



Northern Illinois Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



## **Report of the Central Conference**

In Central Conference pastors and other leaders continue to engage with one another through regularly scheduled events (monthly meeting and weekly pericope study). Likewise, special events are well attended by spouses, friends, and members of our congregations.

Throughout the year, we gather at a different church in the conference on the second Wednesday. We worship together, then have a meeting, and share a meal. We have been incorporating Zoom as a way to meet during harsh weather and during winter months when road conditions make travel more challenging. It's also been beneficial in regards to attendance and has reduced in-person meetings at times of the year when communicable disease is usually higher.

Our meetings often consist of touching base with each other, talking about the life of our congregations, and sharing personal stories. Occasionally a speaker or representative joins us to inform us about the work they are doing in our area.

We have a lively text study each Tuesday on Zoom this has made attendance easier for those who live further away, with some joining us from other states. Preachers from a few other denominations join us as well. Together, we have good discussion and share both joys and hardships.

There were a few changes in call. Doug Wood was appointed as a Synodically Authorized Minister to Immanuel in Amboy. Pastor Janet Wold announced her retirement as of June this year from All Saints in Byron, IL. Pastor Ken Gibson finished his call at St. James. Pastor Barb Otten retired from ministry at Amboy. Immanuel and St. Paul in Dixon voted in September to share a pastoral team. Immanuel is served by Pastor Mark Juliot and St. Paul is currently served by Interim Pastor Elizabeth Mascal.

Our Conference was grieved this past year at the death of beloved minister and friend "Hank" Henrietta Milner in January.

Central conference is a great place to do ministry. It's also a great place to build collegial relationships. This last year has been a blessing, and with God's, our Synod's, our Bishop's, and our Colleague's love, companionship, and prayers we look forward to next year being even better. So let us go forth each day forever wrapped and forever wrapping this whole world in the loving arms of God. Amen. May God bless you all!

Rev. Scott A. Ralston  
Central Conference Dean