

# the GatePost

*"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved" John 10:9*

Newsletter of the Central Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

2025: Issue 2



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**Making  
Disciples  
for Life** 

Published March 18, 2025

## Visit A CID MISSION SITE!

When the apostle Paul was gathering an offering for the church at Jerusalem, he involved people. Representatives of congregations from Asia Minor, Greece, and Macedonia accompanied Paul to Jerusalem. Their names are listed in Acts 20:4-5.

These representatives could later assure "the folks back home" that their gifts had in fact reached the saints in Jerusalem. They could also report to their home churches on what they saw there: the people they met, the conditions they saw, the way the Gospel was presented in the city where Jesus died and rose. If they had had cameras, they could have brought back photos! Paul encouraged churches to take this opportunity to demonstrate their unity and become better acquainted.

**Like St. Paul's "come and see" approach, visiting one or more CID missions will give you unparalleled insight into these ministries.**

Similarly, the *GatePost* encourages you to visit CID mission sites this spring.

Several of these are campus ministries. Sundays during April would be prime times for you to pay them a visit, perhaps also the last Sunday in March or the first Sunday in May.

- **University Lutheran Church**  
604 E CHALMERS ST  
CHAMPAIGN, IL, 61820-6205, USA  
Sunday Bible class at 9:30 am;  
church service at 10:30 am
- **Immanuel Lutheran Student Center**  
303 N CLAY ST  
MACOMB, IL, 61455, USA  
Sunday church service at student center at 11:00 am
- **Wittenberg Lutheran Center**  
201 S MAIN ST  
NORMAL, IL, 61761-2945, USA  
Sunday Bible class at 9:30 am;  
church service at 10:30 am
- **Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
902 CLEVELAND AVE  
CHARLESTON, IL, 61920-3441, USA  
Sunday church service 8:00 am;  
Bible study at 9:00 am

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Plan to attend the **ILLINOIS PRO-LIFE MARCH** on March 25<sup>th</sup> in Springfield.

See details on Page 11.



## From the *President's Desk*

Rev. Michael W. Mohr, CID President  
[mmohr@cidlcms.org](mailto:mmohr@cidlcms.org)

### Treasure Learning

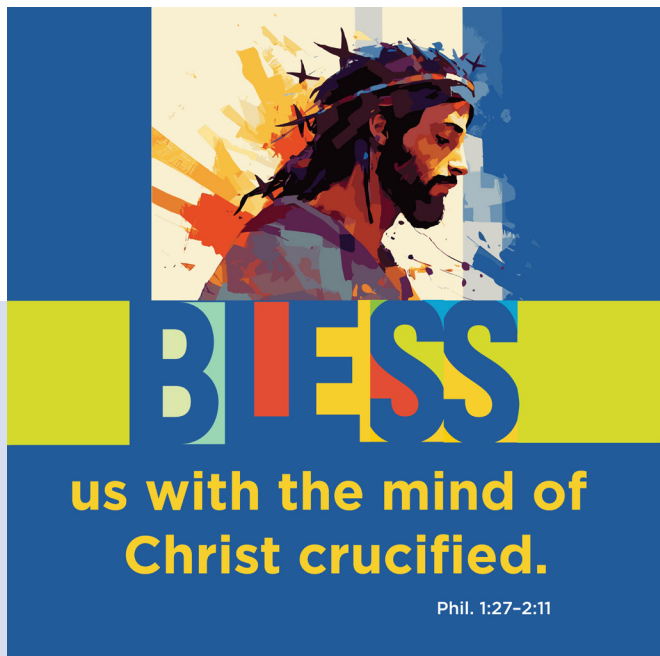
shaping and molding  
the next generation  
of church leaders and  
community builders  
as they learn what  
it is to live a decent  
and godly life in  
what we say and do

Lutheran schools are a treasure. They assist parents and pastors in the instruction of our youth, passing on what we ourselves have first received.

About twenty or so years ago, the school at my home congregation in suburban St. Louis was preparing to celebrate a “big round number” anniversary. One of the anniversary committee contacted me to see if I would speak at their big fundraising banquet. “As a product of our school that has gone on to enter the ministry, I think you would be a great speaker,” he said. My friendship with his daughter throughout our days at the local public high school had been so deep and my involvement in our church youth group had been so intense that he had forgotten that I had not moved into the area until right before high school. My advocacy for Lutheran Education was so fervent, he had forgotten that the first “parochial” school I had ever attended was Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

Not all of our children have the opportunity to attend a full time Lutheran school. But we can still provide them with a solid education. My own experience with every-Sunday attendance at Sunday School had continued on into every-Sunday adult Bible class even before I decided to enroll at the seminary. Five years of confirmation instruction also provided a solid base in what we believe, teach, and confess. These formative experiences, while not an equal substitute for the faith formation that can take place in a full-time

Lutheran school, help shape and mold the next generation of church leaders and community builders as they learn what it is to live a decent and godly life in what we say and do. Even if your congregation does not run a full time school, you are a center of learning for the children (and adults) of the parish. Seek out purposeful ways to shape these lives. And as recipients of God’s love and grace, seek out ways to participate in these activities so that you, too, through the study of God’s Word, may grow in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.



This Lent and Easter season, as we prepare to remember Christ’s death and resurrection on the cross, it is a great time to invite your friends, family and neighbors to join you in church.



# Ministry Readiness Study

Your church is involved in missions right under your nose!

It supports specialized missions in this part of the state. The offerings that CID congregations send to the District go a long way toward funding missions as varied as ministry in Spanish, deaf ministry, and campus ministry.



Can CID continue these long-standing missions? And, can it keep doing them well?

