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Contact: Terry Tieman
E-mail: terry@transformingchurchesnetwork.org
Phone: 901-753-7063
Cell: 901-494-7375

Dave Rustad, APR, FLMI
dave.rustad@thrivent.com
612-844-7037
612-240-2264

Transforming Churches Network receives \$100,000 grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Grant will be used to fund mission revitalization projects throughout the LCMS.

Cordova, Tenn., February 25, 2009 - 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."

"We are delighted to assist Transforming Churches Network through this grant," said Karen Coonen, executive director of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation. "We trust that this support will enable the organization to better carry out its ministry in North America."

The grant is part of the foundation's Lutheran Grant Program. This program is designed to help Lutheran institutions and organizations take advantage of unique growth and service opportunities. It also supports the interests and needs of the Lutheran community. In 2007, the program distributed approximately \$5 million through 100 separate grants.

Eligible grant applicants include: Lutheran congregations, regional divisions of the three largest church bodies, small church bodies, high schools, colleges, universities, seminaries, camps, campus ministries, social ministry organizations and other independent Lutheran organizations or institutions.

The Transforming Churches Network provides training and resources to help congregations fulfill their role as “mission outposts.” TCN is a non-profit partner organization of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod dedicated to revitalizing churches. The purpose of TCN is to assist the LCMS in reaching its **Ablaze!** goal of revitalizing 2,000 churches by 2017. During the 2009-2010 fiscal year, TCN hopes to raise \$300,000 to fund its programs throughout the LCMS.

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