

the GatePost

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

Newsletter of the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

2020: Issue 5



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**Making
Disciples
for Life**



"A Midsummer Night's Dream" or Nightmare

How would you describe the impact the COVID pandemic is having on your life? Many individuals dealt with health and employment issues, stay at home orders. Communities and families were affected by COVID illness and unfortunately, deaths. Others were essential workers and dealt with work environments that placed them at a higher risk to COVID. Churches moved to live streaming or YouTube channels. Many families had to convert their homes into office spaces and classrooms. We learned new terms like PPE, PPP, flatten the curve, and CARES ACTS. Teachers and administrators had to convert their classes into virtual classrooms—this issue was also clouded by the uncertainty of the length of the next stay at home order. We then came to the end of the school year. Many questions rose again, how to end the school year, how to have graduations, and confirmations.

How do we plan for the unsure future that fall will bring to our Lutheran Schools?

But at last, summer did arrive, but the concerns regarding school openings in the fall did not go away. Normal vacations and summer schedules were changed or canceled. In late summer, many of our churches were able to return to limited worship services. Vacation Bible Schools were altered to meet safety guidelines. Also, during this time, it seems as if the information regarding our best practices was changing daily. There was an increase in social unrest regarding these best practices.

In the world of education, this was a difficult summer. How do we plan for the unsure future that fall will bring to our Lutheran Schools? In the educational world, plans were developed to open up our schools with ever-changing information and health data. In most cases, our Lutheran schools were dealing with the same issues as public schools. Our leaders are looking at providing the best environment for our students, families, and staff. There are many factors and concerns to weigh as these decisions for reopening schools are determined.

So how do we move forward in this mid-summer nightmare? During the last quarter of the school year and the summer, most of our Lutheran school administrators/directors came together weekly by way of Zoom meetings. This group of dedicated men and women came together to share ideas, information, questions, and concerns. They would often mention how great it was to be together, working as a group to plan for the future. They were able to openly

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From the President's Desk

"Every Good Gift"

Our heavenly Father knows how to give good gifts to His children. The very act of creation was one big gift from a God who was perfect, complete, and sufficient unto Himself and yet His love saw fit to make the world and us in it. The Lord did not desert that world, nor us, in its fallen state but decided to give His only begotten Son to ransom sinners and rescue us from the fiery fate that awaited us. This had to be a gift from His end because none of us had the wherewithal to work that out on our own.

Counting one's blessings is like the "continual repentance" Luther invokes in the first of his Ninety-Five Theses. The truly appreciative cannot help but note the Lord's daily intervention for us. But then again, how

The good and perfect gift is His Word that tells us of His wonders and assures us of His grace.

appreciative are we really when we take so much for granted? The basic First Article gifts of the Creed are given abundantly for our welfare. Our daily life depends on them. Of even greater import are the spiritual gifts that are necessary to our eternal inheritance. God gives life, salvation, and the faith to cling to His promises. He forgives our sins by the blood of His Son and seals it to us by that hope that shines forth from an empty tomb. Resting in Him brings us the gift of a permanent and heavenly residence and a

blessed eternal fellowship with our Creator when this life is over.

The good and perfect gift is His Word that tells us of His wonders and assures us of His grace. How marvelous that the Word incarnate is the focus of the Word of the Prophets and the Apostles! The church was established that the Word could be adored in Christ Jesus and by word of mouth the Good News be spread for the building up of the Kingdom of God. In preaching God informs us of His disposition toward us under the Law and then under the Gospel. The Law rightly condemns and humbles us. The Gospel tells us of the mercy of God that lifts us from the hell into which we had tumbled and raises us up into the accepting presence of the Father who has been appeased by His Son. The Gospel must be revealed by God's Spirit because its extraordinary message is not naturally found in the broken creation in which we exist.

