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August 21, 2025

THE 61ST REGULAR CONVENTION OF THE CID

We Believe, We Confess, We Witness

The 61st Regular Convention of the Central Illinois District gathered under the theme of "Witnessing Christ to the People." Informed by the witness of Mary Magdalene that first Easter morning, emboldened by the example of those fathers of the faith gathered at the First Ecumenical Council in Nicæa 1700 years ago, we are strengthened

"Conventions of the districts shall afford opportunities for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information." (LCMS Bylaw 4.2.1)

by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to those who do not know our risen Savior as we make the good confession of the faith.

Ninety five lay delegates and ninety three pastoral delegates representing 103 congregations, together with seventeen advisory delegates and other guests gathered Sunday evening, July 13, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Springfield to be nourished for

the task before them by the Word of God and Christ's Body and Blood. In his sermon, LCMS President Matthew Harrison reminded those gathered, "Just like Mary Magdalene, we come from the tomb — we come from our own tomb — and we bear witness. We bear witness to Christ — Christ who is risen from the grave. Alleluia."

Delegates assembled at the Crowne Plaza Convention Center first thing Monday morning to begin their consideration, discussion, and debate of seventeen resolutions, ranging

from thanksgiving and commemoration of the work of God's saints in His Kingdom to memorials for consideration by our Synod in convention to directives to our district Board of Directors. Two of the most weighty resolutions call upon the congregations of the district to provide training for and inculcate a culture of witnessing the Good News to our neighbors, as well as approving a campaign for additional resourcing for those mission endeavors executed by the district on behalf of her congregations. This funding campaign has now entered a "silent stage," as



LCMS President Matthew Harrison (c), Regional Vice President Benjamin Ball (l), and CID President Michael Mohr (r) address the CID convention.



President's Desk

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

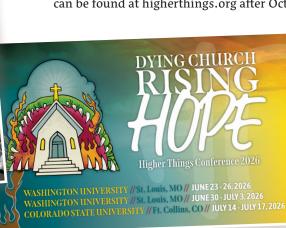


Summer Youth Activities

July 2025 marked a busy time for youth around our district. More than a third of our congregations (53/148) sent youth to a synod-wide meeting where they heard plenary speakers, attended smaller break-out sessions, and received the Body and Blood of our Lord together in Divine Service.

Thirty eight of our congregations participated in the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, July 19-23. Themed after Hebrews 12:1-3, the Gathering taught participants that through Christ's endurance of the punishment for our sins upon the cross, we too are strengthened to endure to live as His people in this world. The next LCMS Youth Gathering is scheduled July 3-7, 2028, in San Antonio, Texas. More information can be found at lcmsgathering.org as plans are released.

Seventeen of our congregations attended one of three regionally based Higher Things conferences (Amhurst College, Amhurst, MA, June 24-27; Concordia University, Seward, NE, July 8-11; and Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI, July 29-August 1). Based on Revelation 21:5, this conference focused on how Christ's blood-bought redemption renews our lives and our relationships with God and one another, washing away our sins and restoring all things. The next round of Higher Things conferences will take place next summer, with two conferences meeting at Washington University in St. Louis for back to back weeks June 23-July 3, 2026, then a third conference at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, CO, July 14-17, 2026. President Mohr will be the Conference Chaplain for the first of the two St. Louis conferences. More details can be found at higherthings.org after October 1, 2025.



Check out more photos on the next two pages from the LCMS Youth Gathering and Higher Things Conferences.



CID Congregations attending the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering

Bethlehem, Altamont Immanuel, Altamont Trinity, Auburn Trinity, Bloomington Immanuel, Broadlands* Saint John, Chatham Immanuel, Danville Mt. Calvary, Decatur Saint John's, Decatur Saint Paul's, Decatur Trinity, Decatur Saint John, Dieterich Saint John, Effingham Saint John, Green Valley Saint Paul, Havana Saint John's, Louisville Saint Matthew, Milan Saint Paul, Milford Good Shepherd, Minier Bethel, Morton Zion, Mount Pulaski Saint John, New Berlin Christ, Normal* Grace, Paris Christ, Peoria Redeemer, Peoria Trinity, Peoria Our Redeemer, Quincy Saint James, Quincy Saint John, Quincy Salem, Salem Saint Luke, San Jose Holy Cross, Shelbyville Our Savior's, Springfield Trinity, Springfield Peace, Thomasboro Calvary, Watseka St. Paul, Wheeler

* Sent youth to both.



CID Congregations attending a 2025 Higher Things Conference

St. Paul (Blue Point), Altamont Immanuel, Broadlands* Pilgrim, Decatur Trinity, El Paso Mt. Calvary, Galesburg Concordia, Geneseo Zion, Lincoln Immanuel, Macomb Our Savior, Milford Holy Cross, Moline Christ, Normal* Immanuel, Rock Island St. Peter's, Saint Peter Trinity, Stewardson Zion, Taylor Ridge Holy Cross, Vandalia St. John's, Washburn









A Dollar for Missions News

New DFM Project

CID is pleased to announce that sufficient funds have been received for the DFM project to replace insulation in the chancel ceiling at Wittenberg Lutheran Center, Normal. Originally estimated at \$10,000, this project will likely be completed at a lesser cost.

