

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

2021: Issue 2



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**Making
Disciples
for Life** 

Being Blessed to Serve During COVID-19

All of our District schools and most of our preschools have remained open during this year of COVID. Our schools have remained open with a lot of work and flexibility from all. Although this has not been a "traditional" year, we have been able to have our students with their teachers and classmates.

To achieve this, schools and parents had to work together to provide a safe and healthy environment.

Reopening plans were based on the ever-changing guidelines from the State officials. These guidelines affected the over-all operations of our schools. Many of the "normal" school activities were modified or canceled. The interaction between classes, extra-curricular activities, and the like were prohibited or limited.

Parents' interaction with school activities was limited based on guidelines. Parents missed out on events that support our mission to develop stronger Christian families. It was harder for our schools to welcome new families into our school communities.

The mission of all of our schools is to include the goal of sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Through God we have been blessed to be able to share this love in a very uncertain time.

Teachers were, in some cases, teaching both face-to-face and distance learning. In some of our schools, classrooms moved to distance learning because of exposure or positive COVID testing. Although not the best teaching method, distance learning did provide these classes with the ability to continue with their education.

It is easy to focus on the challenges of providing the best education for our students during this time of COVID. But there have been many blessings. First, we have our students back in the classrooms with their teachers. With this return, our students can continue their growth in their faith life. Teachers can provide religion lessons, class devotions, and in many cases, streaming chapel services. Also, most of our schools have increased in their enrollment. These new students provide us with the opportunity to share the saving message of Jesus to new families. Although many families elected to attend our schools during COVID, many are re-enrolling for the next school year. Having our schools open will provide us with the additional opportunity to share our faith community.

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From the President's Desk

"Something You Can't Outgrow"

They say that a mind is a terrible thing to waste, but so is a soul, body, and life. What else is a waste is to think that there is nothing more that a person can do or learn that some how is of no benefit to the whole person or God's Kingdom. Church members who stagnate in their biblical literacy become a barrier to the Lord having His way by His Word. The person that thinks that he has reached the end of his training with his confirmation doesn't take seriously Christ's proposition that the true disciple is to "continue in [His] word." You can't continue in His Word by ignoring it or by failing any longer to be exposed to it.

The Third Commandment says that we should not despise preaching or His Word. So, certainly, a part of our continuing spiritual education is a thoughtful consideration of the sermon, but that isn't the only educational avenue. There is personal bible reading. It is a good thing to take advantage of squeezing in, when you can, at least one Bible study which offers a "give and take" dialogue that is not possible in preaching or reading. Another thing to consider is a regular program of Catechism review. It's only logical that more opportunities for exposure to the Word is better than far fewer.

One memorable example of a continuing education plan was a farmer, a regular at the Divine Service and participant in Bible study, who explained that, while he was out driving his tractor in the field, he had the perfect opportunity to study his catechism (what is described as the Bible in summary or the layman's Bible).

Luther, as regards the Catechism, had this to say about his own ongoing review. From his introduction to the Large Catechism, "But for myself I say this: I am also a doctor and preacher, yes, as learned and experienced as all those may be who have such presumption and security; yet I do as a child who is being taught the Catechism, and every morning, and whenever I have time, I read and say word for word, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Psalms, etc. And I must still read and study daily, and yet I cannot

master it as I wish, but must remain a child and a pupil of the Catechism and am glad so to remain."

Luther was a man of the Bible. It was on it that he stood against all the arrayed and hostile powers of the world! He was a doctor of the Bible, a recognized teacher of the church, who expounded the books of the Bible for his students and then parsed them in preaching for his parishioners. Still, he considered his life was incomplete apart from a simple and child-like review of the Catechism, "word for word," and just maybe we can draw a similar conclusion for ourselves.

In some parishes the pastor provides a schedule in the bulletin or newsletter of daily Bible and Catechism readings. In my years in the parish (and I'm not quite sure what liturgical rule I violated) but we did a review of a part of a chief part of the Catechism along with the Creed or as the gradual. Others would precede the invocation with the same quick and regular review. And the education continues!

