

# 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 3



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**Making  
Disciples  
for Life** 

Published June 2, 2025

## THE 61ST REGULAR CONVENTION OF THE CID

# *"Witnessing Christ to the People"*

Acts 13:30-31

The 61st Convention of the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the 10th Convention of the CID Church Extension Fund, Inc. will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, IL, on July 13-15, 2025.

## NOMINEES FOR DISTRICT PRESIDENT

The following pastors have received sufficient nominations and have agreed to serve as District President should he be elected at the upcoming Central Illinois District (CID) Convention — Jason M. Braaten, Mark R. Eddy, and Michael Mohr.

### Jason M. Braaten

*Currently serving as Pastor of the Congregation at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tuscola, IL*

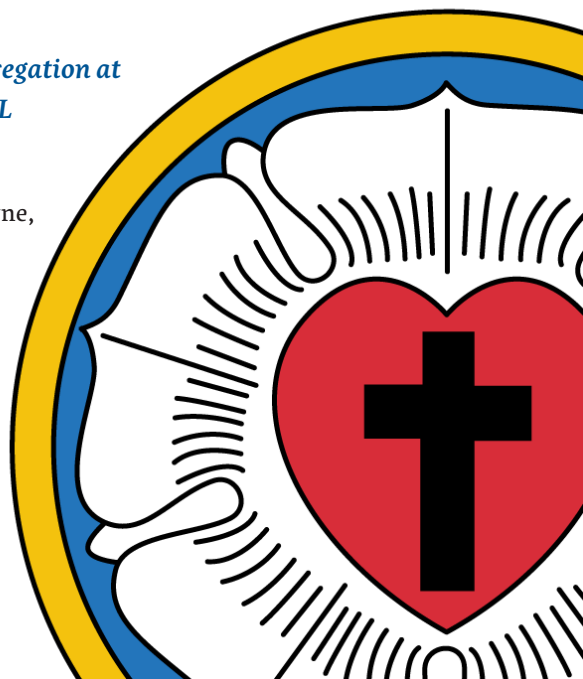
#### Previous Parishes served:

- Major Gifts Fundraiser, CTS Fort Wayne, IN, 2007-2010

#### Past and/or Present Position/Offices held in District/Synod:

- CID Conference Committee, 2011-2013
- CID BOD, 2018-2019
- LCEF BOD, 2019-present

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# Results of *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.**

People across CID care about the missions that their congregations carry out together here in central Illinois. A “Ministry Readiness” study in early spring, 2025 showed their interest in and commitment to their District’s specialized missions.

Among those surveyed, some were representing their congregations. Others answered as individuals. All were asked about the value of several CID missions. Respondents who assessed both Ministry in Spanish and Deaf Ministry as providing valuable ministry numbered in about the 70% range, while those rating Campus Ministry as providing a valuable ministry ran higher still, in the 90% range.

However, gaining familiarity with what happens in these ministries presents an ongoing challenge. About 70% of individual respondents indicated awareness of Campus Ministry. Still fewer numbers, about 40% of individual respondents, reported being aware of Ministry in Spanish and Deaf Ministry.

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod (LCEF) conducted this Ministry Readiness study for CID to determine the feasibility of a possible District financial campaign. Response proved strong. A total of some 350 surveys were submitted, 40 of which were completed by representatives of congregations.



LCEF ended up recommending a goal for a three-year campaign of 2 to 3 million dollars, probably on the higher side of that range. Some 33% of congregation respondents thought their churches would make a three-year financial commitment, while 53% said they were unsure. The figures came out similarly for individuals: 30% indicated that they would make a three-year commitment, while 56% were unsure.

Going forward, providing additional opportunities for people to learn about the Christ-proclaiming work of these missions will be vital. A projected campaign would feature a variety of ways to generate increasing awareness of these missions in “our own backyard” that CID carries out on behalf of its members.

The study also affirmed that, within a financial campaign, the first priority should be to provide for proactive repairs and upgrades anticipated to be needed at CID-owned mission sites and the District office for the next decade.