The way stands clear for a new project. Immanuel Lutheran Student Center in Macomb was dedicated in 1969, but some of the equipment in the kitchen of the apartment for the live-in student who takes care of the student center (the sexton) has not been replaced since then. The current DFM project is for \$11,000 to replace original kitchen equipment in this apartment.



Dollar for Missions Application Deadline

The deadline is September 1, 2025, to propose projects to be funded in the following priority order:

- 1.) new church starts
- 2.) mission-focused augmentations to present ministries within CID
- 3.) existing CID missions

Applications forms can be found at https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-apply.html

PRAYER

O Lord, open the hearts of your people to support the proclamation of the Good News about Jesus in ways large and small. Bless the Dollars for Mission that support mission work in unusual ways. In Jesus' name. Amen.



You can always find out more about DFM, including the present project at any time, at https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-a-dollar-for-missions.html







The Lutheran Witness magazine

Subscribe today at cph.org/witness

"Witnessing Christ to the People" Acts 13:30-31

The 61st Convention of the Central Illinois District (CID) of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the 10th Convention of the CID Church Extension Fund, Inc. (CID-CEF) was held at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois on July 13-15, 2025.

ELECTION RESULTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2028 "TRIENNIUM"

President Rev. Michael Mohr

First Vice-President Rev. Michael Burdick

Second Vice-President Rev. Mark Eddy

Secretary Rev. Justin Cullen **Assistant Secretary** Rev. Marcus Manley

Financial Secretary None Elected

Treasurer Mr. Joel Oschwald

Pastors Rev. Timothy Fitzner

Rev. Kent Tibben Rev. Aaron Uphoff Rev. Kevin Wendorf

Teachers Mr. Steve Parry

Ms. Robinette Flach

Laymen Mr. William Blessman

Mr. Kevin Block Mr. Aaron Schroeder One elected position not filled

CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS & DISTRICT HANDBOOK COMMITTEE

Ordained Rev. Stephen Mueller

Rev. James Stuenkel

Lay Attorney None Elected

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 2028 DISTRICT CONVENTION

Parish Pastor Rev. Jason Braaten

Rev. Keith Kettner

Parish Teacher Ms. Rebecca Heppe

Ms. Gayle Dietsch

Laymen Ms. Deloris Blessman

Mr. Brandon West

CIRCUIT VISITORS

Altamont Rev. Ryan Meyer **Bloomington North** Rev. Jonathan Boehne **Bloomington South** Rev. Andrew Smith Champaign Rev. Michael Stoerger **Decatur** Rev. Brett Hinrichs **Effingham** Rev. Steven Becker **Iroquois** Rev. H. Douglas Minton Rev. Brian Lesemann **Jacksonville** Lincoln Rev. Matthew Berndt Rev. Daniel Ulrich Mattoon Peoria Rev. Karl Eckhoff Rev. Matt Rilev **Ouincy Rock Island** Rev. Tim Nerud Shelby Rev. Nathan Woolery Springfield E. Rev. Matt L. Schneider Springfield W. Rev. Martin Kaufmann **Tazewell** Rev. Greg Moyer



2025 APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 25-1-01 To Stimulate Training for Witness

Encourages congregations to make use of "Every One His Witness" and CID's supplemental Witnessing Helps, and encourage all baptized members to recognize themselves as Christ's witnesses.

Resolution 25-1-02 To Encourage Lutheran School Accreditation

Encourages all CID schools to seek accreditation through the NLSA process.

Resolution 25-1-03 To Encourage Witness and Outreach in Nursing Homes

Encourages all congregations and pastors to give attention to nursing home ministry, serving all residents.

Resolution 25 1-04 To Clarify Policies Regarding Application and Renewal of RSO Status

Memorialize Synod to direct District Presidents in their duties of ecclesiastical supervision of RSOs and abide by Synod bylaw 6.2.1 in granting and/or renewing RSO status to organizations supporting LGBTQIA+ or those partnered with an organization that does so. This memorial includes recommended Synod by-law changes clarifying the requirement that RSO policies uphold the biblical definition of manhood, womanhood, and marriage.

Resolution 25-1-05A To Amend and Update Selected Bylaws of the CID Handbook

Provides amendments to the CID Handbook as recommended by the CID Board of Directors and the Congregational Constitutions & District Handbook Committee following communication with the Synod Commission on Constitutional Matters. It involves some changes in nomenclature, the elimination of non-functioning committees, the requirement of 5 nominees for the office of District President to be presented to the convention, and other housekeeping revisions.

Resolution 25-1-06 To Encourage Use of Beyond the Classroom (BTC)

Encourages the congregations/schools of the CID to engage the services of the CID office to provide training using the BTC module of re:Vitality.

Resolution 25-1-07 To Encourage Sabbaticals for Church Workers

Encourages congregations and schools to look toward the long-term health and wellness of their called workers. It also encourages them study and if possible, implement the "Recommendations for Church Worker Sabbaticals" as defined in the CID Salary Guidelines.