As stated earlier, the more opportunities for mind, soul, and life to grow the better! But why do that, just to do it? What merit is there in reading for reading's sake? What is the good in studying just to study as if the act of studying is good in itself without there being any personal progress produced by Word and Spirit? That is being filled with facts to win a trivia contest and not to grow in wisdom, knowledge, and understanding on a pathway to heaven.

The Holy Spirit works when and where He pleases, through the Word. The Word, in its many packaged conveyances, signed, oral, or as combined letters communicating on the page, in one volume or summarized in a basic question and answer format, there is found heaven, grace, God's undeserved love found in Jesus' sin sacrifice for a lost world, life - abundant and eternal - from the Prince of life, a godly way of life and praying, promises fulfilled and a hope that does not fail, the order of salvation, wisdom



Rev. Mark A. Miller, CID President

raining down from above, the marvels of the Word connected to water, wine, and bread conveying gifts from our heavenly Father, the soul-curing properties of Confession and Absolution. This is exactly what we all need... a rehearsal of benefits essential to sinners everywhere clamoring for life instead of death. This is what the Scriptures supply, and what the Catechism repeats, and what preaching expounds!

Continuing education is something that professionals either are glad to do, it is encouraged, or it is required for renewed certification. Doctors do it. Dentists do it, too! It is available for our pastors in classes, circuit meetings, and conferences, less formally in the beloved practice of theological conversation. Elder hostels are held so that seasoned citizens can broaden their horizons. Generally, most would agree, that common folk should never stop learning, and why not expect the same among the spiritually minded?

Continuing education is even meant for ordinary, everyday Christians and we never outgrow it. Just as the Gospel is essential, not just for once a week but for every moment of a desperate person's life, so to desperate people everywhere which is who we are, a good plan of educational exposure and growth employs the Bible, preaching, and the Catechism. The point is we can't do without Jesus, forgiveness, and hope, so it makes sense to surround ourselves regularly with what makes Jesus, forgiveness, and hope available to us.

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

Lutheran School Statistics (2020-2021)

from the Office of National Ministry

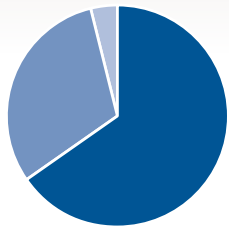
This report is a summary of data submitted for the 2020-2021 school year by early childhood centers, elementary schools and high schools operated by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) along with information obtained from the LCMS School Ministry Office, LCMS Districts, and the LCMS Office of Rosters and Statistics. This data is reported from the 2020-2021 Early Childhood Center and School Statistical Report form and represents a 70% response rate. It does not include unreported student data (30%).

Lutheran Schools: Raising Up Faithful Disciples

1,252 Children Baptized as a direct connection to a Lutheran School/Early Childhood Center.

Total Number of Schools

1,885

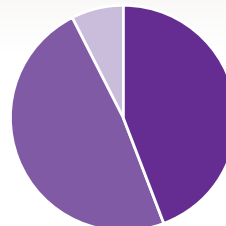


■ Early Childhood Centers — 1,741*
 ■ Elementary Schools — 828*
 ■ High Schools — 97*

*The number of schools listed in each section represents schools that have indicated that they contain grade levels in the indicated area and as such may be counted in multiple sections.

National Lutheran School Accreditation

670

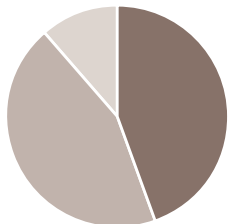


■ Early Childhood Centers — 459*
 ■ Elementary Schools — 502*
 ■ High Schools — 76*

*This data includes schools that may have been accredited separately at each level, or together as a single school location with multiple programs and grade levels.

Total Number of Students

142,469*



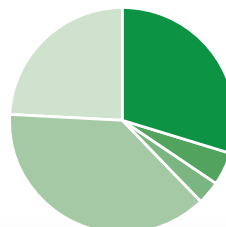
■ Early Childhood — 63,483*
 ■ Grades K-8 — 62,989*
 ■ Grades 9-12 — 16,124*

*This data is reported from the 2020-2021 Early Childhood Center and School Statistical Report form and represents a 70% response rate. It does not include unreported student data (30%).

