

WHAT IS IMPACT?

Webster's Dictionary defines *impact* as "to have an effect" or "the power of an event, idea, etc. to produce changes." Jesus had a profound impact on the world and He calls us to do the same — to have an effect and produce changes for God's Kingdom.

Your Mid-South District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod is responding to Jesus' command through a dynamic effort called IMPACT. With 130 LCMS congregations, 12 Lutheran schools and 37 early childhood centers across Arkansas, Tennessee and southern Kentucky, the ministries of our District have the potential to reach millions with the love of Christ. To empower these LCMS ministries to make an IMPACT for Christ in their communities, the Mid-South District is focused on the following **five critical initiatives**:

1. *Assist congregations, unable to retain an ordained minister, in Word and Sacrament ministry*
2. *Resource, equip and strengthen existing churches and schools for Kingdom effectiveness*
3. *Recruit, support and mentor professional church workers*
4. *Create an online Congregational Assessment Resource (CAR) for ministry self-assessment*
5. *Plant new churches*

The five initiatives represent your Mid-South District's bold plan to strengthen our LCMS churches and schools and empower them to reach into their communities with Christ's love.

The IMPACT campaign is also about giving thanks for the many ministry blessings in the Mid-South District. Lives have been touched through our congregations, schools and workers. Through IMPACT, those blessings are not only celebrated, but used as a blueprint to move forward and touch even more lives with Christ's love. Where God has shown us a powerful way to reach people for his Kingdom, our district is taking notice.

IMPACT THROUGH SCHOOLS...

"From the moment we came to Immanuel Lutheran School, we've felt at home. We know our kids are getting a great education, but we also know they are in an environment that reinforces the faith basics we teach them at home."

Kendoll H., parent at Immanuel Lutheran School in Memphis, TN

IMPACT THROUGH REVITALIZED CONGREGATIONS...

*"The effect of revitalization in this congregation has been to completely focus our attention on Christ's command to make disciples by fully equipping each of His people for the work of ministry in our local community. We seek to *connect* people to Jesus, to *grow* in faith to full maturity in Christ, and to *serve* in Christ's Name."*

Pastor Paul Hass, Bella Vista Lutheran Church in Bella Vista, AR

IMPACT THROUGH CHURCH PLANTING...

"This church has painted a picture of Jesus I had never seen before...The Point has shown me a broader aspect of faith that has brought me closer to God than I thought was possible. I am so thankful for The Point, and I pray that more people get the opportunity that I received when I found The Point."

Kenny H., member of church plant The Point in Knoxville, TN



IMPACT

Sharing the Love of Christ With Our Communities Every Day

WHY DOES IMPACT MATTER?

Consider the alarming statistics and trends shared to the right. They are clear indicators of the spiritual challenges we face today — and they underline the need for immediate action. Through IMPACT, the Mid-South District is responding to these trends in a powerful way.

The IMPACT initiatives are designed to produce visible results for the Kingdom. Imagine for a moment results like these:

- Increased worship attendance, baptisms, adult confirmations and baptized membership in our churches
- Increased enrollment in our District's Lutheran Schools
- Measurable growth for 30% of our District's ministries over the next three years
- Congregations increasingly performing acts of service in their communities
- Our District's professional workers equipped and inspired for effective ministry in today's world
- A minimum of six new "church plants" established in our District by 2016

85% of our District's congregations have plateaued or are in decline — and many don't know why



- Our Lutheran schools struggle to keep Christian education affordable while maintaining academic excellence and meeting the high expectations of their communities



There are approximately 5 million un-churched/de-churched people in the area served by our District (AR, TN & southern KY)

- Many professional church workers are not equipped for the ministry challenges of today's world

Our congregations often face financial difficulties



Even in the face of challenges, God is placing many opportunities before us to share the Gospel throughout the Mid-South District. IMPACT is our District's focused effort to respond to those opportunities.

SUPPORT FOR IMPACT...

To help fund IMPACT's five critical ministry initiatives, the Mid-South District has set a financial goal of **\$1,500,000**, to be raised over the next three years (2013-2015). The Gifting Chart to the right provides a look at the path to achieving this funding goal. Ministry partners across our District are already declaring their support for the IMPACT effort through generous gifts. Please take a moment to look over the various gift levels and consider how you might also partner in support of IMPACT.



Stay connected with the Mid-South District LCMS — and up-to-date on the IMPACT project!



...on Facebook at "Mid-South-LCMS"



...on Twitter, follow "@midsouthLCMS"



...on the web at "mid-southlcms.org" to subscribe to the Encourager e-letter

READY TO MAKE AN IMPACT?

YES, we/I would like to financially support the Mid-South District's vision of "sharing the love of Christ with our communities - every day" through IMPACT in the following way:

- \$2,500 annually for three years**
(12 monthly payments, 4 quarterly or 1 annual)
- \$1,000 annually for three years**
- \$500 annually for three years**
- \$250 annually for three years**
- \$100 annually for three years**
- Other** _____

YES, please send me the Mid-South District's monthly *Encourager* newsletter via email.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

HOME CHURCH: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

*Thank you for your generous gift in support of IMPACT.
Please use the envelope provided to return
this card with your gift.*

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