

# 50 Days

# Ablaze

*Igniting the World with Christ's Love*

**A Mission/Outreach Campaign**  
**March 27 – May 15, 2005**

## Training Manual

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## **A Mission/Outreach Campaign March 27 – May 15, 2005**

### **Overview**

#### **THIS MISSIONS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN IS A 50-DAY JOURNEY FOR INDIVIDUAL AND CONGREGATIONAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND COMMITMENT**

This campaign is intended to be a journey for members of the congregation to grow spiritually in their awareness and understanding of Christ's Great Commission. It coincides with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Ablaze initiative to reach 100 million people by the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. You can learn more about the Ablaze initiative on the LCMS website at [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org).

#### **Christ's Great Commission:**

***"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).***

The focus of the 50 Days Ablaze Missions Outreach Campaign is spiritual growth and increased missions and outreach. The emphasis is on Christ's grace and redeeming love for us. The mission response is seven-fold:

- **Learn**
- **Pray**
- **Give**
- **Tell**
- **Send**
- **Go**
- **Celebrate**

#### **The participation is three-tiered:**

- **Individual** – Members read daily devotions based on the seven mission responses.
- **Group** – Members meet weekly in small group Bible studies based on the seven mission responses.
- **Congregational** – Members participate in weekly worship services and hear sermons based on the seven mission responses.

**The timeframe** can be anytime in the year. St. Luke chose the 50 days from Easter to Pentecost: **March 27 – May 15, 2005** and will incorporate a Kick-Off Event, Servant Events, a Missions Fair, and a day of Celebration.

**Resources available from the LCMS World Mission Website:**

([www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org))

Bulletin Inserts, Worship Services, Prayer Calendar, PowerPoint Presentation, Music Video, Music,

Bible Study Guides, Devotions, Stickers, Bookmarks, Balloons and Offering Envelopes.

**Resources available from St. Luke Lutheran Church, Cabot, Pennsylvania:**

([www.stlukecabot.org](http://www.stlukecabot.org))

Daily devotions and a Campaign Training Manual.

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## **Introducing the 50 Days Campaign**

### **FOR THE PASTOR AND THE CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR**

*50 Days Ablaze* is a journey for members of the Christian congregation to grow spiritually in their awareness and understanding of Christ's Great Commission to reach the lost of this world for Him. The journey is surrounded by prayer as we ask the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with compassion and concern for the lost and to work in their hearts an openness for receiving His gift of love and salvation.

The earlier you begin to introduce the campaign—and the more you pray about it and cast the vision—the more likely you are to have a higher percentage of your congregation participating in it. Of course, the more who participate, the greater opportunity there is for spiritual growth and the resulting outreach.

- **Elders, Deacons, Church Council, Staff** - Begin introducing the idea of *50 Days Ablaze* by sharing the vision with the Board of Elders or Deacons and your Church Council. Be sure you have their support and encouragement for this congregational opportunity.

The Communications Team can coordinate the following, but the Pastor should be the spiritual leader and vision-caster:

- **Key Ministry Leaders** - It is recommended in the *Preparation Timeline* that you have a campaign vision meeting for key leaders about four months prior to the beginning of the 50 Days. There are more suggestions for this orientation meeting in the *Communications Team Guidelines*.
- **Sunday School, Day School and Youth** – Don't forget to bring these important ministries on board early in the vision casting. Encourage them to develop age-appropriate ideas for the youth to learn and experience their part in the Great Commission. LCMS World Mission offers mission resources for children on their website.
- **All Ministry Leaders and Members** – About two months prior to the 50 Days, repeat the campaign vision meeting for all ministry leaders and invite everyone in the congregation to attend.

- **Resources** – LCMS World Mission sent each congregation an Ablaze! resource kit in the Fall of 2003, including a four-minute music video designed to introduce the vision of Ablaze! to individuals and groups. The video file is also available for download on their website at (<http://www.lcms.org/ca/mission/video/Ablaze/index.asp>) Be sure to locate other communications resources available from LCMS World Missions for publicizing *Ablaze!* St. Luke is offering free of charge the 50 Daily Devotions and a Campaign Training Manual. (See the *Communications Team Guidelines* for more suggestions.)

*“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”* (Ephesians 4:11-13)

## A Mission/Outreach Campaign March 27 – May 15, 2005

### Campaign Director Guidelines

Many Pastors and church leaders want their congregations to be more mission- minded and outreach-oriented. The Ablaze Initiative and 50 Days Ablaze were developed for just that reason—to help congregations grow in their passion for the lost and commitment to reaching out with Christ's love. The following notes may be helpful in getting you started in planning for 50 Days Ablaze in your congregation. You may want to use all of the ideas or just some, or you may be inspired with ideas of your own.

#### **Time**

Planning and implementing the 50 Days Ablaze in its entirety will take some significant time, but it is worth investing the time and energy in a way that will enhance spiritual growth and mission outreach in the life of the church. The Pastor or Council may want to consider releasing some key people from responsibilities they already have in the church in order to free them to be devoted to this campaign. Try to reduce other activities and meeting. If you try to do this campaign on top of an already full church calendar, you will overload everyone. Make the campaign your church's focus for the season in which it takes place.

#### **Pacing**

If possible, try to have your entire Campaign Team assembled three to four months ahead of the campaign. Begin holding monthly team meetings right away with whatever team members have been recruited. As you draw closer to the beginning of 50 Days, begin meeting every other week. In the four to six weeks prior to 50 Days, it would be advantageous to meet weekly.

#### **Fellowship**

This campaign is a great opportunity to infuse a strong sense of fellowship among those involved in planning for 50 Days. Don't just have meetings. In your times together, encourage people to get to know each other more fully: sharing your lives, supporting one another, praying together, and trusting

God in all things. If relationship, not just task, is built into this effort, a deeper bond and unity can develop.

### **Resources**

Gather and consider all of the resources available to you from LCMS World Missions and St. Luke Lutheran Church. Decide which ones will best suit your congregation's needs. LCMS World Missions sent a CD-ROM and DVD to all LCMS congregations that included video clips for weekly Bible studies, music, power point presentations, and printed material such as the Bible study, "*God's Love. . . Our Response*," devotions, bulletin inserts, and logos. You can also go on their website and download or order the following: Prayer calendars, pamphlets, bookmarks, stickers, offering envelopes and balloons. At St. Luke's website you can download the 50 Days Ablaze Training Manual and the 50 Daily Devotions. The Training Manual may be edited to suit your congregation's needs. The 50 Daily Devotions may not be edited, but permission is granted to reproduce them for parish use. Websites: [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) and [www.stlukecabot.org](http://www.stlukecabot.org).

### **Daily Devotions**

The 50 Daily Devotions, written by Rev. Barry J. Keurulainen, Senior Pastor at St. Luke, compliment the LCMS World Mission's Bible study and accompanying video, "*God's Love. . . Our Response*," based on the seven biblical mission responses. Each devotion includes Bible verses, the devotional message, a prayer, additional Scripture readings, a challenge, and a commentary from the Book of Concord. These devotions are available on St. Luke's website free of charge. They may be reproduced for parish use but may not be edited, sold, or used for other purposes without the prior written consent of the author.

### **Youth, Sunday School, Day School**

If your congregation has a youth group, Sunday School and/or Day School, you will want to include them in the 50 Days Ablaze. Find ways to teach them the seven mission responses and identify ways they can be mission responders. The LCMS World Missions website has many resources available for children. As St. Luke develops material for Sunday School and Day School families, we will make them available on our website.

### **Kick Off Event**

Good communications with the congregation will prepare the members well in advance for participating in 50 Days Ablaze. The Kick-Off Event one week prior to the beginning of the 50 Days will gather everyone together to make a commitment to participate and to receive their 50 Daily Devotions. See the *Kick-Off Event* section of the Training Manual for ideas.

### **Photos Videos Stories**

During the 50 Days Ablaze, you may want to line up people who can take photographs or videos of the various aspects of the journey—the Kick-Off, small groups, the worship services, the Servant Events and Missions Fair. You can also gather people's reactions and testimonies to share at the Celebration Event.

### **Offering Envelopes**

If your congregation decides to do so, you can use the Ablaze offering envelopes to support LCMS World Missions. The envelopes are available free of charge.

### **Structure**

The Campaign Team as described in *Developing a Campaign Team* consists of the Campaign Spiritual Leader (the Pastor), the Campaign Director, and Team Coordinators who in turn each lead a team that carries out tasks related to specific areas of the campaign. These roles are all important and

specific, but it may not be possible for you to fill all of them. Determine which ones best suit your congregation's composition, possibly combining some roles if necessary.

### **Prayer**

It is the Prayer Team's role to develop a strategy and hold up prayer as the most important element in the campaign. The *Prayer Team Guidelines* provide some suggestions and resources.

### **Worship**

The Worship Team assists the Pastor in developing ideas for enhancing worship in connection with the weekly mission themes. They must be sensitive to and take into consideration the worship styles and practices of your congregation. The *Worship Team Guidelines* offer some suggestions.

### **Communications**

Communications is often the key to success. How well the congregation is informed in the weeks leading up to and during the 50 Days will influence their enthusiasm and participation. The Communications Team will make use of existing means and develop new ones for communicating information about 50 Days to the congregation. The *Communications Team Guidelines* will assist them in their role.

