



# CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

November 2024

## News You Can Use

November begins with the observance of All Saints. Later in the month, the church year ends with Scripture lessons pointing us to the Last Things. If Thanksgiving prompts us to think of “Pilgrims,” we can recall that in an even more profound way all Christians are strangers and pilgrims in this wicked world. Yet better – indeed, the best – lies ahead with the returning Lord.

Behold, a host arrayed in white, like thousand snow-clad mountain bright!

With palms they stand; who is this band before the throne of light?  
These are the saints of glorious fame who from the great affliction came

And in the flood of Jesus' blood are cleansed from guilt and shame.  
They now serve God both day and night; they sing their songs in endless light.

Their anthems ring as they all sing with angels shining bright (LSB 676:1).

Baptized and believing child of God, this is about you!

Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb, Central Illinois District

### Pray For Our Central Illinois District Missions supported by your church's Mission Dollars to the District.

*Please remember in your prayers all our CID campus ministries, especially Rev. William Jensen and Wittenberg Lutheran Center in Normal, which serve students, faculty, and staff of Illinois State University and other institutions. Also, pray for the “Keeping Christ on Campus” campaign, which is building endowments to help CID support our campus ministries.*

### Items of Interest to Share

**MISSION EDUCATION TOOLKIT:** By mid-October, a modest Mission Education Toolkit will be available at [www.cidlcms.org](http://www.cidlcms.org) (main page bottom corner box) . Its first two elements will be a video interview with Pastor Aaron Uphoff of Calvary, Wateka, an alumnus of CID's campus ministry at Western Illinois University in Macomb, and suggested text for a pastor to consider incorporating into a church newsletter article this fall. Check it out.

### Witnessing HELPS

The Central Illinois District is pleased to announce the availability of a set of Witnessing Helps on our website. These take their cue from the four areas identified in LCMS 2023 Res. 1-01A: 1.) beginning an evangelistic conversation, 2.) listening discerningly to a non-churched person, 3.) making a simple statement of the Gospel, and 4.) defending the resurrection.

There are four sheets of helps, one for each of the above. These sheets, developed in consultation with South Wisconsin District executive Nathan Meador and Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ Director Martin Herzberg, each offer three relatively simple suggestions to help with one of those skills as mentioned by the Synod. The sheets are intended to supplement, not supplant, the core *Every One His Witness* module made available by the Synod.

For the Witnessing Helps sheets, as well as short videos that introduce each, visit <https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-witness-ministry.html>

### New Dollar for Mission Project

We have been able to fund four of our current DFM projects. We are moving our subsequent approved DFM project. **Restroom and water heater at University Lutheran Church, Champaign**

Dollar for Missions (DFM) contributions are now being devoted to necessary infrastructure at the University Lutheran Church in Champaign (UniLu). New toilets will be installed in the men's room, and a new water heater will be installed for the building.

“Items like these seem far from glamorous,” said CID Mission Executive Ken Schurb. “They do not capture our senses until problems arise in connection with them. Then their importance stands out.”

### SAVE THE DATE: "Illinois Pro-Life March" Tuesday, March 25, 2025

As last year, Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Springfield (across the street from the State Capitol building) will host a Matins service before the rally and march in the morning. A light lunch will be provided at a nominal cost. Precise times are being determined. Again, this year, parking will be available downtown at the State House Inn, a block north of the capitol and near Trinity. However, please make plans now to carpool whenever possible.

### 2025 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING

Looking for information: Ways to Connect

- CID Lutheran Youth Facebook Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/249327678480252>) – Find the latest district updates and information LCMS Youth Ministry Facebook Group
- End Goals: LCMS Youth Ministry Podcast <https://www.kfuo.org/category/lcms-youth-ministry-end-goals/> All things youth ministry and some great episodes on the Gathering! Be sure to check out [www.lcmsgathering.com](http://www.lcmsgathering.com) under the Resources tab for tons of information, worksheets, budgeting sheets, etc