Several mission locations are involved: Cristo Rey Lutheran Church in East Moline, plus campus churches at Illinois State, the University of Illinois, and Western Illinois. Moreover, CID's administrative office in Springfield is a District-owned facility, and it hosts the District's only new church start. All of these buildings will require repairs and upgrades in the long as well as the short run.

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund-Missouri Synod is presently conducting a Ministry Readiness Study to help determine the feasibility of a major funding campaign for CID. Forum meetings were held in person and online earlier this month, and survey forms for individuals and for whole churches were sent to all CID congregations at about the same time. Here's hoping you have responded to one of these surveys, or will very soon! The deadline is March 21.

Results from LCEF's study will be ready on or about May 1. The next *GatePost* issue, scheduled for release on June 1, will contain additional information about any campaign that may be proposed to CID's July 13-15 convention. Please watch for this information, and suggest that your congregation's convention delegates watch for it too.



Before the next *GatePost*, the CID Convention Workbook will be released next month. Several of the reports, especially the Mission Commission's report, provide details on various District mission efforts.

Even prior to the *Workbook* – right now, in fact – you can begin learning about CID missions via the District website, [www.cidlcms.org](http://www.cidlcms.org). Click on the home page's "Outreach" tab for a drop-down menu and select "Missions." You will see links to Outreach in Spanish, Campus Ministry, Prison Ministry, and Deaf Ministry. Find more concerning each respective area by clicking on its link. See also the front page article in the last *GatePost*, 2025 Issue #1, at <https://www.cidlcms.org/resources/gatepost/2025.GatePost.1.pdf>



## Visit a CID Mission Site!

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**Cristo Rey Lutheran Church** conducts its ministry almost entirely in Spanish. It is located at 1301 19th ST, EAST MOLINE, IL, 61244-2342, USA. Sunday church service is at 10:00am; Bible class is at 11:00 am.

**Central Illinois Lutheran Deaf Outreach** will hold its last parish workshops at Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Jacksonville (before the District sells this building) on Saturdays, April 5 and 19, 9:00 am to noon. The address is 104 FINLEY ST, JACKSONVILLE, IL, 62650-1720, USA

The District's only new church start is **Immanuel Lutheran Chapel**, 1800 NORTH GRAND AVENUE WEST, SPRINGFIELD, IL, 62702, USA. Services are on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm.

Like St. Paul's "come and see" approach, visiting one or more CID missions will give you unparalleled insight into these ministries. Note, too, that the District convention this summer will have major decisions to make that will impact these ministries. It can only help all our congregations to become as familiar with them as we all can.

So: this spring, take a little trip. Visit a CID mission site!





# Why Start a **Lutheran School** in Central Illinois?

by Trip Rodgers MS, CAS - Central Illinois District, Assistant to the President for Education and Congregational Life

**D**uring the last few months, several congregations have approached me to request information about starting a Lutheran school in their area. There are several reasons given for this desire. The first is the desire to provide an education system that aligns with their beliefs. There is a concern about their local public school system, or they are fearful that they will pursue values and beliefs that do not align with theirs. There is also a general concern about the new laws and educational standards introduced with the Illinois School Code each year. Within Illinois, there have been several attempts to limit parental rights, especially in the area of the mandated curriculum and gender identity. Many parents are looking for ways to have more of a say in their children's education. These are a few of the reasons that have been provided to me regarding the need to start nonpublic schools.

According to the Synodical website, The Office of National Mission: School Ministry has listed the following reasons why you should send your child to a Lutheran elementary school.

Lutheran schools:

- Are **driven by a commitment to the Gospel** and focused on a mission of bringing hope and healing to students and families.
- Are **governed by board members who clearly understand their roles** and focus on the vision and board policies that effectively govern the operation of the school.
- **Meet or exceed state and national academic standards** at all grade levels.
- Have **educators who model visionary leadership**. They practice stewardship of resources, build up others, and empathize with others.

- Have **educators who model servant leadership**. *Do those served grow as persons; do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants? (Robert Greenleaf)*
- Have **educators who model spiritual leadership**. They study God's Word, share their personal faith story, apply Law and Gospel appropriately, exhibit a passion for ministry, act courageously, equip God's people for service, care for others, demonstrate integrity, and pray.

These are great reasons that a parent would want to enroll their child in a Lutheran school.

Another question that should be asked when starting a Lutheran School is what its goal is of the Lutheran School. Who are they looking at serving: just LCMS families, the LCMS families plus other Christians in their community, or unchurched families? The answer to this question will help the organization to focus on the school's mission and outreach. In today's education, there are many different types or models of schools: Classical Lutheran Education, Traditional Lutheran schools, micro-schools, and distance learning schools. All these schools can have a purpose based on who the school is planning to serve. This question must be answered before moving forward with the school's planning.

Lastly, a discussion about support for the Lutheran school in your community needs to be held. Sometimes, an individual may express an interest in the school but may lose interest based on the school type or the school's cost. Within this discussion, we must also determine the local congregation's or congregations' support. It is difficult to plan for the long-term support of a school without the support of the local congregation and the families in the community.

*continued on Page 5*



## Why Start a Lutheran School in Central Illinois?

*continued from Page 4*

At times, a small group of parents want to start a school, but there may not be a population that can support an adequate enrollment.

These and other questions can be useful in determining the support for and the need for starting a Lutheran School. Through their School Ministry Office, the LCMS can help guide this discussion. They provide a service called the Genesis Project. For \$500.00, they will provide a consultant that will provide on-site discussion and evaluation of the needs and support. The Genesis Project helps LCMS congregations start Lutheran schools, which include early childhood, elementary, middle, and high school programs.