Resolution 25-1-09 To Encourage Study of the Left-hand and Right-hand Modes of Governance

Recognizes that LCMS members have Christian freedom to think differently on kingdom of the left issues, and directs the CID to reaffirm Christ's teaching on the two kingdoms and to encourage its membership to pray for wisdom and fulfil their vocations to love their neighbors according to each kingdom. The convention also memorialized Synod to direct organizations affiliated with Synod to exercise extreme caution when advocating for positions in the Kingdom of the Left on which Christians of good conscience may differ.

Resolution 25-1-10 To Decline Overture 25-03

Overture 25-03 sought to memorialize Synod to use a task force to review the current healthcare options available to church workers and explore alternative models. It was concluded that there are already options and alternatives available so the convention declined the overture.

Resolution 25-2-01A To Launch a Funding Campaign for Mission Support in the Central Illinois District

Grants approval to launch a funding campaign to raise \$3 million: \$1.5 million for proactive major repairs and upgrades to District-owned facilities, and \$1.5 million for long-range financial support through endowment funds. See pages 9-11 for this resolution.

Resolution 25-2-02B To Reaffirm "A Dollar For Missions" in the Central Illinois District

The CID reaffirms its commitment to "A Dollar For Missions" to provide funding for 1) new church starts 2) mission-oriented augmentation of existing ministries and 3) present CID missions, in that order.

Resolution 25-2-04 To Annualize Congregational Assessments

Provides for the equalization of costs to the congregations for conferences, retreats, and conventions by annualizing the costs so that some years are not more financially burdensome. The assessment will be divided proportionately among the congregations based upon the following: 40% on communicant membership, 40% on average attendance, and 20% on total number of congregations in the district.

Resolution 25-2-05 To Commemorate the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicæa

The convention recognized the anniversary of the Council of Nicæa by standing and confessing the Nicene Creed.



2025 Approved Resolutions

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Resolution 25-2-06 To Commemorate the 125th Anniversary of Deaf Ministry in Central Illinois

The convention encourages congregations to observe the 125th Anniversary of deaf ministry on Sunday, August 23, 2026, giving thanks and supporting deaf ministry with prayers and gifts.

Resolution 25-2-07 To Commemorate the Life and Ministry of Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn

Thanks was given to God for the life and work of Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn by the singing of the first stanza of "For All the Saints."

Resolution 25-2-08 To Encourage Church Planting

Recognizing that little, or nothing, has been done to fulfill the last conventions resolution for church planting and that Synod has made new tools available, congregations and Circuit Forums are encouraged to make use of these tools for church planting.

Resolution 25-2-09 To Encourage Ministry In Prisons and County Jails Since the CID encourages congregations to "lend" their pastors for visits to nearby prisons or jails one day per week and funds are available through Dollar for Missions to thank congregations with a \$5,000 gift each year, congregations and pastors are encouraged to prayerfully consider extending CID prison ministry efforts.

We Believe, We Confess, We Witness

continued from Page 1

plans are put in place to inform congregation members about the work accomplished on their behalf through the district as well as request and receive special gifts in support of these outreach ministries on our college campuses, in the Hispanic community, and in the deaf/hard of hearing community. (See pages 7 and 8 for a complete list and summary of the resolutions adopted at the convention.)

District conventions are more than a mere legislative assembly. Even before describing this import legislative function, our Synod bylaws remind us of the more important function of these gatherings. "Conventions of the districts shall afford opportunities for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information." (Bylaw 4.2.1)

We were nurtured and inspired by our Convention Essayist, Rev. Brady Finnern, President of the Minnesota North District and host of the KFUO program, Concord Matters. His essay, This We Believe, This We Confess, This We Witness, traced the close connection between the faith we received through the teaching of Holy Scripture, the teaching we confess as we gather as God's people, and the witness we provide to others that they, too, may know the truth of Christ's work of salvation.

As the convention closed late in the morning of July 15, those elected to serve during the 2025-28 triennium were installed. The 62nd Regular Convention of the CID will convene, Lord willing, the second full week of July, 2028. The exact dates and location are still to be determined. The complete Convention Proceedings will be published on the convention webpage (cidlcms. org/Convention2025) and emailed to all congregations and convention delegates following their adoption at the Board of Directors meeting on September 23.

Resolution 25-2-01A

To Launch a Funding Campaign for Mission Support in the Central Illinois District

President's Report, Mission Commission Report, and Stewardship Commission Report, Overture 25-09, Late Overture 25-L01

INTRODUCTION

Jesus our Lord was "rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). Now, that hits home!

Christ brings giving home to you and to your church. The Central Illinois District (CID) 2019 Stewardship and Mission education emphasis was "Bring Giving Home."

Giving, once brought home, does not remain "at home." It doesn't stay in "my own" congregation. Part of it can support the Lord's work elsewhere. Like the seed in His parable, the Lord's life-giving Word is to be sown widely — also in extraordinary places. To that end, CID missions do not "stay home" — 30% of all congregational remittance is forwarded on to the Synod.