### **Small Groups**

Small Groups are gatherings of three to twelve people for the purpose of growing in their relationship with Christ and with each other. During the 50 Days, they will meet weekly at various times and locations to view a short *Ablaze* video and to work through the discussion questions and Bible verses on the accompanying study guide, "*God's Grace. . . Our Response*" (available at no charge from LCMS World Mission). In their groups, they will come up with ideas for your congregation to be more outreach-minded in each of the mission response areas. Their ideas will be gathered and processed by the Implementation Team.

The value of the small group setting (rather than one large group) is that it provides opportunities for developing deeper relationships and allows time for each person to share their responses. Suggestions for developing the small groups and recruiting and training leaders are included in the *Small Groups Team Guidelines*.

### **Servant Events**

The Servant Events are an optional element in the campaign. Since the objective of 50 Days is to encourage mission and outreach responses, offering such opportunities during the campaign enables people to experience first-hand the joy and blessings of reaching out to others. Classroom training cannot replace what is learned "in the field." The *Servant Events Team Guidelines* offer some suggestions.

### **Missions Fair**

Another optional element of 50 Days Ablaze is the Missions Fair. Don't overlook it for the opportunity it provides for 1) a large group gathering and fellowship 2) educating your members on the opportunities for mission involvement, both locally and at large 3) a celebration in itself. See the *Missions Fair Team Guidelines* for some ideas.

### **Celebration**

Celebrating is an important element in the Christian's daily life. At the end of the 50 Days Ablaze journey is a good time for the congregation to celebrate together God's grace and mercy through His Son, Jesus Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of His people. See the *Celebration Team Guidelines* for some suggestions.

### **Implementation Team**



**Communications Team:**

- Coordinate the communications being generated for all the other teams

**Worship Team:**

- Conduct the worship services
- Distribute the Daily Devotions to those who did not attend the Kick-Off Event
- Announce the theme for Week 2 of the campaign, "Pray"
- Finalize worship components for Week 2

**Small Groups Team:**

- Small Groups meet and go through the "Learn" video and material

**Missions Fair Team:**

- Finalize the layout of the Missions Fair

**Servant Events Team:**

- Discuss a follow-up plan for future servant events

**Implementation Team:**

- Be sure each member of the team has contacted the small group leaders assigned to them.

**Celebration Team:**

- Establish goals and budget for Celebration Sunday

**CAMPAIGN – WEEK 2**

(April 3 – April 9)

**"Pray"**

**Campaign Team:**

- Review this week's and the next week's schedule

**Prayer Team:**

- Continue to meet and carry out the prayer focus plan
- Submit prayer verse for Week 3 to the bulletin announcements

**Communications Team:**

- Coordinate the communications being generated for all the other teams

**Worship Team:**

- Conduct the worship services
- Announce the theme for Week 3 of the campaign, "Give"
- Finalize worship components for Week 3

**Small Groups Team:**

- Small Groups meet and go through the "Pray" video and material

**Missions Fair Team:**

- Establish a follow-up plan for missions opportunities

**Servant Events Team:**

- Establish a follow-up plan for future Servant Events

**Implementation Team:**

- Collect “Learn” mission ideas from the Small Group leaders

**Celebration Team:**

- Distribute “Tell Us Your Story” response forms
- Make plans to capture stories from the small groups, the Servant Events and the Missions Fair

**CAMPAIGN – WEEK 3****“Give”**

(April 10 – April 16)

**Campaign Team:**

- Review this week's and the next week's schedules

**Prayer Team:**

- Continue to meet and carry out the prayer focus plan
- Submit prayer verse for Week 4 to the bulletin announcements

**Communications Team:**

- Coordinate the communications being generated for all the other teams
- Oversee the collection of photos and video of the campaign in action

**Worship Team:**

- Conduct the worship services
- Announce the theme for Week 4 of the campaign, “Tell”
- Announce the Servant Events coming up
- Finalize worship components for Week 4

**Small Groups Team:**

- Small Groups meet and go through the “Give” video and material

**Missions Fair Team:**

- Notify church leaders and Sunday School teachers about the adjustments to the schedule on the day of the Missions Fair

**Servant Events Team:**

- Place announcements in the bulletin for the upcoming Servant Events
- Finalize arrangements for the upcoming Servant Events

**Implementation Team:**

- Collect “Pray” mission ideas from the Small Group leaders

**Celebration Team:**

- Share completed response forms with the Worship Team for seeking pertinent testimonies during upcoming services
- Plan food and decorations for Celebration Sunday

**CAMPAIGN – WEEK 4****“Tell”****Servant Events**

(April 17 – April 23)

**Campaign Team:**

- Review this week's and the next week's schedule

**Prayer Team:**

- Continue to meet and carry out the prayer focus plan
- Submit prayer verse for Week 5 to the bulletin announcements

**Communications Team:**

- Coordinate the communications being generated for all the other teams
- Oversee the collection of photos and video of the campaign in action

**Worship Team:**

- Conduct the worship services
- Announce the theme for Week 5 of the campaign, "Send"
- Finalize worship components for Week 5

**Small Groups Team:**

- Small Groups meet and go through the "Tell" video and material

**Missions Fair Team:**

- Plan methods for promoting the Missions Fair

**Servant Events Team:**

- Servant Events are carried out this week

**Implementation Team:**

- Collect "Give" mission ideas from the Small Group leaders

**Celebration Team:**

- Continue to collect response forms and share them with the Worship Team
  - Collect stories from the Servant Events groups to share at the Celebration.

**CAMPAIGN – WEEK 5**

(April 24 – April 30)

**"Send"**

**Campaign Team:**

- Review this week's and the next week's schedule

**Prayer Team:**

- Continue to meet and carry out the prayer focus plan
- Submit prayer verse for Week 6 to the bulletin announcements

**Communications Team:**

- Coordinate the communications being generated for all the other teams
- Oversee the collection of photos and video of the campaign in action

**Worship Team:**

- Conduct the worship services
- Announce the theme for Week 6 of the campaign, "Go"
- Announce the Missions Fair coming up the next weekend
- Finalize worship components for Week 6

**Small Groups Team:**

- Small Groups meet and go through the "Send" video and material
- Coach groups to plan a closing "Celebration" fellowship time
- Invite new groups to decide if they will continue after the Campaign

**Missions Fair Team:**

- Promote the Missions Fair for the upcoming weekend
- Set up for the Missions Fair

**Servant Events Team:**

- Gather stories, reactions and evaluations of the Servant Events

**Implementation Team:**

- Collect "Tell" mission ideas from the Small Group leaders

**Celebration Team:**

- Continue to collect response forms and share them with the Worship Team
- Collect stories, photos and videos from the Servant Events groups to share at the Celebration

**CAMPAIGN – WEEK 6**  
(May 1 – May 7)

**"Go"**

**Missions Fair**

**Campaign Team:**

- Review this week's and the next week's schedule

**Prayer Team:**

- Continue to meet and carry out the prayer focus plan
- Submit prayer verse for Week 7 to the bulletin announcements

**Communications Team:**

- Coordinate the communications being generated for all the other teams
- Oversee the collection of photos and video of the campaign in action

**Worship Team:**

- Conduct the worship services
- Announce the theme for Week 7 of the campaign, "Celebrate"
- Announce the Missions Fair coming up the next weekend
- Finalize worship components for Week 7

**Small Groups Team:**

- Small Groups meet and go through the "Go" video and material
- Small Groups plan a closing "Celebration" fellowship time
- Provide curriculum ideas for groups that want to continue

**Missions Fair Team:**

- Hold the Missions Fair

**Servant Events Team:**

- Continue to gather stories, reactions and evaluations from the Servant Events

**Implementation Team:**

- Collect "Send" mission ideas from the Small Group leaders

**Celebration Team:**

- Continue to collect response forms and share them with the Worship Team
- Collect stories from the Servant Events groups to share at the Celebration.

**CAMPAIGN – WEEK 7**  
(May 7– May 14)

**“Celebrate”**

**Campaign Team:**

- Continue to meet and process evaluations and ideas from the campaign

**Prayer Team:**

- Continue to meet and carry out the prayer focus plan

**Communications Team:**

- Coordinate the communications being generated for all the other teams
- Oversee the collection of photos and video of the campaign in action

**Worship Team:**

- Conduct the worship services
- Announce the Celebration coming up the next weekend
- Finalize worship components for Celebration Sunday

**Small Groups Team:**

- Small Groups meet and go through the “Celebrate” video and material
- Small Groups hold their “Celebration” fellowship time

**Missions Fair Team:**

- Follow up with ideas for future Missions Opportunities

**Servant Events Team:**

- Finalize the gathering of stories, reactions and evaluations from the Servant Events

**Implementation Team:**

- Collect “Go” mission ideas from the Small Group leaders

**Celebration Team:**

- Finalize plans for the Celebration Event

**PENTECOST SUNDAY**  
(May 15)

**“Celebration Event”**

**Campaign Team:**

- Continue to meet and process evaluations and ideas from the campaign

**Prayer Team:**

- Continue to pray for Missions and Outreach opportunities

**Communications Team:**

- Coordinate any final communications being generated by the Campaign Team

**Worship Team:**

- Conduct the Celebration worship services

**Small Groups Team:**

- Assist Small Groups that are continuing to select their new curriculum

**Missions Fair Team:**

- Follow up with ideas for future Missions Opportunities

**Servant Events Team:**

- Follow up with ideas for future Servant Events

**Implementation Team:**

- Collect "Celebrate" mission ideas from the Small Group leaders

**Celebration Team:**

- Hold the Celebration Event
- Finalize loose ends from the budget

## **A Mission/Outreach Campaign March 27 – May 15, 2005**

### **Communications Team Guidelines**

Each of the teams for 50 Days Ablaze has a very important role in the campaign. For the Communications Team, it is making sure that the congregational leaders and members are well informed of what 50 Days Ablaze is and of all the events attached to it. This is accomplished by initially organizing orientation and vision meetings, and then through ongoing communications with the congregation. The Communications Team needs to be fully aware of the printed resources that are available and selected for use by the other teams and to reproduce copies as needed.

