

2016

Annual District Mission Report

Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



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Cover Photo

Toddlers enjoy the opening day festivities at the new Trinity Early Childhood Center opened by Trinity, Lisle, in Naperville, in May 2015.



Working Together, in Mission

Dear Pastors, Leaders and Members in NID Churches,

We are pleased to once again bring you the Annual Mission Report from the LCMS Northern Illinois District. Through these stories and numbers you will learn a little more about what "the district" is and does. I hope that's important to you; after all, district isn't "them"—it's "us"—all the girls and boys and men and women in our 211 chartered congregations plus the multi-sites and new missions of congregations scattered across the district.

We continue to face challenges in our level of congregational support and our stewardship of members and resources in our churches and schools. Our focus on New Starts...New Believers is needed now more than ever. The LCMS is abundant with God's gifts—given for the benefit of his kingdom, those who have heard, and those waiting to hear. He calls us to use them for his kingdom purpose. Let's do just that.

Rev. Dan Gilbert, District President



Breakfast with Baby at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Mount Prospect

Moms come with the whole family for this once-a-month Saturday morning event. Moms enjoy the opportunity to obtain donated supplies and services for help with new infants in the household. St. Paul members enjoy their time with the families and building relationships – it does not go unnoticed. Recently a mom commented, "You treat us like family." A number of the families being served are Hispanic, a population previously unreached by the congregation. Clothes, diapers and other baby supplies are donated by the Mount Prospect congregation.





Support from Day 1

Our Savior, Carol Stream, was chartered as an NID congregation and called their district missionary-at-large, Rev. Andy Koschmann, as pastor in 1985. From Day 1, the congregation has tithed offerings back to the district, not to try to repay the grants that helped them get started, but to set an example for families and individuals within the congregation. While the congregation has been blessed by district guidance and resources, they don't support the district for that reason, their pastor explains. "It's about firstfruits giving - if there is an expectation of members to tithe (even though we know they don't all do that but rather it's something to strive for), then that has to be modeled." Our Savior Lutheran Church has modeled support for the church-at-large to such a degree they are consistently among district's Igniter congregations recognized each year. **Igniter congregations** give more than \$50,000 a year for the Lord's work through district and Synod.



NID Mission Facilitator Rev. Mike Mast (below) presented at an outreach workshop, held in the NID in collaboration with Synod's office of Rural and Small Town Missions in May 2015. Small churches face unique challenges and opportunities, whether rural, small town or urban. Responding to these needs, in August the district engaged Rev. Dr. Gerry Schalk, part-time, to provide attention and options for churches asking the questions: What now? What next? Whether it be planning for a new mission, new partnerships with other congregations or new staffing, he is working to help smaller congregations face the future with intentionality.



Congregations Fund the Mission

Congregational offerings (both unrestricted and designated) are the primary source of district revenue to fund our outward-focused mission in northern Illinois and fulfill our ecclesiastical and bylaw-mandated responsibilities as an entity of Synod. Additionally, the district sends part of this in for the support of Synod. Thank you to the district congregations listed below who provided support for FY 2015 (this was about 85% of our congregations).

SACRIFICIAL STEWARDS (in bold)

are recognized for exceeding more than \$46.44 per communicant, which is twice the district average.