Student Church Membership

Current Number of Students

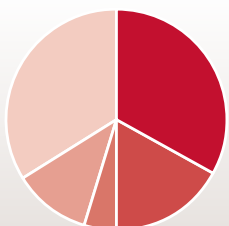
126,299



■ LCMS Member — 37,641 or 30%
 ■ Other LCMS Congregations — 6,191 or 5%
 ■ Other Lutheran Congregations — 4,037 or 3%
 ■ Non-Lutheran — 48,151 or 38%
 ■ No Church Home — 30,279 or 24%

Total Number of Teachers

21,222



■ Rostered — 10,498
 ■ Active — 5,446
 ■ Candidate — 1,459
 ■ Emeritus — 3,593
 ■ Non-rostered — 10,724

Lutheran schools provide witness and mercy opportunities for students by serving the needs of their surrounding community and the world.



"Will They Always Be There?"

Scholarship Sunday in the Central Illinois District is Sunday, May 2nd.

With the rising cost of education, gifts to this appeal are one way we seek to share the cost so that students from Central Illinois with limited means can still study to become pastors or teachers or other full-time church workers and serve our Central Illinois District.

For many years, the question that has been asked on our CID scholarship contribution envelopes is: "Will They Always Be There?" Will there always be a pastor to fill the pulpit in your church and will our CID schools always be able to find a called principal or teachers? Will Directors of Christian Education and deaconesses and even organists be available to be called or hired to assist your church with ministry and mission?

The challenge is great and the need is growing.

The need for pastors and teachers is growing and has already become critical for many of our churches and schools across the District and Synod. There are now twenty-

five pastoral vacancies in our District and in recent years our parish schools have found it most difficult to find synodically trained teachers and qualified principals. The challenge is great and the need is growing.

So, you ask, what can I do to help in the effort to assure that our churches and schools have the services of a pastor, teacher, principal, or other needed professionals to meet our spiritual needs?

1 First, **thank God for the gift of salvation given to you through Jesus Christ**, for the Gospel that tells us of His love, and for all the spiritual and physical gifts that God has bestowed upon you.

2 Second, **pray for and encourage present workers at your church and school**, whether they be called, contracted, or volunteer. Pray that God will bless them as you encourage them to love and good works.

3 Third, **pray about and consider whether God is calling you** to consider a vocation in full-time church work or is leading you to new areas in which to volunteer. Your pastor and District staff are here to help.

4 Fourth, **encourage your sons and daughters** and grandchildren, as well as faithful children and friends in your congregation, to consider studying for full-time ministry vocations or enrolling in a class or course of study that would help them to better carry out volunteer duties in the church.

5 Fifth, **make a generous special gift through your congregation on Scholarship Sunday, May 2nd**, or at other times throughout the year, to help cover

the cost of a synodical college or seminary education for those who desire to serve. Your gifts can be made to the Central Illinois District Scholarship Sunday appeal to help fund current students, or gifts can be made to the CID Scholarship Endowment Fund to help students now and for years to come. You may also consider including the CID Student Scholarship Fund or the CID Scholarship Endowment Fund in your will or as a beneficiary to an insurance policy or an IRA.

Please make your generous gift by sending a check to either:

CID Scholarship Fund

1850 North Grand Avenue West
Springfield, IL 62702-1626

or

CID Scholarship Endowment Fund

1850 North Grand Avenue West
Springfield, IL 62702-1626

We certainly want to thank God for all the wonderful pastors and workers that He has sent to serve our District. We thank the staff at our seminaries and colleges, elementary and high schools, who work so hard to train our future leaders and workers. We thank our CID President and District staff who work so tirelessly to advance the work of supplying workers for our District. We thank the CID Endowment Fund for expertly managing the monies in its charge. We thank the CID LWML for making continuous large gifts over many years, and the CID Church Extension Fund for making large gifts in the past, and for giving large gifts to individual students this past year. We also thank the Clara and Spencer Werner Foundation (now called the Lutheran Legacy Foundation) for funding CID students for many years before the CID Scholarship Endowment Fund was established and for their more recent matching grants. We also thank the Meseke Scholarship Fund, the Christ Peoria Scholarship Fund, and the Dr. A. Mueller Memorial Fund for their past and continued support of CID students. We thank the Effingham, Altamont, and Shelby Circuits for leading the way in encouraging recruitment of students this present year. We also thank the anonymous donor who gave a large gift to help attract new called workers to our District, and countless others for their generous scholarship support.