That we might flourish under the glorious Gospel, the Church sought out the means and methods by which we might be instructed in it and thus grow in its light. The first place of training up children, biblically, has fallen to fathers. In the confines of family are the seeds of interest and intellect planted. To broaden the horizon and to build on this solid foundation, the Church established schools so that the opportunity might be extended and multiplied for our children to know of our Triune God in greater depth and to come to know even more that they, through Jesus, have no reason to fear judgment. In home, church, and school we tell the old, old story that the Father has been satisfied by the sacrifice of His Son and the Spirit testifies of these truths so that all of us need not be afraid whether facing another challenging tomorrow in these crazy times or seeing history's final curtain drawn to a close, the next scene opening to a banquet feast at the foot of the Tree of Life.



Rev. Mark A. Miller, President

Historically, our schools were meant to pass on a preserved culture. At one time that meant that our German roots would not soon be forgotten, a language maintained, and the faith of our fathers would be passed to future generations. Now our educational system is primarily concerned in the latter sense with reading, writing, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics being interlaced with godly truths whether taught in English, Spanish, or Japanese, and whenever and wherever shared with all the citizens of the world who have taken up residence among us. Our institutions of higher education are still charged with providing the Church with future Kingdom workers, our world with godly leaders, and people anywhere, under any circumstance, with making a place for themselves in God's plan.

Without the divine gifts that are our Christian families, congregations and schools, godly education might not have as great a foothold as by God's grace it has among us now. May God preserve among us the many opportunities to be trained in and grow in His Word of truth by which we draw life in Christ for now and for eternity.

— **Rev. Mark A. Miller, President**

1 Corinthians 2:2



Did you know CID is on Facebook AND Instagram?

Come find us @cidlms in both locations! Our page is filled with prayer and encouragement for you to share with those around you. Join us to keep up to date on District happenings and learn about new and exciting things coming soon!

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" or Nightmare

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discuss the concerns and frustrations with developing plans for the fall school term. We developed scenarios that could change at the next weekly announcement. We looked at our local public schools and communities for possible guidance. But there was no standard playbook to follow or consult. There are still more profound questions regarding daily activities such as masks, lunchrooms, physical education classes, music and band and extra-curricular programs.

As Christians, we understand that we do not have all of the answers regarding the COVID situation or the best way to defeat this virus. But as Christians, we believe and teach that God has a plan for each one of us. We know that we can trust our loving Father. This trust can be built by an active prayer life, reading and hearing God's Word. We have all been blessed with the ability to worship, although remotely. We had blessed many examples of people coming together to support and care for each other.

Our Lutheran schools understand the mission and the vision of Lutheran Education. Our schools need to provide a Christ-centered education that strengthens the faith of our children. At the time of this article, our Lutheran schools plan to return to face to face in-school instruction.

Yes, there are still questions regarding the spread of COVID-19. Our administrators and directors are working with their teachers and boards to continue their educational ministry. As we move forward during this unique time, please pray for our ministries,

staff, and families. We have been in challenging times before, and God has blessed our efforts in the past and will continue to bless us in the future.

So how do we move forward? We handle all of the uncertainty by trusting in God. In the eighth chapter of Romans, Paul reminds us to trust God with our insecurities. Let the Holy Spirit put the words into our prayers and concerns as we pray.

²⁶"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God". Romans 8:26-27

And lastly, we are told that God has a plan and a purpose for these uncertain times. ²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." (NKJV) Romans 8:28

Therefore, we should pray that we can continue to care for one another. Be willing to listen, ask for, and share forgiveness. Be ready to provide compassion and mercy which has been given to us by our Heavenly Father.

— Trip Rodgers
Education and Congregational Life



Keeping Christ on Campus

ENDOWMENTS FOR MINISTRY

The psalmist of old prayed to the Lord, "Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!" (Psalm 43:3).

"College is tough. You need Jesus. We'll help," says The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.