The process begins with the Genesis School Readiness Study. The purpose of the Readiness Study is as follows:

- To help LCMS congregations and communities gain information on how to start a Lutheran school
- To acquaint Steering Committee members with Lutheran school trends and statistics
- To assess the interest of the congregation(s) in starting a school
- To assess the interest and the ability of parents to send their children to a Lutheran school
- To initially explore potential congregational and third-source funding for a Lutheran school
- To initially explore the market for potential students
- To assess attitudes toward the potential location(s) of the facility
- To provide data and information from which the interested parties can decide on the establishment of a school

If you would like more information on the Genesis Project or are interested in utilizing LCMS School Ministry services, please email [school.ministry@lcms.org](mailto:school.ministry@lcms.org)

We have started or added to several educational programs within the Central Illinois District during the last few years.

- **Bethel Lutheran School, Morton** – added a high school program to their elementary program
- **St. John's Lutheran School, Mattoon** – added a high school program to their elementary program
- **Concordia Lutheran Church, Geneseo** – added a Classical Lutheran Elementary School to their preschool program

The following are looking at or have completed their Genesis School Readiness Study.

- **Altamont /Effingham Area** – studying the possibility of adding a high school
- **St. James, Quincy** – studying the possibility of adding a high school to their elementary school
- **Immanuel, Charleston** – studying the possibility of adding an elementary school to their preschool
- **St. John's, Beardstown** – studying the possibility of re-opening their elementary school



## Teacher Installation and Commissioning

Kayla Hoech was installed and commissioned as a teacher at Concordia Lutheran School, Peoria, on January 26th, 2025.

*(l to r)* - Trip Rodgers (CID Education Executive), Drew Monkemeyer (Principal, Concordia), Kayla Hoech (Teacher, Concordia), and Pastor Barry Long (Mt. Calvary, Peoria)



## A Joint Statement

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

As Christians, we live not only under God's grace in His right hand kingdom of the Church, but we confess with His Holy Word that those in authority in His left hand (or civil) kingdom are God's servants for our good. (Romans 13:1-7) Within our freedom of the Gospel, we counsel those in authority to walk in godly ways and rule according to God's measure of righteousness and good order.

While we recognize that a well educated citizenry equips the people of the this state to serve one another in love, the measures proposed in HB 2827 overstep the bounds of decency to achieve that goal. Called "The Homeschool Act," this proposal has far reaching implications beyond homeschooling that could adversely effect the autonomy of our congregational and association schools, as well. Our partners, such as the Illinois Coalition of Nonpublic Schools, Illinois Christian Home Educators, the Association of Christian Schools International, and the Catholic Conference of Illinois well document concerning measures, such as the requirement to provide confidential/personal student information to state authorities, require the registration/recognition of non-public schools by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the submission of curriculum for ISBE review and approval, and (contrary to the 2012 US Supreme Court decision *Hosanna Tabor v. EEOC* 565 U.S. 171) establishing state mandated requirements for who may teach in our Lutheran (and other non-public or home) schools.

While these concerns are certainly sufficient to cause concern, what troubles us the most is the presupposition behind this bill that disregards the fundamental, 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment principle that schools, and even the state itself, are extensions of office and vocation of parent. On March 4, this bill was referred to the Education Policy Subcommittee. Please contact your own legislators, or the [members of the committee](#) (click link for a list of those members) and encourage them to vote no on this harmful bill.

God bless your Lenten disciplines as we journey with our Lord to His atoning sacrifice upon the cross, the glorious proclamation of salvation in the resurrection and empty tomb, and His sovereign reign over all of creation in His ascension.

Rev. Dr. Allan Buss  
President  
Northern Illinois District

Rev. Michael Mohr  
President  
Central Illinois District

Rev. Heath Curits  
President  
Southern Illinois District

Mrs. Lois Stewart  
Education Executive  
Northern Illinois District

Mr. Trip Rodgers  
Education Executive  
Central Illinois District

Mr. Jeffrey Fick  
Education Executive  
Southern Illinois District



# Summer 2025

## Small Church Summit

### A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY



A total of about 40 people attended Winter, 2025 Small Church Summit meetings in Mt. Vernon and Pekin. CID Evangelism Executive Ken Schurb presented on CID's Witnessing Helps. CID Congregational Life Executive Trip Rodgers went over a list of resources available to churches. President Michael Mohr of CID discussed record keeping for small churches, especially those experiencing pastoral vacancies.

If you would like to know more about any of these topics, please contact these presenters at CID office, (217) 793-1802.

The Small Church Summit usually features presenters from the LCMS Central and Southern Illinois Districts. Occasionally we have had speakers from the Synod's Office of National Mission. This summer, however, presents a unique opportunity to hear from an *international* voice on small churches.

The Rev. Dr. Alexey Streltsov (pictured right) is Rector of our sister church's seminary in Siberia. He will be the featured presenter at the **June 7 Small Church Summit meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, Taylorville.**

Just how small are the congregations in Siberia for which this seminary trains pastors? How do they handle the kinds of concerns that present themselves to small churches in Illinois? — e.g., providing pastors for these churches, days and times for their church services, pastoral care of the ill and homebound in these churches, their catechism classes for youth and adults as well as lifelong Christian education, reaching out to inactive members, and so forth. How do they keep people strong in the faith through the Word of God, and extend Christ's kingdom of grace to others around them?

Here is an opportunity to learn about the church in another part of the world, and to derive lessons for our congregations. This will be a special Small Church Summit indeed!

The day will start on Saturday, June 7 with sign-in at 9:00 am. Opening devotion will begin at 9:30 am. Thereafter Rector Streltsov will have the rest of the morning to present and answer initial questions.

