

## Bring Giving Home . . . but it doesn't stay at home!

### 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.

You have long-standing specialized missions in central Illinois. They include ministry in Spanish, deaf ministry, and campus ministry. Can CID continue these? Do them well?

### WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

A two-pronged approach is proposed within a projected \$7 million campaign:

1. Providing for 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*
2. 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: \$5.5 million*

### WHY IS THIS BEING PROPOSED?

- Places
  - CID started *Ministry in Spanish* in East Moline in 2003. Rev. Pablo Dominguez has served as your 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 you 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 your 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 places as far-flung as Bloomington and Danville. 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.
  - *Campus Ministry* is another specialized mission that CID has sustained on your behalf. It pays salaries for two full-time campus pastors, at University of Illinois and at Illinois State, and it owns well-located churches on both campuses. CID also owns a campus church a block away from Western Illinois and gives Immanuel Lutheran Church, Macomb funds for its pastor to serve half-time in campus ministry. CID has no property in Charleston, but it helps support

student leaders who work with the pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church – just across the street from Eastern Illinois. “What we need, and need badly,” wrote CID’s first full-time campus pastor in 1941, “is preaching on the campus.” This District has never forgotten.

- *CID office* in Springfield comprises two buildings. One provides office space plus chapel and meeting facilities for CID’s President, two executives, and bookkeeper, also Church Extension Fund staff. The other houses the District archives, and is the gathering place for Immanuel Lutheran Chapel, a CID-supported new church start.

- **Prospects**

- *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 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...” Ana and others need a place of grace. Cristo Rey can continue to provide it, with your help.
- *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 deaf church building in Jacksonville and put the sale proceeds into the deaf parish’s endowment fund, to be matched 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 two of its women who are about to enter deaconess training. By far, most deaf people are unchurched, yet Christ is for them too. Deaf ministry can help them, with your help.
- *Campus Ministry:* Are you concerned about sons or daughters of our congregations losing their faith at college? Think campus ministry. Pastor Heath Curtis of Worden, Illinois, 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, with your help.

## WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW?

CID has contracted with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to lead a Ministry Readiness Study over the next few months. LCEF will provide consultants to give guidance as a funding campaign is designed and prepared. The study includes, in March, 2025 . . .

- Forum meetings, in-person & virtual: sharing vision, group discussion, opportunities for input.
- Survey: 10-15 minutes online, to gather valuable feedback on the vision.

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