



# REACHING RURAL AMERICA FOR CHRIST

## NEWSLETTER

### OUR MISSION:

- To follow the core beliefs of the LCMS
- To bring the hope of Christ
- To equip Professional and Lay Leaders
- To be a Mission outpost to the community.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

3/18 -Webinar 1:30pm  
*Challenge of Change in Rural Churches*

4/15-Webinar 1:30pm  
*Challenge of Change in Rural Churches Continued.*

4/29-MO District Rural Churches Conference  
St. Paul Lutheran, Fulton MO

7/29-7/31-Conference, *We are Missionaries in Rural Communities*  
Coaching & consultant skills

### Missionary for Rural and Small Town Church Leaders

Missionary Geisler says "It only took a short time to discover how helpless I was on this mission journey through Saint Paul Institute for Education. My trust in God's provision and my need to be in His Word is about the only anchor I can rely on these days. I am very thankful for the gifts and prayers of the thousands who support the ministry to rural and small town churches."

We consider a rural and small town congregation "rural" when they are in an area of 15,000 people or less. (Please note "or less") The congregations located in these smaller

communities usually have members that currently have or had in the past a special opportunity to make a living with agri-



Missionary Dr. Ralph Geisler

business, forestry, mining and leisure activities. These wonderful people with a strong work ethic and values are unique to their rural culture.

There are many benefits to a RST congregation when it has a continuing relationship with a rural and small town missionary. Among them are:

-**Significant** insights into what the church is like in a different value systems and culture;

-A '**prayer partnership**' relationship regarding identified issues and concerns

-**Opportunity** to utilize the special gifts (insights, sensitizing, etc.) that rural churches and leaders bring to their communities.

Contact us to learn what it means to be a missionary at [rgeisler@spife.org](mailto:rgeisler@spife.org)

### National LCMS RST Committee

Rev. Russell Sommerfeld—  
Chairman

Rev. Dr. Ray Mirly -  
Vice Chairman

Judy Bartels -  
School Principal

Rev. Brad Birtell—  
Pastor

Rev. Gene Ernst—  
Pastor

Terry Gerds—  
LCMS Foundation

Steve Henry—  
Farmer

Tom Tieman—  
SPLHS Ministries

Rev. Jeff Miller—  
LCEF

Rev. Robert Riggert—  
District Executive

Virginia VonSeggern—  
World Mission Board

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.SPIFE.ORG



Let us go to the small towns...  
Mark 1:38

RURAL & SMALL TOWN  
MISSION CENTER - SPIFE

Schroeder Memorial Leadership Center  
205 S Main PO Box 719  
Concordia, MO 64020

Phone: 888-463-5127  
E-mail: [rgeisler@spife.org](mailto:rgeisler@spife.org)  
LCMS World Missions

The mission of rural and small town ministry is to encourage and reinforce rural and small town congregations to serve as mission outposts in their communities and the world.

## Retool and Re-launch of the Website! [WWW.SPIFE.ORG](http://WWW.SPIFE.ORG)

This newsletter is the first report from Missionary Dr. Ralph Geisler on a *retool* of the Rural Mission Resource Center – SPIFE website. He commented, "this was my first *re-launch* of a website. It was awesome to watch the pros work with the computer. God has created great people with unique talents." Our prayer is that you continue to join us via the Internet or in person for leadership training. In our partnership with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod World Missions, our desire and dream is to help professional and lay leaders touch their communities with the Gospel. You can let us know your needs, ideas, and how we can network with your rural ministry by contacting

[rgeisler@spife.org](mailto:rgeisler@spife.org).

Thank you for your patience during our re-launch process! Our new Rural Mission Resources – SPIFE website provides opportunities to learn about the services and resources for:

Individual RST congregations

Regional Ministry RST Partnerships

RST Congregational Areas of Service

The Rural Mission Resource Center at SPIFE, Concordia, Missouri will continue to work through the LCMS districts to assist professional workers and lay leaders from rural and small town congregations. The center was dedicated in 2005 as Schroeder Leadership Training Center

located on the campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School and Ministries.

Your continuing financial and prayer support is very encouraging.



Dr. Geisler leading a recent Congregational Planning Retreat