

MISSION COMMISSION REPORT

Personnel

For 2022-2025, Mission Commission membership has consisted of Pastor Bruce Scarbeary (chairman), Pastor Mark Eddy (secretary), Mr. Roger Garlisch, and Miss Cheryl Long. Mr. Aaron Schroeder regrettably stepped down from the Commission early in 2024 due to schedule conflicts.

Dr. Ken Schurb is “field representative,” providing staff services for the Commission. Supplementing his work, Rev. Rodney Blomquist serves as Prison Ministry Coordinator.

Guidelines

At its first meeting of the present triennium, the District Board of Directors (BOD) approved a document that Mission Commission had adopted some weeks earlier, “Guidelines and Resources for Ministries Receiving CID Mission Funding.” This 31-page document updates a previous set of similar guidelines. For example, it introduces more precise nomenclature so the District does not limit itself to a sweeping – and maybe misleading – single category for funding recipients, all termed “subsidized congregations.”

Mission Commission resolved to make this document available to anyone who wishes to see CID mission policies in detail. Find it online at

<https://www.cidcms.org/resources/missions/GUIDELINES.Congs.Getting.Mission.Funds.pdf>

By putting some of these policies firmly in place, CID finds itself in a position to “declutter” a section of the District Bylaws pertaining to Mission Commission by omitting the section giving “Instructions to Subsidized Congregations” – as is being recommended to the 2025 convention.

Church Planting

In 2024 the Synod’s Office of National Mission (ONM) unveiled “Church Planting Simplified,” a process to lead churches and others step-by-step in starting a new congregation. Beyond a “roadmap,” though, active help is offered: statistical data to guide church planting county-by county throughout the U.S., advisory teams to consult with new church starts, and financial grants from the national Synod. Even church “re-starts” can qualify for such grants.

Helped by a generous grant from central Illinois Church Extension Fund, CID’s present and immediate past Mission Executives, Rev. Ken Schurb and Rev. Joel Cluver, visited every Circuit Pastors’ Conference (“Winkel”) in the District to encourage church planting. This process began shortly before the last CID convention in 2022, and continued into 2023.

As in 2022, however, today Immanuel Lutheran Church, Springfield remains the only CID church actively involved in launching a daughter congregation: Immanuel Lutheran Chapel. Seminary candidate Adam Rouse was called to serve what at present is one congregation operating out of two locations. Soon after being ordained and installed in the summer of 2024, Pastor Rouse got a detailed introduction to Church Planting Simplified in a face-to-face consultation with Dr. Mark Wood and Mr. Kendall Cortright of ONM. Since then, Immanuel has been building a planting team, and CID has appointed an advisory team. The District provides no money directly to Immanuel, but it welcomes the chapel to conduct services and Bible classes in

1 the “red building” at the District office site at no cost. On average, about 13 attend the chapel’s
2 services every Sunday afternoon.

3 As CID noted in a resolution at its last convention (2022 R2022-02), church planting
4 remains an outstanding way to bring the Good News about Jesus to new people. Circuit Forums
5 ought to discuss it, as that resolution directed. Circuits might consider establishing Circuit
6 Mission Councils to facilitate it. Congregations can ask themselves: has the Lord given us an
7 open door through which to step and start at least a preaching station that might eventually
8 become an LCMS church? See the print and video resources at

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

10 Questions? Contact the CID office.

11 12 ***Finances and Impacts***

13 After about two decades of declining remissions of funds from congregations to CID, Dr.
14 Schurb reported to the District’s 2018 convention that “without a substantial increase in income,
15 reconfiguration seems unavoidable. . . . Since missions comprise so much of District activity,
16 missions will end up curtailed.” In 2022, Mission Commission noted for the District convention
17 various efforts that CID missions made to cut expenses or, in some cases, to enhance income
18 with which the District supports missions. The note of urgency from 2018 did not seem
19 necessary again in 2022 because remittances received by the District from its member churches
20 had more or less plateaued in 2020 and 2021, even 2022. But during 2023, this income dropped
21 substantially from the previous year. By the end of 2023, the need for serious action was
22 becoming acute.