We believe it is vital for our college students to have C.A.R.E.:

Catechizing and Caring for our own
Apologetics (defense of the faith) in the academic square
Reaching out to those who are lost
Engaging a dying culture with Christ

The Central Illinois District has important campus ministries to give such C.A.R.E. at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Illinois State University, Eastern Illinois University, and Western Illinois University.

It has become more and more financially difficult to maintain these ministries. This will be still harder in the future, as the District will likely receive fewer dollars to apply to mission efforts.

Enter Lutheran Legacy Foundation of Paris, Illinois! Four endowment funds created by Lutheran Legacy, one for each current campus, will provide the District with earnings with which it can continue to support ministry to students, faculty, and staff members.

Lutheran Legacy has contributed an initial \$10,000 apiece to these funds. What's more, Lutheran Legacy will also match, dollar for dollar, the first \$10,000 contributed to each of the funds between now and July 1, 2021.

Won't you contribute to one or more of these endowment funds? Now is a great time for a gift to continue the Central Illinois District's historic strong support of campus ministry. Under the Lord's blessing, your gift will help to insure keeping Christ on campus for years to come.

For more information, contact Ken Schurb at the District office at (217) 793-1802 or e-mail kschurb@cidlcms.org.



Watch this fall for a featured campus ministry each month on the CID's Facebook page —
<https://www.facebook.com/cidlcms>

To donate:

<https://www.lutheranlegacyfoundation.org/fund/central-illinois-district-campus-ministry/>

Did you know?

The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod has been doing ministry on college and university campuses with full-time campus pastors for exactly 100 years, since the fall of 1920.

The Synod's first full-time campus pastor served at the University of Wisconsin.

The Central Illinois District's first full-time campus pastor (then called "student pastor") was Erich Heintzen, who began his work at the University of Illinois in the fall of 1941, a few weeks before Pearl Harbor and American entry into World War II.



Nothing Beats the "Hand-off"

Students bound for colleges and universities away from home have a lot of things to think about this fall. They have heard information from their campuses about what day-to-day life will be like this semester. Included, in many instances, is the school's advice that they refrain from going back home until Thanksgiving.

"There is no substitute for the one-on-one handing off of a student to campus ministry."

One piece of advice that the vast majority of students will not receive, though, is a reminder about church attendance. If they will not be heading home for weekends, where might they go? And why should they go?

It becomes evident that nothing beats the "hand-off."

Rev. Marcus Zill, Director of Campus Ministry for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, realistically understands that students

choosing colleges often do not even think about campus ministry. Here, their Christian parents, grandparents, friends, and fellow church members can help them. If you find yourself in one of these groups, mention the availability and importance of campus ministry to college students—even if you send a somewhat belated note after they are at school. Encourage them to get involved.

Rev. Zill says, "There is no substitute for the one-on-one handing off of a student to campus ministry." Nothing beats the hand-off!

If you do not know where students might be "handed off" this fall—that is, if you don't know what campus ministry is available where they go to school—the District office stands ready to help. Send us contact information for college students, even if they attend schools out of state. We will forward this information to the nearest LCMS campus ministry. Upon request, we will also send you contact information on that ministry so you can share it with a student. Email student information to Ken Schurb at kschurb@cidlcms.org. These ministries cannot serve the spiritual needs of students whom they do not know!

For the hand-off to work even better in future years, think about the young people in your congregation who are presently nearing the end of their high school careers with college in view. *Pastors, elders, youth leaders, Sunday School Superintendents, and others, please take note: start getting these future college students connected with the appropriate campus ministry before they head off for college. Make the hand-off early.*

Nothing beats it.