And especially we thank all of you who have supported this effort and continue to support our CID Scholarship Sunday appeal as a means to answer the question: "Will They Always Be There?" with a resounding "YES!, by the grace of God."

Rev. Charles Olander, CID Planned Gift Counselor
217-416-8842 or c-olander@msn.com

THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL!



*Shelby/Effingham/Altamont Circuit Convocation
On Ministerial Recruitment*

Me? In Church Work?

Our Lord said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38). These words remain as applicable today as when Jesus first spoke them.

Ora et labora! We pray, and we work too.

CID's Shelby, Effingham, and Altamont Circuits are doing just that. On Pentecost, **Sunday, May 23**, they will hold a joint Circuit Convocation at St. John Lutheran Church in Effingham from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The topic is church worker recruitment. Recruitment of pastors will be emphasized, but also including teachers, Directors of Christian Education, Deaconesses, and others.

The convocation's keynote speaker will be Dr. Dale Meyer, former Lutheran Hour Speaker and recently retired President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Representatives will be present from our Synod's two seminaries and from the Concordia Universities in Chicago and Mequon, Wisconsin. Chaplain Craig Muehler from LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces and Pastor Josh Theilen from Camp CILCA will provide information on specialized ministries.

Here is a great opportunity for young people, even pre-teens, to come and learn about full-time church work, and for their parents to learn about the educational roads to such careers. The convocation also affords prospective second-career pastors a place to ask serious questions and get some answers.

Please help spread the word about the convocation! See the video at <https://youtu.be/gpHT0EcWpAU>

Please register for the convocation by **May 7** at www.stjohnsLCMS.net



CID Endowment Initiative

Our Central Illinois District office has been provided with a donation to encourage our District's Lutheran schools to develop their own endowment fund. We are near the end of this three-year project. Each of the schools is offered the initiative to form an endowment fund to support its operations. To qualify for the program, each school should establish an endowment fund with a minimum of \$5,000.00. Then the District will provide a matching gift of \$5,000.00. If the Endowment Fund is established at Lutheran Legacy Foundation, they will be given an additional \$5,000.00 to the school's foundation.

In addition to this School Endowment Initiative, our Central Illinois District-Church Extension Fund will provide a ministry grant to schools that participate in this initiative. This grant will provide up to \$2,500.00 reimbursement for the purchase of school equipment.

Examples of reimbursable items:

- Computer equipment
- Textbooks
- Classroom equipment
- School lunch program equipment
- Playground equipment

As of this printing, the following schools are participating in the CID Endowment Initiative:

- † **Christ Lutheran High School** - Buckley, IL
- † **Good Shepherd Lutheran School** - Pekin, IL
- † **Immanuel Lutheran School** - Danville, IL
- † **Our Savior's Lutheran School** - Springfield, IL
- † **St. Paul's Lutheran School** - Milford, IL
- † **St. Peter's Lutheran School** - St. Peter, IL
- † **Trinity Lutheran School** - Danville, IL
- † **Trinity Lutheran School** - Springfield, IL
- † **Trinity Lutheran School** - Stewardson, IL
- † **Zion Lutheran School** - Lincoln, IL

This program is scheduled to end at the end of the calendar year, 2021. If you would like any additional information or donate to this impactful initiative, please contact the District office.

The “Pandemic Inactive”

Part of evangelism is concern for inactive members of congregations. Part of the way to address inactivity on the part of church members is to prevent it. Part of such prevention is to teach people why it is important to come to church.

Such teaching is needed these days. Perhaps one-fifth of church members who have stopped attending services due to the pandemic will simply not come back, according to recent estimates. Perhaps they will view services online, but they will not physically return. Worse, others may not even look for services online. Either way, it becomes important to tell people why they should come to church.

A recent convert was talking with someone who knew him in his non-churchgoing years. “Why in the world are you, of all people, now going to church?” his friend wanted to know. “Oh, I go for the gifts,” came the reply, “I go for the gifts.”

