partiality. Perhaps priests allowed friends to bring a subpar animal or two at first. Things went downhill rapidly after that. Now they were corrupting the priestly covenant and causing others to stumble. They themselves were turning aside from God's way. In it all, they failed to stand in awe of God.

We can learn important lessons here. Never does it become needless in the church to attend above all to the message we proclaim, and the importance of proclaiming it. Always do we need not only to love God, but also to fear Him.

The Lord can be trusted and loved because He made the great Sacrifice for us. God loved the world in just this way: that He gave His one and only Son, gave Him as THE sacrifice for sin. This sacrifice is for you. Whoever believes in Christ will not perish but have everlasting life. This is the Gospel, the great Good News of eternal salvation in Christ. The most important Stewardship that Christians can exercise is the Stewardship of this Gospel.

"For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge . . ." the Lord said through Malachi. Not "Trivial Pursuit" answers, and not information we can augment by our own cleverness, but a living and life-giving Word of blessing from God to pass along intact to others.

". . . from his mouth men should seek instruction . . ." to turn them from darkness to light, from guilt to forgiveness, from death to life. What a gift!

". . . because he is the messenger of the Lord Almighty." There is nothing especially great about God's messengers themselves, or the church they serve. We are sinners – but pardoned sinners, covered by the blood of Christ. And we are stewards.

As God's people, we are stewards of many things, but none more important than the Gospel. With this in view, now look at "time, talent, and treasure"!

From the President's Desk

"Myself – My Offering"

We sing the hymn, "Take My Life," and due to some personal poetic license, we twist the remaining words of that first line into spiritual irony. Take my life and let it be... (what ought to be "consecrated to Thee"). Or, take my life and *leave* it be (that is, leave me alone). We render lip service but actual and complete service our rebellious flesh might seek to avoid. St. Paul reveals about himself, and us, "The good that I would, that I do not, and the evil I wish to avoid, that I do," thus sinning by omission or commission.

The Old Adam in us prefers what is convenient. So, my time can be spent on a noble cause if it is convenient to me. That holds true in the use of my talents and treasures as well.

Jesus said, "Father, not My will but Yours be done..." Jesus' way of saying, "Take My life..." was to surrender all of Himself as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. God's promise was not empty words and no action when it came, by His Son's blood, to redeeming His creation which had fallen into the pit of death by its own most grievous fault. Rescue required the payment of a complete ransom that we might be released from Satan's clutches. Jesus not only serves as the

foundation of the principle of "life sacrifice;" He is our example that we might follow in His footsteps. He is not just an example, but He is the very Savior of those who fall short of His Law and example and who in repentance bow before Him. His love revealed in His work done for us, and the whole world, becomes the motivation for those things we do to His glory and for the benefit of our neighbor. By His Word and Spirit, under the shadow of the cross and in the light of an empty tomb, He awakens in us a delight in His will and the beginning of sanctified living. All that we are, have, and do ought to reflect those we are, from whom we have gotten what we enjoy, and through whom "we live, move, and have our being." Holiness and godliness, sanctified living, stewardship, it's all the same thing!

Wee Bobby was from a poor but devoutly Christian Scottish family. At the village church the topic of the day was missions. An offering was taken. When the offering basket came to wee Bobby, he told the usher to put it on the floor. "I have nothing to give to God but myself," and so saying stepped into the plate with his bare feet. This was just the beginning of the missionary life of Dr. Robert Moffat.



Rev. Mark A. Miller, President

Not all of us are called to dedicate our life to foreign mission work, but we all ought "to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light." We should "always be ready to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you."

We might not be the sole benefactor of our congregation, but "on the first day of each week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper..." Even the widow's mite is commended as everything she had, given into the service of the Lord. "Let your light shine before others..." "Love one another, as I have loved you."

We are, in Christ, a new creation and as such we are called to a new life which has been given to us by our heavenly Father for Jesus' sake. "He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again." From His death we have life, and from His resurrection that life is not only free and abundant but eternal. In every way, "...we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Step on into the "offering plate," figuratively speaking, for Jesus gave His all so that all we are is His!

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

Bring Giving Home Continues

This Stewardship and Mission education emphasis featured a series of Circuit-level workshops last fall. Follow-up is currently taking place in two ways.

First, President Mark Miller and Stewardship Executive Ken Schurb are presenting at every Circuit Pastors' Conference in the District. They will visit each during the first few months of 2020.

Second, they are eager to preach and teach about Stewardship in CID churches all through this year. Dr. Schurb is also available for congregational consultations. Contact the District office to schedule a time for your congregation.

Church Extension Fund has given the District a generous grant to support *Bring Giving Home*.



Save the Date!

LWML CID District Convention

April 30, May 1, & May 2, 2020 • Morton, IL

The Peoria/Pekin Zone invites you to celebrate 75 years of "Serving the Lord with Gladness." Join us at Bethel Lutheran Church in Morton for a variety of celebration activities & events. Your Zone President will have more details in March.