Official Notices

5/1/2020 – 9/1/2020

Ordained

Change In Status

- **Rev. Steven Southward**, St. Paul, Pittsfield to EM
- **Rev. Douglas Evenson**, St. John, Beardstown to EM

Transferred In

- **Rev. Marcus Jauss**, MO

Transferred Out

- **Rev. Douglas Evenson**, EM to NWD
- **Rev. Mark Elliott**, Candidate to Our Savior, Sulphur Springs, TX

Installation

- **Rev. Marcus Jauss**, Pastor, Concordia/ Warsaw, St. Paul/Bowen
- **Rev. David McBurney**, Associate Pastor, Trinity, Bloomington
- **Rev. Michael Stoerger**, Pastor, Peace, Thomasboro

Called to Glory

- **Rev. Eric Trickey**, Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Decatur (May 28, 2020)



CID LERT Teams in Iowa

On Saturday, August 22, some 34 Lutheran Emergency Response Team (LERT) volunteers from Central Illinois joined others from at least eight states in converging on the area of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. A summer Derecho storm went through a large section of Iowa, leaving both extensive damage and many opportunities to share the love of Christ in word and deed.

Straight-line winds blowing at an estimated 140 mph (like a category four hurricane) over a 35 to 40 minute period caused all kinds of trouble: trees turned into projectiles, crops flattened in the fields, buildings buckled, electrical power out for extended durations, and debris strewn all over. While there was not as much total demolition of structures as is typically caused by tornadoes, the damage was spread out over a wider area.

Observing social distancing, three teams from CID worked in Cedar Rapids and surrounding towns. "We kept the chainsaws going," reports CID LERT regional coordinator Dr. Cynthia Steinwedel. LERT teams covered one massive area of damage and also worked at five other work sites. They finished the day helping with cleanup at the Iowa District East office.

Willing cooperation marked this effort. The Iowa District East camp, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, served as base for the LERT forces. King of Kings Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids provided lunch for the teams from Central Illinois. Some CID volunteers went a few days early or stayed later than August 22.

"We met, prayed with, and enjoyed interacting with the various property owners who received our outreach and service," said Dr. Steinwedel. This Iowa trip was not your usual LERT deployment . . . but no deployment ever is.



CID LLL District Fall Retreat

Join the CID Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) for a lively workshop that presents timely, practical tools that can equip you to become an effective witness for Jesus. You can either attend the retreat in person at Camp CILCA or you can join us via Zoom on your computer. We encourage congregations to sponsor a virtual session at their church for those who have no Zoom capability. Register today by calling Doris Blessman at (309) 361-1461 or email her at delorisblessman@yahoo.com. Registration fee is \$15 for in person or \$5 for Zoom attendance to cover lunch and materials (all students are free). Zoom connection instructions and lesson material will be provided via email to all who register. In case group attendance is canceled by the authorities, the meeting will proceed by Zoom only.

Workshop will be led by **Rev. Peter Kirby, LHM**, *Regional Director Eastern Europe & Jamaica*.

CID LLL District Fall Retreat

Saturday, September 12, 2020

Camp CILCA

4124 Camp CILCA Rd.,
Cantrall, IL 61625

9:30am to 2:00pm

CID Evangelism Intern: *Lessons Learned*

Joshua is a senior at Concordia University Chicago in the pre-seminary program. This past summer he had an opportunity, as he had never quite had it before, to learn some practical lessons about ministry when he served for eight weeks as CID's first Evangelism Intern in two Springfield area churches.

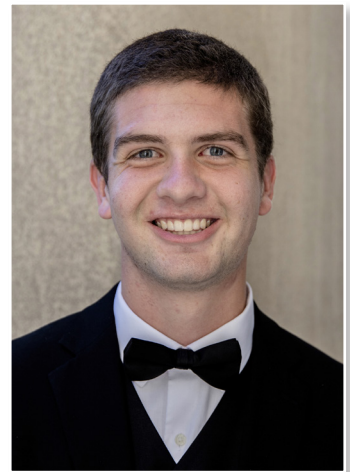
Challenging as Joshua might have found it to be the "pioneer" intern in any case, the summer of 2020 turned out as a doubly challenging time. Joshua ended up doing his intern duties "virtually," from a distance via technologies such as Zoom and e-mail. Instead of serving for four weeks at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Petersburg and then four at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Springfield, he worked for both congregations concurrently and also wrote several "Pass This On" messages for the District office.