23 *See the early 2024 GatePost report “Working Together for Christ,” available at*
24 <https://www.cidlcms.org/resources/stewardship/WorkingTogetherForChrist.pdf> *as*
25 *well as the short video with Pastor Aaron Uphoff which can be found at*
26 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMB5ekFQIJ0>

27 One such action will occur when Dr. Schurb’s modified service begins on September 1,
28 2025. The total staff time investment for Missions, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Human Care
29 will be reduced by 20%. Going forward, Mission Commission will enjoy assistance from a field
30 representative two days per week, not three.

31 Otherwise, CID has implemented a new model for funding Prison Ministry in which it
32 offers “thank you” gifts to congregations when their pastors visit nearby prisons, instead of
33 paying at least partial salary and benefits for District-called prison chaplains. Currently our CID
34 Prison Ministry Coordinator serves on a volunteer basis. The District’s Deaf Ministry is
35 undergoing reconfiguration to share the services of a pastor for the deaf with a hearing
36 congregation or other entity. Mission work continues, even if financial resources are diminished.
37 It should also be noted that CID owns several mission properties: campus churches in
38 Champaign, Macomb, and Normal, plus Cristo Rey Lutheran Church in East Moline. The total
39 cost of predictable repairs and upgrades on the above-referenced facilities over the next 10 years
40 is estimated to come to \$936,400. (See below for Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf,
41 Jacksonville.) Not only Mission Commission but also Stewardship Commission therefore started
42 suggesting that CID consider a financial campaign at its 2025 convention. For more on these
43 matters, see below and elsewhere in the *Convention Workbook*.

Under God's blessing, the CID Mission Commission will keep striving, on behalf of the District and its members, to provide for the best mission efforts possible. Help from member congregations is essential, to support both church planting and other CID missions, as follows:

Ministry in Spanish

At Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline

SEE VIDEO AT <https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-spanish.html>

This Spanish-speaking congregation began as a CID mission in 2003. Its motto remains: "Planting the Gospel's Seed in the QC," especially for some 11,000 Spanish-speakers there.

The seed may have seemed small. At first, Pastor Pablo Dominguez and his family members were the only people attending church services. Since then, many other families came to church faithfully for months, even years. Currently Cristo Rey has 28 baptized souls and 18 communicants, with an average weekly church attendance of 18 in 2024. Attendance dropped considerably during the COVID pandemic. At the time, Cristo Rey started daily devotions on Facebook, subsequently cutting back to twice a week, Mondays and Fridays at 4:00 p.m.

At Cristo Rey, planting seed involves broadcasting. Every Saturday morning, Cristo Rey's one-hour Gospel radio broadcast in Spanish is heard by 4,000-5,000 listeners to KALA-FM, Davenport. (Thank you, CEF, for a grant to pay for the airtime!) This program forms a portal to the church. Also, since 2023 Cristo Rey has participated East Moline's parades for USA Independence Day (July 4th) and Mexican Independence Day (September 15th), distributing to adults and children along the route various Christian materials – including information about Cristo Rey.

The congregation has been blessed financially. Support for Cristo Rey has come not only from CID but also from congregations and individuals in the Rock Island Circuit and elsewhere in the District. As these words are written, Cristo Rey is looking into establishing an endowment fund with Lutheran Legacy Foundation. It should not be overlooked that since 2019 Cristo Rey has generously supported the District, sending \$10,000 a year over and above its regular congregational commitment, as its contribution toward making financial ends meet for CID.

The Rock Island Circuit Hispanic Council, consisting of individuals from Circuit congregations, has stood ready to help ever since the mission started. It is a model Mission Council.

At St. John Lutheran Church, Beardstown

With an eye toward a growing population of Latino people in its area, St. John, Beardstown hosted a succession of Spanish-speaking vicars during the 2010s. Thereafter the congregation was served briefly by a newly graduated pastor, Rev. Brian Homann, who died after only a few months in office. At about the time of CID's last convention, in 2022, Pastor Keith Kettner was called from the seminary. His presence has stabilized aspects of the ministry in Beardstown, but he is not fluent in Spanish. Therefore St. John's has formed a consistent relationship with Pastor Pablo Dominguez from Cristo Rey, who travels from East Moline at CID expense two Saturdays a month, alternating worship and Bible study.

Some 4-10 people attend services in Spanish, including two families with children who attend when their schedules permit. The most recent baptism of a child was in October, 2024.

