

The GatePost

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

Summer 2019



In This Issue...

President's Letter
Page 2

It is that Time of Year
Page 3

"Connect to Disciple"
Page 3

Speaking Christ while Meeting Needs
Page 4

CID School Statistics Report
Page 5

Official Notices
Page 6

CID-CEF and Our Redeemer Support Low-
Income Families in Bloomington-Normal
Page 8

Engaging a Changing Community
Page 9

Church Extension Fund
Page 11



Bring Giving Home

Christian Stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and of God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. Saint-and-sinner Christians all need this awareness to be brought home to us again and again.

Bring Giving Home is a Stewardship and Mission Education emphasis unfolding in CID during the rest of 2019 and 2020. It began with the Spring District Pastors' Conference, and it will continue this fall with weekday evening Circuit workshops. At each of these, pastors and lay leaders from a Circuit's churches will have the opportunity to gather for an evening meal, followed by a couple of hours of presentation and discussion. The workshop will feature Stewardship teaching and discussion. The pastors and lay leaders will be challenged and encouraged to unfold Stewardship emphases in their congregations during 2020.

Please mark your calendar. If you cannot make it to your Circuit's workshop, by all means attend another!

continued on Page 10



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.

From the President's Desk

"How Do We Know..."

In a Peanuts cartoon having made its rounds recently on Facebook... Linus and Lucy stare out a window at a torrential rain fall, not unlike the rain we have been experiencing here in Central Illinois. Lucy says, "Boy, look at it rain... what if it floods the whole world?" Linus: "It will never do that... In the ninth chapter of Genesis, God promised Noah that would never happen again, and the sign of the promise is the rainbow." Lucy: "You've taken a great load off my mind..." Linus: "Sound theology has a way of doing that!"

Ours is a revealed Faith, that is, the deep mysteries God has passed on to us by His prophets were recorded as those "holy men were carried along by the Holy Spirit." We possess a written account of creation which then leads us to confess God as Maker of heaven and earth. The Gospels are eye-witness biographical discourses that compel our churches and its believers

The scriptures give testimony that the Spirit of God produces the Church through His witness in the Word of the crucified, risen, ruling and reigning Christ.

to declare that Jesus is the Son of God, our Savior and Lord, who was born, suffered, died, descended to hell, raised from the grave, and ascended into heaven. The scriptures give testimony that the Spirit of God produces the Church through His witness in the Word of the crucified, risen, ruling and reigning Christ. So we have received His Word, we believe it, and thus we confess it!

We didn't invent a single word of the church's teaching, but the Lord has made it known, even by angels as necessary. The Bible's purpose is so that we might know the God who made us, who saved us, and who brought us to believe His promises fulfilled in Jesus.

We can deduce that God exists through the things that are made. "Every house has a builder, but He who made all things is God." If He made the Universe, then He must be wise and powerful, St. Paul states in his letter to the Romans. For God to be God He must be good and perfectly so any God-fearing philosopher would argue. Even our corrupted hearts are aware of some semblance of God's will and commandments especially as we break them and feel the weight of our guilt. However, our natural knowledge of God can only go so far. We cannot imagine what God's disposition toward us might be unless He says so. We might surmise that He could only be angry at us. We certainly need more than that. So, the Word of the Lord informs us that Jesus loves us, and so does His Father!

To "know" is good and godly when the Scriptures are our textbook, but faith is more than a trivia contest. Faith must start with knowledge; it can't be based on mere feelings. God's thoughts are above ours. There's a way that seems right, but it leads to death. Don't lean on your own understanding. Faith also cannot end just with knowing the facts. We need to note that the knowledge we possess is true! Having assented to that truth, I acknowledge that such facts are true and applicable to me! In possession of such a faith, it needs opportunity to grow.

We wouldn't get very far in this world if our brains remained stuck in the third grade and so we continue to learn and in learning to advance to the next level, which goes to show that we do ourselves no good if we stagnate or take such an attitude that we already know enough or know it all.