The District has long-standing specialized missions in central Illinois. They include ministry in Spanish, deaf ministry, and campus ministry.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

A two-pronged approach is proposed within a projected \$3 million campaign:

- 1. Providing for proactive repair and upgrade needs at mission sites owned by CID, as well as at the District office, for the next ten years. Estimated cost: \$1.5 million
- Making provision for longer-range financial support through contributions to endowment funds for CID Ministry in Spanish, Deaf Ministry, and Campus Ministries. All of these are aspects of God's mission — here, close at hand. Estimated cost: \$1.5 million

WHY IS THIS BEING PROPOSED?

Places in the District

CID started Ministry in Spanish in East Moline in 2003. Rev. Pablo Dominguez has served as our District missionary and, since 2018, as the called pastor of Cristo Rey (Christ the King) Lutheran Church, making the Gospel available to 11,000 Spanish-speakers in the Quad Cities, or (as Cristo Rey puts it) "Planting the Gospel's Seed in the QC." For over a decade, through CID we have additionally supported ministry in

Spanish at St. John Lutheran Church in Beardstown, to serve some 1,850 Spanish-speaking people in that area.

- Deaf Ministry in Jacksonville began in 1901. Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf was organized there in 1948. From 2005 to 2024, Pastor Thomas Phillips served as our Missionary to the Deaf in CID. In 2015, a District-wide deaf parish was created to extend this ministry. Now named Central Illinois Lutheran Deaf Outreach, the parish involves members of CID churches from the Mississippi River to the Indiana state line. When Pastor Phillips left CID in late 2024, he was one of only three pastors to the deaf called by any of the 35 LCMS Districts. It would be a shame if CID ceased funding deaf ministry as a District.
- Campus Ministry is another specialized mission that CID has sustained on our behalf. We pay salaries for two full-time campus pastors, at the University of Illinois and at Illinois State University, and we own well-located church buildings on both campuses. CID also owns a campus church building a block away from Western Illinois University and gives Immanuel Lutheran Church, Macomb funds for its pastor to serve half-time in campus ministry. CID owns no property in Charleston, but we help support student leaders who work with the pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church just across the street from Eastern Illinois University. "What we need, and need badly," wrote CID's first full-time campus pastor in 1941, "is preaching on the campus." The Central Illinois District has never forgotten these words.
- The CID office in Springfield comprises two buildings. One
 provides office space plus chapel and meeting facilities for the
 CID President, two executives, and bookkeeper, also Church
 Extension Fund staff. The other houses the extensive District
 archives, and is the gathering place for Immanuel Lutheran
 Chapel, a CID-supported new church start.

Prospects for the Duration

• Ministry in Spanish: "I soon discovered," Pastor Dominguez writes, "that the majority of Hispanics knew nothing about the Bible, nor did they attend church." As one way to reach them, Cristo Rey broadcasts a Spanish program on KALA-FM, Davenport, which is heard by 4000-5000 listeners. "I heard the messages of Pastor Dominguez every Saturday on the

Resolution 25-2-01A

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radio. Later I started to go to Cristo Rey," writes Ana. "I know I'm a sinner, but Jesus paid the price for me and, thanks to Him, I have the assurance of eternal life. I'll keep going to this church every Sunday..."

• Deaf Ministry: This work's "center of gravity" has been shifting. Before Pastor Phillips left, it was growing clear that being near the Illinois School for the Deaf no longer brings the advantages it once did. CID plans to sell the former Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Jacksonville and put the sale proceeds into the deaf parish's endowment fund, to be matched 20% by Lutheran Legacy Foundation. CID deaf work will be conducted more and more through the district-wide parish, as a new pastor is assisted by a woman from the parish who is about

The CID is currently working with The Lutheran Church Extension Fund in a "quiet" stage of the campaign. In the near future, the District will begin the 'public' stage of the campaign. Please stay tuned for more information regarding this funding campaign.

to enter deaconess training. By far, most deaf people are unchurched, yet Christ is for them too.

 Campus Ministry: Pastor Heath Curtis, President of the Southern Illinois District of the LCMS, and former Coordinator for national Synod Stewardship, says: "Campus ministry (at University Lutheran, Champaign) has had an immeasurable impact on my daughter. In a sea of unbelief, LCMS campus ministry gives our kids an island of community, support, and living faith. Across the country in my work with Synod Stewardship I tell people: the best bang for your mission buck today is campus ministry. Hands down!" CID aims to keep Christ on campus. Large numbers of church workers come from seeds planted in campus ministry.

IT'S TIME TO DECIDE

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us, brings giving home to us through His Word and Sacraments; and

WHEREAS, Giving, once brought home, does not remain "at home," but enables Gospel proclamation beyond one's own congregation; and

WHEREAS, In CID, such proclamation has touched lives with the Gospel of Christ in Campus Ministry, Deaf Ministry, and Ministry in Spanish; and

WHEREAS, Proactive major repairs and upgrades to Districtowned facilities where such Gospel proclamation is done, and to the District office campus, from which support of these and other ministries is offered, has been projected to cost the District approximately \$1.5 million over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Endowment funds are now in place with Lutheran Legacy Foundation (which generously provides 20% matching funds) for all four CID-supported Campus Ministries (at University of Illinois, ISU, EIU, and WIU), Deaf Ministry, and Ministry in Spanish at Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline; and

WHEREAS, Sizable contributions toward either proactive major repairs and upgrades or growing the endowment funds do not seem possible from the limited resources in the District's budgeted monies or from Dollar for Missions contributions; and