Thank You

Addison, St. Paul Algonquin, St. John's

Antioch, Beautiful Savior Arlington Heights, Living Christ

Arlington Heights, St. Peter

Aurora, Emmanuel

Aurora, Hope Aurora, St. Paul

Barrington, St. Matthew

Bartlett, Immanuel

Batavia, Immanuel

Beecher, St. John

Beecher, St. Paul

Beecher, Zion

Belvidere, Immanuel

Berwyn, Good Shepherd

Our Redeemer

Blue Island, Salem

Bolingbrook, Divine Shepherd

Bonfield, Zion

Bourbonnais, Good Shepherd

Bourbonnais, St. Paul's

Burbank, Holy Trinity

Burlington, St. John

Burr Ridge, Trinity

Byron, Risen Savior

Calumet Park, Mount Calvary

Carol Stream, Our Savior

Carpentersville, Faith

Cary, Holy Cross

Chicago Heights, St. Paul's

Chicago, Bethany

Chicago, First Bethlehem

Chicago, First Immanuel

Chicago, First St. Paul

Chicago, Gloria Dei

Chicago, Messiah

Chicago, Mount Greenwood

Chicago, Nazareth

Chicago, Our Saviour

Chicago, Resurrection

Chicago, St. Matthew

Chicago, St. Paul (Austin)

Chicago, St. Paul (Dorchester)

Chicago, St. Paul (Norwood Park)

Chicago, St. Peter

Chicago, St. Philip (Bryn Mawr)

Chicago, Trinity (Meade)

Crystal Lake, Immanuel Crystal Lake, Prince of Peace

Darien, St. John

DeKalb, Immanuel

Des Plaines, Good Shepherd

Des Plaines, Immanuel

Dixon, Christ Our Savior

Downers Grove, Immanuel

Dundee, St. Peter

Dwight, Emmanuel

Dwight, Trinity

East Dundee, Immanuel

Elgin, Calvary

Elgin, Good Shepherd

Elgin, King of Glory

Elgin, St. John's

Elizabeth, St. Paul

Elmhurst, Immanuel

Evanston, Bethlehem

Forest Park, St. John

Frankfort, Good Shepherd

Franklin Park, Mount Calvary

Freeport, Immanuel

Freeport, Our Redeemer

Geneva, Faith

Genoa, Trinity Glenview, Immanuel

Grant Park, Zion

Grayslake, Lord of Glory

Gurnee, Bethel

Hampshire, St. Peter's (North Plato)

Hampshire, Trinity



Igniter Congregations

Congregations that support district at a level of \$50,000 or more per year are recognized through the "Igniter" award. Grateful thanks are extended to their senior pastors who, like men of Issachar, had understanding of the times, to know what "Israel" aught to do (1 Chronicles 12:32). The leadership of such congregations is a blessing to the entire district. Igniter congregations for FY 2015 are:

- Cross, Yorkville (Rev. Eric Gauss)
- Immanuel, Batavia (Rev. Ron Weidler)
- Immanuel, Downers Grove (Rev. John Prohl)
- Our Savior, Carol Stream (Rev. Andy Koschmann)
- St. Paul, Mount Prospect (Rev. Kris Whitby)
- St. Peter, Arlington Heights (Rev. Micah Greiner)
- Trinity, Lisle (Rev. Mark Schulz)
- Trinity, Roselle (Rev. Chuck Mueller)

