



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

May 2024

News You Can Use

Holy Communion Is a Living Communion with Christ

What kind of body and blood do we receive in the Lord's Supper? Dead blood coagulates; it dries up with nothing more to give. We don't receive Jesus' dead blood on the old rugged cross, on a hill far away. We don't receive a transfusion from an inanimate corpse. We don't paint His blood on ourselves as if we were the doorposts of Goshen.

Christ is risen! Jesus' living blood flows and gives us His life. He, His Word, body, and blood are doing the doing. The risen Lamb of God takes away our sins today! Christ is the operator; you're the operated. Dr. Jesus donates His living body and blood outside of us under bread and wine, but for us Christians to eat and to drink. It's packed with Divine virility, and Jesus is a matching human universal donor for you (Heb. 9:14). You are a matching recipient by faith.

We call it the Sacrament of the Altar because Jesus actually does this at each of our altars. At His word, we receive the same body and blood that died on the cross but is now risen. We receive that life that cannot die. Jesus' living blood has everything to sustain us to live though we also die, and to await the resurrection of our bodies and the life everlasting. Jesus is alive and He pumps life into His church via His word and His body and blood. We live because He lives in Communion with us.

Reverend Marcus Manley - Bethlehem and Zion Evangelical Lutheran- Altamont

Pray For Our Central Illinois District Missions supported by your church's Mission Dollars to the District. "Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored."

Please remember in your prayers all our CID campus ministries, especially Rev. Michael Schuermann and University Lutheran Church in Champaign, serving students, faculty, and staff of the University of Illinois and other institutions. And pray for the "Keeping Christ on Campus" campaign, building endowments to help CID support our campus ministries.

Stay Connected with your District

Looking for additional information, visit <https://linktr.ee/cidlcms> or connect with the following items:

- † CID's GatePost (newsletter) Subscribe to the E-GatePost/News You Can Use. Stay connected with us on Facebook and Instagram --[Central Illinois District-LCMS](#)

Items of Interest to Share

**2024 Institute on Liturgy Preaching and Church Music Scholarships
July 9-12, 2024**

Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska

Thanks to a generous grant from the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, 35 full scholarships (early bird registration fee) are available for church musicians. **Deadline for registration and scholarship is MAY 17th.** For more information on the conference and application, see the CID website News and Events tab or visit the following link;

<https://www.cidlcms.org/resources/gatepost/2024.GatePost.1.pdf>

Small Church Summit

Saturday June 8th, 2024

Zion Lutheran Church 501 S. Broad Street- Carlinville, IL

This year's summit will start earlier; opening is scheduled to start at **9:30 a.m. and finish at 2:30 p.m.** An ice cream social will follow. The special guest presenter will be Rev. Dan Galchutt, Executive Director of the Synod's Office of National Mission. A former parish pastor and Mission and Stewardship in the Kansas District, Rev. Galchutt has been in his current position for about a year. Rev. Galchutt's topic for the SCS is "Engaging Your Community . . . with Jesus." He will give answers to two questions that emerged last time SCS met: a.) How can a small congregation engage its community so as to "make a dent"? and b.) How to make sure we are not simply providing refreshments, fun, or food, but are also pointing people to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

In the afternoon, participants can choose two of the following three breakout sessions: 1. Continuing discussion with Rev. Galchutt

2. Walking Through Your Community's Demographics with Mr. Trip Rodgers of CID staff

3. Front Line Reflections on Forming a dual parish from a pastor who has just been through this process, Rev. Matthew Berndt of St. Paul and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Manito, Illinois

To make sure demographic studies will be at hand for the congregations of all participants, the registration deadline is a little earlier this time: Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day).

Each person attending should register. Start by clicking <https://forms.gle/pEuFuENrygSBDtWG6> There is no cost to attend SCS.

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

National Youth Gathering – Summer 2025 – New Orleans

Plans are already underway to bring your youth and adults a fantastic experience. The theme for this upcoming Gathering is Endure, based on Hebrews 12:1-3.

Jonathan Guse is the DCE from Bethel Morton, and Christy Malinowski is the DCE from Trinity Bloomington. They will be the District Coordinators for CID! Both have many years of experience not only leading a group but also as District Coordinators!

We wanted to make sure you are connected to the LCMS Youth Gathering website: <https://www.lcmsgathering.com>. There you can find information, FAQ, resources, zoom link sign-up for monthly meetings, and more.