Good answer! The Lutheran Confessions point out that while the righteousness of the Law makes offerings to God, faith, on the other hand, “is the divine service (*latreia*) that receives the benefits offered by God . . . God wants to be worshiped through faith so that we receive from Him those things He promises and offers” (Ap IV 49).

Now, it is true that God’s Word is powerful when people read it or hear it read at home. And the Word remains powerful when it is heard via livestream. Staying away from church, however, keeps a Christian away from the Lord’s Supper.

Last year, both the CTCR and our two seminary faculties wisely pointed out the dangers of attempting what might be called “remote” communion: people with the elements at home eating and drinking after a consecration that comes to them in some format online. No, for the Lord’s Supper, *come to church!*

When God gives His gifts, faith doesn’t say “no” or “why?” The Large Catechism points out that the Lord’s Supper is “called a food of souls, which nourishes and strengthens the new man. For by Baptism we

are first born anew. But . . . there still remains the old vicious nature . . .” (LC V 23).

Again: Penitent sinners “should regard and use the Sacrament just like a precious antidote against the poison that they have in them. Here in the Sacrament you are to receive from the lips of Christ forgiveness of sins. It contains and brings with it God’s grace and the Spirit with all His gifts, protection, shelter, and power against death and the devil and all misfortune” (LC V 70).

Elsewhere, Luther wrote: “To give a simple illustration of what takes place in this eating: it is as if a wolf devoured a sheep and the sheep were so powerful a food that it transformed the wolf and turned him into a sheep. So, when we eat Christ’s flesh physically and spiritually, the food is so powerful that it transforms us into itself and out of fleshly, sinful, mortal men makes spiritual, holy, living men. This we are already, though in a hidden manner in faith and hope; the fact is not yet manifest, but we shall experience it on the Last Day” (AE 37, 101). Receiving the Lord’s Supper points to your own resurrection from the dead.

How, exactly? “Where there is forgiveness of sins,” the Small Catechism says, “there is also life and salvation.” This is about as close as Luther ever got to saying “how,” although others have tried (see H. Sasse, *This is My Body*, 150) and still do. The “how” – which the Bible does not detail – is not important for us to teach, but the basic reality is important. The ancient fathers put it this way: the Lord’s Supper is a “medicine of immortality.”

Why would a Christian not crave this gift? Indeed, why not — especially when, in the grip of a pandemic, people are fearing for their lives?

Some of our churches serve great sausage dinners. But all of them offer to poor sinners the body and blood of Christ.

Let’s go to church!



CID is on Facebook AND Instagram

Come find us @cidlcms 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!



"HERE I STAND"

The 500th Anniversary
of Luther's Confession at
the Diet of Worms
Sunday, April 18



"Here I stand," Dr. Martin Luther told the Holy Roman Emperor and all the estates of the empire at a meeting at Worms in Germany, 500 years ago. Answering a demand to recant or take back his writings, Luther said:

Unless I can be instructed and convinced with evidence from the Holy Scriptures or with open, clear, and distinct grounds and reasoning — and my conscience is captive to the Word of God — then I cannot and will not recant, because it is neither safe nor wise to act against conscience.

Luther took his stand. He said he could do no other, and he openly prayed for God's help.

To commemorate the 500th anniversary of Luther's bold stand on the Word of God, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at its last convention declared Sunday, April 18, 2021, as "Here I Stand" Sunday throughout the Synod, its districts, circuits, and congregations. Helps for the observance may be found at <https://www.lcms.org/here-i-stand-sunday>

Luther displayed godly courage in his appearance at Worms, but it was far from his last such display. A video presentation by CID staff member Ken Schurb entitled "*Luther: A Profile in Courage*" explores others.

Here is the beginning of Dr. Schurb's presentation:

While he was a United States Senator, John F. Kennedy published a book entitled *Profiles in Courage*. It was a study of — even, an ode to — courage, "that most admirable of human virtues," as the book termed it. Not surprisingly, this book focused on political courage, but it adds that courage "is an opportunity that sooner or later is presented to us all."

