



# Northern Illinois District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

February 2026

**“And behold, I am with you always; to the end of the age.”** (Matthew 28:20b) Jesus spoke this to His first disciples just before ascending to heaven. **He has never failed to keep this promise.** We are blessed, our Savior is with us through His Word and Sacraments, even as we venture into a new year. **Here are just a few ministry opportunities that await us this year!**

**Mission Belize:** There are three NID-related trips on the schedule for 2026. Immanuel, Belvidere will be leading a team, June 6-13, 2026 and there are spots open for team members from all NID churches. The NID-sponsored trip, June 13 – 20, 2026 has space for about 8 team members. That team will include a dentist who will be serving at the Mercy House Plans in the making to have another NID mission trip, October 17 – 24, 2026. **Please keep missionaries and workers of Belize, NID teams, and the Belize Mission Society in your prayers in 2026.**

**Hearts for Jesus:** Our schools ministries are again dedicating their chapel offerings to Christ’s work in Belize. **Their gifts will focus on updated VBS curriculum resources** to be used in programs both in Seine Bight and the expanding mission of Georgetown, leading compassion ministry with the Gospel! Mission work. Planting the good seed. The Lord grants growth.

**Urban Ministry Clarity:** We thank God for our urban ministries and stand by them as they seek to share the Gospel amidst many challenges. In 2026, we will engage with LCEF and various partners to **develop a comprehensive perspective on sustainable urban ministry** to guide our churches and schools in their work well into the future. We do not surrender!

Thank you for being part of His work among us all!

With You, My eyes are on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2,3)

Rev. Dr. Allan R. Buss, President

