

# 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

2022: Issue 4



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**Making  
Disciples  
for Life** 

## Invite Someone to Church

*From the First Resolution Adopted by CID's 2022 Convention*

In some ways, it may seem that the days are over in which inviting people to church services can serve as a prime method for evangelistic outreach. Our Synod's re:Vitality module called "Connect to Disciple" operates on the premise that a congregation should have a variety of "low pressure" opportunities, besides church services, to which new people can be invited.

Yet exceptions exist. A previously unchurched woman started attending the services of Immanuel Lutheran Chapel in Springfield in May, 2021 after someone simply placed a packet of materials on her doorknob. How much more might at least some people respond to a personal invitation from a friend! Do not underestimate the loneliness that set in as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the past, our Synod used to produce special "Friendship Sunday" materials. However helpful such tools may have been, they are not necessary. There need not be anything unusual about a church service on a Sunday that a congregation designates as an "Invite a Friend" day. As it is, Christ offers poor sinners forgiveness and life there through Word and Sacrament,

which is the most remarkable thing of all. Still, it would be good for a congregation to consider ways to extend itself to visitors on such an occasion.

Some churches designate two "Invite a Friend" Sundays a year, one shortly before Christmas (when visitors can be invited back for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's services), and the other shortly before Holy Week (when visitors can be invited back for Holy Week and Easter services). Others set aside an entire month, such as September, for an "Invite a Friend" emphasis.



*Invite someone  
or offer to bring a  
friend with you.*

# From the President's Desk

## Politics

There are two things we never speak about—politics and religion... or so the saying goes. “Politics comes from two words,” a wise, old man once told me. “‘Poli-’ meaning ‘many’ and ‘ticks,’ the blood-sucking, parasitic arachnid.” We have such a low and dismal view of politics in our day. But it wasn’t always that way. Contrary to the quip of that wise, old man, the term “politics” comes from the title of a book written nearly four hundred years before Christ about how people ought to order their lives together within the cities. (“Polis” in Greek means “city,” so “politika” are the things having to do with cities.)

Four hundred years after Christ, another man wrote a book about cities. Unlike Aristotle’s *Politics*, which focused on all of the different structures men could use to organize their cities, Augustine focused on simply on who was at the center of the city. While the title of that book (*City of God*) turns our eyes on one of those cities, Augustine contrasts God’s gracious presence in His city (i.e. the Church) with the Law-based, unethical life of the Earthly City.

It is in this way that my mind links evangelism with that word “politics.” Only in the City of God is there life and salvation, and we want everyone to join us in that city. We are citizens under the rule and reign of our God—this is what orders our lives together. This Word of our Lord permeates and flows through the very fabric of our lives, shaping our every interaction—not only with God, but with every single person we meet over the course of a day, a week, a month, a year, a lifetime.

This month’s *GatePost* is chocked full of information about resources to help members of congregations order their lives within this City of God, including the joy of bringing in new citizens. Resources and events like *re:Vitality* (p. 3), the Small Church Summit (p. 8), the Bible Bowl (p. 11), YouthLead Training (p. 13), and the various events at Camp CILCA (p. 15) help those already in the City of God grow and be strengthened in God’s Word. Articles and activities like our cover article, *Beyond the Classroom* (p. 4), the Circuit Mission Councils (p. 5), the LLL Booth at the Illinois



Rev. Michael W. Mohr, CID President

State Fair (p. 12), and even the account of the conversion of one of the citizens of the Earthly City joining the City of God through baptism serve to motivate, inspire, and encourage us in our task of sharing the Good News of our Lord Jesus to all nations and peoples... including those just beyond our doorstep.

God’s blessings to you all this Advent-tide. As we are reminded of our Lord’s coming in the flesh to save us from our sins, we are also reminded of how we are flesh and blood instruments in His hand to share the joy of that salvation with all the people.

— Rev. Michael W. Mohr, CID President  
mmohr@cidlcms.org

## Did you know?

The traditional use of Advent candles (sometimes held in a wreath) originated in eastern Germany even prior to the Reformation. As this tradition came down to us by the beginning of this century, it involved three purple candles and one pink candle. The purple candles matched the purple paraments on the altar (purple for the royalty of the coming King). The pink candle was the third candle to be lit (not the fourth) on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. “Gaudete” means “Rejoice!” in Latin, which is taken from Phil. 4:4. (“Rejoice! ... the Lord is near”). Hence a “pink” candle was used to signify “rejoicing.” Some also included a white “Christ candle” in the middle to be lit during the 12 days of Christmas (Dec. 25 to Jan. 5).

Source: <https://www.lcms.org/about/beliefs/faqs/worship-and-congregational-life#advent>





# RE:VITALITY

## BECAUSE WE'RE THE CHURCH

Where the saving Gospel of Christ is proclaimed truly and His sacraments are administered rightly, there is vitality. As Jesus said in His High-Priestly Prayer, “this is eternal life . . . [to] know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” (John 17:3).