Harvard, St. Paul Hawthorn Woods, St. Matthew

Herscher, Trinity

Hillside, Hope

Hillside, Immanuel

Hinckley, Immanuel

Hinsdale, Zion

Hodgkins, Immanuel

Homewood, Salem

Huntley, Trinity

Itasca, St. Luke

Joliet, Our Savior

Joliet, St. Peter

La Grange, St. John's

LaFox, Lord of Life

Lake Forest, Faith

Lake Villa, Good Shepherd

Lemont, St. Matthew Lena, St. John's

Lindenwood, Immanuel

Lisle, Trinity

Lockport, St. Paul

Lombard, Peace

Lombard, St. John's

Lombard, Trinity

Manhattan, Sanctuary

Manteno, Risen Savior

Marengo, Zion

Matteson, St. Paul

McHenry, Fellowship of Faith

McHenry, Zion

Melrose Park, Apostles

Melrose Park, St. Paul Mokena, Immanuel

Montgomery, St. Luke

Morris, Friends in Christ

Morrison, St. Peter

Mount Prospect, St. John

Mount Prospect, St. Paul Naperville, Bethany

Naperville, Word of Life

Naperville, Zion

Northbrook, Grace

Northbrook, St. John

Oak Lawn, Faith

Oak Lawn, St. Paul

Oak Lawn, Zion

Orland Park, Christ

Orland Park, Living Word Ottawa, Zion

Palatine, Immanuel

Palatine, Prince of Peace

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Pecatonica, St. John Plainfield, Peace Plano, Living Heritage Prospect Heights, Our Redeemer Richton Park, Immanuel River Forest, Resurrection River Grove, Bethlehem Rochelle, St. Paul Rock Falls, Good Shepherd **Rockford, Christ the Rock Rockford, Mount Olive** Rockford, Redeemer Rockford, St. Paul Rockton, St. Andrew Roselle, Trinity Schaumburg, St. John Schaumburg, St. Peter Skokie, St. Paul St. Charles, St. Mark's Steger, Immanuel Sterling, Messiah Sterling, Our Savior Streamwood, Grace Summit. Zion Sycamore, St. John Thornton, St. Paul Tinley Park, Trinity Union, St. John Walnut, Holy Trinity Waukegan, Redeemer West Chicago, Trinity West Dundee, Bethlehem Western Springs, Grace Westmont, Bethel Wheaton, St. John Winfield, Christ Our Savior Wood Dale, Calvary

Yorkville, Cross

Multi-Year Financial Comparison

	2012 FY Actual	2013 FY Actual	2014 FY Actual	2015 FY pre-Audit	2016 FY Budget
SOURCES OF DISTRICT REVENUE					
Congregational Tithes & Contributions	\$2,005,359	\$2,087,631	\$1,965,024	\$1,832,969	\$1,717,256
New Starts New Believers Gifts ¹	\$168,800	\$192,004	\$151,856	\$209,231	\$203,256
Restricted Gifts	\$284,662	\$352,657	\$220,044	\$159,082	\$263,759
Reimbursements & Other Revenue ²	\$472,868	\$533,051	\$996,076	\$525,154	\$697,078
Net Asset Reserve Change in Market Valuation ³	\$6,205	(\$7,869)	(\$49,059)	\$24,141	(\$10,000)
Total District Revenue	\$2,937,894	\$3,157,474	\$3,283,941	\$2,750,577	\$2,871,349
DISTRICT EXPENSES BY CATEGORY					
Direct Support of Synod	\$601,608	\$626,289	\$589,507	\$549,891	\$515,177
District New Starts & Mission Support	\$963,522	\$1,015,932	\$1,186,843	\$1,139,453	\$1,150,107
District Ecclesial & Operational Expenses	\$1,316,184	\$1,491,238	\$1,237,588	\$1,273,318	\$1,479,868
Total District Expenses	\$2,881,314	\$3,133,459	\$3,013,938	\$2,962,662	\$3,145,152
District Net Operating Results	\$56,580	\$24,015	270,003	(\$212,085)	(\$273,803)
Real Estate Gain (Loss)	\$0	\$204,279	\$0	\$0	\$0
District Net Gain (Loss) ⁴	\$56,580	\$228,294	270,003	(\$212,085)	(\$273,803)
Restricted Gifts to Other Ministries ⁵	\$605,394	\$702,194	\$607,006	\$661,591	\$522,000

Footnotes to Financial Statement

- 1 Since 2006, the Northern Illinois District has had an intentional effort to raise awareness and support for New Starts...New Believers.
- 2 Reimbursements include convention assessments, registrations, fees and in FY 2014 receipt of 2 trusts.
- **3** Changes in Investment Market Valuation recognizes the NID's long-term investment portfolio fluctuations including downturns and recoveries.
- 4 NID's Board of Directors has strategically passed a deficit budget for FY 2016. This budget does not include the projected sale of property previously used to arrive at a balanced budget. The board also on occasion has included an intentional use of district Net Asset Reserves as an investment in local missions.
- 5 The district regularly facilitates pass-through of designated gifts to outside ministries, including restricted Synod support.

