

MISSIONS – EVANGELISM – STEWARDSHIP– HUMAN CARE

2012 Report

from Rev. Joel Cluver

Assisting our Central Illinois District churches in the areas of missions, evangelism, stewardship, and human care ministries continues to be very exciting and challenging work. Over 50% of the people in the Central Illinois District have not been in worship during the last twelve months. It would appear the number in need of Christ is great. We have the greatest news that the world has ever heard! *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* There is much work to be done. We never know how much time we have. We have the Good News that delivers people from sin, Satan, death, and hell. May God bless our efforts to tell others the Good News about Jesus Christ!

MISSIONS

Do we realize that only 17% of all Americans are in church each Sunday? Most people are not seeking out churches on their own and live as though the church and Christ do not really matter. *“The fields are white unto harvest.”*

Most of the 156 congregations of our district share mission dollars with our district. About 30% of these funds go to our synod and our seminaries. About 55% is used for mission work in our district. Thank you and God bless you for your support.

My work in missions is to:

- ❖ Be the “Mission Field Representative” for the Mission Commission, Board of Directors, District President, and liaison to LCMS National Missions
- ❖ oversee and help assist existing missions (7 mission congregations, 2 deaf congregations, 5 prison ministries, ministry to developmentally disabled, 4 campus ministries, and ministry to our partner church in Latvia)
- ❖ Explore and encourage the beginning of new mission work
- ❖ Assist congregations with mission education
- ❖ Encourage and conduct Sunday Mission Festivals and special mission presentations to churches and groups
- ❖ Encourage Central Illinois District congregations to support with prayers and resources Central Illinois District mission work (also apply for grants for missions)
- ❖ Assist congregations with Revitalization

Here is the listing of our Central Illinois District missions supported by the mission dollars from our congregations:

New Churches

1. ***Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Buffalo*** is a mission which is 10 miles east of Springfield. It is served by Rev. Keith Bueltmann.
2. ***Tree of Life Lutheran Church, Decatur*** is a mission begun in 2012. Rev. Troy Roenfanz serves the 15 families who meet in homes in small groups on Wednesday evenings and gather for their weekly celebration every Sunday at the Lutheran School Association, Decatur.
3. ***Christ the King (Cristo Rey) Lutheran Church, East Moline***, is spiritually helping many Hispanic people of the Quad Cities in Illinois and Iowa. Rev. Pablo Dominguez is well known in the community. He is a volunteer hospital chaplain, prison chaplain, has a weekly radio broadcast, and televises his weekly worship service.
4. ***Grace Lutheran Church, Canton***, is served by Rev. Ken Serr. The church recently moved to a new rented facility on the main road going through Canton. Grace is the only LCMS church in Fulton County (38,000 people).
5. ***Faith Lutheran Church, Monticello*** began in October of 2010 and numbers over 100 members. The Central Illinois District (March 2012) purchased a 5,000 square foot office building for their first place of worship. The members of Faith are busy remodeling the building and will relocate in August. They are being served by Rev. Kurtis Bueltmann.
6. ***Redeemer Lutheran Church, Peru*** is a new church restart which in two years has grown from less than 10 to 40 people in worship. Rev. Patrick Henry serves that area of 25,000 people (Peru, LaSalle, Spring Valley). Redeemer is the only LCMS church in the area.

Lutheran Mission, Princeton had its first service Easter Sunday, 2012. This town of 10,000 does not have an LCMS church, and is being started by Rev. Patrick Henry, Peru.
7. ***Our Savior Lutheran Church, St. Joseph*** is 10 miles east of Champaign-Urbana. The Rev. Scott Weiler is pastor. The Central Illinois District purchased a quality metal building for Our Savior to use in 2010 as their first church home. Our Savior has 61 members.

Special Missions
Deaf, Developmentally Disabled, Prison

8. **Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Jacksonville** and
9. **Joy of Jesus Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Peoria** are both served by Rev. Tom Phillips. Pastor Phillips also serves the students at Illinois School for the Deaf and visits the hearing impaired throughout the district.
10. **Ministry among the Developmentally Disabled** is conducted in numerous locations throughout the district by Deaconess Linda Schaefer.
11. **Lincoln Correctional Center, Lincoln** and
12. **Logan Correctional Center, Lincoln** served by Rev. Chuck Olander. Pastor Olander also helps interested churches and people on how to begin jail and prison ministry.
13. **Pittsfield Work Camp, Pittsfield,** and
14. **Western Correctional Center, Mt. Sterling,** and
15. **Green County Work Camp, Roodhouse** are visited by the Rev. Stephen Southward with worship, counseling, and Bible studies.