Profiles in Courage never defines courage in so many words, but there are a few themes that add up to its characterization of the noble virtue. They are:

- Consistency with one's deeply held principles
- at potentially great cost and personal sacrifice
- for the sake of an overarching responsibility.

These categories can serve us in a reflection on Martin Luther as reformer, or on many others in church history. The church could use a large measure of courage these days. So let's spend the next few minutes considering Dr. Luther as a profile in courage.



Dr. Schurb's video presentation is on the CID YouTube channel. It can be found at <https://youtu.be/L4G98vt4HPg>

Official Notices

2/15/2021 – 4/14/2021

Ordained

Transferred Out

- Rev. Mark Peters, EM NID
- Rev. Lester Dumer, EM NEB
- Rev. Jason Rensner, Pastor, Faith, Sioux Falls, SD

Installation

- Rev. Michael Ruhlig, Pastor, St. Peter, Woodworth

Called to Glory

- Rev. Wayne P. Hoffman, EM
March 2, 2021
- Rev. Rodger P. Abatie, EM
March 15, 2021

**Making
Disciples
for Life**



Still Going On...

Keeping Christ on Campus

College is tough. People need Jesus.
We're helping. Won't you?

"Keeping Christ on Campus" is an effort to build endowments that will help CID support its historic campus ministries. Lutheran Legacy Foundation has generously created these endowments, given them initial funding, and is matching dollar for dollar all contributions made up to \$10,000 in each endowment by July 1.

As of March 15, here are the contribution totals for each endowment:

University of Illinois	\$10,750.75
Western Illinois	\$9,430.75
Illinois State	\$9,047.75
Eastern Illinois	\$4,150.75

Donors to these endowment funds will receive twice a year from CID the new Keeping Christ on Campus newsletter, which carries updates from the various campus ministries. You can get a peek at the first (Easter, 2021) issue at <http://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-campus.html>



CID President Mark Miller and Stewardship Executive Ken Schurb remain available to come to YOUR church to preach and teach about Stewardship during 2021 as part of "Bring Giving Home" (BGH), the District's Stewardship and Mission Education initiative. BGH equips and encourages congregations to take the next step in Stewardship.

What, precisely, might this step be for your congregation? You can consult with Dr. Schurb. He is pleased to talk with you.

A Church Extension Fund grant will cover travel for President Miller and/or Dr. Schurb to your church for BGH follow-up. The goal is for everyone to grow in the care of the Lord, and in caring for what He has entrusted to us.



Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund Ministry Outreach Grants

The Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF) offers Ministry Outreach Grants twice a year — in April and again in October. These grants are provided to assist our congregations, agencies, and individuals to carry out the mission and ministry of the LCMS, with special consideration given to new and innovative opportunities addressing the issues and concerns confronting our District and its congregations. Examples include addressing the needs of our rural congregations and schools, encouraging involvement by our youth, reaching the unchurched, meeting the needs of multi-cultural communities, and addressing the growing needs of the elderly.

The deadline for grant application submission for the April session is rapidly approaching. Please submit your application to the CID-CEF to arrive no later than April 15 for review at the next CID-CEF Board of Trustees meeting. The application can be found on our website at www.cid-cef.org, then look under "Grants" and "Ministry Outreach Grants". You can also email us at cef@cidlcms.org or call our office at (217) 793-1802 to obtain a copy of the application.

*May the Lord guide you to embark on an opportunity to minister
to others in our Central Illinois District!*

Gifts to CID in 2020

The last issue of *The GatePost* reported on gifts to the District from the Church Extension Fund. This time, let's note contributions to CID from its member congregations last year — the unusual year 2020.

During 2020, when there were disruptions to gathering for worship on a weekly basis, congregations still contributed about \$1,646,000 in unrestricted dollars for Synod and District. These contributions enabled CID to make its remittances to the national Synod for its work, as well as maintaining congregation and church worker support, deaf ministry, prison ministry, ministry in Spanish, ministry to college and university students, and more.

Thanks be to God! Although in 2020 some congregations participated financially in support for District work in minimal ways, others showed great generosity in giving for missions, with contributions totaling \$150 per communicant and more. The average contribution from District congregations was about \$36 per communicant.