1 While in Beardstown, Pastor Dominguez also visits Maria Guijosa and her disabled
2 husband, Juan. Maria was CID's part-time community liaison for Hispanic Ministry there until
3 Juan suffered a major stroke in 2024. A former Roman Catholic, Maria became a Lutheran upon
4 instruction by former St. John Pastor Doug Evenson and several of the vicars.

5 The Jacksonville Circuit Mission Council has been supporting both the Spanish work at
6 Beardstown and CID Deaf Ministry in Jacksonville. (More on Deaf Ministry below.) It is the
7 second of only two Circuit Mission Councils in the District.

8 Some 1850 people who live within a 5-mile radius of Beardstown primarily speak
9 Spanish at home. Long term, the children of most of the immigrants, members of a "transitional"
10 generation, will become fluent in English. Meanwhile, outreach in Spanish continues.

11 ***Campus Ministry***

12 SEE VIDEOS AT: <https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-campus.html>

13 *At University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign* (total enrollment: 59,238)

14
15 Since COVID, work in outreach, evangelism, and Christian care has thrived at University
16 Lutheran (UniLu). Attendance at Sunday services and Bible classes is up, even from pre-COVID
17 levels, both on the part of LCMS students and non-Lutheran Christians. Average attendance as of
18 January, 2025 is 62 per Sunday, about 85% students. Over the last three years, there have been
19 several baptisms, confirmations or affirmation of faith involving over 20 young adults, and
20 opportunities to share the Gospel with hundreds of students.

21 Since UniLu lies one block off the Main Quad (the heart of campus), thousands pass its
22 doors daily. It is one of the few traditional, whole-Bible believing and teaching campus
23 ministries serving the U of I and Parkland Community College. Students who love the Scriptures
24 can hear them in their fullness and enjoy a rich sacramental theology and practice.

25 Pastor Michael Schuermann offers Sunday and midweek Bible studies, confirmation
26 classes, and theology discussion groups, as well as serving as Beta Sigma Psi fraternity's pastoral
27 advisor. He hopes to add a weekly class for those who lack familiarity with "Bible Basics."

28 Living Alternatives Pregnancy Center will soon offer counseling at the UniLu building.

29 UniLu has now hosted two annual conferences where young Lutherans, ages 18-30, can
30 be taught about being men and women in Christ and have opportunity to meet one another for
31 friendship or marriage. It plans to continue hosting this conference each spring, and to add
32 another annual conference in the fall specifically for college students from the region, i.e., within
33 a 3 to 4 hour drive of Champaign. The latter conference will take the place of annual CID
34 campus ministry retreats. (See below on retreats.)

35 In late 2024, Pastor Schuermann was appointed to fill out a term on the LCMS Board for
36 National Mission.

37
38 *At Illinois State University* (total enrollment: 21,546)

39 For ISU, the pandemic seems to lie in the distant past, and the campus is enjoying its
40 liberty. Few mention COVID, even as an excuse. At CID's Wittenberg Lutheran Student Center,
41 all measurable matrices (averages of weekly worship attendance, students involved per week,
42 encounters per week, encounters per students) peaked during 2023. Student attendance dropped
43

1 from that mark in fall, 2024, yet even so there were some 27 “regulars” who were attending
2 services, if not all at once.

3 Referrals of students from their home churches seem to be coming in greater numbers.
4 Moreover, enrollment is up at ISU, with seemingly more church-going students attending. With
5 that, new and sometimes competing campus ministries spring up and dilute attendance at the
6 mainstream ministries. Student involvement has remained steady at Wittenberg, which serves not
7 only ISU but also Heartland Community College and Lincoln College in Normal. The student
8 organization registered with ISU has four officers, and eight students work as custodians,
9 publicist, bookkeeper, and on the altar guild.

10 Some students have left other denominations, many increasingly liberal, for the Lutheran
11 church. One young man from Belleville with a non-denominational background was baptized in
12 fall, 2024, and is on track to be confirmed in March, 2025. Another young man from Wheaton
13 with a Roman Catholic background is also on track for confirmation at the same time.

14 Pastor Bill Jensen, CID’s most experienced campus minister with almost 15 years under
15 his belt, also serves as Vice-President of the board for International Student Ministry, a
16 Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. What he learns about work being done among
17 international students at many campus ministries informs his ministry at Wittenberg.