After lunch, there will be several short sectional sessions, all of which will be offered a total of twice:

1. Further discussion with Rector Streltsov
2. Congregational Assessment Tools
3. LCMS Specific Ministry Pastor Program and Small Congregations
4. Mutual Help Right Under Your Nose: Circuit Forums and Circuit Convocations

The day's formal activities will conclude with a "looking ahead" discussion which will end at 3:00 pm. But immediately following, there will be an ice cream social. Anyone who can do so is welcome to stay a while longer and continue the conversation.

To register for the Saturday, June 7 Small Church Summit at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1010 N. Webster Street, Taylorville, IL 62568-1277, go to <https://forms.gle/7xk9vcUqfHs8xhuo9>

The deadline to register is May 31.



Rev. Dr. Alexey Streltsov — Rector of Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church Seminary in Novosibirsk, Russia

Remember, if you think your church is small, you are invited.

*And all are welcome!*



ENDURE

JULY 19-23, 2025; NEW ORLEANS, LA

# 2025 LCMS NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING



## CID DISTRICT COORDINATORS

**DCE Jonathan Guse**  
Bethel, Morton

**DCE Christy Malinowski**  
Trinity, Bloomington

## WAYS TO CONNECT

**CID Lutheran Youth Facebook Group** – Latest District updates and information  
[www.facebook.com/groups/249327678480252](https://www.facebook.com/groups/249327678480252)

**LCMS Youth Ministry Facebook Group** – Gathering related content and collaboration, but all thing youth ministry, too!  
[www.facebook.com/groups/LCMSYouthMinistry](https://www.facebook.com/groups/LCMSYouthMinistry)

**End Goals: LCMS Youth Ministry Podcast** – All things youth ministry and some great episodes on the Gathering! [www.kfuo.org/category/lcms-youth-ministry-end-goals](https://www.kfuo.org/category/lcms-youth-ministry-end-goals)

**National Youth Gathering Website** – Tons of information, worksheets, budgeting sheets, etc. [www.lcmsgathering.com](https://www.lcmsgathering.com)

2025 ALL ILLINOIS

# DISTRICT EVENT

SUNDAY, JULY 20 5:30 PM – 8 PM

CHAMPIONS CLUB AT THE CAESARS SUPER DOME.

## FOOD, ACTIVITIES, FELLOWSHIP!

Deadline extended to April 30th! Scan the QR code to register now!



\$55/PP INCLUDES ACCESS TO THE EVENT, DINNER, AND A DISTRICT T-SHIRT.

\$15/PP FOR JUST THE DISTRICT T-SHIRT.

The three Illinois Districts of the LCMS are thrilled to once again come together for a special all-Illinois District Event in New Orleans on July 20, 2025, sponsored by Concordia University Chicago. We invite you to join us for an exclusive early access event at the Superdome, ahead of the Mass Event on Sunday evening.

Your ticket includes an all-Illinois District t-shirt, meal, entertainment, giveaways, and floor seating for the Mass Event later that evening. If you prefer, t-shirts can also be purchased separately from the event ticket.

Meal menu: hot dog (gluten free available) chicken tenders, mac n cheese, pulled pork nachos (gluten free), chocolate cookies (gluten free available), and fountain soda.

Please take a moment to complete the registration form to sign up your congregation for the event or to order your t-shirts. Use the QR code or visit <https://www.vancoevents.com/us/events/landing/48531>

*We look forward to seeing you there!*



# A Dollar for Missions News

## First Project of 2025 - Update

As of the end of February 2025, Dollar for Missions is well underway on its first project for this year. The project is masonry and tuckpointing work at University Lutheran Church, Champaign.

In fact, after two months of 2025 this project is over halfway toward completion. The target amount is \$25,000. At the end of February, DFM has \$13,849.91 toward this project.

A video showing the need for the masonry and tuckpointing work is on the Current Project page in the DFM section of the CID website. See this video, with or without captions, at <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-current-project.html>

The Current Project page also includes a brief written description of the project. For additional information, please contact Mission Executive Ken Schurb at CID office, [kschurb@cidlcms.org](mailto:kschurb@cidlcms.org)

Plumbing, painting, and, yes, tuckpointing need to be done periodically if CID is to continue providing this place where the Gospel has been preached and the sacraments administered on the University of Illinois campus for more than 70 years. Your dollar for missions has a good purpose here, impacting the lives of countless university students and others with the forgiving love of Christ.



### PRAYER

*O Lord, open the hearts of your people to support the proclamation of the Good News about Jesus in ways large and small. Bless the Dollars for Mission that support mission work in unusual ways. In Jesus' name. Amen.*



You can always find out more about DFM, including the present project at any time, at <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-a-dollar-for-missions.html>



**The Lutheran Witness** magazine  
Subscribe today at [cph.org/witness](http://cph.org/witness)

# Official Notices

(March 17, 2025)

## Ordained

### Installations

- **Rev. Emmett Bartens** at St. John, Louisville, January 26, 2025
- **Rev. Jordan Peiser** at Faith, Shumway, March 16, 2025

### Upcoming Installation

- **Rev. Scott Niermann** at Immanuel, Altamont, June 8, 2025

### Called to Glory

- **Mrs. Charlotte Bueltmann**, wife of Rev. David Bueltmann, January 22, 2025
- **Mrs. Carol Seidenstricker**, wife of Rev. Michael Seidenstricker, February 19, 2025
- **Rev. Robert T. Kuhn D.D.**, former CID President, Synod Vice President, and Synod President, March 1, 2025
- **Mr. Bruce Tagge**, Commissioned Teacher, March 8, 2025
- **Mr. Todd Luedtke**, Commissioned Teacher, March 15, 2025

**Making Disciples for Life**



On January 26, 2025, Rev. Emmett Bartens was installed as Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Louisville, IL.

