Engaging Rural Communities Retreat
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbus, IN
Saturday, April 13th, 2013
Schedule

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8:00 a.m. Registration with coffee, juice, & rolls at church

8:30 a.m. Opening devotions and introductions

8:45 a.m. Understanding Your Community –Rev. Doug Bauman
This presentation will equip congregations to analyze their community demographics, identify community needs and consider community engagement possibilities. Our hope is that this will be an initial study of the demographics material and that congregations will plan a follow-up and more in-depth analysis after the event.

9:30 a.m. Asset Mapping – Rev. Todd Kollbaum, RSTM Director
Congregations have more assets in place than they often realize. This presentation will assist congregations in identifying physical, institutional, individual and community assets that are already in place. How do these assets relate to the community needs identified in the previous session? Participants will be encouraged to connect the assets they have in place with the needs of the community.

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Partnership Possibilities for Community Engagement – Rev. Todd Kollbaum, RSTM Director
Now that participants have identified resources and needs, this presentation will consider potential partners to assist in meeting needs. There is great potential for congregations to work together for the purpose of serving communities and reaching the lost. After considering the needs of the community and the assets that exist, what other partnerships could be considered? Participants will consider questions based on the congregational context (small parish, dual parish or large parish.)

11:30 a.m. Lunch

12:15 p.m. Leading Change and Dealing with Resistance - Rev. Todd Kollbaum, RSTM Director

Considering new ways to reach out or working with others could lead to potential opposition. This session will deal with some practical strategies for leading change and how to respond to resistance. How would leaders proceed once a needed change is identified?

1:15 p.m. Quo Vademus: Where Do We Go From Here? – Rev. Todd Kollbaum, RSTM Director

Participants will be encouraged to set up an action plan in preparation for a community engagement event. We will discuss how do we take what we have learned about our congregation and our community and how to take a step to follow up on this event.

2:00 p.m. Break

2:10 p.m. Getting From Here to There – Rev. Doug Bauman and Rev. Todd Kollbaum
This will be a discussion based question and answer time. What questions remain? What resources are needed? Participants will be encouraged as they consider the next step and as they discuss with engagement possibilities with others.

2:50 p.m. Closing Devotions

3:00 p.m. Enter the Mission Field