WHEREAS, a "Ministry Readiness Study" conducted this past spring by The Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, funded by a generous grant from the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, showed that

- Respondents reported high degrees of support for the abovementioned specialized District missions, but some of them lack detailed information about these missions
- Priority ought to be placed on the proactive major repairs and upgrades contemplated for the next 10 years
- A target of \$2-3 million seems feasible for a campaign to be conducted over the next three years; and

WHEREAS, CID's Circuit Pastoral Conferences and/or Circuit Forums during 2025 have been urged to take the discussion of a prospective District funding campaign to the congregations of the District, and the Mission Commission's convention report has been featured on the District website since April to help inform such discussions; and

WHEREAS, Opportunities beckon to CID to continue to take Christ to people via Campus Ministry, Deaf Ministry, and Ministry in Spanish;

therefore be it

Resolved, That the Central Illinois District approve the launch of a funding campaign to raise \$3 million: \$1.5 million for proactive major repairs and upgrades to District-owned facilities ("Phase I") and \$1.5 million for longer-range financial support through contributions to

Resolution 25-2-01A

continued from Page 10

endowment funds for continued funding of these valuable District mission treasures ("Phase II"); and be it further

Resolved, That Phase I be entirely completed before campaign contributions are devoted to Phase II; and be it further

Resolved, That during Phase II, all campaign contributions received will be divided equally six ways, between the following:

- Endowment for campus ministry at University of Illinois
- · Endowment for campus ministry at Illinois State University
- · Endowment for campus ministry at Eastern Illinois University
- Endowment for campus ministry at Western Illinois University
 (earnings from the four above endowments go directly to
 the CID office, to support campus ministry expenses)

- Endowment for Central Illinois Lutheran Deaf Outreach, the District wide deaf parish
- Endowment for Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline
 (earnings from the two above endowments go directly to
 the respective ministries they report their annual
 endowment earnings to CID, and the District adjusts its
 support accordingly);

and be it finally

Resolved, That each delegate's affirmative vote indicates his/her congregation's (or individuals' therein) intent to support this campaign.

Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF)



10th Regular Convention

The 10th Regular Convention of the CID-CEF was held during the CID District Convention on July 14, 2025, in Springfield. Following are highlights from our Convention:

- A new Board of Trustees was elected, passing unanimously:
 - President Darin Gehrke
 - Vice President David Ward
 - Secretary/Treasurer Dale Dirks
 - Trustee-Minister of Religion Rev. Chad Lueck
 - Trustee-Minister of Religion Rev. Charles Olander
 - Trustee K. Rick Keller
 - Trustee Kevin Schultz

The full Convention Workbook submission as well as the presentation given at the Convention can be found on the CID-CEF website at www.cid-cef.org under News & Events.

- The David L. Goldhammer Award for Outstanding Service was awarded to Kevin Schultz for his previous service on the Board. During the thirteen years that he served, which included an extended term due to COVID, he was elected to the President and Vice-President positions and brought his extensive experience in commercial real estate lending and cash management to the Board.
- Gifts in appreciation for service were given to Carol Radtke and Kim Kleinschmidt who were leaving the
 Board. Both had previously served on the Board, terming out after twelve years of service, but agreed to
 come back on the Board and provided several more years of dedicated service. Both are also previous
 recipients of the David L. Goldhammer Award. We appreciate the wealth of knowledge and leadership they
 have shared with us over the years!
- The Audited Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2024, 2023, and 2022 were included in the Convention Workbook.



Welcome Rev. Patrick Gumz

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

It is both a joy and an honor to join the Central Illinois District and serve as Administrative Assistant to the President. I most recently served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hammond, Indiana. Beyond my parish work, I served as Board President for the Lutheran School Corporation of Indiana, which managed and operated Ascension Lutheran School in Gary. During that time, I also earned my MBA from Indiana University.

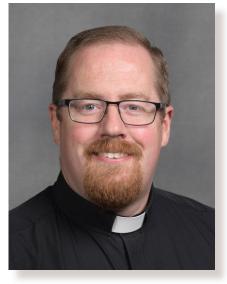
My previous call was in the Kansas District, serving a dual parish in the Dust Bowl communities of Lakin and Ulysses, KS. While in Kansas, I was also privileged to teach philosophy as an adjunct instructor at Garden City Community College for two years. Before that, I attended Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and Purdue University in West Lafayette.

My family and I moved to Springfield in early August, and we quickly got our three children — Joseph, Elizabeth, and Zoe — settled at Trinity Lutheran School here in Springfield. Joseph has already joined the cross-country team and is looking forward to his first race. The girls are eager for volleyball season and excited to meet their new classmates. My wife, Kami, most recently taught preschool for four- and five-year-olds at St. Paul's Lutheran in Munster, Indiana.

We have been blessed by the warm welcome we've received in these first weeks and look forward to getting to know the people and congregations of Central Illinois. This position requires wearing many hats, but that also means I will have the privilege of meeting and working with many of you throughout the district. I look forward to serving you in my role and assisting the district office and President Mohr in the ongoing proclamation of the Gospel and the continuing mission of the Church.