18 On September 1, 2025, Pastor Jensen will begin doing work that Dr. Schurb has been
19 doing for CID in Stewardship, in addition to campus ministry.
20

21 At Eastern Illinois University (total enrollment: 8,505)

22 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Charleston is located right across the street from EIU. It
23 conducts campus ministry there with support from CID.

24 By far, most of the legwork for this ministry is done by student leaders. For the 2024-
25 2025 academic year a team of five students was appointed to work with the pastor. They are
26 supported by adult volunteers from Immanuel and other CID congregations.

27 Pastor Kenneth Hoover retired from ministry at Immanuel in the summer of 2024. Since
28 then, vacancy pastor Rev. Daniel Ulrich has taught a Monday night Bible study for Immanuel
29 Lutheran Campus Ministry (ILCM), but his contact specifically with the campus ministry has
30 been more or less limited to this class.

31 Unsurprisingly, ILCM’s 2024-2025 student leaders have been quite busy. For the most
32 part, they stepped into their leadership roles only during the previous academic year. Taking
33 stock of matters, they observed their tendency to become so enmeshed in putting on events that
34 they would lose focus on the reason for these events. They determined to render ILCM’s events
35 more Christ-centered and intentional by praying as a group beforehand and making event themes
36 more intentionally biblical. These student leaders are convinced that the future of ILCM – in the
37 words of one of them – “lies within the *purpose* to build a ‘home away from home’: a
38 community that shares a love for Christ and wants to share that love which was given to us with
39 the rest of the community.”

40 Recognizing the need to provide training beyond what one generation of ILCM student
41 leaders can pass on to the next, CID Mission Executive Ken Schurb conducted Saturday
42 workshops in Charleston in September, 2022 and September, 2023. CID also provided money
43 from EIU campus ministry endowment earnings for ILCM attendees to attend a Lutheran student
44 event at Indiana Dunes in 2023. In November, 2024, CID sent Immanuel \$3,518.75 – the rest of

1 the EIU endowment earnings that CID was stewarding at the time – to help reimburse Immanuel
2 \$6,000 for scholarships that it provides to its campus ministry student leaders.

3
4 At Western Illinois University (total enrollment: 6,332)

5 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Macomb, conducts the WIU campus ministry with support
6 from CID. During a pastoral vacancy at Immanuel from 2019-2023, Rev. Dr. Thomas Baker
7 from St. Louis preached every Sunday at the Chapel of St. Timothy the Learner in the Immanuel
8 Lutheran Student Center, one block away from campus. Mr. Glenn Busse taught Bible class there
9 for students on Wednesday evenings, after a meal cooked by Immanuel families for students and
10 others. In September, 2022 Mission Executive Ken Schurb taught a Saturday workshop on the
11 Lutheran Confessions.

12 On December 10, 2023 Pastor Christopher Hull was installed at Immanuel. He basically
13 divides his time between “town” (Immanuel Lutheran Church) and “gown” (WIU campus
14 ministry).

15 During 2024 the number of students attending Sunday services and studies throughout the
16 week doubled, from about five to twelve. Pastor Hull is reaching out further, beginning three
17 “coffee hours” each week that will offer free coffee and snacks to anyone at the University. He
18 has begun to go to campus bearing gift cards to local fast-food establishments, asking students
19 Bible questions and inviting them to Bible study at the student center as well as other
20 opportunities for worship and fellowship. He reports that students with vague Christian ties have
21 become Lutheran during the time since he started his work at WIU.

22 Immanuel also hosted a conversation/debate on abortion at the student center. Pastor Hull
23 talked with WIU religion professor Amy Carr, who took a very different position. Many people
24 from the community attended the event, which was reported in the local newspapers. The best
25 part, says Pastor Hull, came after the program formally ended, as attendees were invited to stay
26 and talk with those who think differently than themselves. All the students stayed and questioned
27 Professor Carr about her view of abortion and Scripture.

28
29 Retreats

30 Since 2019, CID has hosted annual retreats for the above campus ministries at Camp
31 CILCA. Recent retreats have had an evangelistic emphasis: Evangelism in the Book of Acts
32 (2023) and a working retreat canvassing for Immanuel Lutheran Chapel, Springfield (2024).
33 Sidebar topics have been presented by CID President Pastor Michael Mohr and District Life
34 Coordinator Mr. David Ward. As noted above, an annual LCMS U regional conference at UniLu,
35 Champaign can replace these District retreats in the future.

