Lent 2025

(**C**) See the new mission, vision and purpose for
the Central/Southern Illinois Synod.

Mission: Nurturing communities of disciples, equipped for Christ's mission
Vision: Vibrant communities of faith, with healthy leaders, living a transformational witness to the love, joy, and hope of the gospel, inviting others to know and follow Jesus.
Purpose: The Central/Southern Illinois Synod exists to support, encourage, and equip communities of disciples for Christ's mission.

March 5_____**COMMUNITIES OF DISCIPLES** (Ash Wednesday)

*Five strategi**c** priorities and goals:*

March 12_____**CULTIVATING** (*cultivating healthy leadership, both rostered and lay*)

March 19_____**CONNECTING** (*building and advancing relationship and connections*)
Congregations/conferences/clusters/synod

March 26_____**CROSSING** (*renewed engagement of youth and young adults through cross-generational faith formation*)

April 2_____**COMMUNICATING** (*strengthen communication*)

April 9_____**CELEBRATING** (*celebrating our shared service and mission*)

March 5_____**Central/Southern Illinois Synod**

Ephesians 5:1-2a

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us

Luke 24:13-15

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them

Five strategic priorities and goals:

March 12_____**CULTIVATING** (*cultivating healthy leadership, both rostered and lay*)

Ephesians 4:1, 11-12

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

March 19_____**CONNECTING** (*building and advancing relationship and connections*)

Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

March 26_____**CROSSING** (*renewed engagement of youth and young adults through cross-generational faith formation*)

1 Timothy 4:12-14

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders.

April 2_____**COMMUNICATING** (*strengthen communication*)

Acts 13:44-49

The next Sabbath almost the whole city of Antioch gathered to hear the word of the Lord. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and blaspheming, they contradicted what was spoken by Paul. Then both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you. Since you reject it and judge yourselves to be unworthy of eternal life, we are now turning to the gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

'I have set you to be a light for the gentiles,
so that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.' "

When the gentiles heard this, they were glad and praised the word of the Lord, and as many as had been destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread throughout the region.

April 9_____**CELEBRATING** (*celebrating our shared service and mission*)

Luke 10:1, 8-9, 17-20

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go.

Jesus said to the disciples, “Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’’

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!” He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. Indeed, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”