



The Key to Outreach is a Focused Plan

Messiah Lutheran in Memphis, Tenn., was like most churches that wanted to reach out to the community - they had good ideas and good intentions, but there wasn't a plan. Messiah Lutheran had conducted several outreach activities, but had seen little success. After discussing this challenge with their TCN Coach, Messiah Lutheran put together a focused plan that outlined how to build on each event to make an even greater impact in the community.

The church determined that the local fire station would be a natural fit for their outreach efforts, which met their desire to work with underserved groups. The church planned a Valentine's Day dinner for the firemen and EMT's at the station. At the dinner, they donated 33 much-needed air pumps, which only cost a few dollars a piece, to the station. Twelve people from the station attended the event. One of the firefighters now attends church at Messiah Lutheran regularly, and often brings trainees with him. Now, two of those trainees are in the adult confirmation class.

Later in the year, the church worked with the same fire station to offer Thanksgiving dinner to fire victims. Ten families were identified by the fire station and Red Cross, and each family received a basket of food from the church. The families were really touched by this act of kindness and began to think of Messiah Lutheran as their church home, even though they had never attended before. [Read More >](#)



Pastor Evandro Kopper "plays Santa" as part of Messiah Lutheran's Christmas Tree Project. The church invited local fire victims to come to a Christmas dinner. Each fire victim received gifts from the church and also had the opportunity to take pictures with Santa.



TCN Check Presentation

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans presents the Transforming Churches Network with a \$100,000 grant that will be used to support TCN's revitalization effort with LCMS churches.

Included in the photo are (from left to right): Dave Schmitt, Mike Kinard, Terry Tieman, Dan Hesse, David Knoernschild, and Kim Goble.

TCN Receives \$100,000 Grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

The Transforming Churches Network (TCN) recently received a \$100,000 grant from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation. The grant is dedicated to the LCMS Ablaze! goal of revitalizing 2000 congregations by the year 2017.

"This generous grant will go a long way toward helping TCN design and implement an effective Mission Revitalization process for the LCMS," said Rev. Dr. Terry Tieman, Executive Director of TCN. "Eighty percent of LCMS congregations have plateaued or are declining in worship attendance, so this grant could not have come at a better time. Thanks to Thrivent's generosity, this grant will help make an eternal difference in the lives of thousands of people who, by God's grace and power, will come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior through the efforts of churches in the TCN network. [Read More >](#)

TCN Coaches Training - April 29 to May 1 in St. Louis

TCN's Directive Coaching Seminar on April 29 through May 1 will provide insight and instruction on serving as a coach for TCN congregations. Coaching is the most critical component for long-term success in the revitalization process. In addition to helping churches implement the recommendations from the consultation weekend, coaches also work closely with the pastors of the TCN churches to improve their leadership, outreach skills and ability to create an outward focused mission and vision for the congregation.

Although this training seminar is geared primarily toward TCN coaches, the training weekend would also benefit consultants, coaches, pastors, district executives and anyone interested in learning more about the TCN process. The training will include sessions about the TCN coaching process, how to lead change within a congregation and offer insight how to share information through the TCN online networking community.

For more information and to register for this exciting training opportunity, please click [here](#). The deadline to sign up for the Coaches Training is April 1, and the hotel reservation deadline is March 18. Act fast so you don't miss out on this great chance to learn how to share your gifts with other LCMS churches!

Results - All 18 Churches	
Attendance prior to TCN Process	2,153
Attendance after TCN Process	2,388
New Workshop Attenders	235
Percentage change	10.9%

To see a breakout of the data by church size, please click [here](#) to see additional charts.

Early Results are Encouraging!

By: Dr. Dwight Marable, President of Missions International Research & Development (MIR&D).

MIR&D collects and analyzes data for TCN.

The story of the Transforming Churches Network (TCN) is an exciting and successful adventure. Since March 2007, TCN has had the opportunity to consult with 93 churches, with an additional 75 more scheduled for 2009. Our team has analyzed 18 churches going through the TCN process to determine the impact TCN has had on church attendance.

It takes churches a minimum of six months to implement the practices and principles taught by TCN. Many of the churches we analyzed were one year into the process. In order to measure the true expansion of each church, we chose the lowest worship attendance after the consultation weekend to mark the start point. We did this because churches going through revitalization often find that some members do not want to embrace the changes necessary to become outreach focused. Christmas and Easter services were also excluded in the analysis.

Even though the analysis only included 18 churches, TCN has no reason to believe these statistics should not hold true for a significant percentage of the churches that stay with the revitalization process! **To see the full report, click [here](#).**

Prayer Requests

As you pray, we ask that you remember Transforming Churches Network. Specifically, please pray for:

- **Thanksgiving.** Please thank God for the recent Thrivent Grant TCN has received. We also praise God for blessing the Consultant Training event in Davie, Florida.
- **Coach Training Event in St. Louis.** Pray for a large turnout from districts around the country, to get coaches recruited, trained, and started in the coaching process.
- **District Conventions.** Pray that the 35 Districts in convention this year would experience an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as they make intentional plans to revitalize their churches and people, in order to reach the unchurched and unbelieving people in their midst.
- **The 250 congregations participating in the TCN.** Pray that they would experience positive results and realize their goal of becoming "mission outposts."
- **Churches not involved with TCN.** Pray that the thousands of churches not yet in TCN, that would benefit from the process, would get involved in the mission revitalization process.