*Front Row (l to r)* - Rev. Dean Herberts (St. Paul, Wheeler & St. John's, Dieterich), Rev. Michael Burdick (St. John's, Effingham and 2nd VP of CID), Rev. Emmett Bartens (St. John's, Louisville), Rev. Norlyn Bartens (Grace, Neligh, NE), and Rev. Earl Brown (Emeritus, Effingham).

*Back Row (l to r)* - Rev. Adrian Piazza (Trinity, Casey & Our Redeemer, Robinson), Rev. Steven Becker (Emeritus, Shumway & Effingham Circuit Visitor), and Rev. David Weaver (Trinity, Stewardson).



The saints at Faith, Shumway rejoiced on March 16, 2025, as their new shepherd, Rev. Jordan Peiser, was installed.

*Front Row (l to r)* - Rev. Gary Fortkamp (Emeritus, Effingham), Rev. Nathan Woolery (Holy Cross, Shelbyville & Shelby Circuit Visitor), Rev. Michael Mohr (Holy Cross, Vandalia, IL & CID President), Rev. Michael Seidenstricker (Emeritus, Effingham & Vacancy Pastor for Faith, Shumway), Rev. Jordan Peiser (Faith, Shumway), Rev. Anthony Oliphant (Redeemer, Elmhurst), and Rev. Emmett Bartens (St. John's, Louisville).

*Second Row (l to r)* - Rev. Marcus Manley (Bethlehem & Zion, Altamont), Rev. Trey Dille (St. John's, Effingham), Rev. Steven Becker (Emeritus, Shumway & Effingham Circuit Visitor), Rev. Michael Burdick (St. John's, Effingham and 2nd VP of CID), and Rev. Earl Brown (Emeritus, Effingham).

*Back Row (l to r)* - Rev. Dean Herberts (St. Paul, Wheeler & St. John's, Dieterich), Rev. David Speers (St. Paul, Blue Point), Rev. Andrew Herzberg (St. John's, Mattoon), and Rev. David Weaver (Trinity, Stewardson).



# 2025 Illinois Pro-Life March

## March 25th in Springfield

**11:00 am** Matins at Trinity Lutheran Church, 220 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, IL, 62701-1121

**Noon** Lunch for worshipers available at State House Inn ballroom, 101 E. Adams Street.  
Suggested donation: \$6

**1:00 pm** Rally at Lincoln statue on east side of State Capitol

**2:00 pm** Actual marching commences

**3:00 pm** Look up your legislators

Parking is available in the State House Inn's lot west of the building (across 1st Street).

- Get a parking permit from one of our green-vested volunteers in the lot.
- Carpool wherever possible!

For additional information, contact Dr. Ken Schurb at CID office, [kschurb@cidlcms.org](mailto:kschurb@cidlcms.org) Telephone (217) 793-1802.



## Community Canvass FOR CONCORDIA

On Saturday, March 1, there was a community canvass of the area around Concordia Lutheran Church, in the Laketown neighborhood on Springfield's southeast side. Adult volunteers came from Missouri and Michigan to join Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ Director Rev. Martin Herzberg, who himself is from South Dakota, in helping Concordia's congregation with this survey.

Residents were asked whether they had a church home, whether they have children (potentially of age for Concordia Lutheran School), whether they own a Bible, and what prayer concerns they might wish to state. After a brief Gospel witness, usually using John 3:16 with the person's name inserted, callers went on to the next house down the street.

Callers in two teams visited more than 120 homes in three hours. Face-to-face contact was made with some 45 people. If no one answered the doorbell, callers left a Gospel tract plus information on Concordia Lutheran Church and School.

The survey yielded two definite prospects. Another couple of people also might well be included when the congregation follows up.

Churches need to learn about prospects for future Gospel proclamation, especially those right "under their noses." Additional benefits also accrue from such a survey, for canvassing helps the callers too. It gives them an outlet for their God-given evangelistic impulses. Further, the experience that callers gain in speaking of Jesus with people they have never met can inform them when they turn to tell the Good News to family members, friends, and acquaintances.



*Almighty God, You have  
called Your church to  
witness that in Christ  
You have reconciled us to  
Yourself. Grant that by Your  
Holy Spirit we may proclaim  
the good news of Your  
salvation so that all who  
hear it may receive the gift  
of salvation; through Jesus  
Christ, our Lord. Amen.*



## Bob Kuhn (1937-2025): *A Personal Appreciation*

The Rev. Robert T. Kuhn, D.D., went to be with the Lord on March 1, 2025. He served as President of the Central Illinois District from 1985 to 1995, First Vice President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from 1995 to 2001, and for a little over five months during 2001 as President of the Synod. He is the only man from the Central Illinois District ever to become the church body's president.

In the latter capacity he was my boss, and prior to that my senior co-worker. Through it all, he was my friend. Like most of his friends, I feel funny calling him anything other than “Bob.”

Bob was in the initial class at Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne. In 1959 he graduated with a bachelor's degree, then went on to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. For 32 years thereafter he served in CID, as pastor of congregations in Bath and Chandlerville (1963-70), Geneseo (1970-77), and Pleasant Plains (1979-85). Even his two years outside of parish ministry during this period, as a deployed development officer for Concordia Teachers College, River Forest from 1977 to 1979, were still spent in central Illinois.

In 1985 he was elected to be CID's 14th president. Others can say more than I about his tenure in this post. What stood out to those viewing from afar was the leadership he showed as he brought together differing personalities and temperaments in common proclamation and acclamation of Christ according to the Lutheran Confessions. “With Bob, you always got great ‘customer service’,” a former CID pastor told me.