Thereafter, the District can contribute campaign-generated money to endowment funds that can help to support the various specialized missions.

A more detailed summary of the Ministry Readiness study’s results may be found in Mission Education Toolkit - Part 3 at <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-stewardship.html> While you are there, please take a look at the rest of the “toolkit” items, which include the entire Mission Commission report to CID’s 2025 convention.



# Funding Campaign Proposal

**A late overture to the 2025 CID convention calls for the District to launch a \$3 million funding campaign. The CID Board of Directors adopted this late overture in May.**

The projected three-year campaign would consist of two phases. In Phase I, \$1.5 million would be gathered to pay for proactive major repairs and upgrades to District-owned mission facilities and the two-building CID office complex. (One of these buildings is the worship site for CID's new church start, Immanuel Lutheran Chapel, Springfield.) An additional \$1.5 million received during Phase II would be funneled into six endowment funds, the earnings from which would support long-standing specialized CID missions.

The background for this campaign proposal lies in two studies. In the first, conducted internally by CID, missions where the District owns property were asked to assess the major repairs and upgrades they figure to need over the next 10 years. Not counting the Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf building in Jacksonville, which CID is in the process of selling, these sites are our campus churches at U. of I., ISU, and WIU, plus Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, East Moline, a congregation where the ministry is conducted almost entirely in Spanish. The estimated cost of repairs and upgrades for the next decade ran to about \$935,000. This figure does not include any similar work at the District office in Springfield. Moreover, the figure is given in current dollar values. Inflation and rising prices are likely to drive costs still higher in the future.

Faced with these needs, projected to average well over \$100,000 annually over the next 10 years, CID initiated the second study (thanks to a generous grant from central Illinois Church Extension Fund) for "Ministry Readiness" with The Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod. This study, completed in late April, estimated that a campaign target of \$3 million seems feasible. (See related story on page 2)

Phase I of the proposed campaign would build cash reserves to pay for work on the physical facilities at the four District-owned mission sites and the District office through 2035. None of these facilities stands in need of emergency refurbishment right away, but they will require major repairs and upgrades over the next decade to keep them in good shape.

After Phase I, Phase II contributions would be divided equally among the respective six endowment funds that support: all four of CID's campus ministries, plus deaf ministry and ministry in Spanish at Cristo Rey. The endowment funds can provide additional revenue sources which can help fund these ministries into the future.

Christ brings giving home to us through His Word and Sacraments. Yet after it is brought home, giving does not remain "at home," in one's own congregation. It can extend the proclamation of Christ elsewhere, including elsewhere within our District. The prospective campaign would offer a vehicle for such giving.

Convention floor committee 2 will meet on June 14 to formulate a resolution for convention consideration based on the Board of Directors' overture. If you wish, please communicate your thoughts with the floor committee before it meets, in care of President Michael Mohr at [mmohr@cidcms.org](mailto:mmohr@cidcms.org)







## From the *President's Desk*

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

# Witnessing Christ to the People

**CID Convention  
July 13-15, 2025**

This year's convention is being  
asked to examine how we, as the  
148 congregations of the CID,  
will continue to undertake  
that witness as we move forward  
into the mid-21st century.

Mary Magdelene saw the risen Lord and witnessed to the other disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" The Ten saw the Lord in the upper room and witnessed to Thomas, "We have seen the Lord!" We encounter Christ in the means of Word and Sacrament that He has instituted, and we witness to our friends and neighbors, "We have seen the Lord!"

This summer, we will be gathering for the 61st Regular Convention of the Central Illinois District under the theme of "Witnessing Christ to the People." Drawn from Acts 13:31, our convention theme reflects the joyous duty of all God's people to share the Good News of Christ's resurrection. This year's convention finds itself situated between two apt observances in our church calendar — the Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council at Nicæa (June 12) and Feast of St. Mary Magdelene (July 22) — reminding us not only to bear witness to the Resurrected Christ, but to be true in our confession of Him. Minnesota North District Brady Finnern will be leading the convention in a study of our Confessions and how these faithful witnesses of Scripture help shape the witness we give.