Rev. Mark A. Miller, President

So, it is part of our heritage to grow in the knowledge of Christ who gave Himself for you and me. To that end, Christian Education is an on-going necessity! We encourage our pastors to regularly attend pastors' conferences, seminars, and take advantage of continuing education activities. Our churches in the Missouri Synod from early on knew the importance of a sound, extensive, and biblical education, so parochial schools were expected to be established in all our parishes. We established institutions of higher learning, first and foremost, for the training of church workers. Our Sunday Schools and confirmation instruction are meant to supplement the training fathers as heads of their households are expected to provide. And just as we expect our pastors to continue their education it shouldn't surprise us that pastors would expect their charges not to neglect "preaching and God's Word" in worship and in Bible Class. If we, poor sinners, view a bloody cross and an empty tomb and are to know of it and believe it, be comforted and saved, I assure you that regular and in-depth exposure to "sound theology has a way of doing that!"

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

It is that Time of Year

We all enjoy the change that comes with the summer months. Family calendars start filling up with Vacation Bible School, swim lessons, traveling teams, and family vacations. Many of us have great memories of all of the summer activities that we were involved in with our families and friends.

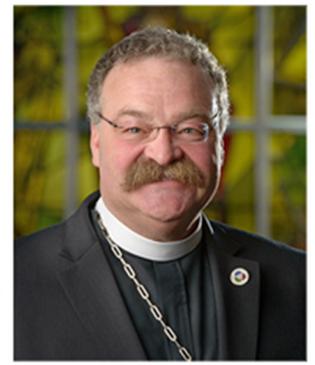
This is a great time for us to have more time together as a family. According to AAA website, 100 million Americans will embark on family vacations this year. Two thirds are planning vacations during the summer months, which is an increase from last year.

If you are planning a summer vacation, remember that there are ways to continue to worship as a family. If you are looking for a Lutheran church while traveling, here are some suggestions:

- Most hotels and camp sites have a listing of local churches, with church times and locations.
- You can find information about area Lutheran churches on the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod website at www.lcms.org (use the Locator tab on upper right side of the home page)
- “Google” Lutheran churches in the area.
- It is helpful to double check worship times, because they may change during the summer.
- Bring a devotional book.

My family and I have enjoyed visiting Lutheran churches as we traveled on our vacations. Besides the benefit of worship that we receive, it is a great way to see other Lutheran churches throughout the United States. It is also amazing how many connections can be found as you talk to other Lutheran church members. As the old car tagline “It is a great time to see the USA...” but remember to include time for family worship.

— Trip Rodgers



Did You Know?

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison is the president-elect of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for a fourth term of office, 2019–2022, after receiving a majority of votes cast in the June 22–25 election. Harrison has served as LCMS president since 2010.

"Connect to Disciple"

“Connect to Disciple” is an outreach workshop. It heads a series of 10 *re:Vitality* workshops for congregational revitalization.

“Connect to Disciple” outreach workshops are catching on in CID. The initial workshops in our District were held earlier this year for congregations in Springfield (Trinity), Chandlerville and Bath. Three others are scheduled as these words are written. The prospect exists to add a couple more this fall, to say nothing of the year 2020.

This workshop concerns itself not with individual witnessing, but instead with a congregation’s corporate efforts to include newcomers – to move them from an initial *connection* to being gathered around the Lord’s Word and Sacraments with the rest of the congregation as *disciples*. To preview some of the workshop’s content, see a series of short articles by Dr. Mark Wood at www.cidlcms.org/evangelism.html

Unlike other workshops and trainings, these workshops are congregation-specific. In other words: If you think “Connect to Disciple” will benefit your congregation, don’t wait until some other church in your circuit hosts a workshop in hopes that you can attend theirs. Ask instead for the workshop to be scheduled for your congregation.

“Connect to Disciple” is the first of series of 10 *re:Vitality* workshops for congregational revitalization. Other workshops are in preparation on strategic planning, inactive members, and assimilation. For more about any of these, please get in touch with Dr. Ken Schurb in the District office.