Campus Ministry

All our campus ministries provide worship, bible study, counseling, fellowship, training and much more to our LCMS students. The campus workers are also missionaries to the unchurched and the international students at their campuses.

16. **University of Illinois, Champaign,** Rev. Rick Milas
17. **Eastern Illinois University, Charleston,** Mr. Greg Witto and Rev. Ken Hoover
18. **Illinois State University, Normal,** Rev. William Jensen
19. **Western Illinois University, Macomb,** Rev. Michael Burdick

Foreign Mission

20. ***The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia.*** Our brothers and sisters in Christ at this partner church are benefiting from the support of our district and congregations. A number of our churches are matched with churches and pastors in Latvia. Our people are learning about the trials and joys of a church emerging from communism.

We have many areas in our Central Illinois District where we need more churches and outreach efforts. We still have sizeable towns without a single Missouri Synod congregation. We have growing opportunities to serve people of different cultures. We have many more prisons in our Central Illinois District than we have volunteers or paid workers to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We have a large number of hearing impaired, blind, and developmentally disabled people in our district. More than ninety percent of these people are unchurched! Eighty percent of college students are not attending church! We have nursing homes where aged people may soon depart this life, and many of them do not know Christ as their Savior from sin! Yes, God has placed many opened doors before us. Our prayers and financial support are needed to continue these important ministries and to open new doors for the work of the Lord!

EVANGELISM

Are we doing all we can to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who do not believe?

I am here to assist our churches in evangelism. My work in evangelism is to:

- ❖ Be the “Evangelism Field Representative” for the Evangelism Commission, Board of Directors, and District President
- ❖ Assist churches in planning effective outreach
- ❖ Visit and meet with pastors and evangelism committees to share ideas, resources, and encouragement
- ❖ Conduct Sunday Evangelism Festivals and Evangelism Presentations
- ❖ Be the presenter for Outreach Workshops: “Friendship Witnessing”, “From Prospect to Disciples”, etc.
- ❖ Assist the pastor and board of elders by providing training and workshops to win back our inactive members, “Getting Some of Them Back”
- ❖ Assist congregations with demographic information and interpretation
- ❖ Provide outreach assistance to rural/small town congregations

STEWARDSHIP

The Rev Wesley Reimnitz, CID Administrative Assistant for Stewardship and Congregational Life, received and accepted the call as Pastor to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Havana in November 2011.

The Central Illinois District Board of Directors asked Mr. Glenn Goeres, CID Education, to add Congregational Life to his responsibilities and for me, Cluver, to take on the responsibilities of Stewardship.

My work in Stewardship is to:

- Be the field representative for District Stewardship Committee, Board of Directors, District President and liaison with Synod Stewardship
- Provide resources on yearly stewardship programs, projects, and Bible studies
- Provide consultations on stewardship to pastors and church committees
- Provide pulpit and Bible class service
- Provide seminars and workshops
- Develop the salary guidelines for the church workers of the district
- Share financial reports with circuit counselors and congregations

Christian stewardship begins with the fundamental truth that God is the owner of all things. Christians are stewards (managers, caretakers) of His possessions. Love for Christ through faith in the Gospel is the motivating power for true Christian stewardship. Educational resources containing Bible studies, worship services, devotional material, financial helps, church newsletter/bulletin articles, and program suggestions are purchased annually and distributed to each congregation. The materials are produced by Ron Chewning (LCMS) of Stewardship Advisors, Birmingham, MI. The 2012 materials are entitled: “Living Each Day as a Steward; Lord My Purpose is to Worship and Serve You”.

HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES

With our Human Care Committee I seek to provide information and education that will encourage Lutherans to care for those in need. My work in Human Care includes:

- ❖ Meeting with our Central Illinois District Human Care Committee
- ❖ Cultivating concern for human care and encourage endeavors to remove and alleviate human suffering (Hunger, Pornography, Abuse, Aids, Refugees, Substance Abuse, etc)
- ❖ Assisting with a yearly workshop for developmentally disabled workers (at Faith Lutheran Church, Lincoln)
- ❖ Encouraging Central Illinois District congregations to respond with help to natural disasters in our district (floods, tornadoes, etc.)
- ❖ Encouraging Central Illinois District congregations in the use of a parish nurse
- ❖ Offering pro-life support
- ❖ Encouraging support for Lutheran Church Missouri Synod – World Relief
- ❖ Being the resource person for congregation Human Care Committees

CONCLUSION

“Work while it is day, for the night comes when no man can work.” Let us remember that He promises that His Word *“will not return void but will accomplish the purpose for which He sends it.”* In all that we do for Him, He reminds us, *“Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the age.”* May the Lord continue to give His church and His people the strength and the faithfulness to preach and teach His holy, inspired Word so we can

tell others that He died and rose for all. *“He died for all, that those who live, should not live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again!”*

God’s richest blessings to you!

