



## Your Support Team

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission supports pastors, professional church workers and lay leaders in rural and small-town settings for the harvest work of reaching the lost.

Because parishes are as different as their individual communities, there is no “one size fits all” solution. That’s why RSTM offers many tools, resources and networking opportunities to help your congregation reach out in witness and mercy beyond church doors and grow in life together.



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Rural & Small Town Mission ministry works in partnership with LCMS districts to strengthen outreach strategies and mission opportunities. Based in Concordia, Mo., RSTM provides leadership training events and resources throughout the United States.

Just as the needs and challenges of congregations in small towns and rural areas continue to grow, so does the ministry of RSTM! Learn more at [lcms.org/rstm](http://lcms.org/rstm).

**Questions**, ideas or stories to share about rural outreach? Please contact:



### Rural & Small Town Mission

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LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission

# LET US ... GO TO THE SMALL TOWNS

(Mark 1:38 GOD’S WORD®).



# EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE FROM RURAL MISSION FIELDS

While many congregational development models are geared to suburban churches, LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission (RSTM) seeks and shares the expertise and experience of ministry leaders who know rural and small-town ministry challenges such as:

- › Dwindling and aging populations,
- › Declining numbers of children and families, and
- › Working with limited resources to find creative ways to engage communities.

Many rural counties are mission fields where as much as 50–60 percent of the population is unchurched. RSTM assists pastors, professional church workers and lay leaders from the unique context of:

- › Sole rural parishes.
- › Dual and multi-point parishes.
- › Medium and large rural parishes.

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## RSTM conferences and training events

We will help you develop new strategies for outreach and learn about your community's changing demographics and ministry opportunities.



### Engaging Your Community (EYC) events

These popular opportunities, which are described as “very inspirational” and led by “excellent facilitators,” are ideal for a pastor and several lay leaders to learn from experts and fellow ministry leaders.



### Engaging the Wandering (ETW) events

Congregational leaders and pastors are encouraged as they see new opportunities to learn about their inactive members and develop plans for engaging them.



### Monthly educational webinars

This free resource is offered every month on a variety of topics that are important to those living and serving in rural and small-town settings. You can attend without leaving your computer!

For more information, dates and locations, visit [lcms.org/rstm](http://lcms.org/rstm).

## A rich selection of online resources

With a few keyboard clicks, RSTM connects you with timely topics:

- › **Christian education** resources for Sunday school, vacation Bible school, mid-week programs, Lutheran day schools.
- › **Evangelism and outreach** resources to train and equip congregants for witness.
- › **Stewardship** resources that help teach what the Bible says about managing time, money and priorities.
- › **Youth ministry** programs to keep youth connected to the church.

## RSTM news you can use

*Reaching Rural America for Christ* is a monthly newsletter with resources and insights on how rural and small-town congregations are making ministry happen.