This vitality in Christ forms the focus of the following *re:Vitality* resources. These are offered by the Synod’s Office of National Mission to LCMS congregations at no cost.

### ***Congregational Assessment of Development/ Decline Status (CAD/DS)***

The recommended starting point in *re:Vitality* is this no-obligation 100-question electronic survey for church members and others. It identifies and organizes their perceptions of the congregation’s strengths and weaknesses.

### ***Connect to Disciple***

This module helps a congregation lead people from their initial *connection* with the church’s members to *discipleship*, being gathered around the Lord’s Word and Sacraments with the rest of the congregation. For short, the name is *Connect to Disciple*. A new application of this material specifically to congregations with Lutheran schools is called *Beyond the Classroom*.

Like all other *re:Vitality* modules, *Connect to Disciple* is available at no cost as a self-directed study. CID also has generous funding from Central Illinois LWML to provide

facilitators who can conduct a workshop at your church at very minimal cost to the congregation.

### ***Shepherding our Strays***

This module concerns a congregation’s inactive members. It offers practical tools for outreach to them, helping a congregation to develop a realistic and effective plan to engage both short- and long- term inactives.

### ***Serving in God’s Mission***

This module guides a congregation through a strategic planning process tailored to Lutheran churches. Through it, your congregation will work together to develop a Strategic Ministry Plan for its particular situation.

### ***Members of One Body***

This newest *re:Vitality* module focuses on the assimilation or incorporation of new people into a congregation. As of the end of 2022, it is almost ready for general release.

Revitalization is doing what we do because we are the church. *re:Vitality* helps us do it better.  
For more on any of these tools, contact Dr. Ken Schurb, [kschurb@cidlcms.org](mailto:kschurb@cidlcms.org)

For more information, see <https://www.lcms.org/church-revitalization>



*“Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established”*  
(Proverbs 16:3)

# Beyond the Classroom

## Outreach to Nonchurched Families through Lutheran Schools

Starting in November, we began introducing the latest module from Synod's *re:Vitality Connect to Disciples*. The CID Office will present the *Beyond the Classroom* introduction module in five regions within the District. These presentations are an introduction to the program that will encourage congregations or associations with schools to reach out to the unchurched and dechurched families in their school communities.

Most of our churches consider their schools as one of their major outreach programs. Over time many of our schools have had a

marked increase in enrollment from dechurched/unchurched families. *Beyond the Classroom*, an application of the Synod's *Connect to Disciple* module by Dr. Mark Wood, will help schools and congregations review, evaluate, and develop their outreach activities. With

*Beyond the Classroom* will help schools and congregations review, evaluate, and develop their outreach activities.

*Beyond the Classroom's* assistance, congregations are encouraged to make outreach efforts in connection with their schools.

The backbone of this training is that the school will learn to understand the difference between outreach and witnessing. The

training will help them determine what makes for effective outreach within their school communities. And finally, it will use the tools to develop valuable and effective outreach pathways and be able to evaluate and adjust these pathways as needed.

As we plan for these introductory training modules, we are looking at the following area locations and dates. These training goals are to generate interest and create a "knowledge base" in *Connect to Disciple* and the *Beyond the Classroom* application among CID churches with schools and preschools. We want to invite a core of school-related stakeholders: teachers, principals, parents, and board members to the initial training. We will be announcing the specific sites of these training after the first of the year.

- February 4 Springfield Area (weather date 2/11)
- February 18 Quincy Area (weather date 2/25)
- April 1 Altamont Area
- April 22 Peoria/Morton Area
- May 6 Champaign Area

After this training, we will work to schedule a two-day workshop in *Beyond the Classroom* at each of the schools' locations. These weekend training modules will start in early 2024.



## ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO CONSIDER CHURCH WORK!

Christ's church will continue until He returns, and that church will continue to need church workers.

**Set Apart to Serve** (SAS) is an initiative of the LCMS to recruit church workers. Together, we pray for workers for the Kingdom of God and encourage children to consider church work vocations. Here are three easy ways you can participate in SAS:

1. **Pray with** your children for God to provide church workers.
2. **Talk to** your children about becoming church workers.
3. **Thank God** for the people who work in your congregation.



To learn more about *Set Apart to Serve*, visit [lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve](https://lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve).

# Circuits *and* Missions

**Where might a new LCMS congregation be started?** You might have the answer, better than anyone sitting in a far-away office.

**How might a new LCMS church start be supported financially?** In our District, Dollar for Missions funding can serve as a resource. See the related story on Page 7 in this issue of *The GatePost*.

**But how might a new LCMS church start receive the in-person care and consideration it needs?** Funding by itself does nothing. People need to be involved. Pastors should proclaim God's Word and administer His sacraments, and others can be involved in supporting them in a variety of ways. A new church start requires a lot of effort and attention, sometimes more than one congregation can provide. If only there were a way to coordinate and combine

for this work the time and effort of people from a number of our congregations!

