

A B L A Z E !
C O V E N A N T
C O N G R E G A T I O N S

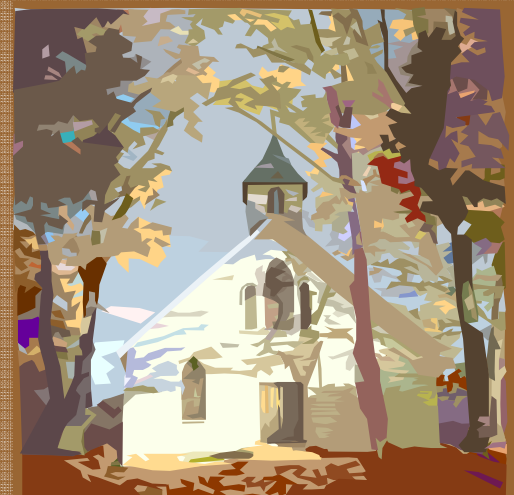
For More Information Contact:

Rev. Jerry Kosberg
District Staff for Church Planting
(480) 460-7629
jerry.kosberg@psd-lcms.org

Pacific Southwest District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
1540 Concordia Drive East
Irvine, CA 92612-3203
(949) 854-3232
Toll Free (888) 773-5267
www.psd-lcms.org



***Covenant
Congregations***



**Church Planting
In the Pacific Southwest
District—LCMS**

Your Congregation is a Key Partner in Our Shared Mission

“But I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit...”
John 15:14

OUR GOAL

Fifty congregations are signed up to be part of the Daughter Church Planting movement in our District.

WHAT IS “DAUGHTER CHURCH PLANTING?”

It is a church planting model that recruits and equips a healthy, mission-minded congregation to serve as the “mother church” for a new congregation or mission.

THE ROLE OF THE MOTHER CHURCH

The mother church serves as the calling body for the church planter/missionary. It also serves as a support base and resource for the church planter. It provides resources to the church plant, such as providing bulletins, office space, prayer support, handling finances, assisting with identifying a target area, sometimes providing financial support, etc.

This role applies to a traditional new church plant or a culture specific mission outreach into the community.

WHAT IS AN “ABLAZE! COVENANT CONGREGATION?”

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has established a goal of planting 2000 new congregations and missions by October 31, 2017, the 500th anniversary of the start of the Lutheran Reformation.

In order to assist Districts and congregations in achieving this goal, they have established a special support network of church planting congregations called the *ABLAZE!* Covenant Congregations (ACC). An ACC is a congregation that has committed itself to prayerfully pursue **up to** four new congregations by the year 2017. That means one to four. So, an ACC is a congregation that will prayerfully consider planting at least one congregation by 2017. All of our congregations willing to serve as a mother church will be signed up as an ACC.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF CIRCUITS & CLUSTERS OF CONGREGATIONS?

Circuits and/or clusters of congregations will serve a crucial role in supporting the mother church in the planting of a new mission or congregation. They will provide resources of prayer, people and finances to assist the new congregation. Every daughter needs a grandmother or an aunt or cousin. That is the crucial role of circuits and clusters of congregations.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF DISTRICT & SYNOD?

District and Synod will continue to provide financial grants to new mission work. They will also provide church planter recruitment and church planter assessment, church planter training and support, networking and training for mother churches, and access to demographic and planning resources. The Regional Mission Councils will prioritize mission grant requests.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS OUR CONGREGATION SHOULD TAKE?

1. Begin intentional and persistent prayer seeking God’s will for your congregation in this mission challenge to be an ACC.
2. Order more copies of this brochure or make copies of it for distribution and study in your congregation.
3. Put the discussion of this challenge on the agenda for your boards and committees.
4. Ask the District staff to make a presentation on this to your congregation.
5. Seek a decision about this from your leadership team and take that decision to the congregation for affirmation.
6. If the congregation has decided to become an ACC, use the response form enclosed in this mailing to indicate your decision.
7. The District will then enroll you and recognize you as an *ABLAZE!* Covenant Congregation in our District and Synod.
8. The District will assist you in establishing your timeline and planning your next steps in becoming a “mother church.”