Speaking Christ while Meeting Needs

Shepherd of the City Lutheran Church, not far from downtown Fort Wayne, Indiana, took stock of its nearby mission field – the surrounding neighborhood. It is a “food desert,” having no grocery store in walking distance. With many single-parent families and a high dropout rate, younger children find themselves lacking supervision while even older teens and adults cannot read capably. Crime and drugs present problems. And there was no community gathering place.

Well, there *was* no such place. It exists now, though: The Shepherd’s Hand Community Outreach Center. Deaconess Rachel Jaseph, the center’s director, came to CID and described her work to a group at Wittenberg Lutheran Center in Normal this spring.

The center is the neighborhood outreach arm of the Shepherd of the City Lutheran Church. Located in a building across the street from the church, the center serves as a sort of bridge to the congregation. Through it, the love of Christ is expressed in both word and deed. What’s more, the center’s presence underscores for people that the church is in the neighborhood, with them, for the long haul. It’s not just a sign and a steeple.

The center’s mission statement reads: “Motivated by the love of Christ, we serve our community by providing quality health, education, and life wellness services to adults and children in the East Central and Memorial Park neighborhoods of Fort Wayne.” Indeed, the center has made contributions in all the listed areas.

- **Health:** The center hosts cooking classes that teach people how to prepare nourishing meals. It is also expanding the community meals that it offers.
- **Education:** The center offers after-school tutoring for elementary and middle school pupils from 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays. The afternoon ends with a devotion and prayer time.
- **Life wellness:** partnering with Bethesda, the center is beginning to serve people with disabilities.

The center has plenty of room to grow and expand its services. Possibilities include a farmer’s market, hosting adult literacy classes, offering a financial literacy class, and providing a place for a health screening van to park and set up.

How did all this get started? First, Shepherd of the City congregation prayerfully took stock. It ascertained the assets and deficits in its neighborhood, not only through direct observation but also by consulting demographic research. It asked: Who are we trying to reach? It did its best to sort out actual needs from others that were merely perceived. Too, the congregation tried to find out what time, talents, and treasure it already had to work with.

Next, Deaconess Jaseph said, “We built partnerships” – with the public schools, a local hospital foundation, Lutheran Social Services, and other congregations with members who can contribute needed skills. She made the following suggestion to any church wanting to do something similar: Discover which organizations serve the people you want to reach, and start talking with these agencies. Ask them about the needs they see and what is currently being done about such needs. Begin to identify possible partners.

Another important step Shepherd of the City took: it established how Gospel proclamation would be incorporated into the center’s work. It had no desire to meet temporal needs without speaking of Christ. There was no interest whatsoever in a “bait and switch” approach. From its first contact with people, the center makes no secret of its Christian and Lutheran character. As someone pointed out when Deaconess Jaseph spoke at Normal, “A church looking to the community, not to Christ, is a dying church.”

One more suggestion from Deaconess Jaseph: be ready to invite people to “the next thing.” This calls for organization and planning, first to know what that *next thing* is going to be, and then to mention it in a timely way.

The Shepherd’s Hand continues working to establish trust in the neighborhood. (People still ask, “What’s in it for you?”) The center keeps reaching out, with both charity and clarity and without hidden agendas. It teaches about responsibility and resources. It equips people to serve and give, not only receive. It communicates through community clergy associations, service groups and organizations, and social media. Most of all, it seeks to stay true to Christ’s Word and His mission to seek and save the lost.

For more on The Shepherd’s Hand, go to www.shepherdshandfw.org.

For questions that a congregation might ask itself before venturing into this kind of ministry, go to the CID website at www.cidcms.org.

CID School Statistics Report

Our District received 100% response of submitted reports for the first time. Based on the information submitted we are able to see a clearer picture of the educational ministry of our District's schools.