Rev. Joel Cluver, Administrative Assistant to the President for
Missions, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Human Care

CID Mission Property Indebtedness – CID Mission Property Debt Free

The only indebtedness of the Central Illinois District for our missions are:

1. **St. Joseph**, Our Savior Lutheran Church, \$185,000: church building
2. **Monticello**, Faith Lutheran Church, \$294,224: church building

Property our Central Illinois District owns debt free and maintains for our district’s missions are:

1. **Buffalo**, Risen Savior Lutheran: church building, parsonage
2. **East Moline**, Christ the King Lutheran: church building (former Deere/Harvester Credit Union), parsonage (in Silvis)
3. **Jacksonville**, Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf: church building, fellowship hall
4. **Champaign**, University Lutheran Church: student center, education wing
5. **Normal**, Wittenberg Lutheran Center: student center
6. **Macomb**, St. Timothy Chapel of the Learner: student center

INVESTMENT OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT MISSION DOLLARS (SUBSIDY)
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	<u>2010</u> (Actual)	<u>2011</u> (Actual)	<u>2012</u> (Budget)
<u>Mission Stations/Congregations</u>			
Buffalo, Risen Savior Lutheran	21,150	25,312	16,732
Canton, Grace Lutheran	18,989	15,000	15,000
Casey, Trinity Lutheran	5,000	0	0
Decatur, Tree of Life Lutheran	26,611	28,200	15,000
East Moline, Christ the King Lutheran	85,197	90,087	89,686
Mahomet, Christ's Family Lutheran	27,400	24,638	0
Monticello, Faith Lutheran Church	4,743	0	7,500
Peru, Redeemer Lutheran Church	45,000	51,120	51,120
Princeton, Mission Outreach	0	0	1,000
St. Joseph, Our Savior Lutheran	61,522	74,724	78,044
<u>Campus Ministries</u>			
Champaign, U. of I.	107,645	112,267	116,476
Charleston, E.I.U.	59,000	61,007	61,000
Macomb, W.I.U.	72,623	74,734	75,490
Normal, I.S.U.	109,828	108,526	115,584
<u>Deaf Ministries</u>			
Jacksonville, Christ & Peoria, Joy of Jesus Lutheran	100,949	108,101	113,986
<u>Prison Ministries</u>			
Lincoln & Logan Correctional Centers, Lincoln	18,541	18,840	19,299
Mt. Sterling Correctional Center, Pittsfield Work camp, Green County Work camp,	40,687	41,977	43,428
<u>Special Ministries</u>			
Developmentally Disabled Ministry (Lincoln)	40,000	40,000	41,040
<u>Foreign Missions</u>			
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia	40,000	35,500	25,000
Extra Gifts from CID Members & Churches	19,425	11,762	4,060
			(as of 4-15-12)

CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT MISSIONS

Our Congregations and People Supporting and Furthering
the Good News of Jesus Christ in our District



Your District Mission Dollars at Work

The mission dollars your congregation gives to the District makes possible these important ministries of our District:

A) NEW CHURCH STARTS

1. Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Buffalo
Between Springfield and Decatur
2. Tree of Life Lutheran Church, Decatur
Began October 31, 2010
3. Christ The King (Cristo Rey) Lutheran Church, East Moline
Hispanic ministry in the Quad Cities
4. Grace Lutheran Church, Canton
Only LCMS church in Fulton County
5. Faith Lutheran Church, Monticello
Began October 31, 2010
6. Redeemer Lutheran Church, Peru
New church restart, April 2010
7. Our Savior Lutheran Church, St. Joseph
East of Urbana

B) SPECIAL MISSIONS – Deaf, Developmentally Disabled, Prison

8. Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Jacksonville
Also serves students from Illinois School for the Deaf

9. Joy of Jesus Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Peoria
Also, Bible Study and worship at several other CID locations

10. Ministry among the Developmentally Disabled
Serving spiritually the developmentally disabled
throughout CID

11. Lincoln Correctional Center, Lincoln
12. Logan Correctional Center, Lincoln
13. Pittsfield Work Camp, Pittsfield
14. Western Correctional Center, Mt. Sterling
15. Green County Work Camp, Roodhouse

C) CAMPUS MINISTRY

16. University of Illinois, Champaign
17. Eastern Illinois University, Charleston
18. Illinois State University, Normal
19. Western Illinois University, Macomb

D) FOREIGN MISSION

20. Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia
Assisting a new church in a country which
was formerly part of the Soviet Union