36
37 Endowments

38 In 2020, Lutheran Legacy Foundation of Paris, Illinois proactively started endowment
39 funds to support ministry to students, faculty, and staff on the above campuses. It contributed
40 substantially to each of these funds as they were getting underway, and it continues to provide a
41 20% match. For every \$5 contributed to one or more of the funds, Lutheran Legacy puts in yet
42 another dollar.

43 Annual earnings from the four funds go to the District for support of the respective
44 campus ministries. The endowment earnings figures from 2023 were as follows – WIU: \$1,833;

1 EIU: \$1,547; U of I: \$1,129; ISU: \$632. Figures from 2024 – U of I: \$2,591; ISU: \$2,578; WIU:
2 \$2,056; EIU: \$2,019.

3 CID uses these earnings in ways that may seem mundane. It spends the money, for
4 example, to help pay salaries for campus pastors, to help maintain and insure campus centers, or
5 to provide training for student leaders. All “cake,” one might say, no “icing.”

6 What good is icing, though, if the cake is gone? Moving forward, these endowments will
7 almost certainly bulk larger and larger in importance as the challenges of funding the basics of
8 responsible campus ministry keep growing. May the Lord grow the endowments through all of
9 us, to help meet such funding challenges!

11 ***Prison Ministry***

12 Getting back into making visits in local jails and state prison facilities after COVID
13 proved to be a slow process. But many ministries in operation before the pandemic are back in
14 place.

15 During this triennium:

- 16 • The Lord received into the Kingdom of Glory Chaplain Rev. Steve Southward, who had
17 served for years at the Pittsfield and Greene County Work Camps as well as Western Illinois
18 Correctional Center, Mt. Sterling and sometimes at the Jacksonville Correctional Center.
- 19 • Chaplain Rev. Charles Olander retired from Prison Ministry after years of serving Lincoln
20 and Logan Correctional Centers in Lincoln.
- 21 • Pastor David Dunlop of Chestnut and Clinton began serving Logan Correctional Center, and
22 is awaiting a workable invitation to begin making visits at Lincoln Correctional Center.
- 23 • Prison Ministry Coordinator Rev. Rodney Blomquist made presentations on CID Prison/Jail
24 Ministry to rallies of all 12 LWML zones in the District. Chaplain Rev. Paul Weber of East
25 Moline Correctional Center covered one rally.
- 26 • Over \$3,000 of central Illinois LWML grant funds were used to reimburse, up to \$400, those
27 who purchased Bibles, catechisms, devotional materials, and Bible studies to give to nearby
28 prisons and county jails. Almost \$4,000 remains in the “materials” portion of this grant.
29 Thanks to LWML for permission to continue using it!
- 30 • A little over \$400 from the “training” portion of the same grant covered registration fees and
31 travel costs for prison ministry conferences, such as one held in St. Louis, as well as other
32 training at semiannual meetings conducted by Southern Illinois District Prison Ministry.
33 More than \$2,500 remains to fund future training opportunities for prison ministry workers!
- 34 • The CID website’s Prison/Jail Ministry page has been updated to include a brief outline on
35 how to assimilate into the worshipping community a person who has been incarcerated. See
36 <https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-prison.html>

37 CID encourages congregations to “lend” their pastors for visits to nearby prisons or
38 county jails one day a week throughout the year, and not necessarily for an entire day. Dollar for
39 Missions funds are available so the District can thank such congregations with a \$5,000 gift each
40 year. For example, Pastor Pablo Dominguez of Cristo Rey (see “Ministry in Spanish” above)
41 teaches a Spanish Bible study every week for 15 to 20 inmates at East Moline Correctional
42 Center. See the video “Prison MinisTRY: Will You TRY?” at [https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-](https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-prison.html)
43 [missions-prison.html](https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-prison.html)

1 Watch for the CID website also to carry videos of a recent Concordia Seminary Prison
2 Ministry conference. Also, a new LCMS prison ministry initiative called “Reaching In” is
3 coming to CID. This mentoring program will provide an opportunity for contact with inmates
4 through letter writing. It will enable people to be involved in prison ministry without entering a
5 prison.