One of the statistics that continues to be positive across our District is the outreach of our educational ministries. These numbers represent baptisms/confirmations of children and adults whose their first contact with the congregation was through enrollment in the school program.

Our schools can open their doors to the community for individuals without a church home. The challenge is for the congregations and the schools to find ways to help these new families to become part of the faith family. The Holy Spirit has the ability the work in the hearts of all people and will use all of our ministries to support His work.



Student Enrollment Statistics

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Free-Standing Preschools | 823 |
| Elementary Schools with Preschools | 705 |
| K-8 | 2660 |
| High School | 265 |
| Total | 4453 |

| Percentage | Early Childhood | Elementary High Schools |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Member | 12.4% | 47.7% |
| Other LCMS | 3.3% | 4.8 % |
| Other Lutheran | 2.8% | 2.4% |
| Non-Lutheran | 46.8 % | 33.9% |
| No Church | 34.8 % | 11.3 % |

CID New Members

| Baptized/Confirmed | Children | Adults |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Free-Standing Preschools | 6 | 6 |
| Elementary/High School | 56 | 67 |
| CID Totals | 62 | 73 |

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



Official Notices

2/1/2019 – 6/30/2019

Ordained

Change In Status

- Rev. Thomas Wirsing, Trinity, Bloomington to EM
- Rev. G. Robert Heimgartner, Candidate to EM

Resigned From Roster

- Rev. Michael Heidle, Immanuel, Danville

Transferred In

- Rev. Michael Ruhlig, Candidate from TX

Transferred Out

- Rev. Bernard Ross III, Immanuel, Altamont, to MO
- Rev. Kurt Mews, St. Peter, East Peoria to OH
- Rev. Joshua Frazee, Immanuel, Shobonier to SWD

Ordained and/or Installed

- Rev. William “Billy” Newell, Associate to Senior Pastor, installed at Trinity, Bloomington
- Rev. Ryan Anderson, NWD, ordained at St. John, East Moline
- Rev. Timothy Nerud, Pastor, installed at St. John, Geneseo
- Rev. Richard Adam Bridgman, NWD, ordained at Trinity, Springfield
- Rev. Nathan Woolery, Sole Pastor, installed at Holy Cross, Shelbyville
- Rev. Terry Strom, Sole Pastor, installed at Faith, Monticello

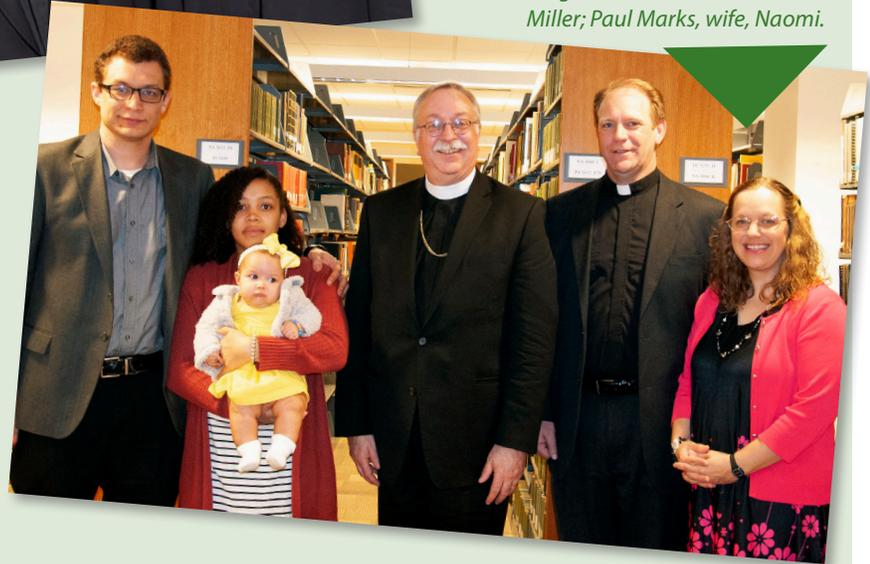
Called to Glory

- Rev. Martin Erich Knippa (May 12, 2019)



From left: David Ahn and CID President Rev. Mark A. Miller. Not pictured: Timothy Evans.