Please don't hesitate to reach out and introduce yourself and your congregation — I am eager to get to know so many new brothers and sisters in Christ.

— Rev. Patrick Gumz



Rev. Patrick Gumz

Administrative Assistant to
CID President, Missions Executive

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

1 Thess. 5:11



Aug. 29 - Sep. 1 CID Camp Out (No Chicken Dinner)

September 12 Whippoorwill Golf Outing

September 20 ACT LIKE MEN Shooting Retreat

Under 18 must be accompanies by an adult

October 4 GRIT Run!

November 1 ACT LIKE MEN Work Day

TBD Fall Women's Scrapbooking Retreat

December 12-13 Joyful Hearts Christmas



Official Notices

(August 15, 2025)

Ordained

Ordinations/Installations

- Rev. Scott Niermann installed at Immanuel, Altamont, on June 8, 2025
- Rev. Andrew Dierks installed at St. Paul, Chapin/Trinity, Arenzville, on June 18, 2025
- Rev. Ethan Hart ordained and installed at Salem, Salem, on July 5, 2025
- Rev. Samuel Smith ordained and installed at Immanuel, Charleston, on July 6, 2025

Transfers Out of District

- Rev. John Sharp (Immanuel, Broadlands) to NID (Good Shepherd, Rock Falls), June 20, 2025
- Rev. Dr. Burnell Eckardt (Emeritus) to SID, August 15, 2025

Retirements

- Rev. Gene Strattman from St. Paul, Chapin, June 23, 2025
- Rev. Kent Umbarger from St. John,
 East Moline, July 28, 2025

New Congregations/Multi-Congregation Parishes

 St. Paul, Chapin and Trinity, Arenzville formed a Dual Parish on June 8, 2025





Rev. Scott Niermann was installed as Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Altamont, on the Feast of Pentecost, June 8, 2025.

Front Row (I to r) - Rev. Trey Dille (St. John's, Effingham), Rev. Rick Rikli (Emeritus, Vandalia), Rev. Doug Chinberg (King of Kings, Chesterfield, MO), Rev. Gary Fortkamp (Emeritus, Effingham), Rev. Scott Niermann (Immanuel, Altamont), Rev. Michael Mohr (Holy Cross, Vandalia, and CID President), Rev. Steven Becker (Emeritus, Shumway, and Effingham Circuit Visitor), and Rev. Michael Burdick (St. John's, Effingham, and 2nd VP of CID).

Back Row (I to r) - Rev. Brett Cornelius (Holy Cross, Vandalia), Rev. Ryan Meyer (St. Peter, St. Peter, and Altamont Circuit Visitor), Rev. Michael Feldmann (Salem, Salem), Rev. Dean Herberts (St. Paul, Wheeler, and St. John's, Dieterich), Rev. David Speers (St. Paul, Blue Point), Rev. Earl Brown (Emeritus, Effingham), Rev. Emmett Bartens (St. John's, Louisville), and Acolyte John Durham.





Talented, Young Musicians at Immanuel, Altamont

Two young men at Immanuel, Altamont, offered their unique talents during the installation service for Pastor Niermann. This fall, Max Wolff will be a sixth grader and Barrett Alwardt will be a seventh grader at Altamont Lutheran Interparish School. Both young men have been taught under the watchful eye of our current organist Sheryl Marble. They each played an instrumental piece during the service. Max and Barrett have also played for regular services at Immanuel. Barrett even once got "the call" when Sheryl took ill on a Saturday evening. Kudos to these young men in their service to our Lord, and thank you, Sheryl, for your wonderful work in passing on to the next generation this love of proclaiming our Lord's praise through music.



St. Paul, Chapin, and Trinity, Arenzville, formed a dual parish, installing Rev. Andrew Dierks as head of the parish, on June 18, 2025.

Front Row (ltor) - Rev. Michael Mohr (Holy Cross, Vandalia, and CID President), Rev. Andrew Dierks (St. Paul, Chapin/Trinity, Arenzville), and Rev. Gene Strattman (Emeritus, Chapin).

Back Row (ltor) - Rev. Jonah Schultz (Salem, Jacksonville), Rev. Keith Kettner (St. John, Beardstown), Rev. Peter Brechbuhl (Emeritus, Jacksonville), and Rev. Brian Lesemann (St. John, Bath/Salem, Chandlerville, and Jackson Circuit Visitor).



Rev. Ethan Hart was ordained, and Deaconess Rachel Hart was commissioned, and both were installed at Salem Lutheran Church in Salem on July 5, 2025.

Front Row (l to r) - Acolyte Barnabas Hahs (Salem, Salem), Rev. David Weaver (Trinity, Stewardson), Dcs. Jessica Feldmann (Salem, Salem), Rev. Michael Feldman (Salem, Salem), Dcs. Rachel Hart (Salem, Salem), Rev. Ethan Hart (Salem, Salem), Rev. Michael Mohr (Holy Cross, Vandalia, and CID President), Teacher Trip Rodgers (CID Education Executive), Rev. James Yonkers (Immanuel, Danville), and Rev. Brett Hinrichs (Mt. Calvary, Decatur).