Proclaiming Jesus

LWML CID



Serving The Lord With Gladness

"Since my youth, O God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds." Psalm 71:17

Thursday Night

Communion Worship Service

Friday Morning

2 Bible Studies and Lunch

Friday Afternoon

Servant Events

Friday Evening

75th Anniversary Banquet at Countryside Banquet Facility in Washington featuring Jan Struck and other entertainment

Saturday

75th LWML CID Convention

Holiday Inn Express in Morton has rooms blocked for the event. For reservations, please call (309) 263-4400 before the March 31st deadline. Ask for LWML rooms.

"Connect to Disciple"

Connect to Disciple is a module in the Synod's *re:Vitality* program. It focuses on outreach efforts made corporately by a congregation.

What does your congregation do for outreach? What else might it do? What might it do better? *Connect to Disciple* helps you to ask and answer these questions, and others.

The workshop is available to CID congregations for the cost of the materials (\$200-300). Facilitators from our District are eager to come to you and offer this workshop on some future Friday evening and Saturday morning. Contact Dr. Ken Schurb at the District office.

If you would like to know more about the kind of things *Connect to Disciple* can help you with, please see a recent series of articles by Mark Wood. See the links at <http://www.cidlcms.org/evangelism.html>

Official Notices

10/2/2019 – 2/23/2020

Ordained

Change In Status

- **Rev. Douglas Scot Kerns**, Military Chaplain to Candidate

Transferred Out

- **Rev. Michael Fieberkorn**, St. James, Quincy, Senior to MO
- **Rev. Douglas Scot Kerns**, Candidate to MT
- **Rev. David Gerke**, EM to IN

Ordained and/or Installed

- **Rev. Kevin Wendorf**, St. Paul, Havana to St. John, Chatham
- **Rev. Michael Schuermann**, Good Shepherd, Sherman to University, Champaign
- **Rev. Timothy Landskroener**, Candidate SID, to Immanuel, Shobonier

Called to Glory

- **Rev. Don Richard Stuckwisch** (November 5, 2019)
- **Rev. Kenneth W. Wegener** (January 9, 2020)



University Lutheran Installation

On January 26, the first Sunday during the Spring Semester at the University of Illinois, Pastor Michael Schuermann was installed as Pastor of University Lutheran Church, Champaign. The Rev. Dr. John Sias, Secretary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and himself an alumnus of our University of Illinois campus ministry, preached on the epistle lesson for St. Titus Day.

Pastor Mark Miller, President of the Central Illinois District, performed the rite of installation. Pastors from the Champaign Circuit and three other CID Circuits participated. National Synod Campus Ministry was represented by the Rev. Marcus Zill, director of “LCMS U.”

After previous Campus Pastor Rick Milas retired, University Lutheran experienced a pastoral vacancy during the fall semester of 2019. During this time, the Rev. Michael Ruhlig of Champaign generously met with students, taught Thursday evening Bible classes, and conducted midweek Advent services. He shared preaching duties on Sunday mornings with President Miller and Dr. Ken Schurb of the District staff.

In our Synod, campus ministry is committed to CARE: Catechizing and Caring for our own; Apologetics (defense of the faith) in the academic square; Reaching out to those who are lost; and Engaging a dying culture with Christ. CID has supported this kind of ministry with a campus pastor at the University of Illinois since 1941.

University Lutheran Church and all of our campus ministries need your help so they can contact students from YOUR congregation who are away at college. Please be sure to send campus ministry referral information to kschurb@cidlcms.org

Rev. Rick Milas: Engaging Teens and Young Adults

The Rev. Rick Milas, recently retired after 25 years as Campus Pastor at the University of Illinois, is available to consult with CID congregations on working with young people in their late teens and twenties. If you have been wondering about how to engage with your church members of this age group and how to involve them in congregational life in several ways, consider contacting the District office to be added to his schedule.

Camp CILCA Summer 2020



2019 was a year of great blessings at Camp CILCA. The Life Changing, Life Long, Life Eternal capital campaign raised \$432,000. The end result is \$104,000 in CILCA's endowment fund with the Lutheran Legacy Foundation, the paying off of the \$54,000 mortgage, and movement forward on expanding and renovating the Dining Hall. There is still a long way to go, but thanks to the provision of God and the generosity of His people CILCA is on its way to the goal of \$1,000,000!

Beyond money, however, 401 campers attended summer camp activities, half-a-dozen schools held outdoor education, and dozens of events and retreats were held with hundreds of people attending. The camp continues to pursue its mission of strengthening faith in Jesus and relationships with others in its unique outdoor setting.

2020 is gearing up to be another great camping season. The Men's Woodcutters retreat, Women's Scrapbooking retreats, Work Day, Catechetical retreat, Shooting retreat and more are ready to go. There is something for everyone from age 3 through high school. There are also plenty of volunteer opportunities for high school and college students, medical professionals, and church workers. Find out more by contacting the camp office (217-487-7497/camp@cilca.org).