6 Mission Commission wishes to acknowledge Prison Ministry Coordinator Rev. Rodney
7 Blomquist. His expertise in this field, together with his patient volunteer service in this capacity
8 – as well as for decades with inmates at Taylorville Correctional Center – is much appreciated.

9 It is difficult to measure the results of prison and jail ministry. The number of men and
10 women reached by the Gospel cannot be fully counted, and the impact of God’s grace in Christ
11 on the lives of incarcerated people and their families is both incalculable and priceless.
12

13 ***Deaf Ministry***

14 2026 is the 125th anniversary year of our Synod’s outreach to the deaf in central Illinois!

15 The history has been eventful. In 1901, Rev. H. Hallerberg traveled from St. Louis once a
16 month to the Illinois School for the Deaf in Jacksonville. Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf
17 was organized in 1948. Its building, a literal stone’s throw from the deaf school, was dedicated
18 five years later. By the 1950s and ‘60s, the school’s enrollment at times topped 700, and deaf
19 student attendance at Christ Lutheran totaled over 100 at peak. By the early years of the 21st
20 century, though, deaf school enrollment fell to about 300. Only 15-20 students were involved
21 then in the church’s after-school “Good News Club.” For several years now, no students have
22 come to the church.

23 Pastor Tom Phillips noticed this trend, having served in CID deaf ministry in Jacksonville
24 since 2003 – at first half-time, his time then being shared with Our Redeemer Lutheran Church,
25 Jacksonville, and full-time since 2005. The membership at Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf
26 has basically averaged 10-15 throughout the church’s history, but in 2015 this congregation
27 thought more expansively and began a District-wide Deaf parish. Pastor Phillips travelled at
28 times to places like Peoria, Quincy, and Springfield to involve deaf members of other CID
29 churches, but most recently the parish has been operating from two sites: the church building in
30 Jacksonville and, less frequently, Wittenberg Lutheran Center (CID’s campus ministry) in
31 Normal. In 2024, the parish began an endowment fund with Lutheran Legacy Foundation.

32 In late 2024, after almost 20 years in CID Deaf Ministry, Pastor Phillips accepted a call to
33 a dual parish in Michigan. With his departure, our Deaf Ministry stands poised at a turning point.
34 Missionary to the Deaf Rev. Dr. John Reinke is vacancy pastor at Christ Lutheran Church for the
35 Deaf and serves the deaf parish. He travels from the St. Louis area to conduct the deaf parish’s
36 accustomed monthly workshops at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sherman, a single fairly
37 central location. Signing for the deaf continues to be offered weekly by interpreters for services
38 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Jacksonville and Trinity Lutheran Church, Bloomington. Dr.
39 Reinke also communicates every week via Zoom with leaders of the deaf parish, especially with
40 two women from the parish who are interested in further study. One of them, Melissa Kearney,
41 will be entering Deaconess training through EIIT at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in the fall of
42 2025.

1 As this report is written (February, 2025), Mission Commission is considering prospects
2 for the long-term future of CID Deaf Ministry. It is thinking that the District likely cannot afford
3 a full-time pastor to the deaf at this point.

4 In any case, the January, 2025 meeting of CID's Board of Directors arrived at some
5 important decisions for deaf ministry's future. It declared its intention to call the two beginning
6 deaconess students upon the successful completion of their programs of study. For the ongoing
7 development of a District-wide parish, an increased number of church workers in various
8 locations can only be helpful.

9 The Board of Directors also made determinations with respect to the Christ Lutheran
10 Church for the Deaf building in Jacksonville. It resolved to sell this building, since a location
11 near the state deaf school no longer presents the advantages that it once did. However, sale of the
12 building does not close either the deaf parish or Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf. In a way, it
13 will enable deaf work to go where needed.

14 The board further determined to put all proceeds from the sale of the church into the deaf
15 parish's endowment fund with Lutheran Legacy. This investment will go far toward starting
16 strong with this endowment, so earnings it generates can quickly begin providing significant
17 financial support for CID deaf ministry. Of course, the more the endowment is built, the more it
18 can do!

19 ***Where from Here?***

20 Fifty years ago, facing a set of formidable challenges, the LCMS Board for Missions
21 concluded its report to the Synod in convention with words worth recalling here. That board
22 wrote, in part:

23 What about the future? What can we expect? Where will we go from here
24 in missions? As people of God, who love our Lord and are committed to His
25 mission, these questions are not out of place. . . .

