



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

February 2026

News You Can Use

"Remember That You Are Dust"

Lent begins with a simple and sobering confession: *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return"* (Genesis 3:19). These words do not crush us, but place us rightly before God. They remind us that life is not ours by right, that strength and security are fragile gifts, and that sin has touched every part of our being. *"All flesh is grass,"* the prophet declares, *"and all its beauty is like the flower of the field"* (Isaiah 40:6).

Yet the ashes placed upon the forehead are traced in the sign of the cross. Dust is marked with mercy. Mortality is marked with Christ. For *"the Word became flesh"* (John 1:14) and bore our sin upon the tree. Lent leads us again to that saving cross, not to prove our devotion, but to receive His forgiveness.

"Be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20). In Him, even dust is promised resurrection.

Pastor Justin Cullen

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 Immanuel Lutheran Church in Charleston, serving students, faculty, and staff at Eastern Illinois University. And pray for the "Keeping Christ on Campus campaign," building endowments to help CID support our campus ministries

Items of Interest to Share

Illinois Pro-Life March - March 19, 2026, in Springfield, IL

- Matins at Trinity Lutheran at 11 AM (220 S Second St.)
- Lunch available between Matins and the Rally/March (at the Statehouse Inn) A donation will be collected to help cover the cost of the lunch.
- The Rally will be held at the Lincoln Statue in front of the Illinois Capitol Building at 1 PM
- The March begins following the Rally, at 2 PM, from the Lincoln Statue heading north on Second St.
- Attendees are encouraged to consider going to lobby their state legislator and senator following the March
- Automobile parking is available in the west parking lot of the Statehouse Inn (101 E Adams)

CID BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW REPORT 01/27/26

The meeting began with a devotion on Titus 2. A Mission Presentation was given by Rev. Jensen on Wittenberg Student Center at Illinois State University. In late December, Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Jacksonville had flooding in the sanctuary and basement due to frozen pipes. Water has been removed, and repairs are being made. The Formula of Concord study continued with Art. 2, Free Will. The board approved submitting the Overture: "To Affirm and Use Biblical Terminology concerning Ministry", to the Synod in Convention.

Special Board of Directors meeting on Feb 2, 2026

The special meeting was called to appoint an Acting District President for the Central Illinois District. Vice President Rev. Mark Eddy was appointed.

Dollars for Mission Online – New this year, you can now support Dollars for Mission through online giving. Many people no longer carry cash but still want to support the Central Illinois District's mission work. One-time and recurring donations are now available online at <https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/LCMSCentralIllinoisDistrict/D4M> or by using the QR code.



All new recurring gifts will be matched by a special one-time gift, up to \$20,000.

2026 Youth Bible Bowl

Date: March 22, 2026

Location: Camp CILCA

Topic: "The Gospel According to St. Matthew"

The Gospel according to St. Matthew summarizes what we need to know to receive salvation from sin, the devil, and death. The Gospel of St. Matthew records the most important teachings of Jesus and the key events in Jesus' life. Plan to study "the Gospel according to St. Matthew" with youth (junior and senior high [grades 6-12]) as thoroughly as you can, to prepare them to answer questions in your Circuit and at the District Bible Bowl, and (most importantly) so that by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit they grow in their faith that Jesus truly is the Son of God and our Savior.

Contact Rev Mark Eddy (zionlcms@juno.com) for additional information.

The Small Church Summit for Winter, 2026, will feature a presentation by SID President Heath Curtis titled "The Small Town Lutheran Church." Sectionals will be on "Shepherding our Strays," technology in small churches, and safety standards.

**St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1076 E Chatham Street, Lexington
Feb.21 or (if weather is bad) Feb. 28**

Sign-in will be at 9:30 a.m., opening devotion will commence at 10:00, and closing prayer will be at 2:30 p.m. Register by February 13th, 2026, at <https://forms.gle/eujwE5hmRC48wF7MA>

**If you think your church is small, YOU are invited.
And everyone is welcome!**