**Orientation Meeting**

Three or four months before the 50 Days begins, the Communications Team should organize and conduct an orientation meeting for the core leaders of the church, to introduce them to 50 Days Ablaze and its components. The objective of this meeting would be to help the leaders achieve a sense of ownership of the campaign and to make a personal commitment. You will help them to understand what the campaign is all about, and more importantly, why the church is doing this. Excitement for the 50 Days journey will grow as you share the vision first with a small group of core leaders, then expand to a broader group of leaders, and finally to the whole congregation.

**When to have the Orientation Meeting**

Hold the first Orientation Meeting for the key leaders approximately three months before the campaign. Commit an entire evening so you don't feel rushed.

**Who should attend**

Invite core leaders, such as Elders, Deacons, Church Council members, officers, the church staff, key decision makers, key influencers, campaign team members.

**What to include**

- Begin and end the orientation meeting with prayer

- Show the video and music on the Ablaze DVD
- The Pastor should share a personal vision for what God could accomplish during and after 50 Days Ablaze.
- The Campaign Director should give a comprehensive overview of the selected elements of the campaign.
- Explain what is expected of the leaders:
  - Prayer
  - Contagious enthusiasm
  - Perhaps serving on one of the teams
  - Being personally involved in the elements of the campaign
- Allow adequate time for questions and answers
- Launch the Vision Meeting: Announce the date and time of the Vision Meeting and ask each key leader to commit to coming again and bringing three to five people with them
- You may want to include refreshments after the meeting to encourage fellowship and give people an opportunity to share their enthusiasm.

### **Vision Meeting**

This is where the congregation really adopts and accepts ownership of 50 Days Ablaze. It will include a broader scope of leaders in the church who have direct influence with the majority of the people in the congregation. When this larger group of leaders has bought into 50 Days Ablaze, the campaign will gain real momentum and impact.

### **When to have the Vision Meeting**

A week or two after the Orientation Meeting for the core leaders, repeat the process for a wider group of leaders.

### **Who to invite**

The core leaders again  
 The people the core leaders have invited  
 Ministry leaders  
 Sunday School teachers  
 Bible Study leaders  
 Youth leaders

### **What to include**

The agenda for this meeting will include all of the same things you did at the core leaders' Orientation Meeting. You are expanding the vision to a wider group of people and asking for support and involvement. They are being invited to share in the ownership of 50 Days Ablaze.

### **Congregational Communications**

Once all of the leaders of the church have adopted and are enthusiastic about 50 Days Ablaze, begin communicating it to the congregation through the newsletter, weekly bulletin announcements and inserts, verbal announcements, signs, banners, mailings. Ask the Pastor to hold it up as a vision in his sermons and articles.

### **Visuals**

LCMS World Missions has developed resources for publicizing the Ablaze Initiative that can be downloaded from their website. These include printed logos, banner designs, and bulletin inserts. You can also order pamphlets, stickers, balloons, and offering envelopes. St. Luke Lutheran Church has developed posters and bulletin inserts for 50 Days Ablaze that can be downloaded and edited for your congregation's use. You could also develop your own inserts, posters and banners for 50 Days Ablaze.

Websites: [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) and [www.stlukecabot.org](http://www.stlukecabot.org).

### **Printed Materials**

Become familiar with the printed materials that will be needed during the campaign, and reproduce copies as needed by the other teams. These would include the *50 Daily Devotions* (available from St. Luke's website) and the Bible study guide, *"God's Love . . . Our Response"* (available on the LCMS World Mission's Ablaze CD-ROM). Determine how many copies you will need for your congregation's participation. Also determine how you want to present the material. You may want to use card stock or laminate the covers of the Daily Devotions and have them spiral bound.

#### **Other Materials**

You will need to make copies of the Ablaze video in either DVD or VHS format for your small group leaders. These formats are both available from LCMS World Missions.

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### **Prayer Team Guidelines**

Prayer is the breath of faith. It is the way in which we let out and express our faith, confidence and love for God. It is also the way in which we take in and receive His love and will for our lives. In prayer Jesus enters in and abides with us.

We cannot and would not separate Him from anything that happens in our lives. For all our blessings we owe Him our thanks and praise. For all our sins we need His forgiveness. For all our sorrows we need His comfort. For all our weaknesses we need His strength. Praying constantly is acknowledging God in all our ways. (Herman C. Theiss, *Life With God*, p. 82, Seven Hills Publishers, 1988.)

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).*

The role of the Prayer Team is to help the campaign team and the congregation maintain a prayer focus in the 50 Days Ablaze journey. We cannot know God's will or accomplish anything on our own apart from the Word of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, and prayer. You can encourage your people to not let the urgent (tasks and meetings) crowd out the important (prayer). Encourage the campaign teams and church leaders to model prayer as not just nice, but necessary.

#### **Seize every opportunity to pray**

- Spend significant time in Campaign meetings praying
- Gather a handful of people before or after a worship service to pray
- Pray in your small groups and Bible studies
- Pray in your ministry meetings
- Pray on your own
- Pray with the youth and children

#### **What to pray for**

- What are the needs of our congregation that we can pray for?
- What are we asking God to do in us and in our church during this Campaign?
- How can we pray for our Pastor, the Campaign Team and other leaders in our church?
- How can we engage pockets of people in our congregation in prayer?

### **Creative ideas**

What can your team come up with to promote prayer in your congregation? What about a Day of Fasting and Prayer? Maybe a Prayer Walk? A Prayer Vigil? Prayer Cards? Prayer Journals? Weekly Scripture Prayer Reminders? Your team can set some prayer events and opportunities in motion that can help your congregation grow in its prayer life, not just for 50 Days Ablaze, but for the future as well.

As St. Luke develops prayer tools, we will post them on our website. Please be sure to share your ideas with the network of other participating congregations.



## **Planning the Campaign – A Preparation Timeline**

A congregational event of this magnitude can seem overwhelming at the onset, but if the planning is thorough and timely, the 50 Days should go smoothly. You may want to keep the church calendar clear as much as possible during this time in order to reduce overload and enable everyone to participate.

As you begin planning your campaign, it is important that each team clearly understands their role and responsibilities. (See the separate descriptions of each team's role.) The whole process of planning the campaign will proceed smoothly if the steps are completed in a timely manner. This timeline is to guide you, to help you remember some important elements, to help your team members prepare for their responsibilities, and to meet deadlines in a timely manner. This timeline gets you started well in advance and sets a comfortable pace. Don't worry if you are getting started later than this timeline begins. Just follow the steps listed until you catch up.

**To the Campaign Director:** This Preparation Timeline allows you to see at a glance and monitor what each team needs to focus on each week of the campaign. The ongoing meetings of the Campaign Team are important so that everyone is in sync and on schedule. Each Team Leader should commit to attending all of the meetings even when their team is not in a high action mode.

**To the Communications Team:** Your team will need to closely follow the timelines of all the teams so that you are prepared to handle publicity and print deadlines throughout the weeks leading up to and including the campaign.

### **DECEMBER 4** (4 months prior to campaign)

#### **Campaign Director:**

- Recruit Campaign Team (See *Campaign Team Description*)
- Begin monthly meetings

**Prayer Team:**

- Recruit Prayer Team (See *Prayer Team Description*)
- Begin prayer focus

**Communications Team:**

- Recruit Communications Team (See *Communications Team Description*)
- Begin meeting and praying
- Announce dates of the campaign to church and ministry leaders
- Schedule, announce and plan an orientation meeting to be held in January for key church leaders (See *Introducing the Campaign*)

**JANUARY 3** (3 months prior)

**Campaign Team:**

- Begin meeting every other week
- Clear the church calendar for the period of the 50 Days (March – May)
- Consider ways your Sunday School and/or Day School can be involved in the *50 Days Ablaze*
  - Order or download Ablaze resources from LCMS World Missions.

