



Thoughts on Rural Ministry...from my corner of the pasture

The *IDW Rural Advocacy Team Pack* is on the move. Eyes are looking west toward Nebraska City. The dates are November 5-7 and the event is the *3rd Heartland Conference*.

Reaching Rural America for Christ tells you the heart and mission of this Nov. 5-7 gathering.

- **RAFC** wants to help strengthen the care of Christ for children and youth,
- assist congregations in taking intentional steps to create a positive mission attitude,
- build a network of leadership training and ministry support for rural/small town congregations, and
- celebrate our common heritage.

Cost is \$325/person, covering 2 nights lodging, 6 meals, banquet, and all materials.

Participation is limited to the first 130 registrants and the deadline is October 3.

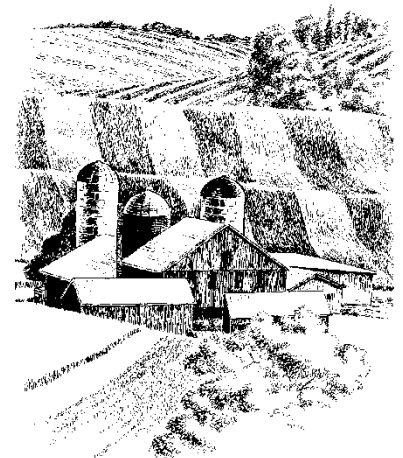
There will be 6 break-out sessions for sharing, learning, and gleaning from one another

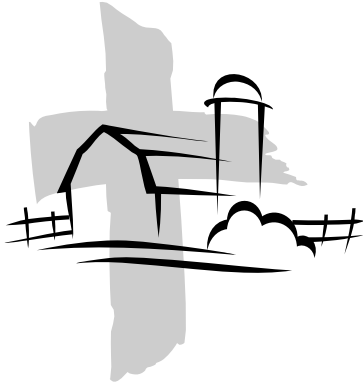
The conference will include these practical learning groups and facilitators:

- *Future rural cultural values* -- **Dr. Randy Cantrell**, University of Nebraska School of Agriculture.
- *Christ-centered education for children and youth* in rural and small town settings -- **Rev. Bob Riggert**, executive assistant for education, youth, and stewardship, LCMS Iowa District West, and **Terry Schmidt**, associate director of schools with the LCMS Board for District and Congregational Services.
- *Transforming rural and small churches* -- **Rev. Richard Boring**, assistant to the president for district ministries, LCMS Nebraska District, and **Dr. Terry Tieman**, director of the Transforming Churches Network.
- *Regional ministry partnerships* -- **Rev. Tim Renstrom**, pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Appleton, Minn., and **Rev. Gary Griffin**, pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lockwood, Mo.
- *Outreach and church planting* -- **Rev. Scott Snow**, director of national outreach, LCMS Board for Mission Services.
- *Biblical, personal, and congregational stewardship* -- **Dr. Stuart Brassie**, mission facilitator, Missouri District, and **Rev. Wayne Knolhoff**, director of Stewardship Ministry, LCMS Board for District and Congregational Services.

Talk this over with the church council and line up so folks to go. Secure some avenues of revenue. Talk with the District office regarding financial help for one/congregation. This is one conference you shouldn't miss!

Serving with Joy in His fields,
Gene Ernst





Reaching Rural
America for Christ

Reaching Rural America for Christ Conference

For those living in the country with a passion for the lost

Arbor Lodge Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, Nebraska
Thursday, November 5, 2009 beginning at 1:30 p.m.
through Saturday, November 7, 2009, 12:00 noon

Let us go to the small towns...

Mark 1:38

Rural and Small Town Pastors and Lay Leaders,

You are cordially invited to participate in the third conference that helps us share common ministry experiences and embrace change toward being in mission to our rural and small town communities.

Working through districts, we are committed to encourage, equip, and inspire professional church workers and lay leaders while reinforcing rural and small town congregations serving as a mission outposts in their communities.

Rev. Russ Sommerfeld, Chair, National RST Task Force; Rev. Dr. Ray Mirly, Chair Personnel Committee; Dr. Ralph Geisler, SPIFE and National RST Catalyst Coordinator



Rev. Russ Sommerfeld
Nebraska District President



Rev. Dr. Ray Mirly
Missouri District President



Dr. Ralph Geisler
SPIFE and National
Catalyst Coordinator

Facilitators will provide practical learning groups through congregational stories on:

- Future Rural Cultural Values – Dr. Randy Cantrell, University of Nebraska School of Agriculture
- Christ-Centered Education for Children & Youth in Rural and Small Town Settings – Rev. Bob Riggert, Iowa West District Executive & Terry Schmidt, LCMS Associate Director of Schools
- Transforming Rural and Small Churches – Rev. Richard Boring, Nebraska District Executive & Rev. Dr. Terry Tieman, Transforming Churches Network Director
- Regional Ministry Partnership – Rev. Tim Renstrom, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Appleton, MN & Rev. Gary Griffin, Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lockwood, MO
- Outreach/Church Planting – Rev. Scott Snow, LCMS Director of Outreach
- Biblical, Personal, and Congregational Stewardship – Rev. Dr. Stuart Brassie, Missouri District Executive

Cost per participant: \$325 double occupancy; add \$65 for single occupancy (includes 2 nights lodging, 6 meals, banquet, and all materials)

Participation limited to the first 130 registrants, deadline October 2, 2009

To register call toll free (888) 463-5127.

Saint Paul Institute for Education serves as a center for rural small town mission and ministry. We are located on the campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School & Ministries, Concordia, MO, a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.