In 1995 he joined his friend A. L. Barry in the Synod President's office, as Bob was elected First Vice-President. I worked on the President's staff in St. Louis at the time, and we were eagerly looking forward to Bob joining the team.

A bit to Bob's trepidation, shortly after the Synod's 1995 convention President Barry was diagnosed with leukemia. Chemotherapy treatments forced him to be out of the office for the first few weeks Bob spent on the job. Although Bob did not hold the title of president or even “acting president,” he was our unquestioned leader in the President's office. Ironically, a few years later, in March of 2001, Al Barry died with a few months left in his presidential term. At that time Bob became the President of the Synod. He began and ended his full-time work at the Synod's International Center without being beside his close companion Al Barry, yet the Lord gave him grace to rise to both of these occasions.

The International Center was a rather somber place in September, 1995, when in bounded the smiling, gregarious, glad-handing, back-slapping, joke-cracking, story-swapping Bob Kuhn. Three years later, everyone knew that the President's Blue Ribbon Committee on Structure reported how the addition of a Synod “Chief Administrative Officer” would be desirable. Only a few knew that the model personality that the committee had in view when crafting that position was Bob's.

Still, Bob remained clear-eyed about what he was observing in synodical administration. Not long after he started in St. Louis, he told me how amazed he was to see the way even major administrators kept reiterating the same requests to the president again and again. He likened it to children's efforts to wear down parents who had said “no.”

*The Rev. Robert T. Kuhn, D.D. served as President of the Central Illinois District from 1985 to 1995, First Vice President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from 1995 to 2001, and for a little over five months during 2001 as President of the Synod.*

Overall, though, Bob himself was much more “yes” than “no.” The Gospel of the crucified and risen Christ predominated in his life and ministry. Once, he and I drove past an undeveloped piece of land in St. Louis county sporting a newly erected sign that promised construction of a new church. “Even at my age,” Bob told me, “I think I would like to be in on a new church start like that.” He was 62 at the time, and it made perfect sense to me that the Lord could easily have used him as a fine church planter.

Bob was a “people person.” He and I often ate lunch together. On the way back from one of those meals in the spring of 2001, I asked him to swing by a book bindery for a copy of my recently completed doctoral dissertation that was ready for me to pick up.

*continued on Page 13*



## Bob Kuhn: A Personal Appreciation

*continued from Page 12*

Only that evening did it occur to me that I had been chauffeured on my errand by the President of the Synod! That dissertation copy is all the more dear to me for this reason.

At that time, people from all over the Synod were appealing to Bob to let his name stand in the rapidly approaching presidential election of 2001 as a nominee from the floor. Al Barry had died an unexpected death that seemed to catch everyone flat-footed. Bob's presidential leadership would be vital to the Synod's stability, the appeal went, even if he served only from 2001 to 2004. Bob said no, though. He had promised his beloved wife Judy that he would retire from full-time activity after the 2001 convention. He kept his word. I, for one, have never questioned his wisdom in that decision.

However, he was not quite finished with office-holding in the Synod. The 2001 convention elected him to the Board of Directors, which in turn chose him as its chairman. Here was another first for Bob. After being the first man to succeed to the presidency of the Synod upon the death of his predecessor, he became the first former president to serve as chairman of the Synod's Board of Directors. He flew in for meetings from Oveido, Florida, where he and Judy had moved in retirement.

In spring, 2002, Bob spoke at two graduations which, together, say much about him. The first was at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Returning to the campus where he had been one of the first to attend college, speaking at the seminary where he had served as an important board member, he found himself very much at home. The other commencement was that of Christ Lutheran High School in Davenport, Iowa, a new school graduating one student. That was not too small for Bob Kuhn. He felt right at home bringing the Good News of Christ there too.

— Ken Schurb

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Springfield, IL 62702-1626

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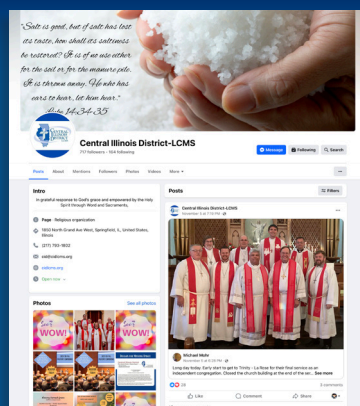
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## CID is on Facebook, Instagram AND YouTube

Come find us @cidlcms! Our pages are filled with prayer and encouragement for you to share with those around you. Join us to keep up to date on District happenings and learn about new and exciting things coming soon!

# Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF)

## Ministry Outreach Grants – 2025 Round 1



Just a reminder to submit your requests for the first round of Ministry Outreach grants from the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF)! Submissions should be received by April 1. These grants are provided to assist our congregations, agencies, and individuals carry out the mission and ministry of the LCMS, with special consideration given to new and innovative opportunities addressing the issues and concerns confronting our District and its congregations. Examples include addressing the needs of our rural congregations and schools, encouraging involvement by our youth, reaching the unchurched, meeting the needs of multi-cultural communities, and addressing the growing needs of the elderly, to name a few.

As mentioned above, the deadline for grant application submission is April 1. The application for the grant can be found on our website at [www.cid-cef.org](http://www.cid-cef.org), then look under "Grants" and "Ministry Outreach Grants." You can also email us at [cef@cidlcms.org](mailto:cef@cidlcms.org) or call our office at (217) 793-1802 to obtain a copy of the application.

*May the Lord guide you to embark on an opportunity to minister to others in our Central Illinois District!*



## ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO CONSIDER CHURCH WORK!

Christ's church will continue until He returns, and that church will continue to need church workers.