**Prayer Team:**

- Continue prayer focus

**Communications Team:**

- Continue to meet
- Hold the orientation meeting for key church leaders

**Worship Team:**

- Recruit Worship Team (See *Worship Team Description*)
- Begin meeting and praying

**Small Groups Team:**

- Recruit Small Groups Team (See *Small Groups Team Description*)
- Begin meeting and praying
- Set goals for the number of groups you will need
- Print out Bible study resources from the Ablaze CD-ROM
- Make sure you have a copy of the Ablaze video and/or DVD with the video series

**Missions Fair Team:**

- Recruit Missions Fair Team (See *Missions Fair Team Description*)
- Begin meeting and praying
- Gather information and resources for the Missions Fair

**Servant Events Team:**

- Recruit Servant Events Team (See *Servant Events Team Description*)
- Begin meeting and praying
- Gather ideas for Servant Events

**Implementation Team:**

- Recruit Implementation Team (See *Implementation Team Description*)
- Begin meeting and praying

**Celebration Team:**

- Recruit Celebration Team (See *Celebration Team Description*)
- Begin meeting and praying
- Schedule space and times on the church calendar for the Celebration Event

**JANUARY 30** (8 weeks prior)

**Campaign Team:**

- Meet every other week
- Review the course of action for the Youth, the Sunday School and/or Day School and assist them in gathering resources
- Schedule a date, time, and location for the Kick-Off Event

**Prayer Team:**

- Develop a campaign prayer plan

**Communications Team:**

- Hold a campaign vision meeting for all church leaders, ministry leaders and others (See *Introducing the Campaign*)
  - Identify printed materials to be reproduced for the campaign
- Establish a communications process/procedure for communicating campaign information

**Worship Team:**

- Brainstorm ideas for worship services

**Small Groups Team:**

- Notify any pre-existing small group leaders of campaign goals and dates
- Brainstorm ideas for recruiting new leaders and sign-up procedures for small groups
- Begin reproducing the DVD and/or VHS tapes for the small group leaders

**Missions Fair Team:**

- Schedule time and space for the Mission Fair on the church calendar
- Gather displays and resources

**Servant Events Team:**

- Begin scheduling Servant Events' dates and locations
- Brainstorm ideas for coordinating and sign-up procedures

**Implementation Team:**

- Continue meeting and praying
- Discuss methods for gathering information from the small groups

**Celebration Team:**

- Continue Meeting
- Brainstorm ideas for the Celebration Event, food and presentation

**FEBRUARY 12** (6 weeks prior)

**Campaign Team:**

- Begin meeting every week

- Recruit people to help with the Kick-Off Event (i.e., set-up, food preparation)
  - Review the schedule for the next two weeks

**Prayer Team:**

- Launch prayer strategy
- Implement prayer cards

**Communications Team:**

- Start promoting the campaign in the church
- Promote the Kick-Off Event
  - Begin producing non-print items such as signs and banners

**Worship Team:**

- Develop the plan for special features for the worship services and extend invitations

**Small Groups Team:**

- Recruit small group leaders
- Determine sign-up procedure

**Missions Fair Team:**

- Develop layout and operation of the Missions Fair

**Servant Events Team:**

- Confirm Servant Event commitments

**Implementation Team:**

- Continue meeting and praying
- Establish the method for gathering information from the small groups

**Celebration Team:**

- Continue developing plans for the Celebration event

**FEBRUARY 26** (4 weeks prior)

**Campaign Team:**

- Continue meeting weekly
- Download the Daily Devotions from St. Luke's website ([www.stlukecabot.org](http://www.stlukecabot.org)) or from LCMS World Mission's website ([www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org))
- Reproduce enough copies for everyone who will be participating in the *50 Days Ablaze*.
  - Review the schedule for the next two weeks

**Prayer Team:**

- Continue prayer strategy

**Communications Team:**

- Begin making weekly communications: bulletin announcements, inserts, emails
- Display the communication pieces such as signs, posters and banners

**Worship Team:**

- Begin rehearsing the elements of worship enhancement

**Small Groups Team:**

- Schedule training for small group leaders

- Begin sign-up procedures

**Missions Fair Team:**

- Determine details of the Missions Fair, such as decorations, refreshments, extra touches

**Servant Events Team:**

- Determine sign-up procedures for the Servant Events

**Implementation Team:**

- Acquire a list of the small groups
- Assign groups to members of the Implementation Team

**Celebration Team:**

- Finalize time and location for Celebration Event

**MARCH 12** (2 weeks prior)

**Campaign Team:**

- Continue meeting weekly
- Make sure everything is in place for the Kick-Off Event
  - Review the schedule for the next two weeks

**Prayer Team:**

- Continue prayer strategy

**Communications Team:**

- Continue making weekly communications: bulletin announcements, inserts, emails
- Coordinate the communications being generated for all the other teams

**Worship Team:**

- Review special features for the first week of the campaign

**Small Groups Team:**

- Continue to assist small group leaders in preparation for the first week
- Make sure each group leader has the necessary video and study materials
- Continue sign-up procedures

**Missions Fair Team:**

- Recruit volunteers to work at the Missions Fair

**Servant Events Team:**

- Recruit leaders for the Servant Events

**Implementation Team:**

- Check to see if any new small groups have been added and assign them to members of the Implementation team

**Celebration Team:**

- Brainstorm ideas for Celebration Sunday
- Plan to capture the essence of the Missions Outreach theme

**MARCH 19** (1 week prior)

**Campaign Team:**

- Continue meeting weekly
- Review the schedule for the next two weeks

**Prayer Team:**

- Continue prayer strategy

**Communications Team:**

- Continue meeting weekly to coordinate the communications bulletin announcements, inserts, emails
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the communications strategy

Wo



Coordinated for all the other teams

of the campaign

**Small Groups Team:**

- Conduct training for small group leaders
- Distribute curriculum and videos and provide coaching
- Continue sign-up procedures

**Missions Fair Team:**

- Continue preparations for the Missions Fair

**Servant Events Team:**

- Recruit leaders for the Servant Events

**Implementation Team:**

- Members of the Implementation Team should contact the group leaders that have been assigned to them and establish a routine for receiving the group's ideas.
  - Discuss ways of gathering information from the small groups

**Celebration Team:**

- Continue planning the Celebration Event

**A Mission/Outreach Campaign  
March 27 – May 15, 2005**

**50 Days ABLAZE! Schedule**

Pre-Campaign	March 20	“Kick-Off Event”	(Palm Sunday)
Week 1	March 27 – April 2	“Learn”	(Easter Sunday)

<b>Week 2</b>	<b>April 3 – 9</b>	<b>“Pray”</b>	
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>April 10 – 16</b>	<b>“Give”</b>	
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>April 17 – 23</b>	<b>“Tell”</b>	<b>(Servant Events)</b>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>April 24 – 30</b>	<b>“Send”</b>	
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>May 1 – 7</b>	<b>“Go”</b>	<b>(Missions Fair)</b>
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>May 8 – 14</b>	<b>“Celebrate”</b>	
	<b>May 15</b>	<b>“Celebration Event”</b>	<b>(Pentecost)</b>

## Implementation Team

### “Learn” - Where Do We Go from Here?

Here are some additional activities you can work through if you wish to move more deeply into this mission response:

1. Why do we want to increase learning about God and His mission in our congregation? That is, what do we hope to see happen (at least five things) as a result of increased involvement in learning? Write a statement describing your team’s purpose.
2. Together read through the Scripture passages listed for this mission response. What can you learn from them, and how will this affect your planning?
3. What has kept our congregation from greater involvement in learning about God and His mission in the past? How will we overcome these obstacles?
4. How much do our members already know about God and His mission? How could we find out?
5. Through which activities or gatherings will we reach our members to involve them in learning about God and His mission (Sunday worship, Bible class, Sunday school, special mission events, etc.)?
6. Through which media will we reach our members to help them learn about God and His mission? (Spoken word, church bulletin, newsletter, bulletin board, videos, etc.)
7. Who would need to be involved as we work to increase our congregation’s involvement in learning about God and His mission? How can we get these leaders involved?
8. At what point in the year and how quickly should you introduce each additional opportunity to learn about God and His mission? (Create a plan with dates. Be sure to involve the appropriate congregational leaders as you develop this plan!)
9. What first step will we take after this meeting to increase our congregation’s involvement in learning about God and His mission?

For further assistance in developing the learning mission response in your congregation, contact LCMS World Mission at 1-800-254-9495 or send an e-mail to [mission.info@lcms.org](mailto:mission.info@lcms.org).

## Implementation Team

### “Pray” - Where Do We Go from Here?

Gather a team of leaders who will develop and implement a plan for involving your congregation in praying for God and His mission. Then work through these questions for this area of mission involvement:

1. Write a statement explaining why you want to involve your congregation in praying for God and His mission.
2. Together read through the Scripture passages listed for this mission response. What can you learn from them, and how will this affect your planning?
3. What has kept your congregation from greater involvement in prayer for God and His mission in the past? How will you overcome these obstacles?
4. Where are the five best places to introduce prayer for God and His mission in your congregation? What would need to happen and what resources would you need to begin in each of these five places? (Example: If you chose the Sunday morning worship service as one of the five places to introduce prayer for God and His mission, you may need the following: agreement with the pastor to include the prayers, a source of information for prayers, and someone to write or collect the prayers.)
5. At what point in the year and how quickly should you introduce each additional opportunity to pray for God and His mission? (Create a plan with dates. Be sure to involve the appropriate congregational leaders as you develop this plan!)
6. What will be the first step you take to get your congregation involved in praying for God and His mission?

For further assistance in developing the “pray” mission response in your congregation, contact LCMS World Mission at 1-800-254-9495 or send an e-mail to [mission.info@lcms.org](mailto:mission.info@lcms.org).

## Implementation Team

### “Give” - Where Do We Go from Here?

Gather a team of leaders who will develop and implement a plan for involving your congregation in giving for God and His mission. Then work through these questions for an area of mission involvement:

1. Write a statement explaining why you want to involve your congregation in giving for God and His mission.
2. Together read through the Scripture passages listed for this mission response. What can you learn from them, and how will this affect your planning?
3. What has kept your congregation from greater giving for God and His mission in the past? How will you overcome these obstacles?
4. Which individuals or groups in your congregation might be most interested and willing to begin or increase their involvement in God and His mission through giving?
5. What ways of giving would be most likely to work for them? A special offering, sponsoring a mission project, giving to the support of a missionary family, budgeted giving?
6. Who will need to be involved in leading the mission giving in your congregation? How will you get these people involved?
7. When would you like mission giving to take place in your congregation? (Mention ongoing and special giving activities.)
8. Where will be the best places to involve your congregation in mission giving? (Places to consider: regular worship service; special worship services; Sunday school, day school, weekday school, VBS; in homes of your families.)
9. At what point in the year and how quickly should you introduce each additional opportunity to give for God and His mission? (Create a plan with dates. Be sure to involve the appropriate congregational leaders as you develop this plan!)
10. What will be the first step you take to get your congregation involved in giving for God and His mission?