26 The early Christians had questions, doubts, and problems. But as it is
27 recorded in the Book of Acts, whenever and wherever they told or witnessed to
28 the Good News of Jesus Christ, their testimonies bore fruit through the power of
29 God's Holy Spirit. . . .

30 Assured of these facts, we too can move forward in mission with every
31 confidence that God will bless our work and use our efforts to the salvation of
32 many souls.

33 What about the future? "So those who received his Word were baptized,
34 and there were added that day about three thousand souls. . . . So the Word of the
35 Lord grew and prevailed mightily" (Acts 2:41; 19:20). *That* is the future.

36
37
38 Mission Commission
39 Pastor Bruce Scarbeary, Chairman
40
41
42
43

Addendum A: Various District-Supported Mission Entities

Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Jacksonville and Central Illinois Lutheran Deaf Outreach
Some members have not been to church since COVID. Since Pastor Thomas Phillips accepted a call to Michigan in late 2024, six members of Christ Lutheran Church have transferred to the other CID churches in Jacksonville. Another is now with the Lord.

The District-wide parish includes those who have transferred from Christ Deaf to other CID congregations. It numbers some 30 baptized, seven of whom are from Bloomington-Normal. Attendance at the most recent monthly parish workshops has numbered about 10. From the \$9,900 budget, \$1,800 is sent to District and Synod.

Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline

The congregation has 28 baptized members, which includes 18 active communicants. Average Sunday attendance is 18. During the 2022-2025 triennium thus far, the congregation has gained 4 members and lost 3. The congregation received \$9,464 in weekly offerings during 2024. Its 2025 commitment to Synod and District is \$1,100, in addition to the \$10,000 it has been contributing annually for the past several years with the help of sister Rock Island Circuit congregations. See section on Cristo Rey above.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Charleston

The congregation does campus ministry, with CID support. Financial support since 2019 has been limited to money earned from the Lutheran Legacy endowment for EIU campus ministry. In 2024, CID sent the congregation \$3,518.75, which amounted to all the endowment earnings for that year, and earlier. In 2024, Immanuel's remittances to CID totaled \$2,200.

Immanuel Lutheran Student Center; a ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Macomb

The congregation does campus ministry, with CID support. During 2024, some 12 WIU students have been attending Sunday services and studies. CID is sending a total of \$56,250 a year to the church, to help pay the pastor (half of whose time is devoted to campus ministry) and for other campus ministry support. The congregation's 2025 commitment to the District is \$25,000.

St. John Lutheran Church, Beardstown

The congregation sponsors ministry in Spanish, with CID support. In 2025, the District has budgeted \$3,000 to reimburse Pastor Pablo Dominguez for his travels twice a month from East Moline to Beardstown. In 2024 it did likewise, and contributed an additional \$2,100 to help St. John pay honoraria for him. Spanish services that Pastor Dominguez conducts in Beardstown are attended by 4 to 10 people. St. John's 2025 commitment to CID is \$12,000.

University Lutheran Church, Champaign

As of February, 2025, the congregation has an average weekly attendance of 62, consisting of approximately 85% students. It has 29 total members (28 communicants and 1 baptized). During the 2022-2025 triennium thus far, there have been: 9 transfers out, 4 transfers in, 10 confirmations, 4 baptisms, and 3 affirmations of faith following instruction. There are currently 5

students at various points of instruction leading to reception into communicant membership. The congregation has adopted a draft budget of \$36,000/year which is being trialed in 2025. (The congregation has been fully supporting itself, except for the 100% salary and benefits for the pastor, building insurance payments, and maintenance money provided by the District.) The church budget contains a 10% mission contribution to the District based on budgeted income (\$300/month). The congregation has committed to maintaining a cash reserve equal to the approximate amount of one year's budget plus \$5,000, and has achieved this goal. Starting in 2025, any gifts received by the congregation which exceed the actual annual expenses plus maintaining the reserve will be contributed to the CID on an annual basis. For example: annual expenses of \$36,000 with total contributions received of \$46,000, leads to an extra contribution from the congregation to the CID of \$10,000. The congregation plans to maintain this strategy going forward. Any different use of surplus gifts received in a year will be determined through consultation with District leadership and the Board of Directors.

