

# Central Illinois District

## The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On the morning of Wednesday, January 28, we learned that the LCMS Central Illinois District President, Rev. Michael Mohr, was arrested by federal law enforcement on charges related to child pornography.

Yesterday, the President of the Synod, Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, issued the attached letter on the matter. We encourage you to read that letter carefully.

At this time, the Central Illinois District office is following the established protocols outlined in the District Handbook. In accordance with those procedures, the First Vice President, Rev. Michael Burdick, is in active communication with Synod leadership and appropriate district leadership as this situation unfolds. Effective yesterday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Burdick is Acting District President.

No additional details are available to share at this time. The Central Illinois District will continue to cooperate fully with law enforcement and work together with Synod. In consultation with the LCMS, we are also working with the affected congregations and parishioners to ensure they receive the necessary pastoral support and care during this difficult time.

If you have been harmed, we encourage you to contact law enforcement. We also encourage you to reach out to Ms. Rebekah Wendling, a mental health professional at 877-276-1740 or email at [districtassistance@cidlcms.org](mailto:districtassistance@cidlcms.org). Anyone with further information should contact FBI St. Louis, at 314-589-2500.

In the meantime, we pray God's hand of justice and mercy will prevail for all affected by this situation, for the Church, and for the Lord's continued grace and wisdom.

Further information will be provided as it becomes appropriate and available.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Patrick Gumz  
On behalf of the First Vice President  
Central IL District of the LCMS