There is. We have circuits.

In our Synod and District, a visitation circuit is "a network of congregations that 'walks together' for mutual care, support, advice, study, ecclesiastical encouragement, service, coordination, resources, and counsel—all for the sake of greater congregational participation in God's mission" (LCMS Bylaw 5.1.1). Pastors participate in all of the above at monthly circuit pastoral conferences (sometimes called "Winkels"). And a circuit can do still more.

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(LCMS Bylaw 5.1.1)

A circuit can appoint committees for specific assignments (Bylaw 5.2.1.b). An example of such a committee is a Circuit Mission Council.

A Circuit Mission Council may be composed of representatives of the circuit's churches. Or it could simply be a set of willing volunteers. It will probably meet more often than the semi-annual Circuit Forum. It can concentrate on ways to encourage and assists mission work within the circuit, including church planting. A mission council can be one of the best friends a new church start can have.

Currently there are mission councils in only two of CID's 17 circuits.

**There is room for more!** Contact Dr. Ken Schurb at the District office, [kschurb@cidlcms.org](mailto:kschurb@cidlcms.org) and/or see the resources on starting the church planting conversation at <http://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-church-planting.html>



"LOOK, I TELL YOU, LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND SEE THAT THE FIELDS ARE WHITE FOR HARVEST." JOHN 4:35 ESV



## Official Notices

### Ordained

#### Transferred Out

- **Rev. Michael Bahr** – Candidate to Indiana District 7/1/2022 (IN)
- **Rev. Phillip Callahan** – to Faith-Corning, NY 7/15/2022 (Eastern)
- **Rev. James Henning** – to Trinity-Centralia, IL 7/21/2022 (SID)
- **Rev. Jeremy Latzke** – to St. John-Algonquin, IL 8/8/2022 (NID)
- **Rev. Thomas Heren** – Candidate to Iowa District East 8/11/2022 (IDE)
- **Rev. Jonathan Holmes** – Candidate to Mid-South District 8/25/2022 (MSD)

#### Ordination

- **Rev. Keith Kettner** (CTSEW) – St. John-Beardstown 6/19/2022
- **Rev. Ian Heinze** (CSL) – St. James-Quincy 6/26/2022

#### Installation

- **Rev. Keith Kettner** (CTSEW) – Sole Pastor, St. John-Beardstown 6/19/2022
- **Rev. Daniel Ulrich** (MSD) – Sole Pastor, St. Paul-Mattoon (Dorans) 7/10/2022
- **Rev. Ian Heinze** (CSL) – Sole Pastor, St. Paul-Havana 7/3/2022
- **Rev. Michael Mohr** (CID) – District President 7/19/2022
- **Rev. Frank Gallagher** – Intentional Interim Pastor – Our Savior-Washington 8/7/2022
- **Rev. Brian Johnston** (MNS) – Sole Pastor, Trinity-Taylorville 12/18/2022

#### Change in Status

- **Rev. Terrence O'Brien** – St. Paul-Pana to Emeritus 10/1/2022
- **Rev. James Batchelor** – St. Paul-Manito to Emeritus 11/7/2022
- **Rev. Joel Oswald** – Candidate to Resigned from Roster 11/23/2022

#### Called to Glory

- **Rev. Marvin Matzke** (Emeritus) – 7/10/2022

# Joy over Repentance



Here is a real-life incident from my days as a parish pastor: A man told me about his mother. Although he was not a member of the congregation I served, he was quite concerned about her. She would not be in this world much longer. Would I speak with her? Of course!

We will call this lady Jan, a frail woman with acute emphysema. Jan tired easily. She would leave her house only to see her doctor. Some of Jan's extended family members belonged to churches, but Jan did not. She was more than 60 years old, but in all that time she had never been baptized.

At length, I told her of the Christ Who loved her and gave Himself for her, answering for all her sin and defeating His and her enemies... the Good Shepherd Who laid down His life for the sheep and took it up again... the Way, the Truth, and the Life... the Resurrection and the Life. By the power of the Holy Spirit, she confessed faith in Christ.

When I started to unfold the saving Good News of Jesus for Jan more extensively, I ran into an unexpected snag. So little oxygen was reaching her brain, she found reading the Bible—or anything else—pretty much impossible. She could listen, though.

Some time before, I had done a series of 14 *Issues, etc.* interviews to accompany the Concordia Publishing House *Myth or Faith?* course on the basics of Christian doctrine. Our church owned cassette tapes of all these interviews. So I lent Jan a cassette player and a set of tapes. She would listen to a couple of the interviews, and during my next week's visit we would discuss them. This served as her catechetical instruction.

Then one day, I baptized Jan at her kitchen sink. No fanfare or anything, but here was the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit (Tit. 3:5)! About two weeks later, Jan died—but

not before she had a couple of opportunities to receive, under bread and wine in the Lord's Supper, the body and blood that Christ gave and shed for her.

Jesus said that "the angels of God are made happy over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10). The same could be said for Zion Lutheran Church in Moberly, Missouri. Even members of the congregation who themselves never had the opportunity to meet Jan attended her funeral. The entire congregation found itself caught up in this effort that the Lord was making, through us, to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).

I as pastor had this same sense too: wonder, that the Lord had directed me to Jan through her unchurched son; gratitude, that the Lord had reached Jan with His Word and Sacraments, using me in the process; humility, for the Lord was clearly doing the saving here, not me in any way; and joy that Jan, a child of God, was now with the Lord.

Joy over a sinner who repents is not reserved for angels in heaven. It comes also to pastors.

Ken Schurb

## "Myth or Faith?" Recordings in Short Segments



The same *Myth or Faith?* recordings mentioned in the accompanying article are available on the CID website, edited so each of the audio segments (two to 10 minutes or so in length) responds to a particular myth or misconception about Christianity. Together, these biblically based responses to some 70 myths constitute an overview of the faith. They appear on the CID website by the kind permission of Concordia Publishing House. You can listen to this audio for yourself, or recommend one or more of the segments to a friend. Churches can use them to supplement adult catechism lessons.

Find the *Myth or Faith?* audio at  
<http://www.cidcms.org/myth-or-faith.html>



# A Dollar for Missions

## Watch for the start of A Dollar for Missions (DFM) near you!

If your congregation has not already begun providing its members an opportunity to contribute one dollar per week beyond their usual offerings for support of missions, it likely will do so in January. At its convention last summer, CID adopted DFM and asked congregations to participate.

Small gifts add up. Even if only half of the members of CID churches contribute, this kind of ongoing offering would yield almost a million and a half dollars every year to support these kinds of mission projects: “first, brand-new church plants; second, mission-focused augmentations to existing ministries (e.g., adding a new ethnic ministry to a present congregation); third, established CID missions including maintenance and upgrades to facilities (e.g., Ministry in Spanish, Campus Ministry, Deaf Ministry, Prison Ministry)” (CID Res. R2022-03).



All CID congregations will have an opportunity to propose projects each year. For the 2023 funding year, the proposal deadline was December 1, 2022. (For future years, this deadline will be September 1.) At its January 24, 2023 meeting, CID's Board of Directors will establish a list of projects and dollar amounts for funding. This list will be shared with the District. Each project on the list will be fully funded before DFM money starts being allocated for the next project on the list. To see what projects are being funded, watch the CID's website and social media, as well as *The GatePost* and *News You Can Use* during 2023.

Many mission opportunities lie close at hand, yet a shortage of financial resources can limit mission efforts. DFM provides a way to respond to mission challenges with the Gospel of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ.

See <http://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-a-dollar-for-missions.html> Scroll down to find links to view a video and to order a DFM receptacle.

*Lord God, Who has given Your church salvation in Christ through Your Word and Sacraments, inspire and enable us to use the financial resources You give, even in the smallest amounts, so that increasing numbers of people will hear Your Good News and be brought by Your Holy Spirit into Your kingdom of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*



## CID is on Facebook, Instagram AND YouTube

Come find us @cidlcms! Our pages are 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!



## SECOND SMALL CHURCH SUMMIT: Gather, Share, Learn



At Epiphany, we recognize that the light of Christ shines on His church. Even to small congregations, the Scripture says: “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you” (Isaiah 60:1). This light from our Creator and Redeemer can pierce and enlighten the thickest of sinful darkness so “nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising” (Is. 60:3).

The Small Church Summit will meet again almost at the very beginning of the Epiphany season, on Saturday, January 7 (or January 14 if weather is bad on the 7th) at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Farmersville from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Churches are strongly encouraged to send not only one or two people to the Summit, but instead three or four.



This meeting will pick up where a similar one left off in June. If you participated back then, after opening worship at the second Small Church Summit your group can tell everyone else what has been happening at your church. If you are a newcomer—and newcomers are most welcome!—you can begin by telling everyone else what positives and challenges your congregation has.

After lunch, participants can choose one of two sessions: a presentation by Dr. Ken Schurb of CID staff on “Sermons that Teach” and a discussion moderated by Mr. Trip Rodgers of CID staff, “What Can You Do?” The latter session will feed into a planning exercise that Mr. Rodgers will facilitate for the entire group.

The Small Church Summit provides you an opportunity to gather with folks from other small CID and SID churches, share encouragement and plans, learn together, and hone in on priorities for your church. See the report on the Summit’s last meeting on page 8 of the September 2022 *GatePost* issue at <http://www.cidlms.org/resources/gatepost/2022.GatePost.3.pdf>

Is yours a small church? If you think it is, consider yourself invited to bring a group to the Summit. It’s free!

**Register for the next Small Church Summit by December 30.**

Go to <https://forms.gle/Z1Xey4BQNiLN533q8>



**SAVE THE DATE:**

### **Small Church Summit**

**Saturday, January 7, 2023**  
(back-up date is January 14)

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran  
Church, Farmersville**

**10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

*Join us!*

# Have you visited the CID website lately?



The following subjects are currently spotlighted on the CID's home page. Please feel free to visit [www.cidlcms.org](http://www.cidlcms.org) if you'd like more information on these topics. You'll also find a wealth of other important information as you browse around the website.

## "A Dollar of Missions"

<http://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-a-dollar-for-missions.html>

Contributing one dollar per member per week to help fund new CID missions.

## Gift Planning

<http://www.cidlcms.org/resources-gift-planning.html>

Whether you have made a planned gift before or simply want to learn more, the LCMS Foundation is ready to join you on your stewardship path.

## Church Planting

<http://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-church-planting.html>

Start the conversation about church planting in your congregation.

## Set Apart to Serve

<https://www.lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve>

The LCMS is intentionally working to identify, encourage and form future church workers for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ until His return.

## CID Schools

<http://www.cidlcms.org/education-schools.html>

Through Christian education, CID schools equip children to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Check out our Parochial video and find a school near you.

## Christian Citizenship

<http://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-human-care-christian-citizenship.html>

Christian Citizenship in difficult days.  
How can you help?

Are there other topics you'd like to learn more about?

Send an email with suggested content to Trip Rodgers at [trodgers@cidlcms.org](mailto:trodgers@cidlcms.org)

# A NIGHT OF HOPE

**Trinity Lutheran Church, Auburn, IL**  
**Sunday, January 29, 2023 • 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

*High school youth and adults of any age are welcome!*

Well before the pandemic hit, Barna research—as well as others’—found that young people, namely Millennials and Gen Z, are more likely than past generations to report battling with mental health issues. In research conducted for *The Connected Generation*, Barna’s largest-ever study, half of U.S. 18-35 year-olds (49%) reported feeling anxiety over important decisions and also expressed a fear of failing. Over three in 10 said they often felt sad or depressed (39%) or lonely and isolated from others (34%). The mental health strain teens and young adults were under pre-pandemic has only intensified during the crisis.

In response to this, it is our desire to host . . .

## A Night of Hope: Where God, Art, and Mental Health Meet

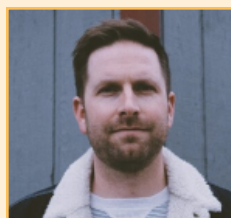
Join Blake Flattley, Tanner Olson, and Heidi Goehmann for an afternoon of poetry, music, and tools for meeting our mental health with hope. This event connects people to resources that help them breach stigma, rest in God, and build strength to love themselves and those around them well, no matter the challenge. All three presenters will have merchandise available for sale and will do signings.

**MUSIC • POETRY • GAMES •  
GIVEAWAYS • PIZZA PARTY**

**Join us** for this event geared toward high school youth and adults on Sunday, January 29th. Heidi and Tanner encourage parents and other supportive adults to attend with the youth. They have found that it’s best when parents/leaders of the church get to experience the evening as a whole. Their hope is to begin a conversation that families can carry on together.

**Cost is FREE** (by God’s Grace and generous donors).

Registration is open now through January 15th at [www.trinityauburn.org](http://www.trinityauburn.org). Please reach out to Trinity, Auburn, at [tlcauburnil@gmail.com](mailto:tlcauburnil@gmail.com) with questions.



**Blake Flattley** is an accomplished singer-songwriter and the head of 1517 Music. He holds a BA in Humanities and an MA in Theology from Concordia University, Irvine, and has served as a Worship

Director for churches in Southern California, Houston, New York City, and the Phoenix area. Blake currently lives with his wife, Tara, and their three girls, Amelia, Olivia, and Willa, in Southern California.



**Tanner Olson** is an author, poet, and speaker living in Nashville, Tennessee, with his wife, Sarah, and dog, Pancake. For the last decade, Tanner has been writing and speaking about hope,

faith, and love to audiences online and across the US. When he isn’t writing, Tanner spends most of his time watching NBA basketball, drinking coffee, being outside, and catching up with friends. Tanner’s new book, *Continue*, was released summer of 2022. For more from Tanner, visit [writtentospeak.com](http://writtentospeak.com) or @writtentospeak on Instagram.



**Heidi Goehmann** is a licensed clinical social worker and mental health provider, deaconess, writer, speaker, wife, mom, and advocate. She can always be found at [heidigoehmann.com](http://heidigoehmann.com)

advocating and providing resources for mental health and genuine relationship. Heidi loves her family, sticky notes, Jesus, adventure, Star Wars, Star Trek, and new ideas... not necessarily in that order. Her newest book, *Emotions and the Gospel*, was just released.