One of the big lessons Joshua reports learning in a new way is that serving in the church is a "people business. He writes, "While I know learning theology is very important, I've also learned that communicating that with people in a thoughtful and engaging way is also crucial."

A related lesson is that God creates and grows faith, not human beings. "There have been many times where I have placed that responsibility on my own shoulders, including a couple of moments throughout this internship," Joshua notes, "but it is clearly evident that while we are called to serve in the Church, it is God who works through us to accomplish that which He purposes." He adds that this is "freeing in a way," and indeed it is.

With generous support from the Central Illinois LWML, the District established Evangelism internships especially for Diaconess and DCE students at Concordia, Chicago, but we welcomed Joshua as a willing pre-seminary student. In the future, perhaps seminary students will also engage in similar summer internships.

Joshua Teggatz is a member of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Milan. Please pray for him and all our Synod's church-workers-in-training during what will no doubt be an unusual academic year in 2020-21. Also, as our Lord said, "pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:38).



Joshua Teggatz

Installation at Peace, Thomasboro



Pastor Michael Stoerger was installed as the pastor of Peace Lutheran Church of Thomasboro on August 30, 2020. Pastor Jeffrey Caithamer, Circuit Visitor, presided and was assisted by Pastor Michael Ruhlig, Vacancy Pastor of St. Paul's, Woodworth, and Pastor Glen Triplett of Friendship Lutheran Church of Joy, Champaign.

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 Monthly Bulletins
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1850 North Grand Avenue West
 Springfield, IL 62702-1626

The GatePost for The Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 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:

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Communications Committee:

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

Grief: What Does "Normal" Grief Look Like?

All of us, at one time or another, are going to experience grief over death. The cognitive, behavioral, emotional, spiritual, and physical changes that can occur with "normal grief" are often unfamiliar. That can leave griever to determine that they are not grieving well or might even be "going crazy."

After all, do rational people sense the presence of their deceased loved ones, smell their perfume, see them in their favorite chair, hear their voice, or yearn, search, and call out for them? Well, they may . . . if they are grieving. In early grief, auditory, visual, and olfactory hallucinations can be quite normal.

We all grieve in our own ways. Still, some responses are common to most griever. Initially, there is a state of shock and disbelief accompanied by confusion, preoccupation, and absent-minded behaviors. Griever often describe a "numbness" in which periods of sedentary behavior alternate with restless wanderings. Some want to withdraw socially, but others fear being alone. Common behaviors include visiting places that remind the survivor of the deceased, or treasuring/carrying with them objects that remind them of their loved one.

Griever often find themselves unable to focus, concentrate, and follow through. This reality appears lost on today's work force leadership. It is customary for griever to be expected/required to return to work after three "bereavement days," and then function optimally upon their arrival. (Do you really want your CPA to do your taxes three days after her mother dies?) Society imposes these and other unrealistic expectations on griever. This can perpetuate their concern that their grief is not "normal."

Sleep disturbances and appetite changes are very common grief responses, as are heavy, frequent sighs and dreams of the deceased. Emotions can range from relief to devastation. Sadness, anger, guilt, anxiety, self-reproach, loneliness, helplessness, regret, and sometimes uncontrollable crying can all be part of a healthy, normal grief response.

Grief can also bring physical symptoms with it. Chest and throat tightness, a hollowness in the stomach, an oversensitivity/exaggerated response to noise, a sense of depersonalization, breathlessness, fatigue and muscle weakness, dry mouth, and lack of energy can all be normal grief responses. (Ulcers, substance use/abuse, and disease processes resulting from chronic stress all require medical attention. These are not part of a normal grief process.)

The potential for an alteration in one's spiritual life exists when a loved one dies. Sometimes the loss cements one's relationship with God, but in other cases that relationship erodes. While our faith is our source of hope and comfort, it does not eliminate grief. We are not grieved by our loved one's presence in heaven, but by their absence here.