Back Row (I to r) - Rev. Mark Esser (NewThing, Towson, MD), Rev. Joseph Eggerman (St. Paul, Aurelia, IA), Rev. Timothy Landskroener (Immanuel (Augsburg), Shobonier), Rev. Anthony Alter (Emeritus, Jefferson City, MO), Rev. Ryan Meyer (St. Peter, St. Peter, and Altamont Circuit Visitor), Rev. Emmett Bartens (St. John's, Louisville), and Rev. Trey Dille (St. John's, Effingham).

Official Notices

(August 15, 2025)

Commission Workers

Installation and Commissioning

- Rachel Hart, (Deaconess) Salem Lutheran Church, Salem, 07/05/2025
- Rebecca Rowe, (Teacher) Bethel Lutheran School, Morton, 8/10/2025
- Amanda Treptow, (Teacher) Concordia
 Lutheran School, Peoria, 6/22/2025

Transfer Out/IN

- Elizabeth Froh, (Deaconess) Christ Lutheran Church, Normal, to Indiana District
- Joel Kilgus, (Principal) Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Pekin, to Iowa East District
- Drew Monkemeyer, (Principal)
 Concordia, Peoria, to Pacific
 Southwest District

Change from Active to Emeritus

- Jerry Hoyum, (Teacher) Bethel Lutheran School, Morton
- John Jacob, (Principal) Bethel Lutheran School, Morton
- Susan Mihm, (Teacher) St. John's,
 Champaign
- Renita Mohr, (Teacher) St. James, Quincy

School Closing

Concordia Lutheran School, Springfield (preschool will remain open)

WORKER Vellness

In cooperation with Concordia Plans, which is providing a \$10,000 grant to CID, the District's Committee for Human Care and Worker Wellness has developed two goals for 2025-2026:



To raise gold/platinum status participation in Vitality from 11.5% to 15%

Watch for forthcoming information on a possible District-wide "get you moving" challenge that may accompany this goal.



To train at least one person for certification as a MHFA (mental health first aid) trainer.

Would you potentially be interested in taking such training?

Are you simply interested in promoting Church Worker Wellness in general?

If your answer is "yes", contact Human Care Executive Ken Schurb before the end of August.



Rev. Samuel Smith was ordained at installed as Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Charleston on July 6, 2025

Front Row (I to r) - Bibliofer Rylan Grisamore (Immanuel, Charleston), Acolyte Caleb Farber (Immanuel, Charleston), Rev. Dan Ulrich (St. Paul (Dorans), Mattoon, and Mattoon Circuit Visitor), Rev. Michael Mohr (Holy Cross, Vandalia, and CID President), Rev. Samuel Smith (Immanuel, Charleston), Rev. John Sharp (Good Shepherd, Rock Falls, IL), Vicar Reece Parlier, and Rev. William Duey (Emeritus, Paris).

Back Row (l to r) - Rev. Koh Yamamoto (Christ, Paris, TN), Rev. David Weaver (Trinity, Stewardson), Rev. Adam Hiles (Christ Our Savior, Freeburg, IL), Rev. Brandon Sullivan (Christ, Mason City/Zion, New Holland), Rev. Noah Kerstein (Faith, Lincoln), Rev. Ken Hoover (Emeritus, Charleston), Rev. Richard Salcido (Emeritus, Paris), Rev. Jason Braaten (Immanuel, Tuscola), and Rev. Dan Smith (Grace, Paris).



Rev. David Daniel was installed as Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Monticello on July 6, 2025

Front Row (ltor) - Rev. Michael Stoerger (Peace, Thomasboro, and Champaign Circuit Visitor), Rev. David Daniel (Faith, Monticello), and Rev. Michael Burdick (St. John's, Effingham, and 2nd VP of CID.

Back Row (I to r) - Rev. Dal Fjordbotten (Trinity, Cissna Park/St. John (Ash Grove), Onarga), Rev. James Yonkers (Immanuel, Danville), Rev. H. Douglas Minton (Our Savior, Milford, and Iroquois Circuit Visitor), Rev. Michael Ruhlig (St. Paul (Woodworth), Milford), and Rev. Jeffrey Caithamer (St. John, Champaign).

Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF)



Second Opportunity for Ministry Outreach Grants

Don't let another opportunity for grant funds for your Ministry Outreach go by without submitting your application! The deadline for the second round of the 2025 Ministry Outreach Grants is October 1. Applications will be reviewed for approval at the October Board of Trustees meeting. These grants are provided to assist our congregations, agencies, and individuals carry out the mission and ministry of the LCMS, with special consideration given to new and innovative opportunities addressing the issues and concerns confronting our

District and its congregations. For more information and for an application, please visit our website at www.cid-cef.org, then look under "Grants" and "Ministry Outreach Grants." You can also email us at cef@cidlcms.org or call our office at (217) 793-1802 to obtain a copy of the application.

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

Groundbreaking Ceremony at Trinity, Bloomington

After years of preparation, setbacks including COVID and cost inflation, and the completion of several successful fund-raising efforts, Bloomington, Trinity, held a Groundbreaking ceremony on August 9, 2025, for the construction of a new church on the same property as their school location. While the ceremony was on one of the hottest days of the summer, the turnout was outstanding, to such an extent that Trinity's leadership wondered if they shouldn't be building a bigger church!