This year marks the 70th anniversary of outdoor ministry at Camp CILCA. Small celebrations will be held in thanksgiving to God at each CILCA event throughout the year. Join your fellow CILCA alumni, campers, friends, and supporters in thanking God for His gift of creation.

Registration is open for the summer program. Sign up for Athletics, Night Owl, Aqua Week, and more at www.cilca.org.

SUMMER PROGRAMS 2020

The Central Illinois Lutheran Camp Association (CILCA) exists to foster and strengthen faith in Jesus Christ and fellowship with others in a unique outdoor setting. CILCA strives to reconnect Christians to Christ and Creation.

GENERATIONS

Campers age 3 thru 4th grade are introduced to camp with a 1-night stay with a parent or other adult. **\$120***

Session : **July 10-11**
*per parent/child

PATHFINDERS

1st- thru 4th-grade campers break out on their own with a 2-night stay. **\$140/*\$175**

Session I: **June 10-12**
Session II: **June 28-July 1***
Session III: **July 26-28**

BOLD SPIRITS

4th-thru 6th-grade campers experience 5 nights of Camp CILCA. **\$310**

Session I: **June 21-26**
Session II: **July 5-10**

DAUNTLESS SOULS

6th- thru 8th-grade campers gather for a screen-free week of life-changing outdoor adventure. **\$310**

Session I: **June 14-19**
Session II: **July 12-17**

M.A.D. WEEK

5th- thru 8th-grade campers choose one track-**Music, Art, or Drama**- for the week & are led by experienced instructors. **\$340**

Session: **June 14-19**

AQUA WEEK

4th- thru 6th-grade water-loving campers will enjoy a full week of water-based activities. **\$340**

Session: **June 21-26**

JOYFUL HEARTS

Campers age 13 and up with developmental disabilities experience the joys of the outdoors during a 4-night stay. **\$300**

Session: **May 31-June 4**

ATHLETICS WEEK

5th- thru 8th-grade campers focus on a new sport every day: soccer, volleyball, track & more! **\$340**

Session: **July 5-10**

NIGHT OWL

6th- thru 8th-graders experience camp while staying up all night and sleeping all day. Enough said! **\$340**

Session: **July 12-17**

INTREPID HEARTS

High-School students enjoy the rejuvenation of God's creation in a laid-back week before school starts. **\$310**

Session: **July 19-24**

WE NEED YOU!

High-Schoolers & Older! Stay at camp for free while serving as a Joyful Hearts volunteer or Junior Counselor (JC)! Junior Counselors are confirmed members of an LCMS congregation and assist Senior Counselors with the care of campers.

Register Today!

To find in-depth details on each camp & register* visit:

www.cilca.org

*\$75 due at time of registration

Preparing for Retirement

On Saturday, April 18 (the Saturday after Easter), CID Human Care Committee presents another Preparing for Retirement workshop for church workers. Pastor Chuck Olander will present on planned giving and Rev. David Fleming of DOXOLOGY will discuss spiritual aspects of living in retirement. The workshop will run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Springfield. (This is a follow-up to the Paul Snyder presentations in CID in February, but you do not have to have been to one of those to benefit from this.) To register, please contact Amy Holmes at the CID office (amyholmes@cidlcms.org or telephone [217] 793-1802) by Good Friday, April 10.

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



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

1850 North Grand Avenue West
 Springfield, IL 62702-1626

The GatePost for The Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is published 3 times per year. It is a supplement to congregational newsletters.

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Communications Committee:

Rev. Mark Miller, Advisor
 Lewis “Trip” Rodgers, Editor
 Rev. Bob Bruer
 Jim Deverman
 Shawn Hoffmann
 Tim Mathis



Baskets of Hope

LWML CID Corresponding Secretary, Cheryl Long (pictured right) presents Basket of Hope-Springfield Branch Coordinator Addie Farris (pictured left) with the \$1,000 check to be used to purchase Bibles for critically ill children and teens. Some of the Bibles and the "Baskets of Hope" the children receive are also pictured. This mission grant is the fourth grant of ten grants to be paid during FY2019-2020.



LWML CID Mission Grant

The first 2019-2020 LWML CID Mission Grant has been fully funded to the Student Aid for Church Workers through your mites and donations. Praise the Lord! Those \$30,000 will be used to fund the education of our CID future church workers through the CID Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Fund assigns over \$123,000 to assist students with their university and seminary tuition. On the average, those expenses are above \$33,000 per year so it is easy to see the great need of our CID students.

Even though our pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters seem like so little, when we gather them together, great things can be accomplished by God's grace. Kristi Hosea, LWML-CID Recording Secretary, is shown presenting the funds to Pastor Mark Miller, LCMS-CID President. May we always remember the Lord gives us all these many blessings.



CHURCH EXTENSION FUND, INC. (CEF)

Central Illinois District - LCMS (CID)

1850 North Grand Avenue West

Springfield, IL 62702-1626

TELEPHONE: (217) 793-1802 FAX: (217) 793-9454

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: 2.10%
(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 12/23/2019 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) _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |