

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

2023: Issue 1



In This Issue...

- 2 From the President's Desk
- 3 Approved Dollar for Missions Projects
- 4 New Church Start
- 4 Providing Prison Ministry Materials
- 5 2023 Illinois March for Life
- 6 Small Church Summit
- 7 Keeping Christ on Campus
- 8 CID-CEF Grants Awarded in 2022
- 9 CID-CEF Mortgage Interest Rebates
- 9 Did You Know?
- 10 CID School Statistics for December 2022
- 11 Beyond the Classroom
- 12 CID LLL District Convention
- 13 2023 CID Youth Bible Bowl
- 13 Official Notices
- 14 Camp CILCA Schedule
- 15 LERT Volunteer Training
- 15 Looking Ahead
- 16 Nominating Synod President / Vice Presidents
- 17 Older Adult Retreat
- 18-19 CID-CEF Investment Form

**Making
Disciples
for Life** 

Of Icing and Cake:

A Dollar for Missions and Stewardship

CID congregations are beginning to receive offerings of one dollar per member per week for extra mission support. At last summer's convention the District encouraged this "Dollar for Missions" (DFM) giving, to begin in 2023.

Although many dollars here and dollars there certainly add up, a gift of one dollar — even one dollar each week — does not exactly amount to sacrificial giving for most of us. It is just a bit extra. You might call it "icing on the cake."

Similarly, DFM giving should not be considered a congregation's basic approach to financial stewardship. It is icing. It is not cake.

Children may dream that they could eat all icing and no cake, or all desserts and no square meals. But a moment's mature reflection shows how short-sighted and disastrous such a diet would be. Well, it would also be short-sighted if a congregation were to highlight DFM giving so much that it would lose sight of stewardship basics.

The Creed teaches some basics concerning our identity as stewards of God's gifts.

- We are stewards by way of creation. Every person in the world is a creation of God our Father, responsible to Him for our management of creation and all the blessings of creation that

Continued on Page 3



DFM provides parents, grandparents, and baptismal sponsors a great way to teach children about offerings and mission giving. Encourage and help your kids to place their dollars into the donation receptacle, and be sure to tell them about the mission work they are supporting.

They are helping to tell the Good News about Jesus!



See Page 3 for the list of DFM funding recipients for this year, as approved by the District Board of Directors. A video on DFM is available at cidlcms.org/ministry-a-dollar-for-missions.html

From the President's Desk

But it's MINE!

Oh, how vividly I remember that sentence. Sometimes it was coming out of my mouth, sometimes my brother's, but one thing was certain – it was not spoken softly. In the heat of battle, usually with a toy or some article of clothing caught between us in a tug-of-war, we would shout our ownership at one another as we asserted our power to determine its use.

**All our daily bread
is a gift from the
Lord to be used for
His purposes.**

Looking back as an adult, I think how silly all this must have seemed to our parents. As children, all that we thought we “owned” had been gifted to us from others. These items had merely been entrusted to our care to be used for a certain purpose. The quilt grandma had made was to provide warmth on our beds or as we curled up on the sofa, not to be used as a make-shift toboggan to slide upon as the other brother dragged you through the mud.

And so it is with all that we have received from our heavenly Father. God opens His hand and satisfies the desires of every living

thing. (Psalm 145:16) He gives us each day our daily bread to provide for all that we need to support this body and life. Some things might seem unrelated – such as the rains that fall upon the field – but these are included in our petition for daily bread. “[Y]ou must open wide and extend your thoughts not only to the oven or the flour-bin, but to the distant field and the entire land, which bears and brings to us daily bread and every sort of sustenance. For if God did not cause it to grow, and bless and preserve it in the field, we could never take bread from the oven or have any to set upon the table.” (Luther's *Large Catechism*, Fourth Petition)

All our daily bread is a gift from the Lord to be used for His purposes. These purposes are not limited to the offering plate, but they certainly include it. As the Lord provided for those whose labor is the proclamation of His Word through the gifts and offerings brought forth by the people of God (Leviticus 2:10, 7:31f., 24:9), so also do we establish a portion of our gifts for the proclamation of God's Word. But we also recognize that our Lord has set aside a portion of what we receive from Him in order to provide for our children and our families, for our neighbors who are in need, and for the good governance of our communities.

No, contrary to what those squabbling children were saying at the beginning of my



Rev. Michael W. Mohr, CID President

article, we must recognize that nothing is ours. As we sing in the well-known hymn, “All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.” (LSB 781:1) That is what it means to be a steward: to know that all we have has been entrusted to our use according to the will of the one who does truly own all.

Lord God, heavenly Father, open our eyes to see that all of creation is Yours and entrusted to our care. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may have the wisdom to steward these blessings according to Your will, providing not only for all of our needs of body and soul, but also in service to our neighbors. This we ask in the Name of Jesus, Your Son, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

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



Rev. Michael W. Mohr, CID President, will preach at the pre-march service for Illinois March for Life on March 21, 2023, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Springfield, IL.

See details on Page 5.

Dollar for Missions

2023 Approved Projects

On January 24, CID's Board of Directors established a list of projects to receive Dollar for Missions (DFM) funds during the year 2023. The projects are listed in priority order. These projects will be funded, one at a time starting with the first, up to the board-designated dollar amount shown.

Amount	Project
\$30,000	Immanuel, Springfield, half a year of funding for vicar working largely on new church start <i>(see Page 4 for related article)</i>
\$30,000	St. John, Beardstown, half a year of funding for vicar doing outreach in Spanish
\$30,000	Immanuel, Springfield, other half-year of funding for vicar working largely on new church start
\$30,000	St. John, Beardstown, other half-year of funding for vicar doing outreach in Spanish
\$35,000	University, Champaign, for purchase of 12-passenger van
\$2,500	Augment pay for Prison Ministry at Lincoln and Logan Correctional Centers
\$20,000	Payments for pastors visiting four new prisons or county jails in 2024
\$200,000	General support of budgeted CID mission efforts

CURRENTLY FUNDED PROJECT

As sufficient Dollar for Missions contributions are received to fund each project or phase of a project, the District will switch subsequent Dollar for Missions contributions to support the next item on the list. With the Lord's blessing, everything on the list for 2023 will be fully funded!

Keep checking the CID website to see what your Dollars for Missions are doing at present. Visit www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-2023-projects.html



And please keep praying for all of CID's missions as well as those especially being supported through Dollar for Missions!

Of Icing and Cake

Continued from Page 1

He has placed into our hands. He owns everything. We don't.

- We are stewards by way of redemption. "You were bought for a price" (1 Corinthians 6:20), nothing less than the lifeblood of the Man Who is also God, Jesus Christ our Lord. God "created us for this very reason, that He might redeem and sanctify us" (*Large Catechism*).
- We live as stewards through the Holy Spirit's work, as He makes us holy. Although we may hear a thousand times what God would have us do, and quite properly so, we need the Holy Spirit to move us to do genuine good works that flow from faith in Christ. He does so through the Gospel.

CID Stewardship Executive Ken Schurb remains available to preach, teach, and consult with congregations on the subject of Stewardship. Stewardship resources continue to be available on CID and LCMS websites. Stewardship basics are still vital for every single one of our congregations. For, as thrilling as DFM promises to be, it can never take the place of consistent, basic stewardship teaching and practice. It can never become cake.

**Making
Disciples
for Life**

**CURRENTLY FUNDED
DFM PROJECT**

CID'S NEW CHURCH START: **Immanuel Lutheran Chapel**

The currently funded "Dollar for Missions" project.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Springfield has begun a new church start in the red building next to the CID office. Immanuel Lutheran Chapel is a preaching station of Immanuel, Springfield, served by its pastor, the Rev. James Stuenkel.

In May of 2021, just as COVID restrictions were being lifted, volunteers placed flyers on doorknobs in the neighborhood around the chapel prior to the first Sunday afternoon service. Recently, Pastor Stuenkel and CID archivist Ralph Woehrmann have been interviewed about Immanuel Chapel on the Marketplace program on WICS-TV in Springfield. These publicity efforts have been supported by a generous grant from the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund.

New attendees have been coming. Pastor Micheal Strong of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Farmersville, has begun to teach a Bible study on Thursday evenings. Little by little, numbers are growing at Immanuel Chapel, which is presently the only new church start in our District.

A new church start is an intentionally organized gathering that meets on a regular basis for church services and/or Bible study and is intended to grow into an LCMS congregation. CID's first priority for Dollar for Missions funds is to support new church starts like this one. Let us pray and work so there will be more and more in the days ahead!



On Friday, January 6, some 40 people attended an Epiphany service at Immanuel Lutheran Chapel. CID congregations in the Springfield area were all invited. Pastor James Stuenkel (pictured) served as liturgist. Dr. Ken Schurb of the CID office preached a monolog sermon as a Jerusalem scribe from the time of the visit of the wise men.

Providing Prison Ministry Materials

Let us help you



If you or your church donates up to \$200 worth of Gospel-centered materials to a nearby state or federal prison or county jail within CID, you can be financially reimbursed. Or, if you donate more than \$200 worth, you can be reimbursed up to \$200, all thanks to a generous grant from Central Illinois LWML to CID.

Donating such materials helps to ensure that the saving message of Christ finds its way into Illinois prisons even if COVID spikes or staff shortages make it difficult for outside chaplains to enter these facilities. Here is a way YOU can become involved in prison ministry.

A list of pre-approved materials (e.g., Bibles, devotionals, catechisms and hymnals) is available. There is also a grant form for you to use in requesting reimbursement for your donation. Find these items on the Prison Ministry page of CID's website at www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-prison.html



Before you actually purchase any materials:

- 1.) Contact the prison or jail you have in mind. Ask for the chaplain at a prison or the sheriff in the case of a county jail. Make sure that the materials that you wish to purchase are not only on CID's pre-approved list but are also approved by the facility. Each one has its own regulations concerning receiving and distributing materials.
- 2.) Also find out the facility's preferred way of receiving religious materials. You might be able to deliver them physically, or perhaps you will have to mail them.

If you have questions, contact CID Prison Ministry Coordinator Rev. Rodney Blomquist at prisonministry@cid.lcms.org

JOIN US FOR THE 2023 ILLINOIS ≡ MARCH FOR LIFE ≡ FORMERLY 'MARCH FOR LIFE CHICAGO'



NEW DETAILS. SAME PURPOSE.
SAVING MIDWESTERN LIVES

IL CAPITOL: SPRINGFIELD • TUESDAY, 3-21-23, 12PM



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Rev. Michael Mohr, president of the LCMS Central Illinois District, participated in the March for Life Chicago rally and march in January of last year. Pastor Mohr will also be at the 2023 March for Life, this time in Springfield, on March 21. He will preach during the pre-march service at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Trinity, Springfield, to hold **PRE-MARCH SERVICE**

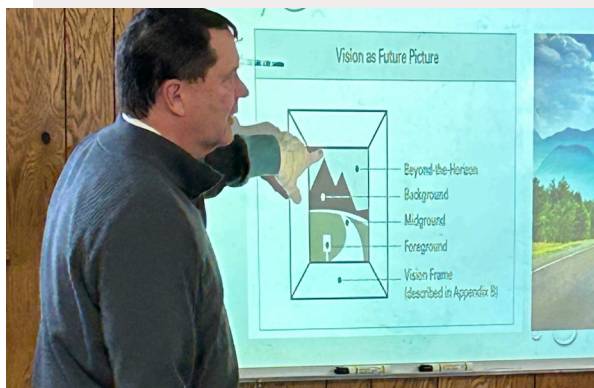
On Tuesday, March 21, at 10:30 a.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, Springfield, will hold a special Matins service commemorating Joseph, guardian of Jesus. Rev. Michael Mohr, LCMS Central Illinois District (CID) president, will preach a sermon titled "Caring for Child and Mother," based on the Gospel reading, Matt. 2:13-23.

Rev. Paul Hemenway, Trinity senior pastor, will serve as liturgist. Lectors will include Rev. Timothy Scharr, Southern Illinois District president, and Rev. Cory Estby, Northern Illinois District first vice-president and life coordinator.

Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 220 South Second St., across the street from the Illinois State Capitol. The Illinois March for Life will immediately follow the service, beginning at noon with a rally at the Capitol.

All are welcome. For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb, CID executive for Evangelism and Missions, Stewardship, Human Care, at kschurb@cidlcms.org.

SMALL CHURCH SUMMIT: Better the Second Time



At Epiphany we recall that the Christ is God's Christmas Gift to the entire world – for example, to small communities as well as large. And every congregation has as much of Christ in His Gospel and Sacraments as every other, down to the smallest of churches.

On the day after the festival of the Epiphany, January 7, some 40 people gathered at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Farmersville for the second Small Church Summit. (The number of participants nearly doubled from the first such meeting last June.) Almost all came from small churches in the Central and Southern Illinois Districts. For most of them, it was their first time at the Small Church Summit.



SAVE THE DATE:

Small Church Summit

Saturday, June 3, 2023

If your church regards itself as small, consider yourself invited, and plan for more than one participant from your congregation to attend. Watch for the next *GatePost* issue to provide details on the plans that will be developed for June 3.

One of the purposes of these meetings is networking, letting one another know that other churches share similar situations and providing opportunities for everyone present to learn from everyone else. After an opening devotion led by Pastor Micheal Strong of Zion, spokespeople from the various congregations in attendance told the entire group what is going on in their churches.



Lunch was provided by the host congregation with support from a Thrivent Action Team grant. Participants had an opportunity to view a number of old and historic coins and medallions held in the collection at Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis, as shown by Director Dr. Daniel Harmelink.

After lunch, CID staff members conducted two "breakout" sessions. Trip Rodgers provided an introduction to strategic planning, while Ken Schurb taught a session on "Sermons that Teach." Then participants all got back together for further consideration of strategic planning. They also briefly considered options for what



might be done at the next Small Church Summit. Finally, CID President Michael Mohr conducted the closing devotion.

The mood was positive! Participants were glad to meet others in situations similar to theirs, and to learn together. People left wanting more.



Keeping Christ on Campus

College is tough. People need Jesus.

Lutheran Legacy Foundation of Paris, Illinois, has established four endowment funds to benefit campus ministries in CID. Each fund provides earnings to the District for support of campus ministry at one of these institutions: University of Illinois, Illinois State University, Eastern Illinois University, and Western Illinois University.

For additional information, contact Dr. Ken Schurb at the CID office, kschurb@cidlcms.org
Your gifts help campus ministries as they catechize and care for students from our own churches and reach out to others on campus with the Good News of Christ.



You can also assist campus ministry by sending contact information for college students from your congregation to Dr. Schurb. He will refer to appropriate LCMS campus ministries even in other states.

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

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!



CID Church Extension Fund

Grants Awarded in 2022

Thanks to God's blessings, the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF) returned \$65,652 to the District in the form of grants. The grants were spread throughout the District and will serve a variety of needs, as follows:



Springfield Lutheran High School

Capital Campaign Matching Funds – \$25,000

Providing a matching grant as seed money to assist in initiating a capital campaign following LuHi's recent mine subsidence event displacing the school. We pray that the congregations and members of the Central Illinois District will rally around LuHi and provide needed assistance in facing a serious challenge to their ministry to high school students in the greater Springfield area.

Seminarians in the CID

Seminarian Grants – \$18,000

Assisting with seminarians' material needs as they prepare to support us with our spiritual needs.

Auburn Trinity

Night of Hope Event – \$2,000

Providing support for the mental health challenges facing youth in Springfield's East and West circuits.

Lutheran High Schools in the CID

Creation Science Series Presentations to Lutheran High Schools – \$1,500

Resources to armor our youth to face the challenge of evolution vs. God's creation.

Pastors in the CID

Christ-Centered Counseling Books for Pastors – \$552

Resources for pastors to counsel our members in our times of need.

Springfield Our Savior's

Live Nativity – \$500

Witnessing to the community on Christ's birth and the real reason for the season.

Peoria Trinity

Snack Packs for Franklin School – \$500

Meeting the physical as well as spiritual needs of lower income families.

Campus Ministries:

- *Eastern Illinois University – \$1,500*
Publicity materials to promote the campus ministry.
- *Illinois State University – \$1,000*
New computer and fire protection enhancement.
- *Western Illinois University – \$600*
ADA drinking fountain.

Central Illinois District:

- *Junior High School Event – \$5,000*
Sponsoring non-LCMS participation in the LCMS CID event for junior high school youth.
- *Synodical Convention Joint Independent CEF Luncheon – \$3,000*
Sharing with our pastors the benefits to the District of having an independent Church Extension Fund.
- *School Administrator Training – \$2,500*
Extending access to administrator training to a broader base, including pre-school administrators.
- *Genesis Project – \$2,000*
Funding a program for evaluation of the readiness for new or expanded schools.
- *Benevolence Funding – \$2,000*
Replenishing a fund providing financial assistance to our pastors and teachers facing challenges creating financial difficulties.

Please add your prayers for these ministries supporting our pastors, teachers, youth, and members of the Central Illinois District.

CID Church Extension Fund

Mortgage Interest Rebates

Once again, the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF) is able to return God's bounty to those churches, organizations, and schools in the Central Illinois District that have borrowed funds in answer to God's calling to make disciples of all nations. Under the Mortgage Interest Rebate Program, the CID-CEF returns part of the interest paid during the year by our borrowers under our standard interest rate program, thereby reducing the cost of their loans and returning financial resources to them to meet other needs in their ministries.



Thanks to the blessings and guidance of our Lord, the CID-CEF will award Mortgage Interest Rebates for the eighteenth year in a row to those borrowing churches and entities that qualify for the rebate. All borrowers under our standard interest rate program are eligible to earn this rebate, which for 2022 will total \$150,000. To qualify for the rebate, all loan payments must be up to date at the end of the calendar year. This year, all churches, organizations, and schools have met the requirements and will be receiving their portion of this rebate.

Praise God for opening the eyes of our people in the CID to the challenges facing our society today and knowing that only our Lord can overcome these challenges, using His churches, organizations, and schools to preach His Word and carry it to all corners of the CID!

Did you know?

Lutheran Worship: History and Practice, a commentary on Lutheran Worship, one of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's hymnals, says this about ashes on Ash Wednesday: "Other customs may be used, particularly the imposition of ashes on those who wish it. This ancient act is a gesture of repentance and a powerful reminder about the meaning of the day."

Ashes can symbolize dust-to-dustness and remind worshipers of the need for cleansing, scrubbing and purifying. If they are applied during an act of kneeling, the very posture of defeat and submission expresses humility before God."

The ashes are usually derived from the burned palms from the previous Palm Sunday. Experience will show, however, that in obtaining ashes this way, it doesn't take many ashes to "ash" a whole congregation. Like sin, they are very dirty and go a long way. One palm leaf will produce enough ashes for several years.

Usually the pastor takes the ashes on the end of his thumb and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each worshiper, saying these words: "Remember: you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

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



CID School Statistical Information – December 2022

CID Schools

Elementary and High Schools will include preschool information for schools with such programs.

22 Schools Reporting

Enrollment

Preschools	640
Elementary	2,354
High School	300
Total Enrollment	3,294

Tuition Rate

K-8th	Average	Maximum	Minimum
Member	\$3,122.80	\$6,040.00	\$0
Community	\$4,434.00	\$7,050.00	

High School	Average	Maximum	Minimum
Member	\$6,055.00	\$7,350.00	
Community	\$6,555.00	\$8,350.00	

Funding Percentage

	Average	Maximum	Minimum
Congregational Budget	47%	95%	0%
Tuition	40%	97%	0%
Other Source	12.3%	65%	0%

Ethnic Makeup (percentage)

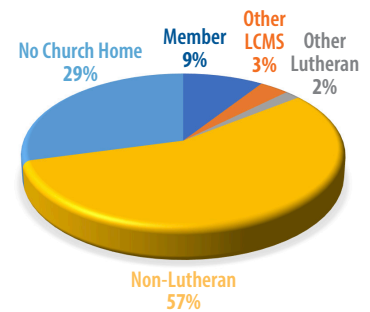
	EC/Elem	High School
American Indian	0.1%	0%
Asian	1.3%	2.5%
Black	9.0%	6.7%
Hispanic	1.8%	3.5%
White	87.8%	87.3%

Free-Standing Preschools

Enrollment

Age	
>1 year olds	14
1 year olds	21
2 year olds	56
3 year olds	244
4 year olds	262
5 year olds	43
Total Enrollment	640

Enrollment By Church Affiliation



Type of Enrollment

Preschool Half Day	74%
Preschool Full Day	10%
Childcare Full Day	16%

Funding Percentage

	Average	Maximum	Minimum
Congregational Budget	12.5%	50%	0%
Tuition	50%	100%	0%
Other Source	0%	50%	0%

Ethnic Makeup (percentage)

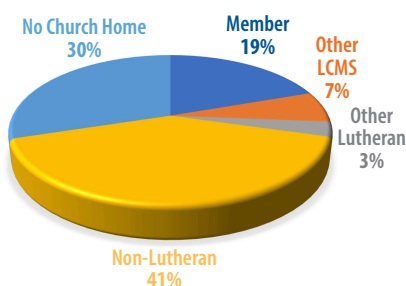
American Indian	1.2%
Asian	1.3%
Black	2.8%
Hispanic	1.3%
White	92.1%
Multi-race	1.3%

Number of Children Baptized: 1

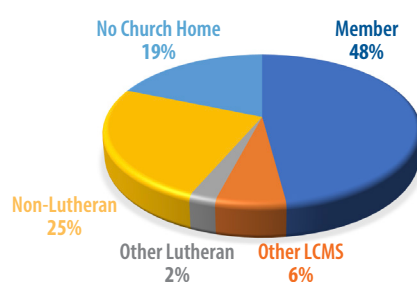
Number of Children Baptized: 43

Enrollment By Church Affiliation

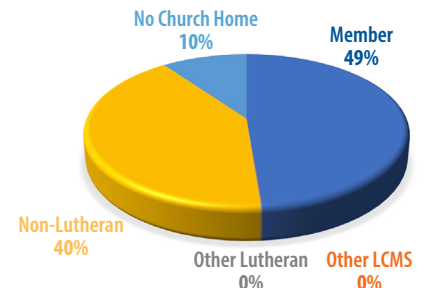
EARLY CHILDHOOD



ELEMENTARY



HIGH SCHOOL



Beyond the Classroom

Outreach to Nonchurched Families through Lutheran Schools

“Our school is our mission,” congregations sometimes say. In almost every case, Lutheran schools at all levels now have more pupils from unchurched or dechurched families than they did in years past. See the percentages of those enrolled in our schools who report no church home, as shown in the pie graphs at the bottom of page 10 in this issue.

Your school is a mission field. How to make it the best mission it can be?

In cooperation with Dr. Mark Wood of the Synod’s Office of National Mission, CID is presenting sessions introducing *Beyond the Classroom* (BTC). If your church has a school, these sessions are for you! BTC adapts the *re:Vitality* outreach module, *Connect to Disciple*, for congregations with Lutheran schools.

Over the next three months or so, sessions will be conducted in five regions within our District. Each of these presentations introduces the BTC process for reaching out to unchurched and dechurched families in school communities. These sessions will benefit both congregations who operate their own schools and/or those who do so in association with others.

BTC helps schools and congregations to review, evaluate, and develop their outreach activities. It teaches processes to improve outreach in congregations with schools. Participants in BTC will devise “outreach pathways,” and they will be equipped to evaluate and adjust these pathways as needed in the future.

Beyond the Classroom helps schools and congregations to review, evaluate, and develop their outreach activities.

members, evangelism committee members, church elders, parents of pupils, and perhaps others a basic knowledge of BTC. Each school represented at these sessions will receive copies of Dr. Mark Wood’s book *Meaningful Outreach* (CPH, 2022). Attendees at the sessions will be equipped to return to their school and inform others about BTC.

- February 4 **Our Savior’s, Springfield** (weather date Feb. 11)
- February 25 **St. James, Quincy**
- April 1 **St. John’s, Effingham**
- April 22 **Bethel, Morton**
- May 6 **St. John, Champaign**

The sessions listed above all start at 10:00 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. Lunch is provided. You may attend for free, thanks in part to a generous gift from central Illinois LWML. Please sign up for one of these sessions at <https://forms.gle/H34SsAcd7HFzhH4s7>

After this round of introductory sessions, we will schedule fuller *Beyond the Classroom* training for each of our schools, starting in early 2024. For Lutheran schools can indeed play vital roles in outreach. God grant it, for Jesus sake!