Photo credit: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis



From left: Tyler McMiller; wife, Yanela, and daughter; CID President Mark A. Miller; Paul Marks, wife, Naomi.

CID Vicars Announced

ST. LOUIS—Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, rejoices with the 116 students who learned of first call placements as pastors and deaconesses, and assignments as vicars and deaconess interns during Call Day services May 1. Calls were issued to 49 pastoral students and one diaconal student during a special worship service at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on campus. These students join more than 12,500 who have been prepared to serve as pastors, missionaries, deaconesses and chaplains in the LCMS during the Seminary’s existence. Two pastoral students have calls or placements pending. Sixty-three vicars and three deaconess interns received their assignments at a 3 p.m. worship service, also in the chapel.

The CID received the following new vicars from Concordia, St. Louis: **David Ahn to St. John’s Lutheran Church, East Moline**, and **Timothy Evans to Our Savior Lutheran Church, Washington**. Complete lists of calls, and vicarage and deaconess internship assignments can be found on the Seminary’s Call Day website at <https://callday.csl.edu>.

FORT WAYNE—On April 30, 2019, vicarage assignments were announced at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne. 41 vicars from this seminary were assigned parishes in which they will study and serve during the next academic year as part of their formation and training as future pastors in the LCMS.

Two vicars from CTS were assigned to CID congregations at this service. **Vicar Paul Marks** will be the 50th vicar at Holy Cross, Moline. His supervisor is the Rev. Dr. Wilfred Karsten. He will be accompanied by his wife, Naomi, and their six children (three boys and three girls). He is originally from Angola, NY.

Vicar Tyler McMiller has been assigned to St. John, Beardstown, to work with the Rev. Doug Evenson. He will be their fifth vicar. His wife, Yanela and their young daughter will join him for the year. He considers Waukesha, WI, his hometown.

They will begin their vicarage during the summer of 2019 and will conclude their vicarage in 2020 to return for their final year of academic work at the seminary.

Official Notices on Commissioned Ministers as of May 2019

Commissioned Ministers & Graduates Entering the District

Baginski, John (Emeritus) Altamont, Illinois, from Southern Illinois District 1/2/2019

Dunt, Abby (Concordia-Wisconsin) as teacher at Trinity (Bloomington) on 8/1/2018 by Rev. Tom Wirsing.

Gabbert, Tim (Florida-Georgia) as principal at St. John (Champaign) on 8/12/2018 by Rev Jeffrey Caithamer.

Gillet, Christina (Concordia Theological Seminary) Commissioning and Installation as Deaconess at Lutheran For Life on 10/10/2018 by Rev Michael Salemink.

Guse, Jonathan (Indiana) installed as DCE at Bethel (Morton) on 4/8/2018 by Rev Jeff Anderson.

Klug, Zachary (Missouri) installed as principal at Trinity (Springfield) on 8/19/2018 by Rev. Hemenway.

Listen, Carol (Emeritus) Buckley, Illinois, from California-Nevada-Hawaii 6/25/2018

Standerfer, Malinda (Concordia-Nebraska) as DCE at St. John (Decatur) on 8/22/2018 by Rev Adam Ray.

Raddatz, Lauren (Teacher Candidate) transferred in from Missouri District on 3/5/2019

Wallace, Jeffery (Indiana) installed as principal at Trinity (Stewardson) on 7/8/2018 by Rev. Weaver

Commissioned Minister Changes Within the District

Bell, Leslie (Bloomington, Illinois) to Candidate status on 3/5/2019

Bishop, Rita (Decatur, Illinois) to Emeritus on 3/4/2019

Boylan, Rachel (Gilbert, Arizona) to Candidate status on 3/9/2019

Britton, John (Milford, Illinois) as principal at St. John's (Buckley) on 8/12/2019 by Rev. Kevin Wyckoff.