The District is the Synod in this place. While the District office is located in Springfield, CID really consists of the Missouri Synod congregations, pastors, and other rostered church workers in central Illinois. Through the District, there is help so you can have a faithful congregation where you can receive salvation from God in Word and Sacrament. Through the Synod and District, your congregation links with other churches to reach out further with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

During 2020, congregations contributed about \$1,646,000 in unrestricted dollars for Synod and District.

Neither the Central Illinois District nor The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod requires a particular dollar amount in contributions from any church. Thanking God for the salvation in Christ that makes us His church, and thanking Him for all the members of our congregations, we recall His instruction to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching. And we encourage one another to love and good works in Jesus' name.

It should also be noted that an anonymous donor generously contributed \$60,000 to help assure that there would be no curtailment of District missions as a result of the pandemic. This sum was contributed in 2020. Under the Lord's blessing, CID found it possible to save these funds into 2021. Even as vaccines become more and more available, COVID-19 still makes its impact in a variety of ways. This gift is much appreciated!

Being Blessed to Serve During COVID-19

continued from Page 1

Another blessing is our growing experience with the use of technology. Many of our schools were able to use Payroll Protection Program and CARES Act money to acquire additional equipment. Teachers have found educational software and programs that will provide benefits both in the classrooms and remote learning.

Finally, many of our parents see the blessings of our Lutheran Schools. Our schools have been providing Christ-centered education for years. The COVID period is just another way to work together within our church communities to provide for our families and their children. The mission of all of our schools is to include the goal of sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Through God's grace we have been blessed to be able to share this love in a very uncertain time.

Sign-up now at
www.cidlcms.org
to get
The GatePost and
News You Can Use
emailed to you.



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:

Deverman Advertising
 Pekin, Illinois

Communications Committee:

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



LERT Volunteer Training

St. John's Lutheran Church

1450 30th Avenue
East Moline, IL 61244

Saturday, April 24, 2021
9am to 3pm

Sign-in begins at 8:30am, sessions begin at 9am

Breakfast and lunch included

Register online at

<https://form.jotform.com/81215292634959>

Use Code: 0082

Please send \$35 registration fee to

St. John's Lutheran Church

1450 30th Avenue

East Moline, IL 61244

Checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church

Walk-ins are welcome

If you are already LERT certified, the event is considered continuing education (no charge)

Please join us for the Lutheran Early Response Team volunteer training program. 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. After the program, you will receive a completion card credential and a t-shirt.

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 to 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 6-hour training event will equip you to be an effective volunteer should a disaster strike your community. After a brief introduction regarding the goals and theological rationale of LCMS Disaster Response, the LERT volunteer training will address the following:

- Christian care in times of disaster
- A Ministry of presence
- The LERT Program and how it works with other responders
- Introduction to Disaster Response
- At the work site: debris clean up, tarp and patch, flood and mud clean up, chainsaw safety, and necessary paperwork

The \$35 registration fee includes your disaster response training manual, disaster response vest, Certificate of Completion, I.D. badge, breakfast, and lunch. If you are repeating the session we ask that you contribute \$15 if you need a new book and t-shirt to help defray the costs. 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. If you are already LERT certified, the event is considered continuing education (no charge).

Upcoming Events

LWML CID's 75th Convention & 75th Anniversary Celebration

The LWML CID's 75th Convention and 75th Anniversary Celebration is scheduled for April 29-May 1, 2021.

CTSFW – Continuing Education Class – June 21-23, 2021

The class will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Decatur. Topic will be "The Book of Jeremiah: Overcoming Life's Sorrows". Instructor will be Dr. R. Reed Lessing, Professor of Theology and Ministry and the Director of the Center of Biblical Studies at Concordia, St. Paul. Based upon Dr. Lessing's forthcoming book on Jeremiah, this course will be a combination of in-depth study and practical application — all based upon one of the prophet's major themes: surviving life's sorrows. Jeremiah offers a hope and future in Christ to all who have experienced a major disaster in life. For cost and additional information contact email Rev. Matthew Verseemann at pastorversemann@msn.com or by phone (217) 420-0586.

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 1/1/2021 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 have received a current Offering Circular of the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund.
- 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.