**Set Apart to Serve (SAS)** is an initiative of the LCMS to recruit church workers. Together, we pray for workers for the Kingdom of God and encourage children to consider church work vocations. Here are three easy ways you can participate in SAS:

1. **Pray with** your children for God to provide church workers.
2. **Talk to** your children about becoming church workers.
3. **Thank God** for the people who work in your congregation.

To learn more about *Set Apart to Serve*, visit [lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve](http://lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve).

**SET APART TO SERVE**  
LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT





# CAMP CILCA SCHEDULE 2025

February 28–March 1	<a href="#"><u>ACT LIKE MEN</u></a> Woodcutters' Retreat
March 15	<a href="#"><u>Free Pancake Dinner</u></a>
March 28–29	<a href="#"><u>Women's Retreat</u></a>
March 30	<a href="#"><u>Annual Banquet</u></a>
April 5	Spring Work Day
April 25–26	<a href="#"><u>Spring Women's Scrapbooking Retreat</u></a>
May 23–26	CID Campout (No Hog Roast)
May 27	J.C. Training (10 a.m.–2 p.m.)
May 28–July 31	<b>SUMMER PROGRAM</b>
August 2	<a href="#"><u>Homecoming 75th Anniversary Celebration</u></a>
Aug. 29–Sep. 1	CID Camp Out (No Chicken Dinner)
September 12	<a href="#"><u>Whippoorwill Golf Outing</u></a>
September 20	<a href="#"><u>ACT LIKE MEN Shooting Retreat</u></a> Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
October 4	<a href="#"><u>GRIT Run!</u></a>
November 1	<a href="#"><u>ACT LIKE MEN Work Day</u></a>
TBD	<a href="#"><u>Fall Women's Scrapbooking Retreat</u></a>
December 12–13	<a href="#"><u>Joyful Hearts Christmas</u></a>



## ACT LIKE MEN EVENTS

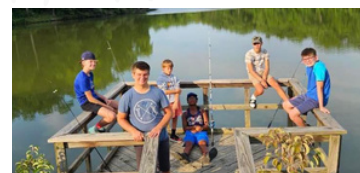
For men of all ages to make connections across generations, learn and sharpen new skills, and grow strong in the Lord.

**"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."**

**– 1 Corinthians 16:13**

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrate the 75th anniversary of outdoor ministry at Camp CILCA all year long! For three quarters of a century God has blessed Central Illinois with an outdoor space where campers of all ages can enjoy the good creation that God has made and hear His life giving Word. To commemorate this milestone, CILCA's summer program will cost only **\$75 per camper per week**. We are also condensing our annual fundraisers into one. The Hog Roast and Chicken Fry will be rolled into one anniversary celebration at the **Homecoming on August 2, 2025**. Click the hyperlinks above for more information on this and other events held throughout the 2025!



# SUMMER PROGRAMS 2025

The **Central Illinois Lutheran Camp Association (CILCA)** exists to foster and strengthen faith in Jesus Christ and fellowship with others in a unique outdoor setting. CILCA strives to reconnect Christians to Christ and Creation.

## **\*\*75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PRICING\*\***

In celebration of CILCA's 75th anniversary, all program sessions for summer 2025 will be available for \$75 if you register before April 1st. All registrations made after April 1st will cost \$100.

For additional information, click on the underlined title.

### **JOYFUL HEARTS**

Campers of all ages with **developmental disabilities** experience the joys of the outdoors during a 4- or 2-night stay.

~~\$360~~/\*~~\$180~~ **\$75\***

- Full Week: **June 8-12**
- Half Week: **June 8-10\* or 10-12\***

### **BOLD SPIRITS**

**4th- thru 6th-grade** campers experience 5 nights of Camp CILCA. ~~\$375~~ **\$75\***

- Session I: **June 1-6**
- Session II: **July 13-18**

### **DAUNTLESS SOULS**

**6th- thru 8th-grade** campers gather for a screen-free week of life-changing outdoor adventure. ~~\$375~~ **\$75\***

- Session I: **June 15-20**
- Session II: **July 6-11**

### **DAY CAMP**

**Grades 1st-8th** come for the day Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. A daily lunch is provided. ~~\$150~~/week. **\$75\*/week**

- Session: **Every week May 28-August 1**

## **WE NEED YOU!**

9th-graders and up, serve as a Junior Counselor or Joyful Hearts volunteer and enjoy camp absolutely free!

Joyful Hearts Volunteer- June 8-12  
J.C. Training - May 27

### **GENERATIONS**

Campers age **4 thru 4th grade** are introduced to camp with a 1-night stay with a parent or other adult. **\$75 per person**

- Session I: **June 20-21**
- Session II: **July 18-19**

### **AQUA WEEK**

**4th- thru 6th-grade** water-loving campers will enjoy a full week of water-based activities. ~~\$375~~ **\$75\***

- Session: **July 13-18**

### **SURVIVAL WEEK**

**Grades 6-8** learn fire starting, outdoor cooking, shelter building, sleeping under the stars, and more. Each day will teach and develop a new skill useful to surviving outdoors. ~~\$375~~ **\$75\***

- Session: **June 22-27**

### **INTREPID HEARTS**

**High school students** enjoy the rejuvenation of God's creation through a week or half week of camp. ~~\$375~~/\*~~\$180~~ (half) **\$75\***

- Full Week: **June 29-July 4**
- Half Week: **June 29-July 1 or 2-4\***

### **PATHFINDERS**

**1st- thru 4th-grade** campers break out on their own with a 2- or 3-night stay. ~~\$155~~/\*~~\$180~~ **\$75\***

- Session I: **May 28-30**
- Session II: **July 23-25**
- Session III: **July 27-30\***

### **NIGHT OWL**

**6th- thru 8th-graders** experience camp while staying up all night and sleeping all day. Enough said! ~~\$375~~ **\$75\***

- Session: **July 6-11**

### **ART, DRAMA, & ATHLETICS**

**5th- thru 8th-grade** campers choose one track—**Art, Drama, or Athletics**—for the week & are led by experienced instructors. ~~\$375~~ **\$75\***

- Session: **June 15-20**

### **FAMILY CAMP**

**Parents and children of any age** are able to enjoy 3 days and 2 nights at camp with their family. ~~\$400~~ for up to 5 family members + ~~\$80~~ for each additional person. **\$375 + \$75**

- Session: **July 20-22**

## **REGISTER TODAY!**

Find in-depth details on each camp & register on our website!