CID LLL DISTRICT CONVENTION

"Every good and perfect gift is from above..."

JAMES 1:17

**SATURDAY
March 4, 2023**

Redeemer Lutheran Church
6801 N Allen Rd
Peoria, IL 61614

Doors Open at 8:00 a.m.

**Convention Begins
at 9:00 a.m.**

HIGHLIGHTS:



LHM Update:
"Gifted for More"

Guest Speaker:
Rev. Michael Mohr
"Wont you be my Neighbor?"



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

CONVENTION: \$25 per person (includes lunch)

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK TO:

Deloris Blessman • 24204 CR 1850 N • Topeka, IL 61567

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Deloris Blessman, CID LLL Treasurer • delorisblessman@yahoo.com

REGISTRATION FORM 2023 CID LLL DISTRICT CONVENTION

Registration deadline **February 28**
Make check payable to **CID LLL District**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Number of Attendees: _____ at \$25 each (includes lunch) Total Enclosed: _____

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.



Official Notices

Ordained

Transferred Out

- **Rev. Stephen Rutherford** – to Zion & Immanuel – Lincoln, MO 2/13/2023 (MO)
- **Rev. James Batchelor** – Emeritus to Iowa District East 12/16/2022 (IDE)

Transferred In

- **Rev. William Duey** – Emeritus from Southeastern District 11/1/2022

Called to Glory

- **Rev. Thomas Cruikshank** (Emeritus) – 12/11/2022



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.



CAMP CILCA SCHEDULE 2023

Summer Registration is up and running at cilca.org.
Registrations made before March 31 receive a **10%** discount.



March 4

Pancake Dinner

March 10-11

ACT LIKE MEN 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

SUMMER PROGRAM

August 5

Homecoming - Food, music, games, more!

September 3

Chicken Fry & Auction

September 16

ACT LIKE MEN Shooting Retreat
(Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult)

September 22

Whippoorwill Golf Outing

October 7

GRIT Run!

November 4

ACT LIKE MEN 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."
- I Corinthians 16:13



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

200 Cole Street, East Peoria, IL 61611

Saturday, March 11, 2023
9am to 3pm

Registration begins at 8:30am

Register online at

https://www.lcms-lerc.org/need/detail/?need_id=773174

Look in the Training and Deployments section. You will need to register on the website and then "like" the Central Illinois District to access the training session and register for the class.

LERT Volunteer Training

This program is designed to help you serve as a trained Christian volunteer when a disaster strikes and to help your family, congregation, and community and to help you to be prepared for disasters. At the center of our LERT Volunteer training is one thing: **MERCY!** Christ's mercy is the basis for everything we say and do. This training event will equip you to be an effective volunteer should a disaster strike. 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, staying safe on the worksite, and necessary paperwork

The registration fee (\$35.00) will include light breakfast, lunch, manual, credential card, and t-shirt. Please make checks payable to the church. If you are already LERT-certified, the event is considered continuing education (no charge for re-training), but we request a donation of \$15 if you need a new book or want a t-shirt).

Looking Ahead

What will The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod look like about fifty years from now? Finally, only the Lord knows. We human beings can only examine what is available to be seen.

Looking at current trends, a demographer named Lyman Stone has produced a study, "What is our Life Together? Report on the Results of the Lutheran Religious Life Survey." Briefly, he concludes that if present trends continue, LCMS congregations will have only 400,000 members between all of them by 2070, and the Synod will continue in a numerical decline.

One-dimensional remedies may help, but not much. Stone projects that EITHER if members of LCMS congregations have additional children and raise them in the faith OR if the present number of adult conversions doubles as a result of more extensive evangelism efforts, by 2070 LCMS churches will have about 700,000 members, and that total number will remain in decline.