Wittenberg Lutheran Center, Normal

Weekly church attendance is roughly 15. Of late, offerings have been averaging about \$300/week for the nine-month academic year. Wittenberg is a District preaching station, not a chartered congregation, so all its assets belong to CID. In addition to its checking account, it has a savings account with \$4,900 and has certificates of deposit with Church Extension Fund totaling \$16,400.

Addendum B: Central Illinois District Investment in missions – dollars actually spent by CID, excepting Dollars for Missions funds and capital expenditures:

<u>Mission Station/Congregation</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Beardstown, Latino Outreach	\$10,696.47	\$15,460.06	\$3,846.40
East Moline, Cristo Rey	\$119,517.01	\$121,043.44	\$134,787.03
Champaign, U. of I.	\$112,478.12	\$115,241.41	\$125,685.34
Charleston, E.I.U.	\$113.65	\$984.60	\$3,518.75
Macomb, W.I.U.	\$46,223.62	\$50,518.32	\$74,200.23
Normal, I.S.U.	\$143,475.13	\$146,289.75	\$154,736.43
Deaf Ministry	\$127,312.19	\$128,425.76	\$133,827.91
Prison Ministry	\$19,192.02	\$11,536.18	\$5,932.32

Addendum C: Projected Repairs and Upgrades Needed at CID Mission Sites, 2025-2035

Abbreviations:

CR = Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline

Imm = Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb

UniLu = University Lutheran Church, Champaign

Wit = Wittenberg Lutheran Center, Normal

NOTE: Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Jacksonville is NOT included in this list

2025-2026

\$50,000 Top coating, parking lot, Imm (about 25 years old in 2021)

\$49,500 Roof, Imm (about 25 years old in 2021 – in good shape in 2021)

\$20,000 Updating both sets of lower bathrooms, Imm

\$11,000 Replacing original kitchen equipment in sexton's apartment, Imm

\$6,000 Refurbish seating in library and game room and technology in game room Imm

A 2025 DFM PROJECT

\$2,600 Update parking lot access and egress closure devices Imm A 2025 DFM PROJECT

\$75,000 Fire alarm, UniLu (equipment & installation will cost \$20K; wiring labor-intensive, but \$ could be saved if less expensive labor is found; possible to delay this)

\$5,000 Boiler circulation pump replacements UniLu

\$10,000 Replace office area drop-ceiling UniLu (possible to delay this)

\$25,000 Masonry/tuckpointing Phase 1, UniLu A 2025 DFM PROJECT

\$25,000 Window repairs and sealing (sanctuary, student center) UniLu

\$5,000 Structural cover for east-side window wells UniLu

\$10,000 Replace insulation in Chancel ceiling, Wit

2027-2031

\$10,000 Roof, CR (2016: a few parts fixed. Roof is probably original with 1984 building)

\$45,000 Flooring (Vinyl/carpet), CR (last addressed 2008)

\$8,400 Tree removal, Imm

\$50,000 Organ, Imm (electronics were 30 to 50 years old in 2021)

\$5,400 Replacing tables and chairs in fellowship hall, Imm

\$12,000 New counter and drawers in office, Imm

\$100,000 Electrical system modernization and updating UniLu

\$50,000 Masonry/tuckpointing phase 2, UniLu

\$40,000 Student center Roof replacement, UniLu

\$25,000 Second floor ductless AC, UniLu

1 2032-2035
2 \$40,000 HVAC CR
3
4 \$75,000 Boiler system replacement, UniLu (includes asbestos removal; boiler dates to c. 1953)
5 \$10,000 Sanctuary gutter replacement UniLu (possible to delay this)
6 \$50,000 Basement ductless AC UniLu
7 \$50,000 Masonry/tuckpointing final phase UniLu
8 \$50,000 Further electrical modernization, if necessary UniLu
9
10 \$8,000 HVAC-3 for basement, Wit (installed 2001)
11 \$12,000.00 HVAC for office/lounge Wit (manufactured 2014)
12 \$1,500.00 Sewage ejector Wit (unknown)
13 \$1,000.00 Sump pump Wit (replaced 2019)
14
15
16 GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL: \$937,400
17
18
19 For each location over the period 2025-2035:
20 CR \$95,000
21 Imm \$214,900
22 UniLu \$595,000
23 Wit \$32,500
24