Ages based on grade **completed**.

**WWW.CILCA.ORG**





# INVESTMENT APPLICATION



## CHURCH EXTENSION FUND, INC. (CEF) Central Illinois District - LCMS (CID)

1850 North Grand Avenue West  
Springfield, IL 62702-1626  
TELEPHONE: (217) 793-1802 FAX: (217) 793-9454  
EMAIL: [cef@cidlcms.org](mailto:cef@cidlcms.org) [www.cid-cef.org](http://www.cid-cef.org)

New Investment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to:  
CID Church Extension Fund

-OR-

Existing CID-CEF Investment Certificate # \_\_\_\_\_

(Signed Investment Certificate or Lost Certificate Affidavit and Indemnity Agreement must be returned with Application)

Reinvest \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Redeem \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### INVESTMENT CERTIFICATES - Minimum Investment: \$500 - Interest paid/applied and statement sent semi-annually

- ☐ 2.50% 5-year term ☐ 2.25% 3-year term  
☐ 2.00% 1-year term ☐ 0.75% 6-month term  
**Special Term and Rate – Limited Time!!!**  
☐ 3.75% - 11-month term

### INTEREST PAYMENT METHOD (Choose one)

- ☐ Accumulate interest and add to investment  
☐ Investment check semi-annually (if over \$25)  
☐ Direct Deposit – requires completed enrollment form  
(Go to [www.cidlcms.org](http://www.cidlcms.org) or contact CEF to request the form)

INTEREST RATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE – CALL TO CONFIRM CURRENT RATES

### FLEXIBLE SAVINGS – Interest added to account monthly, statement sent quarterly

- ☐ Regular Flexible Savings Account Interest Rate: 0.40% Minimum: \$25 – available to all customers  
☐ Capital Campaign Flexible Savings Account Interest Rate: 1.00% Minimum: \$500 – available only to religious organizations

## Account Ownership (Complete A, B, or C. Please print)

### A. Sole or Joint Owners (One or more owners as joint tenants with full rights of survivorship and not tenants in common. Beneficiaries may be designated on "Beneficiary Designation" form. Interest is reported to the IRS using the Social Security number of the first owner listed.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Last or Religious Organization Name First MI Social Security # or TIN Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI Social Security # Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI Social Security # Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

☐ Check if "Beneficiary Designation" form is attached ☐ Check that all joint owners have signed application

### B. Trust ("Certificate of Existence of Trust and Authority to Act" must be completed and sent with application)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Trust Social Security #/TIN

### C. Custodian Investment for Minor (Under the Illinois Uniform Transfers to Minors Act)

\_\_\_\_\_  
MINOR Last First MI Social Security # Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
CUSTODIAN Last First MI Social Security # Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

CONTINUE TO BACK OF PAGE

Contact Information for Account

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email Address

Supporting Investments

(Please provide the organization to be recognized for current or future investment requirements)

Your Home Congregation or Other LCMS Organization

City

Investment Certification and Signature – Signatures of all account owners are required.

By signing this application ("I" refers to all applicants, whether one or more), I certify that:

- All information provided is true and correct.
- I am of legal age and not a minor.
- I authorize the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund to initiate any correcting debit or credit that may be necessary.
- I have received a current Offering Circular of the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund.
- I am a member of, contributor to, or participant in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or any district or other program, activity, or organization which constitutes a part of the Synod or any of its districts, or I am an ancestor, descendant, or successor in interest to such person.
- I am a U.S. person (including a U.S. resident alien).
- The Social Security or Tax ID number shown for me on this application is correct.
- I am not subject to backup withholding because (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) the IRS has not notified me that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding. Please draw an "X" through the preceding sentence if you ARE currently subject to backup withholding. Due to IRS regulations, the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund cannot record your investment until your Taxpayer Identification Number is provided and the above certification signed. The IRS does not require your consent to any provisions of this application other than the certifications required to avoid backup withholding.

Signature of Account Owner/Trustee/Custodian/Authorized Signer

Date

Signature of Account Owner/Trustee/Custodian/Authorized Signer

Date

Signature of Account Owner/Trustee/Custodian/Authorized Signer

Date

**The CID-CEF is a nonprofit religious organization, therefore CID-CEF investments are not SIPC- or FDIC-Insured deposit accounts.**

The CID-CEF reserves the right to call this investment for redemption upon 60 days' written notice and reserves the right to request 30 days' notice of redemption prior to maturity on certificates and 15 days' notice on flexible savings accounts. Certificates renew automatically unless the CID-CEF is notified otherwise within 10 days after maturity. Certificate is non-negotiable, redeemable with the CID-CEF upon proper endorsement, and subject to an early redemption penalty.

**The Mission of the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, Inc. (CID-CEF) is to aid member congregations and agencies in the Central Illinois District of the LCMS in building and expanding their facilities and their ministry for the growth of God's Kingdom.**