



LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission

Reaching Rural America *for Christ*



Saturday, February 4, 2017 Engaging Your Community (EYC) Event
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Crossville, TN

8:00 a.m. **Registration** with coffee, juice and rolls at church

8:30 a.m. **Opening devotions** and introductions — Rev. Kevin Conger, Hope Lutheran, Jacksonville

8:45 a.m. **Understanding Your Community** — Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, President, Mid-South District

This presentation will equip congregations to analyze their community demographics, identify community needs and consider community engagement possibilities. Our hope is that this will be an initial study of the demographics material and that congregations will plan a follow-up and more in-depth analysis after the event.

9:30 a.m. **Counting Your Blessings** — Rev. Todd Kollbaum, RSTM Director

Congregations have more resources in place than they often realize. This presentation will assist congregations in identifying physical, institutional, individual and community resources that are already prepared. How do these resources relate to the community needs identified in the previous session? Participants will be encouraged to connect the resources they have in place with the needs of the community.

10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:30 a.m. **Partnership Possibilities for Community Engagement** — Rev. Todd Kollbaum, RSTM Director

Now that participants have identified resources and needs, this presentation will consider potential partners to assist in meeting these needs. There is great potential for congregations to work together for the purpose of serving communities and reaching the lost. After considering the needs of the community and the resources that exist, what other partnerships could be considered? Participants will reflect on questions based on the congregational context (small parish, dual parish or large parish.)

11:30 a.m. **Lunch**

12:15 p.m. **Leading Change and Dealing with Resistance** — Rev. Todd Kollbaum, RSTM Director

Considering new ways to reach out or work with others could lead to potential opposition. This session will deal with some practical strategies for leading changes and responding to resistance. How should leaders proceed once a needed change is identified?

1:15 p.m. **Where Do We Go From Here?** — Rev. Todd Kollbaum, RSTM Director

Participants will be encouraged to set up an action plan in preparation for a community engagement event. We will discuss how to take what we have learned about our congregation and community and boldly move forward.

2:00 p.m. **Break**

2:10 p.m. **Getting From Here to There** — Rev. Todd Kollbaum, RSTM Director

This will be a discussion-based question and answer time. What questions remain? What resources are needed? Participants will be encouraged as they consider the next step and discuss engagement possibilities with others.

2:50 p.m. **Closing Devotions** — Rev. Kevin Conger, Hope Lutheran, Jacksonville

3:00 p.m. **Enter the Mission Field**