Bryant, Janice (Decatur, Illinois) to Emeritus on 3/5/2019

Damery, Dorothy (Forsyth, Illinois) to Emeritus on 5/16/2019

Eyth, Sarah (Jacksonville, Illinois) to Candidate status on 3/5/2019

Gierstorf, Sarah (Wentzville, Missouri) to Candidate status on 3/5/2019

Hasse, Pamela (Grinnell, Iowa) to Emeritus on 3/5/2019

Heidloff, Linda (Bloomington, Illinois) to Emeritus on 3/4/2019

Klemm, Olivia (Waynesville, Illinois) to Candidate status on 3/5/2019

Murphy, Deanna (Decatur, Illinois) to Emeritus on 3/15/2019

Petersen, Enoch (Springfield, Illinois) as principal at Salem (Jacksonville) on 12/23/2018 by Rev. William Orr.

Rincker, Kent (Hoyleton, Illinois) to Emeritus status on 5/21/2018

Runnells, Lee Anne (Cedarburg Wisconsin) to Candidate status on 3/5/2019

Sawusch, Pamela (Schaumburg, Illinois) to Candidate status on 6/6/2018

Spaeth, Cori (Pekin, Illinois) to Candidate status on 3/9/2019

Storck, Ellen (Decatur, Illinois) to Emeritus on 3/5/2019

Stubblefield, Linda (Decatur, Illinois) to Emeritus on 3/8/2019

Wittmann, Nicole (Watseka, Illinois) to Candidate status on 5/25/2018

Commissioned Ministers Transferred to Other Districts

Crouch, Ashley (Teacher) to Northern Illinois on 8/30/2019

Geisler, Emily (Candidate) to Rocky Mountain District on 2/13/2018

Gillet, Christina (Deaconess) to North Wisconsin District on 10/16/2018

Greve, Timothy (Teacher) to Rocky Mountain District on 8/7/2018

Oliver, Timothy (Principal) to Nebraska District on 5/14/2018

Olsen, Brenda (Teacher) to Rocky Mountain District on 4/24/2019

Slaybaugh, Matthew (DCE) to Eastern District on 7/31/2018

Commissioned Ministers Resigned or Removed

Amirkhsnian, Tiffany resigned 3/5/2019

Barkalow, Elizabeth resigned on 3/5/2019

Commissioned Ministers Called to Glory

Soeken, Vern 4/2/2019

A Question

How can a congregation get a “bird’s eye view” of its community?

Several ways can be found to do this. Among them, the CID office offers demographic studies, in both short (11-page report) and long (30-page report) forms. The geographic area for your study can be a circle with a defined radius around your church, zip codes of your choosing, or any other geometric shape you desire. If needed, you can request more than one study covering more than one area.

These studies report data concerning population by age, occupations, level of education, race and ethnicity, languages spoken, and more. (The report also projects population trends some five and 10 years in the future!) Several of these factors are combined in population “mosaics,” for which ministry suggestions are available. You probably will not want to follow all the suggestions, but some of them can prove helpful!

The District is happy to provide you this data at no cost. Why not get this snapshot? Contact Dr. Ken Schurb in the CID office.

CID-CEF and Our Redeemer Support Low-Income Families in Bloomington-Normal

Utilizing a Ministry Outreach Grant from the Church Extension Fund – Central Illinois District LCMS, members from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church are supporting a local organization that ministers in Jesus’ name to the hungry, homeless, and hopeless in the Bloomington-Normal community.



**BREAD
for
LIFE**

The Bread for Life Food Co-Op, a ministry of Home Sweet Home Ministries in Bloomington, requires its low-income members to use their God-given talents to help keep the co-op running smoothly, and in return, they earn a shopping trip to select food items that best fit their family’s needs. When a local grocery store that provided significant donations closed this past summer, it impacted the quantity and quality of food items in the co-op. In response to this need, members from Our Redeemer are using monies from a Church Extension Fund Mission Outreach Grant to purchase and deliver items to the food co-op that are needed most on a monthly basis.