This year's convention is being asked to examine how we, as the 148 congregations of the CID, will continue to undertake that witness as we move forward into the mid-21st century. The primary item that will occupy our thought and consideration is supplemental funding to proactively care for the ministries we undertake, all 148 congregations of us, through our four campus ministries, our Hispanic ministries in the Quad Cities and Beardstown, and our deaf ministry throughout the district. More information on this funding campaign is provided on pages 2 and 3 in this issue of *The Gatepost*, but we need to be sure that every congregational delegate knows well each congregation's desire and ability to support our work together through this campaign of special gifts over and above the regular contributions received for our work together. These additional gifts will proactively take care of needed large-ticket maintenance items anticipated over the next ten years at these mission sites and our district office to help uphold and maintain our work of sharing the Gospel.

Another important function of our convention is to elect officers to assist in the work of the district. As you can see from the ballot on page 7, there are still a few key positions with no nominations. If you know of someone who would work well in these positions, and they are willing to serve, please fill out a Floor Nomination Form (available as a fillable PDF on the Convention website at [cidlcms.org/Convention2025/2025.Floor.Nominations.pdf](http://cidlcms.org/Convention2025/2025.Floor.Nominations.pdf)).

Convention workbooks were emailed to every congregation and to all delegates that were registered prior to the April 29 distribution date. A supplement, to include late reports and overtures, as well as updated proposed resolutions, will be emailed to every congregation and registered delegate (voting and advisory) on June 16. All documents related to the convention can be found on the convention page of the district website ([cidlcms.org/Convention2025](http://cidlcms.org/Convention2025)).

## THE 61ST REGULAR CONVENTION OF THE CID

# “Witnessing Christ to the People”

Acts 13:30-31

## NOMINEES FOR DISTRICT PRESIDENT

continued from Page 1

### Past and/or Present Positions/Offices held in city, state, voluntary and professional organizations:

- Tuscola Library Board, 2012-present
- Tuscola Rotary Club President, 2016-2017
- Tuscola Rotary Club Vice-President, 2015-2016
- Tuscola Rotary Club Secretary, 2012-2015
- Tuscola Community Foundation, 2015-present
- LCMS Contract Writer, Stewardship, 2013-2020
- Logic Instructor, Wittenberg Academy, 2013-present

### What do you believe you could contribute to this position if elected?

I have a deep love for Christ, His Word, and His Church, a love that seeks the truth and desires to share it. I have an abiding respect for our Lutheran heritage and the rich theological tradition in doctrine and practice bequeathed to us from our Lutheran forefathers, a respect that I seek to impart in those around me. But not every challenge we face is addressed in this rich tradition, yet it informs how we meet and answer them. We ought not change for the sake of change.

As a former fundraiser and recruiter for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, I learned the delicate art of facing conflict and difficult situations — temporal and spiritual — in a pastoral, caring, biblical and honest manner. This means that I do not shy away from conflict and am not afraid to ask difficult questions or make tough decisions so that the truth may be heard, souls comforted, families and faith restored, and the Church further united.

As LCMS Lutherans, we have much to be thankful for. If I can be an agent, beyond my call as a parish pastor, to hand down the great gifts we have received, I am eager to serve.

### Mark R. Eddy

*Currently serving as Pastor of the Congregation at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Taylor Ridge, IL*

### Previous Parishes served:

- Trinity, Hartford, SD, 1983-86
- Faith, Shumway, IL, 1986-91
- Holy Cross, Golden, IL, 1991-2006
- St. Paul, Bowen, IL, 2000-2006

### Past and/or Present Position/Offices held in District/Synod:

- Central Illinois District Evangelism Commission member, (1988-1991, 2009-2012 secretary)
- Synod Convention Delegate, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2023
- Quincy Circuit Counselor, 1997-2003
- CID Board of Directors, 2006-2012
- CID ad hoc committee to update the bylaws, 2011-2012, chairman
- CID Congregational Constitutions and District Handbook Committee, chairman, 2012-2018
- CID Missions Commission, secretary, (2018-present)
- CID 2nd Vice President, 2018-Nov. 2021
- CID 1st Vice President, Nov. 2021-present