However if within the next 10 to 15 years all of the above begin to occur—increased evangelism leads to double the number of adult conversions, families have at least one more child than the present LCMS birthrate, and the youth retention rate is doubled—then Stone projects in 2070 a Synod whose congregations number 1.2 million members (a total roughly a third less than today's LCMS) and stable, no longer in decline. He finds that the biggest attitudinal divide within the Synod concerning these matters does not seem to be between those who want to try one of these approaches and those who want to try another, but rather between those who want to progress on *all these fronts* on one hand and those who, on the other hand, say that *nothing need be done*.

Stone's study offers much to discuss and consider. For example, might he have done well to take adoption into account as another way of adding children to the families within the Synod?

It would be spiritually shallow—at best!—for anyone to increase efforts simply to preserve this church body. The Missouri Synod's founders insisted that the Synod is to serve not itself as an organization but rather the cause of proclaiming the Gospel, thus building Christ's kingdom of grace in this world so that people bought by the blood of the Lamb will spend eternity with Him in His kingdom of glory. Still, Stone's research may get us all started thinking.

Issues, etc. interviewed Stone on his work. CID's Evangelism Commission encourages you to listen to the two installments of that conversation at:

<https://issuesetc.org/2022/10/10/2832-a-new-survey-of-lutheran-church-missouri-synod-members-part-1-lyman-stone-10-10-22/>

and

<https://issuesetc.org/2022/10/11/2841-a-new-survey-of-lutheran-church-missouri-synod-members-part-2-lyman-stone-10-11-22/>

Nominating Synod President / Vice-Presidents

DUE FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Each member congregation of the Synod is entitled to cast nominating votes for those to appear on the ballots for President and vice-presidents (First Vice-President, a full-time position, and the vice-president for your region, a part-time position ranked by the convention in the line of succession as one of the second through sixth vice-presidents).

This triennium, this nomination process is being conducted using an electronic system developed by Yes Elections, the vendor that has supported our Synod's electronic presidential election process (under a former name, as Election-America).

Your congregation should have received an official mailing from Yes Elections, mailed **October 17, 2022**, containing the congregation's login credentials for the nominating ballot and necessary instructions. The envelope is clearly labeled as containing "LCMS OFFICIAL NOMINATION BALLOT.". If this envelope was lost or misplaced, a duplicate must be requested through the Office of the Secretary of the Synod (lcmssecretary@lcms.org or 314-996-1417).

Hopefully, your congregation has already met to discuss and determine names to submit in nomination. This must be done as an official congregational act or done by a governing body of the congregation, officially empowered by the congregation to take this action on its behalf. If your congregation have not done so, there is just a bit more time.

Starting **October 29, 2022**, two attesting officers of each member congregation have been able to use the congregation's credentials to enter two nominations for each of the following on the contractor's website:

- President of the Synod (nominate up to two)
- Vice-President of the Synod (nominate up to two)
- Regional Vice-President for the congregation's region (nominate up to two; the congregation's region is indicated in materials)

All nominees must be ordained ministers (not specific ministry pastors) on the roster of the Synod. Nominees for regional vice-president must reside within the congregation's region. While a congregation may nominate the same individual for multiple offices, it may not nominate the same individual twice for the same office.

Nominations close with the end of **February 28, 2023**, at midnight central time.

LCMS Presidential Nominations Tutorial

A step-by-step guide to making nominations for the President and VP slots for the 2023 Milwaukee Synod Convention can be found at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQ1dqQ40W0A&t=149s>

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

LUTHERAN OLDER ADULT RETREAT XX



Psalm 18:2

Wednesday & Thursday

April 26-27, 2023

Pere Marquette Lodge, Grafton, IL

Faith, Fun, and Fellowship

Join with others from Southern Illinois and Eastern Missouri in the beauty of God's creation as we consider how "The Lord is My Rock, My Fortress, and My Deliverer" and how we live out our calling as Christians in our daily lives.

For a retreat brochure and registration form, contact Margo Wolf at (618) 979-3376 or email dmwvete74@gmail.com

Retreat Registration deadline in **April 11**.
Lodging cut-off date for reduced rates is **April 11**.

Sponsored by Older Adult Ministry Southern Illinois and Missouri Districts-LCMS

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 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 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.