Through these donations, Our Redeemer members are helping relieve the immediate pressure felt by the Bread for Life Food Co-Op coordinator to secure food donations for the co-op, while at the same time mobilizing the members of the church family to help fulfill the congregation’s mission of “welcoming people to faith”; “helping people grow in the faith that works in real life”; and “serving our community and the world together in Jesus’ name” by interacting with the co-op staff and members.

The Our Redeemer church family plans to continue using the CEF grant money to provide food donations through late spring in order to give the food co-op time to develop a more permanent partnership with other food suppliers in the area. A huge “thank you” goes out to the Board of Trustees from the Church Extension Fund – Central Illinois District LCMS for their support of this mission project and for all the ways they support and encourage ministry opportunities in the Central Illinois District.

LERT Volunteer Training Event

Saturday, July 20, 2019

Immanuel Lutheran Church
902 Cleveland Ave.
Charleston, Illinois 61920
9:00 am - 2:30 pm
(Sign-in begins at 8:30 am)

The registration fee (\$35.00) includes your disaster response training manual, disaster response vest, Certificate of Completion, I.D. badge, breakfast, and lunch. Please register at least one week before the event, if at all possible. Walk-ins are welcome. Please pay with check made out to the host church.

Welcome to the Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) volunteer training program provided by the LCMS Office of National Mission. Together we will walk through a simple training program designed to help you serve as a trained Christian volunteer when a disaster strikes.

This training is part of a Synod-wide disaster response program, facilitated by a network of District Disaster Response Coordinators and Teams, under the direction of LCMS Disaster Response. At the close of the program, you will receive a certificate of participation and a LERT volunteer credential issued by LCMS Disaster Response.

In the chaos of disaster, it's important to stay focused on the task at hand. This training will help you focus on the most important thing to remember as you prepare for or respond to a disaster in your community or beyond. At the center of our LERT volunteer training is one thing—MERCY! Christ's mercy is the basis for everything we say and do.

This training event will equip you to be an effective volunteer should a disaster strike your community.

Register online at www.cidlcms.org/news.html.

Engaging a Changing Community

My entire 30 years as a parish pastor have been spent serving LCMS congregations in rural and small-town communities. That's remarkable when you consider the fact that I grew up in Houston — the fourth largest city in the country. I've truly been "converted" to the small-town way of life, serving the hard-working people whom I've had the privilege and blessing to know and love.

Yet, dramatic changes are sweeping across the rural plains of America. No doubt about it. I've seen it. We've entered an

era of congregations closing because their memberships have literally died off. Offerings have dwindled dramatically. Pastors are becoming "bi-vocational," meaning they are employed and working outside of their called pastorates to supplement insufficient and declining salaries. Pastors are absorbing personally more of the costs of the routine day-to-day operations of their congregations. These changes can be nothing short of terrifying to a pastor and his family.

As is always true, the Lord nonetheless brings amazing and oftentimes surprising blessings and opportunities in this newly emerging ministry landscape. As some congregations die, others are born. Pastors who find themselves becoming "entrepreneurs" can be involved in their communities in truly remarkable ways.

In my own ministry here in southwest Iowa, we have given birth to a new congregation. I substitute teach in the public schools in five local school districts. The opportunities to witness and share my faith, to minister and pray with students, teachers and

administrative people abound. Sometimes, I say tongue in cheek that I have the largest youth group in the Synod with over 6,000 kids, referring to the student populations of the schools in which I teach, on their own turf.

That we must engage our community is a fact of our ministry and congregational outreach that hasn't changed. How we engage our community is changing dramatically in ways we could never have imagined.

Personally, I love this new ministry field. I embrace it. To be able to maintain our Lutheran confessional integrity and continue to proclaim salvation only in the Lord Jesus Christ provides a Gospel message people need and desire to hear even today.

Ready or not, the future is now. It's here. And our Lord is still touching lives and bringing people to faith in Jesus. For that I will always rejoice.