### Past and/or Present Positions/Offices held in city, state, voluntary and professional organizations:

- Community: Beecher City, IL, schools community advisory committee, 1989-1991
- Mercer County Ministerial Association secretary, 2012-2015, 2017-present
- Quad City Wind Ensemble board of directors member-at-large, 2020-2022

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# NOMINEES FOR DISTRICT PRESIDENT

*continued from Page 5*

## What do you believe you could contribute to this position if elected?

By God's grace and with His continued help I would use whatever abilities He has given me to provide faithful, biblical, evangelical, orthodox, responses to whatever issues arise, and be available at any time to deal with them. To this point God has kept me healthy in both body and mind, so that I could energetically learn the "paper work" aspects of the position, get to know the members of the District whom I do not already know, and provide the help which the Synod and congregations expect (provided that those expectations agree with God's inspired Scriptures).

## Michael Mohr

*Currently serving as Central Illinois District President, Springfield, IL, and serving as Pastor of Congregation at Holy Cross (sole 2018-2022, assisting capacity 2022-present), Vandalia, IL*

### Previous Parishes served:

- Grace, Strasburg, IL, 1998-2018

### Past and/or Present Position/Offices held in District/Synod:

- Pastor's Conference Committee, 1999-2000
- Shelby Circuit Visitor, 2000-2006
- District Convention Floor Committee, member, 2003
- Event Organizer, CID Day at the Ballpark, 1999-2014
- Chairman, Central Illinois District Centennial Anniversary Committee, 2007
- Assistant Secretary, CID, 2009-2015
- Secretary, CID, 2015- 2021
- District Pastoral Counselor, LWMLCID, 2018-2022
- 2nd Vice President, CID, 2021-2022
- District President, CID, 2020-present
- COP Representative, Concordia Seminary Board of Regents, 2024-present

### Past and/or Present Positions/Offices held in city, state, voluntary and professional organizations:

- Treasurer, Helping Hands Ministerial Alliance, 1998-2018
- Thrivent Chapter Board, various offices, 2003-2011
- Member, MAPPING the Future of Strasburg (Community Strategic Planning), 2007-2018
- Chairman, Public School Strategic Planning Steering Committee, 2008-2009,
- Chairman, Family Life Center Board of Directors, 2011-2013
- Vandalia Association of Churches, Member, 2018-2022

### What do you believe you could contribute to this position if elected?

Praise be to God for the relative calm and unity He has bestowed upon our district! Our work together, all 148 congregations of the Central Illinois District, is sharing the good news of Christ with all those who live in our communities. The two greatest challenges I see in the coming triennium are maximizing the efficiencies of the Word and Sacrament ministries throughout the district (both within and among individual congregations and in those mission efforts conducted on behalf of the congregations of the district) and in sharing/communicating the joys, successes, needs, and concerns of the work carried out on behalf of the congregations of the district. Having come through the steep, 30+ month learning curve of what it is to be a district president, I think the Lord has positioned me to be able to more readily concentrate in this next triennium on these tasks of supporting and coordinating the fantastic work being accomplished by the congregations of the district through their local pastors, commissioned workers, and volunteers as well as the workers and volunteers set apart to serve in district mission sites.

NOMINEES

Secretary

Clergy (1)  
Justin Cullen  
No Candidate

Assistant Secretary

Clergy (1)  
Marcus Manley  
No Candidate

Treasurer

Layman (1)  
Joel Oschwald  
No Candidate

Financial Secretary

Layman (1)  
No Candidate  
No Candidate

Board of Directors

Clergy (4)  
Timothy Fitzner  
Ryan Meyer  
Steve Sommerer  
Kent Tibben  
Aaron Uphoff  
Kevin Wendorf  
No Candidate  
No Candidate

Teachers (2)

Robinette Flach  
Rebecca Heppe  
Jordan Hopman  
Steve Parry

Laymen (4)

William Blessman  
Kevin Block  
Aaron Schroeder  
No Candidate  
No Candidate  
No Candidate  
No Candidate  
No Candidate  
No Candidate

Congregational  
Constitutions & District  
Handbook Committee

Clergy (2)  
Stephen Mueller  
James Stuenkel  
Kent Tibben  
No Candidate

Lay – Attorney (1)

No Candidate  
No Candidate

Nominations Committee for  
2028 District Convention

Clergy (2)  
Jason Braaten  
David Dunlop  
Keith Kettner  
No Candidate

Teachers (2)

Gayle Dietsch  
Rebecca Heppe  
Sandy Spitz  
Brandon West

Laymen (2)

David Harshaw  
Don James  
Deloris Blessman  
No Candidate

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*If you know of someone who would work well in these positions, and they are willing to serve, please fill out a Floor Nomination Form — available as a fillable PDF on the Convention website at [cidlcms.org/Convention2025/2025.Floor.Nominations.pdf](http://cidlcms.org/Convention2025/2025.Floor.Nominations.pdf).*  
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ESSAYIST

**This year’s Convention Essayist will be the Rev. Brady Finnern.** Rev. Finnern is the President of the LCMS Minnesota North District, consisting of 196 congregations and 26 schools. He received his B.A. from Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN (2002) and his M.Div from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (2006). He served St. John, North Prairie (2006-2010) and Messiah, Sartell (2010-2022) until his election as District President. He is the host of Concord Matters on KFYO and currently serves on the Concordia University System Board of Directors. Rev. Finnern and his wife, Amy, are parents of Kajsa, Averil, Elias, and Xavia. In his free time, he enjoys coaching track and field, traveling, hiking, making maple syrup, and movie nights.

## SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025

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#### 7:00 PM - Opening Communion Service

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
2645 Old Jacksonville Road, Springfield, IL 62704  
(LCMS President Rev. Matthew Harrison, DD – preaching)

### MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025

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#### 8:00 AM - Call to Order, Opening Devotion

- Floor Committee 1 - Convention Resolutions
- Elections
- Convention Essay Part 1 (9:20 AM)
- Elections Committee: Vice Presidents, Nominations: All Other Offices
- Floor Committee 2 - Mission Funding and Recognitions
- Synod Representative

#### 12:10 -1:30 PM - Lunch

- Caucus for Advisory Delegates
- Church Extension Fund Convention
- Elections Committee: Secretary, Asst. Secy, Treasurer, Financial Secretary
- Floor Committee 1
- Elections Committee: BOD Clergy, BOD Commissioned

#### 3:50 – 4:20 PM - Synod Rep. Q&A

- Elections Committee: BOD Teachers, BOD Lay, Circuit Visitors
- Floor Committee 2 - Mission Funding and Recognitions
- Convention Essay Part 2 (5:00 PM)
- Elections Committee: Congregational Constitution & District Handbook Committee, District Nominations Committee

#### 6:05 PM - Closing Prayer, Adjournment for the Day

#### 6:10 PM - CID Endowment Fund Convention

Dinner on your own

### TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025

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#### 8:00 AM - Opening Devotion/Memorial Service

- Floor Committee 1 - Convention Resolutions
- Convention Essay Part 3 (9:25 AM)
- LCMS Video Report (10:05 AM)
- Floor Committee 2 - Mission Funding and Recognitions
- Credentials Committee Final Report

#### 11:40 AM - Closing Devotion and Installation of Officers

#### 12:00 PM - Adjournment



#### REMINDERS:

The Convention Workbook is available online at [www.cidlcms.org](http://www.cidlcms.org) and each delegate is responsible for printing off their copy and bringing it to the Convention.

All documents and forms related to the Convention can be found on the Convention page of the CID website at [cidlcms.org/Convention2025](http://cidlcms.org/Convention2025)



## RESOLUTIONS

A complete text of each resolution can be located in the Convention Workbook found on the CID District website at <https://www.cidlcms.org/Convention2025/2025.Workbook.pdf>



### FLOOR COMMITTEE 1 – CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

- Resolution 25-1-01 To Stimulate Training for Witness
- Resolution 25-1-02 To Encourage Lutheran School Accreditation
- Resolution 25-1-03 To Encourage Witness and Outreach in Nursing Homes
- Resolution 25-2-04 To Clarify Policies Regarding Application and Renewal of RSO Status
- Resolution 25-1-05 To Amend and Update Selected Bylaws of the CID Handbook
- Resolution 25-1-06 To Encourage Use of Beyond the Classroom (BTC)
- Resolution 25-1-07 To Encourage Sabbaticals for Church Workers
- Resolution 25-1-08 To Amend and Update Nomenclature for Church Workers in the Bylaws of the CID Handbook
- Resolution 25-1-09 To Encourage Study of the Left-hand and Right-hand Modes of Governance
- Resolution 25-1-10 To Decline Overture 25-03

### FLOOR COMMITTEE 2 – MISSION FUNDING AND RECOGNITIONS

- Resolution 25-2-01 To Launch a Funding Campaign for Mission Support in the Central Illinois District
- Resolution 25-2-02 To Suspend “A Dollar for Missions” in the Central Illinois District
- Resolution 25-2-03 To Prioritize District Facilities for Funding
- Resolution 25-2-04 To Annualize Congregational Assessments
- Resolution 25-2-05 To Commemorate the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.
- Resolution 25-2-06 To Commemorate the 125th Anniversary of Deaf Ministry in Central Illinois
- Resolution 25-2-07 To Commemorate the Life and Ministry of Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn
- Resolution 25-2-08 To Encourage Church Planting
- Resolution 25-2-09 To Encourage Ministry In Prisons and County Jails

## COMMITTEES

*Ch* - Chairman

*P* - Pastor

*T* - Teacher/Commissioned

*L* - Laymen

*A* - Staff Advisor

### Floor Committee 1 – Convention Resolutions

**Ch:** Rev. Andrew Herzberg, **P:** Rev. Matthew Berndt, **L:** Mr. Jerry Lindsey, **L:** Mr. John Casebeer, **T:** Mr. Larry Wooster, **T:** Mr. Jeff Shoumaker, **A:** Mr. Trip Rodgers, **A:** Rev. Michael Mohr

### Floor Committee 2 – Mission Funding and Recognitions

**Ch:** Rev. Michael Burdick, **P:** Rev. Bruce Scarbeary, **L:** Mr. Robert Dalton, **L:** Mr. Larry Abbe, **T:** Mrs. Sandy Spitz, **T:** Mr. Bryce Becker, **A:** Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb, **A:** Rev. Michael Mohr

### Nominations Committee

**Ch:** Rev. Michael Schuermann, **P:** Rev. Joshua Theilen, **L:** Mr. Eldon Garlisch, **L:** Mr. Ray Stuckemeyer, **L:** Mr. Thomas Blessman, **T:** Mrs. Lisa Dippel, **T:** Mrs. Robinette Flach, Secretary

### Elections

**Ch:** Rev. Tim Nerud, **P:** TBD, **T:** TBD, **L:** TBD, **L:** TBD, **L:** TBD

### Registration and Credentials

**Ch:** Rev. Brian Johnston, **P:** TBD, **T:** TBD, **L:** TBD. **A:** Rev. Kent Umbarger, **Secretary and CID Office staff:** Hugh Shown and Amy Holmes



## 80th LWML CID Convention

*God blessed the LWML with  
a great day in the Lord.*

The 80th LWML CID convention was held on Saturday, April 26th at Zion Lutheran Church in Lincoln. 246 were in attendance. Opening Bible study was led by Counselor Rev. Ryan Meyer on the convention theme of 'Planting Seeds of Faith.' Speaker Missionary Gary of Mission Central urged and challenged each one to TELL OF JESUS. Jesus is what the world needs to hear

and hear it now. LWML President Eden Keefe brought words of welcome from the LWML as well as serving as a breakout speaker. Other morning and afternoon breakout sessions were led by Rev. Joshua Theilen on praying the Lord's Prayer, Rev. Thomas Fischer of Lutheran Heritage Foundation spoke to Mites at Work in All the World and also From Prayer to Print to Praise!, Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb spoke to Witnessing Helps and Securing CID Missions, Director of LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces Chaplain Craig Muehler spoke of Operation Barnabus. The main business of the delegate business session was the setting of a Mite Goal of \$110,000 for the 2025-2026 year. The following grants were selected for funding in this order: 1-Student Aid for Church Workers-\$30,000, 2-LCMS Disaster Relief-\$10,000, 3-CID Dollars for Missions-\$25,000, 4-Healing Spaces for at Risk Children-\$10,000, 5-Just for Moms-\$3544, 6-Our Saviors Lutheran School in Uganda-partial grant of \$3956. God continues to do mighty works through our mites. May our goal be reached. LCMS 1st Vice President Mark Eddy addressed the group. LLL president Tom Blessman brought greeting to us as well. Rev. Rodney Blomquist spoke to a new prison ministry outreach. With resolutions of thanks to all and for all that had been done, Rev. Meyer closed the convention with devotions.

On Friday afternoon, over 100 ladies participated in servant events that included quilt tying, cards for Phil's Friends and Lutheran school teachers, making of zip ties, marking Bibles and labeling of books for the LLL both at the State Fair. These books had been purchased with a previous mite grant. Following a supper, a worship service with communion was a blessing to all. The Orphan Grain Train truck was filled as well as monetary donations for both Orphan Grain Train and LCMS Disaster Relief were collected.

## 2025 Youth Bible Bowl Results



The CID Youth Bible Bowl took place on Sunday afternoon, April 6, 2025 in the gym of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, in Galesburg, Illinois. Teams from the Rock Island and Quincy circuits participated by answering questions about **"The Life of David."**

After a round robin style tournament, the champions were team "A" from Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Galesburg, with a record of 5 wins and 2 losses. Team members were Nikki Cansino, Ezra Sommerer, Seeley Koch, and Calie Cansino. The second place team was team "B" from Mt. Calvary, with a record of 4 and 2. Team members were Daniel Sommerer, Natalie Cansino, Oliver Koch, and Micah Sommerer. The third place team came from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Macomb. Team members were Lonny,

Manny, and Ty Hull. Pastor Mark Eddy from Zion Lutheran Church, Taylor Ridge was quizmaster.

Pastor Steven & Melanie Sommerer from Mount Calvary served as score keepers. Pastor Christopher Hull from Immanuel served as time keeper (and fill-in quizmaster). Refreshments were provided by the host church. Thanks to everyone who attended and/or helped in any way.

The Bible Bowl is open to 6th-12th graders from any congregation in the CID. A new Bible topic is chosen for each year. Since this year's topic came from the Old Testament, the 2026 Bible Bowl will be on part of the New Testament. More information will be announced in the fall of 2025.

*Thank you to all the participants for a fun afternoon!*

# Concordia University Chicago to Host Annual Maroon & Gold Gala

*Event Supports Prepared to Serve Initiative and Honors Distinguished Alumni*

River Forest, IL – Concordia University Chicago's signature fundraising event, Maroon & Gold, returns Saturday, October 18, at the elegant Eaglewood Resort and Spa in Itasca, Illinois. This inspiring evening will bring together alumni, donors, and friends of the university in support of the Prepared to Serve initiative.

This year's gala will celebrate three remarkable individuals who truly Stand Tall—living lives of unwavering faith, dedicated service, and a deep commitment to education.



## Maroon & Gold Gala

**Saturday  
October 18, 2025**

**Eaglewood Resort and Spa  
Itasca, IL**

**Tickets:  
[www.cuchicago.edu/maroon-gold](http://www.cuchicago.edu/maroon-gold)**

*Proceeds from Maroon and Gold will benefit the Prepared to Serve initiative—Concordia University Chicago's commitment to preparing future church leaders with excellence in education, spiritual formation, and service. Guests will enjoy a memorable evening of fellowship, fine dining, and celebration in support of a vital cause. Tickets, sponsorship opportunities, and additional event details are available at [www.cuchicago.edu/maroon-gold](http://www.cuchicago.edu/maroon-gold).*

### JONATHAN SCHULTZ – BA '90 – DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

*Presented to alumni who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement, leadership, and service in their vocation and community, reflecting the mission and values of Concordia University Chicago.*

**Jonathan Schultz** is President & CEO of Concordia Publishing House in St. Louis, MO. Since joining CPH in 1998, he has served in various leadership roles, including Vice President and Corporate Counsel. A graduate of Concordia-Chicago and Loyola University School of Law, Schultz and his wife Susan BA '94 also served as volunteer missionaries in Guatemala. His career reflects a deep commitment to Lutheran education and service.

### KAYE WOLFF – ONE HEART AWARD

***One Heart Award** is drawn from the meaning of "Concordia" and celebrates a non-alum individual who embodies our core values, excels in their chosen vocation, and expands the University's impact through their association.*

A retired information and technology professional, **Kaye Wolff** has dedicated decades of volunteer service to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), particularly in ministries serving minority communities. She played a key role in producing the LCMS docu-movie *The First Rosa* (2014), serving as unit production manager. Wolff has also held numerous leadership roles in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) at local, district, and national levels.

### REV. STEPHEN STARKE – BA '77 – SPIRITUS CHRISTI

*The Spiritus Christi Award is presented to an individual who has performed his or her responsibilities with unusual effectiveness, influence, and with the highest quality of service to the Church at large.*

**Rev. Stephen Starke** has written more than 250 hymns inspired by Scripture since graduating from Concordia Theological Seminary in 1983. He is frequently commissioned for special hymn compositions and leads workshops, including at Concordia's annual Lectures in Church Music conference. He has served congregations in Illinois, Connecticut, and Michigan.

[www.cuchicago.edu](http://www.cuchicago.edu)

**ABOUT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO:** Steadfast in Jesus Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, Concordia University Chicago promotes academic rigor in its liberal arts and professional programs; grounds students in objective truth, integrity, and excellence; and practices faithfulness to the Confessional teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as it forms students for vocations in church, family, and the world.



ENDURE  
JULY 19-23, 2025; NEW ORLEANS, LA



## 2025 LCMS NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

### 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)



Sign-up now at  
[www.cidlcms.org](https://www.cidlcms.org)  
to get  
*The GatePost* and  
*News You Can Use*  
emailed to you.



1850 North Grand Avenue West  
Springfield, IL 62702-1626

*The GatePost* for The Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is a supplement to congregational newsletters.

#### Submit all articles to the Editor:

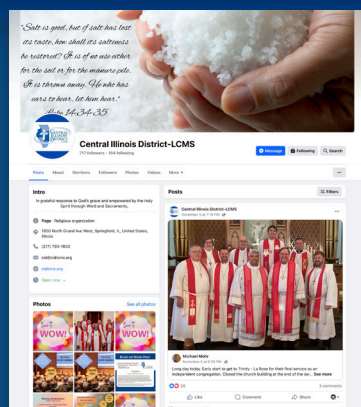
Lewis “Trip” Rodgers  
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## CID is on Facebook, Instagram AND YouTube

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!



# 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

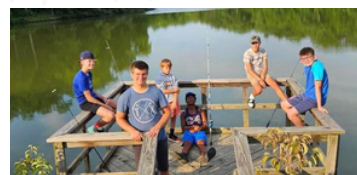
For men of all ages to make connections across generations, learn and sharpen new skills, and grow strong in the Lord.

**"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

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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.