For help in igniting a vision for individual and congregational giving as a mission response, contact the LCMS World Mission support *Ablaze!* hotline at 1-877-4ABLAZE (422-5203) or send an e-mail to [mission.info@lcms.org](mailto:mission.info@lcms.org).

## Implementation Team

### “Tell” - Where Do We Go from Here?

Gather a team of leaders who will develop and implement a plan for involving your congregation in telling about God and His mission. Then work through these questions for this area of mission involvement:

1. Write a statement explaining why you want to involve your congregation in telling about God and His mission.
2. Together read through the Scripture passages listed for this mission response. What can you learn from them, and how will this affect your planning?
3. What has kept your congregation from greater involvement in telling the mission story in the past? How will you overcome these obstacles?
4. Who would need to be involved in telling the mission story at your congregation? How could you get these people involved?
5. At what point in the year and how quickly should you introduce each additional opportunity to tell about God and His mission? (Create a plan with dates. Be sure to involve the appropriate congregational leaders as you develop this plan!)
6. What will be the first step you take to get your congregation involved in telling about God and His mission?

For further assistance in developing the telling mission response in your congregation, contact LCMS World Mission at 1-800-254-9495, or send an e-mail to [mission.info@lcms.org](mailto:mission.info@lcms.org).

## Implementation Team

### “Send” - Where Do We Go from Here?

Gather a team of leaders who will develop and implement a plan for involving your congregation in learning about God and His mission. Then work through these questions for this area of mission involvement:

1. Write a statement explaining why you want to involve your congregation in sending people into God and His mission.
2. Together read through the Scripture passages listed for this mission response. What can you learn from them, and how will this affect your planning?
3. What has kept your congregation from greater sending for God and His mission in the past? How will you overcome these obstacles?
4. At what point in the year and how quickly should you introduce each additional opportunity to send people into God and His mission? (Create a plan with dates. Be sure to involve the appropriate congregational leaders as you develop this plan!)
5. What will be the first step you take to get your congregation involved in sending people into God and His mission?

For further assistance in developing the sending mission response in your congregation, contact the LCMS World Mission at 1-800-254-9495 or send an e-mail to [mission.info@lcms.org](mailto:mission.info@lcms.org).

## Implementation Team

### “Go” - Where Do We Go from Here?

Gather a team of leaders who will develop and implement a plan for involving your congregation in learning about God and His mission. Then work through these questions for this area of mission involvement:

1. Write a statement explaining why you want to involve your congregation in going into God and His mission.
2. Together read through the Scripture passages listed for this mission response. What can you learn from them, and how will this affect your planning?
3. What has kept your congregation from going into God and His mission in the past? How will you overcome these obstacles?
4. Who would need to be involved in leading the going in your congregation? How will you get these people involved?
5. If your congregation were to send a short-term mission team to another country, where would be the most likely place for them to go? Are there other places you would like to plan to send a team in the future? If so, where?
6. When do you think your congregation could be ready to go to another nation with the Good News of God’s kingdom? What would have to happen before they can go?
7. At what point in the year and how quickly should you introduce each additional opportunity to go for God and His mission? (Create a plan with dates. Be sure to involve the appropriate congregational leaders as you develop this plan!)
8. What will be the first step you take to get your congregation involved in going for God and His mission?

For further assistance in developing the going mission response in your congregation, contact LCMS World Mission at 1-800-254-9495 or send an e-mail to [mission.info@lcms.org](mailto:mission.info@lcms.org).

## Implementation Team

### “Celebrate” - Where Do We Go from Here?

Gather a team of leaders who will develop and implement a plan for involving your congregation in learning about God and His mission. Then work through these questions for this area of mission involvement:

1. Write a statement explaining why you want to involve your congregation in celebrating God and His mission.
2. Together read through the Scripture passages listed for this mission response. What can you learn from them, and how will this affect your planning?
3. What has kept your congregation from celebrating God and His mission in the past? How will you overcome these obstacles?
4. Where will be the best places to involve your congregation in celebrating God and His mission? (Places to consider: regular worship service; special worship services; mission events; Sunday school, day school, weekday school, VBS. )
5. Who will need to be involved in leading the celebrating at your congregation? How will you get these people involved?
6. At what point in the year and how quickly should you introduce each additional opportunity to celebrate God and His mission? (Create a plan with dates. Be sure to involve the appropriate congregational leaders as you develop this plan!)
7. What will be the first step you take to get your congregation involved in celebrating God and His mission?

For further assistance in developing the celebrating mission response in your congregation, contact LCMS World Mission at 1-800-254-9495 or send an e-mail to [mission.info@lcms.org](mailto:mission.info@lcms.org).

God's Grace . . .

# Our Response

A Video Course  
Study Guide for 50 Days Ablaze

LCMS World Missions  
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St. Louis, MO 63122  
[www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org)

# Notes for Leaders

## Why Use This Course?

*God's Grace . . . Our Response* was developed to help congregations find ways to get involved in God's mission. There are many LCMS congregations that are interested in God's mission, but don't really know how they can help involve their members. Some of them have too narrow a view of what mission involvement is (for example, only "giving" or only "going"). Others are wondering what first steps to take. This video is designed to help.

*God's Grace . . . Our Response* shows seven different ways congregations can get involved in God's mission. These ways are called "mission responses," because they are ways people respond to God's gracious love in Jesus Christ—that is, by becoming actively involved in the effort to bring the news of that grace to everyone in the world. The seven responses are learning, praying, giving, telling, sending, going, and celebrating.

The video segments feature LCMS congregations that are strong in that particular response. Viewers have a chance to see the congregation in action learning, praying, giving, telling, sending, going, or celebrating, and also to listen to congregational leaders talk about how their members got started with their involvement. Among the LCMS congregations featured are both large and small congregations, black and white, rural, suburban and urban, from places across the United States. All are actively involved in God's mission.

Through this video, we hope that participants will:

- Discover at least one mission response that they believe could be developed in our congregation
- Suggest ideas for the congregation to become more involved in missions and pass them on to the Implementation Team
- Get a glimpse of what God could do with their congregations in the future concerning the mission responses.

## Group Sessions

This study guide includes seven sessions—one for each of the mission responses. Each session should be about an hour long. Each section includes reading material, Bible verses a five- to eight-minute video segment, and discussion questions.

The group should have a way to display their ideas during the group session (i.e., butcher block paper or poster board). Following the session, the group leader should record the ideas on the Implementation Team's form and turn it in.

(Note: Be sure to take time for all of the group members to meet each other. You may want to have members take turns bringing refreshments.)

## **Materials**

Among the items you'll want to have on hand are:

- TV and VCR or DVD player
- Study guides
- Bibles
- Paper
- Pens or pencils
- Butcher block paper or poster board

## **Implementation Team**

An Implementation Team has been appointed, consisting of the Evangelism Board and some church leaders. Their role will be to gather and organize ideas generated by the small groups, assess and prioritize their potential and recommend a mission involvement plan for the congregation.

## **Benefits of Using This Video Course**

The more people who use this video, the better it will be for your congregation's mission involvement. Many of these mission responses depend on the support of key leaders in your congregation's worship life, administration, Sunday school, Bible studies and small groups. In the long run, every member has a role to play in the congregation's total mission involvement. We hope that this video's impact will last beyond the several weeks of the course, eventually strengthening the whole congregation's mission response.

# God's Grace . . . Our Response

*We love because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)*

## Introduction

*Leader: Have the group read through this introduction before beginning Session One.*

As Christians, all of us have received God's grace. We all know the story of how much God loved us--so much that He sent His only Son Jesus to become a man, and to live, die, and rise again for our sake. We know that God has taken away our sin and made us part of His own family, though we've done nothing to deserve it. This is what we call grace. We didn't earn it or work for it--it comes to us purely through God's great love for us.

Now that we are God's own children, God has given us other gifts as well. One of them is the privilege of being part of His mission to the world. God doesn't need us, but because of His grace, He gives us the privilege of working with Him to bring other people to faith in Jesus Christ. And as we get involved in God's mission, we experience the joy that comes from pleasing the God who loves us. We respond to God's love for us by getting involved in God's mission to the world.

There are actually seven main ways that people get involved in God's mission:

The first mission response is *learning*. We can get involved in God's mission by learning about the mission--about the mission challenges, the opportunities, and what the church is doing to reach lost people with the Gospel. This is a very important response, because it forms the foundation for everything else we do in mission.

The second response is *praying*. We can pray for God's mission as individuals and as a congregation. We can focus on specific countries or missionaries, or on mission challenges like reaching Muslims and Buddhists. This mission response is extremely important, because God has told us to pray for His mission. Again and again LCMS missionaries write and say, "Please keep praying for us, it's really making a difference."

Then there's *giving*. When we give to support missionaries, mission projects, or mission work in general, we are making it possible for more people to hear the Gospel. We share in the service of our missionaries.

The fourth response is *telling*. Whenever we tell about what God is doing in mission, we encourage others to get involved too. We help them to understand the incredible things that the Holy Spirit is doing to bring lost people to faith.

The fifth mission response is *sending*. Sending is what we do whenever we notice that others have the gifts to serve as a missionary, and we encourage them to think about doing that. Sending is also what we do when we write to missionaries, encourage them, and care for them when they're on home leave. Our sending supports the mission service they do.

Then we have *going*. We go into God's mission whenever we ourselves serve as missionaries, whether it's overseas or right here in our own backyards. Some people go as volunteers, or as career missionaries; others go on short-term mission trips for a few days or weeks. All of these are responding to God's grace by going.

The last way we respond to God's grace is by *celebrating*. We can celebrate God's mission during worship together, whenever we remember all the things He has done to bring lost people to Himself. We can also celebrate God's mission when we have special events, such as mission fairs and festivals. It's right that we should thank and praise God for everything He's doing to bring lost people to faith in Jesus Christ.

You've probably noticed that many of the responses overlap each other a bit—for example, you can't really pray unless you learn a little about the people you're praying for, and you can't go very effectively unless someone's there to send you. In this way, one mission response leads to another, until a congregation gets involved in all seven.

That's just a quick overview of seven ways we can respond to God's love and get involved in God's mission. During the upcoming weeks, we'll be learning more about each response. We'll also be thinking of ideas for how our congregation can be involved in each of the mission responses.

In this video series we'll be seeing LCMS congregations from across the country. Each one of them is strong in a particular mission response. As we watch and listen to how they are involved in mission, we may find some ideas that will work for us too. We will pass our ideas along to an Implementation Team that has been appointed to start planning how we can implement them in our congregation.

# Session 1 - Learn

*Come and see what God has done,  
how awesome His works in man's behalf!  
(Psalm 66:5)*

*Leader: Begin with prayer, then read the following, or have participants take turns reading.*

One of the ways we get involved in God's mission is by learning about it. There are several different ways we can learn about God's mission.

## Learn About God's Mission

### 1. What is God's view of the world?

- *Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31*
- *Romans 8:19-21*
- *John 3:16*

When God looks at the world, He sees the people He sent His Son to redeem. This includes us personally, since we are part of that world. It also includes everyone else for whom Jesus died and rose again.

### 2. What is God's mission for the world?

- *1 Timothy 2:3-4*

So we can see that God wants everyone to be saved through Jesus Christ our Lord. That's why God's mission is so important.

This isn't the only place in the Bible that talks about God's mission for the world. It would be easy to do a Bible study on God's mission plan from Genesis through Revelation.

### 3. Who are the people God cares about? Where are they?

- *Psalms 2:8*
- *Matthew 28:18-20*
- *Acts 1:8*
- *Revelation 7:9-10*

Here we can see that God cares about all nations and people groups. It could take our congregation a lifetime just to start learning about these different groups, since there are so many in the world. What we could do is to focus on one or two of them and get to know them in depth.

### 4. What is God's Church doing in the World?

- *Psalms 96*
- *Matthew 5:14-16*
- *Mark 16:15*
- *Luke 24:47*

- *Acts 8:4*

How are Christians, and specifically the LCMS, bringing God's Word to His world today? To answer this, we can learn about LCMS mission work around the world. We can learn more about what is being done and where.

## **5. Who are missionaries? What do they do?**

- *Matthew 5:13-16*
- *John 4:28-30; 39-42*
- *Acts 8:4*
- *1 Corinthians 1:23*
- *1 Corinthians 3:6-10*
- *1 Corinthians 12:4-11*

So many people have mistaken or outdated ideas of what missionary service is like. By learning more about LCMS missionaries and their service, we can correct those mistakes and get a glimpse of the challenging but joyful tasks they carry out. We can also find ways to get involved ourselves with their mission service, since we too are missionaries, people sent out by God.

Now let's take a few minutes to see how some other LCMS congregations are getting involved in God's mission through learning.

*Leader: Show the video segment at this point. When you finish, have the group work through the following discussion questions. Close the session with prayer.*

## Discussion Questions

1. What did you find especially helpful, interesting, or inspiring about the congregational model in the video?
2. Were there any ideas in the video that we could adapt to use in our own congregation? If so, how?
3. In what ways is our congregation involved right now in *learning* about God's mission? (Be sure to include children's activities.)
4. From what you saw in the video, what benefits do you think our congregation might experience if we got more deeply involved in learning about God's mission? What benefits would there be for the world?

## Session 2 - Pray

*Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord  
may spread rapidly and be honored,  
just as it was with you. (2 Thessalonians 3:1)*

*Leader: Begin with prayer, then read the following, or have participants take turns reading.*

Another way we can get involved with God's mission is through prayer. God has given a wonderful gift to His church by inviting us to pray to Him. We know that we can ask for whatever we need, and that includes needs related to God's mission.

### Pray for God's Mission

1. For unbelievers we know
2. For a specific people group, mission field, or mission need
3. For world evangelization
4. For ourselves to be better witnesses
5. For missionaries, national leaders and their families
6. For God to send out more missionaries

As you can see, the first three focus on people who need to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. We pray for them, asking God to bring them to faith. We pray for people near to us in our own community and far away in the rest of the world.

We can also pray for specific people groups, such as international students, deaf people, or a group like Muslims or Buddhists. As we learn more about these special groups, it gets easier for us to care about them and pray for them in specific ways.

The last three focus on the people who are serving in God's mission. This includes us. We pray that God will make us better witnesses for Him as we live among our families, friends and coworkers. We ask Him to give us opportunities to tell others about Jesus. We also pray for missionaries and national workers, as well as their families. The one thing missionaries ask the most is, "Pray for us." They depend on us to pray for their spiritual, emotional, physical, family and ministry needs. This is extremely important. The last thing we pray for is for more missionaries to serve.

Look up and read the following verses:

- *Matthew 9:35-38*
- *2 Corinthians 4:7-18*
- *2 Thessalonians 3:1-2*

There are still many, many more people in the world who need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Eleven thousand different people groups have no Christian church among them, no Bible, and no real chance to hear about Jesus unless someone outside comes to tell them. Long ago someone came to us to tell us about Jesus. Now we pray for others, asking God to send missionaries to them.

There are lots of ways we can find out what to pray for in God's mission. LCMS World Mission has resources to help us get started praying. We can also pray for needs we find out about personally or through missionary newsletters. And we can pray for our members who are involved in God's mission.

Now let's take a few minutes to see how some other LCMS churches are getting involved in God's mission through prayer.

*Leader: At this point, show the video segment. When it is finished, have the group work through the following discussion questions. End the session with prayer.*

## Discussion Questions

1. What did you find especially helpful, interesting, or inspiring about the congregational model in the video?
2. Were there any ideas in the video that we could adapt to use in our own congregation? If so, how?
3. In what ways is our congregation involved right now in *praying* for God's mission? (Be sure to include children's activities.)
4. From what you saw in the video, what benefits do you think our congregation might experience if we got more deeply involved in praying for God's mission? What benefits would there be for the world?
5. In the video Barbara Jensen said, "From a very young child, my parents taught me to pray." How are the children of our congregation being taught to pray? What more could we do in our own congregation to teach the children to pray?
6. Tell about a time you knew someone was praying for you and how it made a difference in your life. What difference do you think our prayers make to the lives and work of LCMS missionaries?

# Session 3 - Give

*Thanks be to God for His indescribable Gift!  
(1 John 4:19)*

*Leader: Begin with prayer, then read the following, or have participants take turns reading.*

Since Christians know that God has provided everything we have to use for His purposes, we have to decide how much we are to use for ourselves. Since God gave the ultimate—His own dear Son—to free us from the guilt of sin, we respond to His grace by giving to God that portion of our resources we commit to His work. His work—done through the Holy Spirit—brings others to faith in Jesus.

Our offerings and gifts are a big part of the reason that LCMS missionaries and our partners work in more than 60 countries around the world. These offerings support career and volunteer missionaries who bring the Good News of Jesus to lost people. There are lots of different ways we can give.

## Give to God's Mission

1. To support local, district, and international mission efforts
2. To special mission projects in LCMS mission fields
3. To support an LCMS missionary family

We can support mission efforts within our community or district or city. We can also support God's mission overseas as individuals or through our congregation with a special mission offering or ongoing support of a missionary.

If we want to get more personally involved in where the money is going, we can sponsor a mission project. LCMS World Mission has hundreds of projects for work around the world that depend on our gifts. By adopting one of these projects, we can help train a pastor, build a chapel, or provide Sunday school materials for a child in Russia.

We can also adopt a missionary family. There's a special program called Together In Mission (TIM) that allows congregations to build a special relationship with one missionary family. Participation in TIM allows members to give to support them, pray for them, write to them, and visit with them when they return on home service.

Look up and read the following verses:

- *Matthew 6:33-34*
- *Acts 4:32-37*
- *1 Corinthians 16:1-3*
- *2 Corinthians 8:1-15*
- *Philippians 4:10-19*

Let's look now at how others have been involved in giving to God's mission.

*Leader: At this point, show the video segment. When it is finished, have the group work through the following discussion questions. End the session with prayer.*

## Discussion Questions

1. What did you find especially helpful, interesting, or inspiring about the model of giving in the video?
2. Were there any ideas in the video that we could adapt to use in our own congregation? If so, how?
3. In what ways is our congregation involved right now in *giving* to God's mission? (Be sure to include children's activities.)
4. From what you saw in the video, what benefits do you think our congregation might experience if we got more deeply involved in giving to God's mission? What benefits would there be for the congregation, community, nation, world?
5. What motivates people to give to God's mission? What motivates you?

## Session 4 - Tell

*From Attalia [Paul and Barnabas] sailed back to Antioch where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. And they stayed there a long time with the disciples. (Acts 14:26-28)*

*Leader: Begin with prayer, then read the following, or have participants take turns reading.*

The first Christian missionaries told the mission story. When the early church sent out missionaries, they had to wait months and years before the missionaries came back and told them what God had done through their service.

The church at Antioch did this when they sent out Paul and Barnabas. After they finished their service, they came home again and told the story of God's mission.

### Telling the Mission Story

Today we have an advantage the early church didn't have. We don't have to wait months and years to hear what God is doing through mission work around the world. Now we have telephones, e-mail, video, photos, and printed material to help us tell the mission story.

So how do we tell the mission story? We can do this in several ways.

1. Tell our fellow members about God's Mission
  - a. First, we can collect up-to-date mission information and give it to our members. There are resources we can order from LCMS World Mission to get up-to-date information. We can also do this by visiting the LCMS World Mission Web site. Then we can take what we learn and share it with our members in presentations, in the bulletin, in the newsletter and in many other ways.
  - b. Another thing we can do is to invite missionaries to tell the story of what God is doing where they serve. We can get their newsletters, have them come to speak to us, and maybe even arrange a phone call or Web cast from the field. LCMS World Mission can help us form relationships with missionaries.
2. Tell about what we've learned by being involved in God's Mission
  - a. Still another thing we can do is to share our own stories of how being in God's mission has affected our lives. For example, if you go on a short mission trip to Guatemala, when you come back you can tell the rest of the congregation what it was like and what you learned from the trip.
3. What happens when we tell the mission story?
  - a. First of all, *it encourages the church*. The mission story is good for the church. To hear what God is doing through our missionaries strengthens our faith and encourages us to live as God's witnesses right here as well.

- b. The second thing that happens is that we start to see how God could use us individually in His mission. People who maybe never thought of missionary service before start thinking, “I could do that.” Others start praying regularly for missionaries and the people they serve. Still others give money, time and effort to support world mission.

Look up and read the following verses:

- Acts 14:26-28
- Acts 11:1-18
- Acts 11:19-22

Now let's see how some other LCMS congregations are involved in telling the mission story.

*Leader: At this point, show the video segment. When it is finished, have the group work through the following discussion questions. End the session with prayer.*

## Discussion Questions

1. What did you find especially helpful, interesting, or inspiring about the congregational model in the video?
2. Were there any ideas in the video that we could adapt to use in our own congregation? If so, how?
3. In what ways is our congregation involved right now in telling about God's mission? (Be sure to include children's activities.)
4. From what you saw in the video, what benefits do you think our congregation might experience if we got more deeply involved in telling about God's mission? What benefits would there be for the world?
5. What other ways would you like to tell the mission story in your congregation that weren't shown in the video?
6. Where would be the best places to involve your congregation in telling the mission story? List as many opportunities as you can think of. (Some places to consider: regular worship service, special worship services, Sunday school, day school, weekday school, VBS, and in homes of your families.)

# Session 5 - Send

*In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen . . . and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:1-3)*

*Leader: Begin with prayer, then read the following, or have participants take turns reading.*

One mission response that a lot of people overlook is sending. Sending people into God's mission is critical. There would be few missionaries if there were no one to send them. The support that a sending church gives to missionaries is absolutely essential to their service.

## Send to God's Mission

The early church sent out many missionaries like Paul and Barnabas. But they didn't just send them and forget about them! The church was involved with its missionaries' work all the way. There are three ways our congregation could get involved in God's mission by sending.

1. By identifying family, friends and congregation members we know who might have the gifts to serve as missionaries
2. By encouraging them to consider missionary service
3. By caring for missionaries and their families through writing, hosting, and seeking additional involvement ideas to aid the missionaries' work.

The first way we can get involved is by identifying people who might be gifted to serve as missionaries. Chances are that there's someone—maybe several people—in our congregation who would do a great job serving this way. They may be students, older people, married couples, or almost anyone. God has given them the gifts they need to do a great job serving as missionaries. As a sending church, our role would be to identify these people.

Once we've identified people, our next job would be to encourage them to think about missionary service. Sometimes people just don't think about serving this way until a friend says to them, "You know, you'd really make a good missionary." As a sending church, we can encourage people to look into this form of service. We can also help them with the first steps along the way, such as calling LCMS World Mission to find out what service opportunities are open.

Our sending doesn't stop when a missionary gets to the field though! We continue that role when we support missionaries by writing to them, encouraging them, and finding other ways to help. It can be such an encouragement when missionaries know that a congregation is praying for them and writing to them. It helps them keep the connection with the church back home that sent them.

A sending congregation is like the launching pad for a rocket. Without it, the rocket would never get off the ground. In the same way, our prayers, support, and encouragement help missionaries begin their service and continue in it.

Look up and read the following verses:

- Acts 13:1-3
- Acts 14:26-28
- Acts 18:27-28
- 2 Corinthians 11:9
- Philippians 2:19-24
- Colossians 4:7-9

Now let's look at an LCMS congregation that is strongly involved in sending people to God's mission.

*Leader: At this point, show the video segment. When it is finished, have the group work through the following discussion questions. End the session with prayer.*

## Discussion Questions

1. What did you find especially helpful, interesting, or inspiring about the congregational model in the video?
2. Were there any ideas in the video that we could adapt to use in our own congregation? If so, how?
3. In what ways is our congregation involved right now in *sending* people into God's mission? (Be sure to include children's activities.)
4. From what you saw in the video, what benefits do you think our congregation might experience if we got more deeply involved in sending people into God's mission? What benefits would there be for the world?
5. How can we identify members in our congregation to send into mission? Who would need to be involved, and how could we get them involved?
6. How can our congregation encourage its members to consider missionary service?
7. How can our members support missionaries?

# Session 6 - Go

*“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19a)*

*Leader: Begin with prayer, then read the following, or have participants take turns reading.*

Yet another mission response our congregation can get involved in is going. We can go into God’s mission in several different ways.

## Where Should We Go?

*“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)*

This is what Jesus said to his disciples just before he returned to heaven. Notice the order he used. The disciples were to start their mission service in Jerusalem, among their own neighbors. Then they would go a little farther away, into Judea and Samaria where the people were a little different from them. Finally God’s mission would take them to the very ends of the earth.

This verse has meaning for us too as Jesus’ disciples. We, too, can go into God’s mission in four different areas. We start with our own local community, with our neighbors here in *[name of your city or town.]* This is our Jerusalem.

We can also go into God’s mission among people who are a little further away, a little more different from us. If *[name of your city or town]* is our Jerusalem, then what would you say is our congregation’s Judea and Samaria?

- Our county or state
- Local ethnic or immigrant groups
- Nearby universities and colleges
- Deaf or blind people near us
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The last place we can go into God’s mission is “to the ends of the earth.” Today LCMS missionaries are serving in dozens of countries around the world. Some of them are volunteers who go for weeks, months, or even years. Some of them are career missionaries who go for the long haul.

Our congregation can get involved this way, too.

## Go into God's Mission

1. Right now, to people we know who need Jesus near us
2. Wherever the Lord directs us to make disciples
3. By participating in short mission trips
4. By serving as long-term volunteer missionaries
5. By serving as career missionaries

Look up and read the following verses:

- *Psalm 68:11*
- *Psalm 71:15-18*
- *Isaiah 6:8*
- *Daniel 12:3*
- *John 4*
- *Romans 10:14-15*

LCMS World Mission can help us find out more about opportunities for going into God's mission, whether it's just for a couple of weeks or for a longer time. Now let's take a few minutes to see how some other LCMS congregations "go" into God's mission.

*Leader: At this point, show the video segment. When it is finished, have the group work through the following discussion questions. End the session with prayer.*

### Discussion Questions

1. What did you find especially helpful, interesting, or inspiring about the congregational model in the video?
2. Were there any ideas in the video that we could adapt to use in our own congregation? If so, how?
3. In what ways is our congregation involved right now in going into God's mission? (Be sure to include children's activities.)
4. From what you saw in the video, what benefits do you think our congregation might experience if we got more deeply involved in going into God's mission? What benefits would there be for the world?

# Session 7 - Celebrate

*I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations;  
I will sing of you among the peoples. (Psalm 108:3)*

*Leader: Begin with prayer, then read the following, or have participants take turns reading.*

Another way we can get involved in God's mission is through celebrating. There are lots of things to celebrate. A few of them are listed for you on the sheet I handed out. Let's look at them now.

## Celebrate God's Mission

1. That Jesus is alive
2. That we are children of God
3. That God has a wonderful job for us to do!

Look up and read the following verses:

- *Psalm 96*
- *Isaiah 55:10—12*
- *Isaiah 61:10-1*
- *Matthew 28:8-10*
- *Luke 10:1-3, 17, 21*
- *Luke 24:50-53*
- *Acts 2:42-47*
- *Acts 11:18, 22-24*
- *1 Peter 1:3-9*

Our mission response is based on what God has done for us. When Jesus died and rose again for us, when God made us his own children, that gave us something to celebrate! And since God has given us the privilege of taking this Good News to others, that's one more reason to celebrate.

As a congregation, we can celebrate God's mission in many different ways. We can have special mission worship services that focus on what God is doing to bring His Gospel to the nations. We can also include a mission emphasis in our regular services, through prayer and music and by having special speakers—for example, a missionary on home leave, or one of our own people who has just returned from a mission trip. We can also have special mission events such as mission fairs, where we could set up displays with information about LCMS mission work around the world. We could have special speakers. We could even have food and music from around the world.

As you can see, there are a lot of possibilities when it comes to celebrating God's mission. Let's take a few minutes now to see how some other LCMS congregations have made celebrating a part of their lives.

*Leader: At this point, show the video segment. When it is finished, have the group work through the following discussion questions. End the session with prayer.*

## Discussion Questions

1. What did you find especially helpful, interesting, or inspiring about the congregational model in the video?

2. Were there any ideas in the video that we could adapt to use in our own congregation? If so, how? Can you come up with any not shown in the video?
3. In what ways is our congregation involved right now in celebrating God's mission? (Be sure to include children's activities.)
4. From what you saw in the video, what benefits do you think our congregation might experience if we got more deeply involved in celebrating God's mission? What benefits would there be for the world?

**Thank you for participating in "50 Days Ablaze."**

After our Implementation Team has gathered and assessed all of the groups' ideas, they will develop a plan for our congregation to be more involved in the seven mission responses.

Be sure to be a mission responder.  
When the opportunity arises, be the first to raise your hand and volunteer.

**May God's grace be upon you!**

## Learn Resources

The following resources are available from LCMS World mission to help your congregation grow in responding to God's love through learning. To order these resources, call 1-800-254-9495.

### **“Global Links”**

Provides short mission stories and anecdotes for church bulletins and newsletters. See [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) to download.

### ***Harvest News***

LCMS World Mission newsletter with mission stories, information, and photos from around the world. Includes prayer requests, resources, and ways to get involved. For a free subscription, call 1-800-254-9495.

### **Mission Focus bulletin inserts**

Each insert focuses on a different mission field, country, or ministry, explaining the mission challenges and opportunities that exist. Includes prayer needs and opportunities for getting involved in God and His mission. See [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) to download.

### ***Mission Friends for children***

This children's mission resource focuses on mission work in a different country, field, or ministry. Filled with stories, recipes, games and crafts from around the world. Includes map, student pages (grades 4-6), primary page (grades 1-3), parent and teacher pages. Free. See [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) to download.

### **“20 Ways to Use Mission Friends”**

Twenty ideas and additional activities for classroom and family involvement in God and His mission. Can be used with any issue of Mission Friends. May be photocopied. S12996, free. See [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) to download.

### **Mission Friends Map**

This 17 x 22 black and white four-panel foldout map features Palmer the Parrot on a trip around the world to mission fields where the LCMS and its partner churches work. Meant to be colored and displayed. Free in packages of 25. S13049.

### **Ministry to Armed Forces brochure**

This brochure describes LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces, including the Ministry by Mail program which sends literature every month to LCMS members serving in the military. S12852, free.

### **[www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org)**

Visit the LCMS World Mission Web site at [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) for the most up-to-date stories and resources for learning about LCMS World Mission activities and involvement ideas.

## Pray Resources

The following resources are available from LCMS World mission to help your congregation grow in responding to God's love through praying. To order these resources, call 1-800-254-9495.

### **“Pray For Us” prayer calendar**

A monthly calendar giving missionary prayer requests and birthdays for each day of the month. Included with *Harvest News*. Free subscription.

### **Missionary prayer cards**

Single sheets for use as bulletin or newsletter inserts for mission fairs, classrooms, mission meetings and as prayer reminders. Each prayer card provides information about the missionary, his or her family and work. Free. See [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) to download.

### **“Who will tell them?” prayer bookmark**

This full-color bookmark focuses on and challenges the church to pray for the lost children of the world. S12995, package of 25 for \$2.

### **[www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org)**

Visit the LCMS World Mission Web site at [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) for the most up-to-date prayer needs and resources.

## Give Resources

The following resources are available from LCMS World Mission to help your congregation and its members grow in responding to God's love through giving. To order, call 1-800-254-9495 (unless another number is listed with the resource).

### **“Put Your Congregation on the Map”**

This brochure explains the benefits for both congregations and missionaries involved in the Together in Mission program. Call 1-800-254-9495, Ext. 1651 to order. Free.

### **Together In Mission information packet**

Tells how your congregation can be personally involved in the direct support of a missionary and his or her family. The Together In Mission program is fully explained in this packet of materials. Limited to one per congregation. Order only from the Together In Mission office, 1-800-254-9495, Ext. 1651.

### **Mission Sowers brochure**

Explains how you can personally support the mission outreach of the LCMS financially through a program of regular giving. Order by calling 1-800-248-1930, Ext. 1645. Free.

### **Mission Projects/Opportunities Catalog**

Catalog of opportunities to involve mission-minded people in God and His mission through financial support, prayer and volunteer service. S12532, free.

### **Offering envelopes**

Special mission offering envelopes for LCMS World Mission projects. Mail-in adult version, adult version and children's version. Free in multiples of 100.

Children's	S12994
Adult	S12734
Adult—Business Reply	S12660
Cong. Pew Envelopes	S12660
<i>Ablaze!</i> Envelope (BRE)	S11561 (in multiples of 50)

### **Children's Offering Coin Box**

Colorful, cardboard coin boxes for saving mission offerings. Free in multiples of 25. S12941.

### **Mission Sparklers**

An activity-oriented program for children's groups who wish to adopt an ongoing mission project. For an activity packet explaining the program, call 1-800-248-1930, Ext. 1692, or click on the Palmer Parrot logo on the LCMS World Mission Web site at [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org).

Visit the LCMS World Mission Web site at [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) and click on “Giving Opportunities” for lists of projects and other giving opportunities.

## Tell Resources

The following resources are available from LCMS World mission to help your congregation grow in responding to God's love through telling. To order these resources, call 1-800-254-9495.

### **“Reaching the Lost” brochure**

This colorful brochure gives a basic overview of LCMS World Mission work together with its partners. Includes a large color-coded map to help you identify countries of the world where LCMS World Mission is involved. An excellent introduction to LCMS mission work! S12825, free.

### **World Notes**

Each sheet focuses on a different country, describing its history, LCMS mission work, and opportunities for outreach. Includes statistical data such as the number of Christians, percentages of people holding various religious beliefs, etc. Free. See [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) to download.

### **[www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org)**

Visit the LCMS World Mission Web site at [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) for the most up-to-date stories, and resources for telling about God and His mission. If your own congregation has a Web site, consider adding a link to LCMS World Mission as a way of telling the mission story!

## Send Resources

The following resources are available from LCMS World mission to help your congregation grow in responding to God's love through sending. To order these resources, call 1-800-254-9495.

### **Together In Mission bulletin inserts**

Information for congregation members about the Together In Mission missionary support program. S06036, free.

### **“How to Write to Missionaries”**

A document that explains how to communicate with missionaries. See [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) to download.

### **“How to Host a Missionary Family”**

This resource will help you plan ahead and be well-prepared to receive missionaries that your congregation has sent to work in God and His mission. Includes checklists and step-by-step details to make the missionary's visit satisfying and encouraging for everyone involved. See [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) to download.

### **“We Write to Missionaries”**

Single sheet guide for teachers to help students write to missionaries. Photocopiable. S12670, up to 5 free.

### **[www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org)**

Visit the LCMS World Mission Web site at [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) for the most up-to-date service opportunities and resources for sending people into God and His mission.

## Go Resources

The following resources are available from LCMS World mission to help your congregation grow in responding to God's love through going. To order these resources, call 1-800-254-9495.

### **“Passport to International Friendship”**

Pocket-size booklet with ideas about reaching out to international students. Includes space to write names and addresses of international friends. S12658, free.

### **“Volunteer Opportunities—LCMS World Mission”**

This chart lists current volunteer missionary opportunities: country, position, length of service, date open and qualifications required. Request from volunteer ministries at LCMS World Mission by calling 1-800-254-9495 or download from the Web at [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org). Click on “Service Opportunities.”

### **[www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org)**

Visit the LCMS World Mission Web site at [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) for the most up-to-date listing of service opportunities (career, long-term volunteer, and short-term volunteer) for people interested in going into God and His mission.

## Celebrate Resources

The following resources are available from LCMS World mission to help your congregation grow in responding to God's love through celebrating. To order these resources, call 1-800-254-9495.

### **Mission Worship Services and Worship Helps**

Go to [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) and click on "Resources." Look under "Congregational Helps" to find several worship materials and ideas for celebrating God and His mission.

### **"How to Develop a Mission Fair"**

Ideas and advice on how to hold a mission fair. Includes suggestions on planning, exhibits, booths, and food. See [www.lcmworldmission.org](http://www.lcmworldmission.org) to download.

### **LCMS World Mission Balloons**

Use these colorful globe balloons as teaching aids or as handouts at your mission event. \$5 per package of 25. S12517.

### **[www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org)**

Visit the LCMS World Mission Web site at [www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org) for the most up-to-date resources for celebrating God and His mission.

## General Resources

The following resources are available from LCMS World mission to help your congregation grow in responding to God's love through all seven mission responses. To order these resources, call 1-800-254-9495.

***Making Mission Central*** This video profiles Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, an LCMS congregation that has taken on the challenge of making mission central to the life and service of their congregation. Shows how a congregation can integrate all seven mission responses.

***Partnering to Reach Unreached People*** What's next for a congregation where God and His mission is central? Follow three congregations who formed a mission society and adopted an unreached people group. This video shows how LCMS congregation members got involved personally in reaching the lost in Kyrgyzstan.

***God Gave the Growth*** How can a congregation or mission group in the United States work effectively with fellow Christians of other cultures without creating dependency or destroying their initiative?