## 2023 CID Youth Bible Bowl

Announcing the 2023 Central Illinois District LC-MS Youth Bible Bowl: "Judges and Ruth." In the best way you know how, study these two biblical books about a difficult period of history for God's people. And talk within your circuit about holding your Circuit Bible Bowl in the weeks before the District Bible Bowl scheduled for Sunday, April 16, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at Camp CILCA.

The Bible Bowl provides an opportunity for our youth (6th–12th grade) to be involved in Scripture study and thus to grow in their knowledge of God's Word and to deepen their faith. Each circuit gets to send its top two teams to Springfield. For more information on how you can hold a Bible Bowl in your circuit, please contact Pastor Mark Eddy at Zion Lutheran Church, Taylor Ridge, Illinois.



## Keeping Christ on Campus



### A Reminder . . .

. . . that if your church has college students attending colleges or universities away from home, including institutions outside of Illinois, CID office will refer their contact information to the nearest LCMS campus ministry. But we need that information if we are to pass it along!

Send students' names, mailing addresses, e-mail addresses, and/or telephone numbers to [kschurb@cidlcms.org](mailto:kschurb@cidlcms.org)

## Invite Someone to Church

*Continued from Page 1*

There is still a group of people who would come to church, or come back to church, if someone invited them. It's not *everyone* you know, but quite possibly—and even probably—*someone* you know.

Therefore the Central Illinois District (CID) urges its congregations strategically to schedule Sundays and other occasions when they will encourage their members to invite and bring friends to church services. It further urges churches to receive unchurched visitors warmly on such occasions and follow up on them promptly thereafter.

You don't have to wait for your whole congregation to do something, though. Christmas is coming! Lots of people, especially former church members, have the sense that they should be in church at this time of year.

So invite someone—better, perhaps, offer to bring such a friend with you—to services on the fourth Sunday in Advent (December 18), Christmas Eve, or Christmas Day. Introduce your friend to a few of your fellow church members, one of whom can be at the ready to follow up with a note or phone call, as well as to your pastor.

*Heavenly Father, Who in love gave Your Son Jesus Christ into death so whoever believes in Him would not perish but have eternal life, loosen our tongues so we not only sing Your praises but also invite others to join Your church in the chorus of praise and thanksgiving to You now and forever. Amen.*

## New District Life Coordinator:

*David Ward*



Last summer, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling. However, that decision did not put an end to the challenges involved in defending the lives of the unborn and helping women who are considering abortions. This is certainly the case here in Illinois. *The GatePost* is therefore pleased to announce that CID has a new Life Coordinator, Mr. David Ward.

A lifelong member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Varna, David is retired from a 40+ year career in banking. He has served his home church in a variety of capacities through the years, including being an Elder, a Trustee, and a VBS volunteer. He currently leads the adult Bible Class at St. Paul's. David also serves as Vice President of the Board of Trustees for the Central Illinois Church Extension Fund.

David brings a wealth of experience to his new position as District Life Coordinator. During his banking career, he served as a board member and group director for the Community Bankers Association of Illinois based in Springfield. This provided him opportunity to travel with a group to Washington D.C. and meet with several congressmen to discuss issues related to banking.

David is blessed with three grown children and five grandchildren. He enjoys reading, especially on religion, science, and history. These interests befit a Life Coordinator.

Pray for David, the team he gathers, and the efforts they will be making to honor and uphold human life as a gift of God our Creator, and to bear witness in the process to God's grace in Christ. If you would like to help, e-mail [lifecoordinator@cidlcms.org](mailto:lifecoordinator@cidlcms.org)



*Save the Date!*

**Tuesday, March 21, 2023**  
**Springfield, IL**

Instead of Chicago, in 2023, the Illinois March for Life will take place in Springfield at and around the Illinois State Capitol building. Trinity Lutheran Church, located across the street, is planning a service that morning. Watch *The GatePost*, *News You Can Use*, and CID social media for details as they become available.



## Illinois State Fair LLL Booth

Why do we continue to sponsor and volunteer at the LLL Booth at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield year after year? My answer is seeing a child look at the picture that has three crosses and says Father, Son, and Holy Spirit on it, then take the LHM booklet that says "Who is Jesus" or to see child after child take the LHM booklet "Bully" or to see the gratitude on parents faces when they can have a free book of "Little Visits With Jesus" or to have a teenager take a Bible that is now their own. It is the joy of seeing these sights and knowing that the Bible says, "My Word will not return to Me void." To know by being at the State Fair with this material, we are providing the "seed" that may save people from eternal damnation.

Thank You to all the volunteers that worked at the LLL Booth  
and to Deloris Blessman for organizing the LLL Booth.  
Thanks to the Pastors who led worship on the Fairgrounds both  
Sunday mornings of the State Fair.