Each person's grief is unique. If you are struggling with any aspect of grief that seems prolonged or abnormal in some way, please seek professional assistance.

Kim Meyer, RN, PN, CLLM
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Springfield
Member of CID Human Care Committee

INVESTMENT APPLICATION



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.cid-cef.org

New Investment: \$ _____
Make check payable to:
CID Church Extension Fund

-OR-

Existing CID-CEF Investment Certificate # _____
(signed Investment Certificate or Lost Certificate Agreement must be
returned with Application)

Reinvest \$ _____ Redeem \$ _____

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

- ☐ 1.25% 5-year term ☐ 1.00% 3-year term
☐ 0.60% 1-year term ☐ 0.30% 6-month term
Special Term and Rate – Limited Time!!!
☐ 1.00% 2-year term

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 7/1/2020 AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE – CALL TO CONFIRM CURRENT RATES

FLEXIBLE SAVINGS – Interest added to account monthly, statement sent quarterly

- ☐ Regular Flexible Savings Account Interest Rate: 0.25% Minimum: \$25 – available to all customers
☐ Capital Campaign Flexible Savings Account Interest Rate: 0.60% Minimum: \$500 – available only to religious organizations

Account Ownership (Complete A, B, or C. Please print)

A. Sole or Joint Owners (One or more owners as joint tenants with full rights of survivorship and not tenants in common. Beneficiaries may be designated on "Beneficiary Designation" form. Interest is reported to the IRS using the Social Security number of the first owner listed.)

1. _____
Last or Religious Organization Name First MI Social Security # or TIN Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)
2. _____
Last First MI Social Security # Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)
3. _____
Last First MI Social Security # Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

☐ Check if "Beneficiary Designation" form is attached ☐ Check that all joint owners have signed application

B. Trust ("Certificate of Existence of Trust and Authority to Act" must be completed and sent with application)

Name of Trust Social Security #/TIN

C. Custodian Investment for Minor (Under the Illinois Uniform Transfers to Minors Act)

MINOR Last First MI Social Security # Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

CUSTODIAN Last First MI Social Security # Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

CONTINUE TO BACK OF PAGE

Contact Information for Account

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email Address

Supporting Investments

(Please provide the organization to be recognized for current or future investment requirements)

Your Home Congregation

City

---OR---

Other LCMS Organization

City

Investment Certification and Signature – Signatures of all account owners are required.

By signing this application ("I" refers to all applicants, whether one or more), I certify that:

- All information provided is true and correct.
- I am of legal age and not a minor.
- I authorize the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund to initiate any correcting debit or credit that may be necessary.
- I am a member of, contributor to, or participant in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or any district or other program, activity, or organization which constitutes a part of the Synod or any of its districts, or I am an ancestor, descendant, or successor in interest to such person.
- I am a U.S. person (including a U.S. resident alien).
- The Social Security or Tax ID number shown for me on this application is correct.
- I am not subject to backup withholding because (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) the IRS has not notified me that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding. Please draw an "X" through the preceding sentence if you ARE currently subject to backup withholding. Due to IRS regulations, the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund cannot record your investment until your Taxpayer Identification Number is provided and the above certification signed. The IRS does not require your consent to any provisions of this application other than the certifications required to avoid backup withholding.

Signature of Account Owner/Trustee/Custodian/Authorized Signer

Date

Signature of Account Owner/Trustee/Custodian/Authorized Signer

Date

Signature of Account Owner/Trustee/Custodian/Authorized Signer

Date

The CID-CEF is a nonprofit religious organization, therefore CID-CEF investments are not FDIC-Insured bank deposit accounts.

The Mission of the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, Inc. (CID-CEF) is to aid member congregations and agencies in the Central Illinois District of the LCMS in building and expanding their facilities and their ministry for the growth of God's Kingdom.