Contributed through the LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission monthly newsletter by Rev. Dr. Keith Schweitzer

That we must engage our community is a fact of our ministry and congregational outreach that hasn't changed. How we engage our community is changing dramatically in ways we could never have imagined.

REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

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

Visit the official NYG website to learn more: www.lcmsgathering.com

After years of planning and fundraising, it's time to attend #NYG2019! We are excited to witness our Real. Present. God. at work in the Twin Cities soon. We pray for safe travels as around 21,000 youth and adults from across the country and across the world make their way to the Gathering!

Follow the Gathering Online

To stay up to date prior to and at the Gathering, we encourage your youth, adult leaders, parents, and congregants to follow the Gathering online. Learn more about your speakers and performers and hear messages diving into the theme. For those not attending the Gathering, a livestream of Mass Events and Monday Worship will be on www.lcmsgathering.com. Join the conversation on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat using #NYG2019!

After the Gathering

- Share with your home congregation about your LCMS Youth Gathering experience!
- Look for post-Gathering Bible studies and resources to be made available to continue to unpack and digest what was learned and experienced at the Gathering.

FaceBook

facebook.com/LCMSNYG

Twitter

twitter.com/LCMSNYG

YouTube

youtube.com/user/lcmsgathering

Instagram

instagram.com/lcmsnyg

Email

youth.ministry@lcms.org



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.

Submit all articles to the Editor:

Lewis “Trip” Rodgers
1850 North Grand Avenue West
Springfield, IL 62702-1626
Email: trodgers@cidlcms.org

Layout and Design by:

Deverman Advertising
Pekin, Illinois

Deadline for

Fall 2019 Issue:
August 20, 2019

Communications Committee:

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

Bring Giving Home

continued from Page 1

Also during 2020, CID President Mark Miller and Stewardship Executive Ken Schurb will place a priority on preaching, as invited, in District churches that request sermons and Bible classes related to Stewardship. Dr. Schurb is constantly available for church consultations.

The Church Extension Fund has generously awarded CID funding for “Bring Giving Home.” The entire District owes CEF thanks for timely and valuable assistance with this project.

Our Lord has made human needs His own, especially the needs of His church.

Our Lord has made human needs His own, especially the needs of His church. We serve Him by addressing those needs, including financial support for Gospel proclamation. We can do so, not grudgingly or under compulsion, but as cheerful givers to the One Who became poor to make us rich. We want to cultivate the grace of giving. Please pray for the upcoming efforts to *Bring Giving Home*.

“Partnership in the Gospel” Video Online

Where do your District mission dollars go? “Partnership in the Gospel” is a half-hour video on the work of the Lord in the Central Illinois District. Circuit Visitors are showing this video and distributing accompanying print materials (updated July 2019) as they make their rounds to call on congregations, but you can view this same video anytime by clicking on the logo on the home page of the District’s website, www.cidlcms.org.



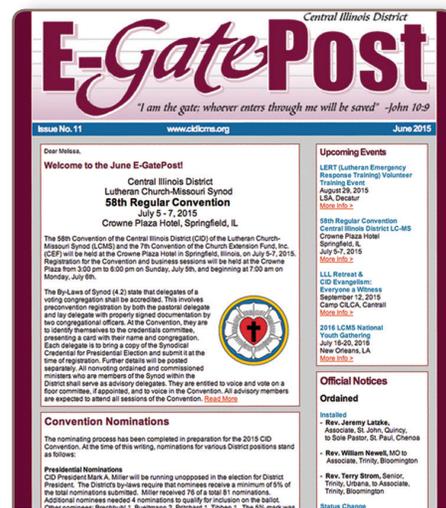
Are you receiving the E-GatePost?

Sign-up now — it's easy!

Give your e-mail address to your Church Office or sign-up at www.cidlcms.org.

Fast and efficient delivery of timely information.

Mobile Friendly.





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: 2.35%
(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) | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |