



TCN
TRANSFORMING CHURCHES NETWORK

TCN eNews - February 2009

Welcome to the first issue of the Transforming Churches Network (TCN) eNews! If you are not familiar with TCN, let me introduce you. The Transforming Churches Network (TCN) is a non-profit organization dedicated to revitalizing churches within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). We help congregations become more outreach-driven by providing coaching training and resources for pastors and church leadership. TCN was established to assist the LCMS reach its *Ablaze!* goal of revitalizing 2,000 churches by 2017.

So, why is revitalization needed? Unfortunately, 90 percent of churches throughout the United States are in decline. The LCMS is no exception as 80 percent of its churches have reached a plateau or are declining in worship attendance. It's no wonder that the United States makes up the third largest mission field in the world - that's why TCN strives to equip churches and lay people alike to share the message of God's love to those in our own backyards.

TCN has already been working with more than 200 churches throughout the Synod and we are already seeing positive results. This issue of e-News includes one of our success stories, along with other information about the work we are doing. You can find more information about TCN by visiting our [Web site](#). We're excited about what God has in store for our ministry in 2009. We hope you will join us on our journey to follow Christ's command to "go and make disciples".

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Terry Tieman
Executive Director, Transforming Churches Network





Party in the Park Event Included Face Painting

First Lutheran's Party in the Park was one of six outreach events the church conducted in 2008. Party in the Park was a free community event that included music, games and activities for children. TCN prescribed the outreach events in an effort to minister to people out in the community. The events were a successful initiative for the church as 57 new members joined First Lutheran last year.

reasons. He might mention the increase in annual adult confirmations from 1 to 32, or the number of baptisms conducted in a year moving from 6 to 25. He might tell you about the growth in worship attendance, the increase in offerings, or the number of community outreach projects that First Lutheran conducted. But, that's not what struck Pastor Beyer the most about his church's participation in the TCN process - what he really noticed was a shift in focus and attitude.

To read the rest of First Lutheran's story of success, please visit the Transforming Churches Network Web site by clicking [here](#).

First Lutheran - A TCN Success Story

Recently, Pastor Jon Beyer was asked to reflect on the changes that he has seen at First Lutheran Church in Hot Springs, Arkansas, after the first year of participation in the Transforming Churches Network (TCN) revitalization process.

He began by emphasizing that First Lutheran church was already a solid Lutheran church; they had seen consistent growth over the years and he had always considered himself an outreach minded pastor. The congregation had added staff, started a school and even launched on outreach mission church. So why did he decide their congregation needed a change? Why did he allow a consultation team to come in, make an assessment and suggest changes that may be difficult?

Pastor Beyer could give a number of

Meet TCN's Executive Director

Rev. Dr. Terry Tieman began serving as the full-time Executive Director of the Transforming Churches Network (TCN) on January 16, 2009. As Executive Director of TCN, Terry directs the revitalization process for LCMS churches as part of the **Ablaze** initiative's goal of helping 2,000 churches to become mission outposts by the year 2017. Terry has been directing the TCN ministry part time for almost two years, while also serving as the Director of Missions for the Mid-South District. In this role, Terry worked with the people and churches of the Mid-South District to establish more than 100 new ministries and 25 new congregations. Overseas, Terry initiated a church planting movement among the Sukuma tribe in Tanzania, which has resulted in tens of thousands of baptisms, along with a countless number of special mission opportunities. Prior to joining the Mid-South District staff, Terry served in the parish ministry for 12 years. He spent three years serving in Upper Michigan and nine years in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

During the past two years, more than forty churches in the Mid-South District have participated in the TCN revitalization process. These churches are already starting to see the fruitfulness of a ministry that focuses on creating disciples who are excited to share the message of God's love. Terry would like to invite you to participate in the ministry of the Transforming Churches Network as he begins his journey as the full-time director. You can keep up with the TCN ministry by visiting [our Web site](#). If you would like to become a TCN prayer partner or be added to the mailing list, please [click here](#) to e-mail Terry.



Dr. Terry Tieman is Executive Director of the Transforming Churches Network, which works to revitalize churches throughout the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.



Prayer Requests

We thank God for the many gifts He has granted us. We also ask him to continue to bless us. As you pray, we ask that you remember Transforming Churches Network. Specifically, please pray for:

- **Transition.** Please pray for Rev. Dr. Terry Tieman as he begins serving as the full-time Executive Director for the Transforming Churches Network.
- **Thrivent Grant.** Please keep the Grant committee in your prayers as they consider approval for a grant to help fund the Transforming Churches Network.
- **Transforming Churches Network Training.** Please pray for the participants and presenters at the TCN Conference in Davies, FL, Feb. 5-8, as they search for insight and wisdom to help congregations become mission outposts.