The CID-CEF is assisting Trinity by providing them with a \$4 million loan for this new construction. Your investments will support this loan. Please consider a new investment at the CID-CEF to provide the resources to fund this loan for Trinity!





Omaha - Oh Omaha!!

What an uplifting, wonderful experience!

3,774 registrants of which over 110 were from Central Illinois District, worshiped, participated in servant events, heard missionaries and Mites

in Action speakers, were blessed by Bible Study, sang, and rejoiced in the theme of Growing in God's Grace. From the Opening communion service on Thursday evening until the Sending service Sunday, we were so happy to share in the joy with LWML sisters.

41st Biennial
Lutheran Women
in Mission
Convention in
Omaha, Nebraska

June 26-29, 2025



But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

(2 Peter 3:18)

Thursday began with servant events during which many mission aids were made for packages. The exhibit hall with over 100 booths was a busy place. Friday and Saturday morning, Christina Hergenrader led us in Bible study. She wove her husband's great great grandmother's journal of her time homesteading in Nebraska into Peter's theme of waiting in peace in HIS perfect timeline for each of us. Mites in Action speakers included: Deaconess Kelly Bristow of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Chelsea Irwin of Light of Christ in Eastern Europe, Rachel Potts of Lutheran Braille Workers, Rev. Dr. John Reinke of Lutheran Deaf Outreach, and Rev. Paul Ernewein of Forged by Fire Services. LCMS missionary Carol Halter, serving in Hong Kong and China for 40 plus years also addressed the assembly. Keynote speaker Rev. Kris Whitby, Assistant to the President-Mission and Ministry at LCMS Norther Illinois District, shared that the Lord invites you and His table and wants you to experience the joy of being filled with all of God's good gifts. The world needs us because Jesus has chosen to us His grace and, through us, to bring his grace to our neighbor. Business was also conducted. A new mission grant goal of \$2,622,270 will fund 33 grants. To God be All Glory! A few Bylaws were adopted as well as officers and a counselor elected. Late Friday afternoon, almost 1,700 yellow shirted walkers participated in the Mission Walk and crossed the Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge from Nebraska to Iowa. A first two state Mission Walk and the largest in LWML convention history, raising \$105,590.73! Some would say they were a hot mess when returning but filled with JOY! The attendees enjoyed special luncheon speakers and Saturday night entertainment by Jennie Williamson of Luther Saxon Memorial in Missouri. LWML committees were acknowledged and there are many that do this volunteer work. Zone banners opened Friday morning sessions and 85 banners representing the countries

where LWML has reached began Saturday sessions. Convention offerings as well as The Mission Walk, Round up for Mites, Miles for Mites and Tee up for Mites all brought in tremendous funds. Last and not at all least, Jan Struck and friends brought our laughter to tears and we celebrated her comic grace!

All this and much more went in to the 41st Biennial Convention, Your CID attendees left with much Joy, happiness and abounding in the Grace of God. May they continue to share that grace within their congregations and all those around them.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next convention is lighting up Oklahoma City, July 8–11, 2027 — hosted by the Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas Districts.

INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

Annual Fall Retreat

Central Illinois District

September 6, 2025

9:00am - 2:30pm

Doors open at 8:30am

Camp Cilca 4124 Camp Cilca Rd | Cantrall, IL 62625

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Robert Bennett,

Int'l Mission Specialist and Guest Professor of Missions at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne Executive Director of Luther Academy CTSFW - roberthbennettconsultant.com

Christian Response to an Increasing Pagan Culture

Exploring how Christians can faithfully respond to an increasingly pagan and spiritually confused culture. It's an honest and hope-filled discussion about standing firm in the truth while showing compassion to those lost in spiritual darkness.

Please register by September 3.

\$25 per person includes lunch. Send registration to: Deloris Blessman 24204 CR 1850 N | Topeka, IL 61567 or email : delorisblessman@yahoo.com

by phone: 309.361.1461



OAFC Adult Teams

Our District, along with two others (South Wisconsin and Southern Illinois) has been awarded a grant by the Bolick Foundation to partner with the Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ (OAFC) organization to develop adult teams of 3 to 5 people per District. These teams would travel to District congregations and offer either 2 and a half day or 5 day events that would provide evangelistic practice by a) canvassing neighborhoods; b) engaging in "dry run" practice of witnessing skills with church members; and c) helping a congregation to begin or to augment its evangelistic efforts in a nearby nursing home.

Would you be interested in serving on such a team yourself? Do you know someone else who would?

Might your congregation be interested in hosting such a team to work in your midst?

If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions, or if you would like more information, please contact Evangelism Executive Ken Schurb.



Almighty God, You have called Your church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation so that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



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

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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 <u>www.cid-cef.orq</u>

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New Investment: \$		-OR-	Existing CID-CEF Investment Certificate #(Signed Investment Certificate or Lost Certificate Affidavit and Indemnity			
Make check payable to: CID Church Extension Fund			Agreement must be returned with Application)			
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Contact Information for Account Address City State 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

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

Signature of Account Owner/Trustee/Custodian/Authorized Signer

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.

Date