Another Hispanic Pastor Ordained Walter Ramirez, with his wife Nivea and daughter, pause with District President Dan Gilbert following Concordia Seminary's service in 2015 to recognize completion of his pastor preparation through the Center for Hispanic Studies. Pastor Ramirez was called by Cross, Yorkville, to continue at the Plano Hispanic Mission, which he had helped develop as a vicar through San Pablo, Aurora, and with a grant from New Starts...New Believers. The opportunity for new NID Hispanic missions is great and congregations are asking for help to get started – including more new pastors and trained laity. Iglesia San Pablo's successful Missionary School and training center in Aurora affords us the best opportunity available right now for meeting this critical need. Our district's in Hispanic missions is over one-quarter of the way to its \$1.2 million goal. Presentations to pastors, church leadership and congregations are being scheduled throughout the coming year.



Supportive Individuals Further the Mission

Thank you to these individuals and organization that have used their blessings to provide designated support in 2015 for district mission and ministry, including New Starts...New Believers, Enviando, Giving Tuesday, general missions and operations.

Rev. Tom & Carol Acton John & Debra Albers Rev. Luther & Janet Albrecht Dennis & Mary Alf Rev. Bill & Jan Ameiss Rev. Steve Anderson Judy Andrews-Manning Wallace & Grace Ansburg Roberto & Erika Avila Rev Jim & Tina Bach Dave & Jen Backhaus Rev. Reuben & Martha Baerwald Harold & Mary Bahe Eldon & Ruth Balgeman Rev. Marty Balzer Phil Bandy Keith & Tina Bartelmey Bruce & Sarah Bechtel Rich & Barb Belanski Daniel & Karlene Bendixon Frank & Eileen Berauer Frederick & Sylvia Berg John & Sharon Bero Rich & Hazel Bimler Rev. Mark & Amberleigh Birkholz Jeff & Dionne Blackmann Michael & Kristine Blackwell John & Sue Blair George & Kathy Blecha Marvin & Marian Block Mel & Mary Block Richard & Marajean Block Mr. & Mrs. James Bock Steven Bodenstab

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Ardella Boettcher

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New Ministry Sites Open

New early childhood centers were being explored in the NID during the past year. Grace, Northbrook, was in the development phase throughout 2015 and just opened its new early childhood center in February 2016. Trinity, Lisle, through collaboration with the pastor and a member from Immanuel, East Dundee, was able to open a third site for the congregation in May 2015. Trinity Early Childhood Center, TECC, at 2244 West 95th Street, Naperville, serves families with children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. This is the third physical location for the ministry of Trinity, Lisle. Trinity Green Trails, on Maple Avenue in Lisle, was added as a worship and ministry site in 2010. A fourth site for worship and ministry is anticipated to open in the coming year at the former Bethany, Chicago, which is located just north of Oak Park, off North Avenue at Narragansett. Trinity Lisle's main campus is at Hwy. 53 and Kimberly Way in Lisle.

Purpose of our district:

Help each other to keep our confession centered on God's perfect Word, the Bible.

Help each other carry out the Lord's mission, to our neighbors and to the nations.

New Starts...New Believers is our mission movement to do just that. ¡Enviando! (which means sending) is our current special emphasis on expanding Hispanic missions in northern Illinois.

NID fast facts:

211 Congregations with 84,756 confirmed members

103 with avg. weekly worship less than 99

56 with avg. weekly worship 100-199

18 with avg. weekly worship 200-299

15 with avg. weekly worship 300-399

4 with avg. weekly worship 400-499

with avg. weekly worship 500-999

2 with avg. weekly worship 1,000+

228 Parish pastors

178 Retired or non-parish pastors

506 Active commissioned teachers, deaconesses, DCEs, etc.

52 Early Childhood/Preschool Centers

52 Elementary Schools (all but 6 include preschool)

4 Lutheran High Schools