# YouthLead Training

March 16-19, 2023  
St. Louis, MO

For 40 years, YouthLead (formerly Lutheran Youth Fellowship) has equipped teens to develop and use their leadership skills as they serve Christ within their congregations and communities. Our annual leadership training event in St. Louis is lead by our teen Executive Team and gives teens the tools they need to mature in their faith, become leaders in their congregations, and reach out to their peers with the love of Christ.

**GO TO [LCMS.ORG/YOUTHLEAD](https://lcms.org/youthlead) FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

The CID has scholarship funds available to help cover the cost of attendance.

## WHO IS INVITED?

Any high school youth who is an active member of an LCMS congregation and desires to be a leader can join us. We encourage you to contact your district before you register as some districts have supports for those attending this training. *(The CID does have scholarship funds available.)*

We prefer teens attend with an adult leader from their congregation. Arrangements can be made for them to come unaccompanied.

## WHAT HAPPENS AT A YOUTHLEAD TRAINING?

Youth are equipped for leadership in two key ways. First, we engage them in studying God's Word through a Bible study they experience and are trained to lead back home.

Second, we focus on their unique identity and vocations so they can lead from their strengths in their home congregation.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Registration for youth and adults is \$375. This covers your food, housing, supplies and a shirt during the whole training.

You will need to also cover your transportation to and from St. Louis.

## WHAT IF I CAN'T MAKE IT THIS YEAR?

If you can't make this training, don't worry! We hold training every year in St. Louis. We also work with LCMS Districts and groups of congregations in a region to bring a smaller version of this conference to your area. Contact us for more information on this option.

**QUESTIONS? EMAIL US AT [YOUTH.MINISTRY@LCMS.ORG](mailto:youth.ministry@lcms.org)!**



# CAMP CILCA NEWS

*Check out our schedule of events on Page 15*

## ACT LIKE MEN Retreat

Camp CILCA is holding its first **ACT LIKE MEN** Retreat January 20-22, 2023. Men ages 16 and up will gather for a weekend of activity and instruction, food and encouragement. Assertiveness, health & fitness, competence, vocation, adventure, piety, and more will be discussed and practiced. Don't miss this opportunity to gather with other Christian Men and explore what Saint Paul meant when he admonished the Corinthians to "act like men." (1 Cor 16:13) Total cost is \$50 per person and includes all meals.

*Camp CILCA exists to foster and strengthen faith in Jesus Christ and relationships with others in a unique outdoor setting*

4124 Camp CILCA Road, Cantrall, IL 62625 - Phone (217) 487-7497  
Pastor Joshua Theilen, Director

## Summer Registration

for Camp CILCA is up and running at [cilca.org](http://cilca.org).

Registrations made before January 1 receive a **15%** discount.

Registrations made before March 31 receive a **10%** discount.

*Don't miss this opportunity to give the gift of time in God's creation to the next generation!*

## Resolution R2022-06

*To Give More Direct Attention to the CID Archives and its Function of Maintaining an Accurate History of the District*

**Resolution Passed (Voice Vote)**

WHEREAS, The Central Illinois District is the result of the dissolution of the Illinois District-LCMS in 1909, resulting in the creation of the Northern, Central and Southern Illinois Districts, each with its own Archives and functioning under generally accepted archival practices. The CID Archives has existed in one form or another since its creation and has been administered by various clergy and laymen, The current archivist is Ralph Woehrmann, appointed by the CID Board of Directors in 2008. The archives is housed on CID grounds; and

WHEREAS, The Archives consists of congregational files, active and closed or released from the LCMS, files of CID Board of Directors activities, special files on other Lutheran groups, Lutheran High School, Youth and Women's work, Christian Education, Inner City Board of Directors, Archival Newsletters, CID History, Lutheran Retirement Center/ Concordia Village, Dispute Resolution matters, LWML activities, and collections from various estates; and

WHEREAS, The archives is governed by the archivist along with a volunteer Board of Directors which meets four times per year and which has produced in the past 13 years a quarterly Archivist publication, a permanent marker about the former Seminary on its former grounds at 13th and Carpenter, Springfield, Illinois, several items translated from the German including a History of the Fort Wayne Sem from 1846-1896, and an updated history of CID; and

WHEREAS, The CID has generally shown only a passive interest in the Archives, viewing it as a generally valuable asset but not being all that essential; therefore be it

Resolved, The convention render a hearty thanks to our God for the existence of the Archives which was established, and which exists today to show how well the CID has fulfilled the Great Commission; and be it further

Resolved, That the document, "The Congregational Archivist" by the late Rev. Dr. August R Suelflow, be made available to all CID congregations which gives an excellent outline for congregations and their responsibilities in this matter as well as the theological motivation for having an archives; and be it finally

Resolved, that each congregation send in all requested materials mentioned in the above document along with the seven items deemed essential to each congregational file as determined by the archival board in February 2009; The Articles of Incorporation, Constitutions old and new with revisions, bulletins from the first public worship service, a bulletin in the event of closure, special events of a civic or congregational matter, and a copy of a resolution indicating the acceptance of the congregation into the LCMS.

