Reaching Rural America *for Christ*

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

Rural and Small Town Mission offers the ERC events in partnership with LCMS districts.

Rich Boring leading a presentation at a recent ERC event.

Demographic resources are provided courtesy of Lutheran Church Extension Fund. At left is Rev. Ray Smith from Iowa District West, talking to Iowa District LCEF Vice President Carole White.

What's Being Said About ERC Events

- Very good Biblical presentation
- Helpful small group discussion
- Excellent facilitators
- Very inspirational
- Great information and examples

Additional Ways We Can Serve You

- Monthly Webinars
- Monthly E-news
- Quarterly Newsletters
- National Conference
- Online resources: Bible studies, articles

Office of National Mission

Rural and Small Town Mission

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The Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

RURAL AND SMALL TOWN MISSION

ENGAGING RURAL COMMUNITIES

EVENTS

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

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RSTM exists to encourage and support rural and small town congregations in engaging their communities and growing together in Christ through Word and Sacrament.

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Engaging Rural Communities (ERC) events are geared for single and multi-point parishes in rural and small town settings. Ideally, a pastor and three or four lay leaders will examine their communities and consider ways in which they can serve those unique needs.

- Participants will identify personal and congregational assets they have in place and make plans for using resources to engage their respective communities. One of the themes of the event will be on building and strengthening partnerships as multi-point parishes and individual congregations explore ways to work together for the needs of their communities.
- Many congregations today are concerned about shrinking membership and fewer children and families in worship. There is no "one size fits all" solution however congregational leaders will be encouraged as they see new opportunities for engaging their communities and are filled with hope for the future.

Typical ERC Saturday Schedule
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

8:00 a.m.	Registration
8:30 a.m.	Opening devotions and introductions
8:45 a.m.	Understanding Your Community
9:30 a.m.	Asset Mapping
10:15 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.	Partnership Possibilities
11:30 a.m.	Lunch
12:15 p.m.	Leading Change and Dealing with Resistance
1:15 p.m.	Where Do We Go From Here?
2:00 p.m.	Break
2:10 p.m.	Getting From Here to There
2:50 p.m.	Closing Devotions
3:00 p.m.	Enter the Mission Field

Goals for the Event

As a participant, you will . . .

- Learn about your community.
- Identify congregational assets.
- Consider new ways to engage your community.
- Congregations have hope for the future.
- Develop action plans for community engagement.
- Identify challenges and opportunities facing your congregation.