For more information regarding the CID Archives , please contact Archivist Ralph Woehrmann through the CID Office.  
Or you may contact him directly via email at [ralphwoehrmann@gmail.com](mailto:ralphwoehrmann@gmail.com)



# CAMP CILCA SCHEDULE 2023

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

January 20-22	<b>ACT LIKE MEN</b> Retreat (For any man 16 and up)
March 4	Pancake Dinner
March 10-11	<b>ACT LIKE MEN</b> Woodcutters' Retreat (Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult)
March 26	Annual Banquet - Contact the camp office to reserve your tickets
April 1	Spring Workday
TBD	Spring Women's Scrapbooking Retreat
May 27	Men's Field Day Competition
May 28	Annual Hog Roast
May 30	Junior Counselor Training
May 31-August 3	<b>SUMMER PROGRAM</b>
August 5	Homecoming - Food, music, games, more!
September 3	Chicken Fry & Auction
September 16	<b>ACT LIKE MEN</b> Shooting Retreat (Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult)
September 22	Whippoorwill Golf Outing
October 7	GRIT Run!
November 4	<b>ACT LIKE MEN</b> Workday

### ACT LIKE MEN EVENTS

For men of all ages to make connections across generations, learn and sharpen new skills, and grow strong in the Lord.

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."  
- 1 Corinthians 16:13

# Lutherans For Life 2023 Illinois Essay Contest

*Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents*

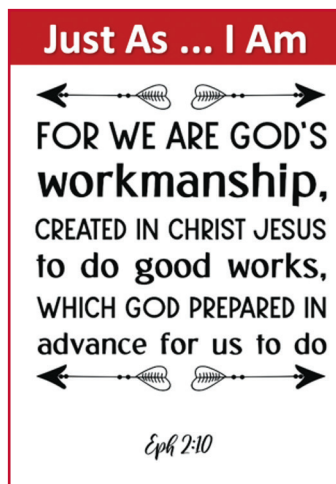
## For Students in Grades 6 through 12

*Any student in a Lutheran school or Lutheran congregation, e.g., confirmation class or youth group, when validated by a pastor or teacher, is eligible. Students may also enter through a Lutheran home school, when validated by their Lutheran pastor.*

## Contest Guidelines

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme: **Just As ... I Am with the Bible verse: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10**

1. Not incorporating the theme and verse in the essay will disqualify the entry.
2. Examples of topics the essay could deal with are, but are not limited to abortion, the handicapped, adoption or foster care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician assisted suicide or euthanasia etc.
3. Essays should include student's name, grade (school or church), and email address. All entries submitted by the teacher or pastor, should include their name and email address. This information should be submitted on the rubric page used in grading the essay. Pastors and Teachers, please consult the rubric to submit qualified entries.
4. All sources for references, statistics and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end.
  - Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words
  - Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words
5. There will be a \$100 first place award and \$50 second place award for each of the two categories. The two first place category winners will advance to the national contest. Email [cathy.benning.os@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.benning.os@gmail.com) with any questions.
6. Grand prize for the national winning entries in each category is: \$250 for first place plus free conference registration to the 2023 Lutherans For Life conference and one night stay at the conference hotel. \$125 for the second-place winner.
7. All entries become the property of Lutherans For Life.
8. For questions or resources on the sanctity of life, see [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)



Sign-up now at  
[www.cidlcms.org](http://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](mailto:trodgers@cidlcms.org)

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### Communications Committee:

Rev. Michael W. Mohr, Advisor  
Lewis "Trip" Rodgers, Editor  
Rev. Bob Bruer  
Jim Deverman  
Shawn Hoffmann



Lutherans  
For Life

# 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](mailto:cef@cidlcms.org) [www.cid-cef.org](http://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 Affidavit and Indemnity Agreement must be returned with Application)

Reinvest \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Redeem \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

- ☐ 2.75% 5-year term ☐ 2.25% 3-year term  
☐ 1.75% 1-year term ☐ 0.75% 6-month term

#### Special Term and Rate – Limited Time!!!

- ☐ 3.00% - 18-month 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](http://www.cidlcms.org) or contact CEF to request the form)

INTEREST RATES 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 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 SIPC- or FDIC-Insured deposit accounts.**

The CID-CEF reserves the right to call this investment for redemption upon 60 days written notice and reserves the right to request 30 days notice of redemption prior to maturity on certificates and 15 days notice on flexible savings accounts. Certificates renew automatically unless the CID-CEF is notified otherwise within 10 days after maturity. Certificate is non-negotiable, redeemable with the CID-CEF upon proper endorsement, and subject to an early redemption penalty.

**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.**