



## Chapel of the Lakes Lutheran Church



**Ablaze!**  
*Igniting the World with Christ's Love*

- Learn • Pray • Give • Tell
- Send • Go • Celebrate

**“Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” (Luke 24:32)**

*A Presentation by Ron Kerwood*

# What is Ablaze?

- **An LCMS vision of igniting a worldwide mission movement of individuals, groups, congregations to share the Gospel with a 100 million people by 2017 – the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation**

- **Sharing the Good News is at the heart of the Great Commission**

**In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus said,**

**“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**

When someone is dying or leaving us, his or her last words are very important. Jesus left his disciples with these last words of instruction “go and make disciples of all nations”. We also are to go – whether it is next door or to another country. It is not an option, but a command to all who call Jesus “Lord”. We are not all evangelists in the formal sense but we can be ambassadors for Christ and use all the God-given gifts we have to fulfill the Great Commission.

- **Emphasis on witnessing to “unreached” or “uncommitted” people—those who are not already believers in Jesus Christ.**

**“Unreached” people are those who have never heard a clear message in the name of Jesus.**

**“Uncommitted” is a term used for people who have been exposed to the Word, who have had an opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus, but who do not have faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.**

As of the 2000 census, there were 40,553 people in Mecosta county.

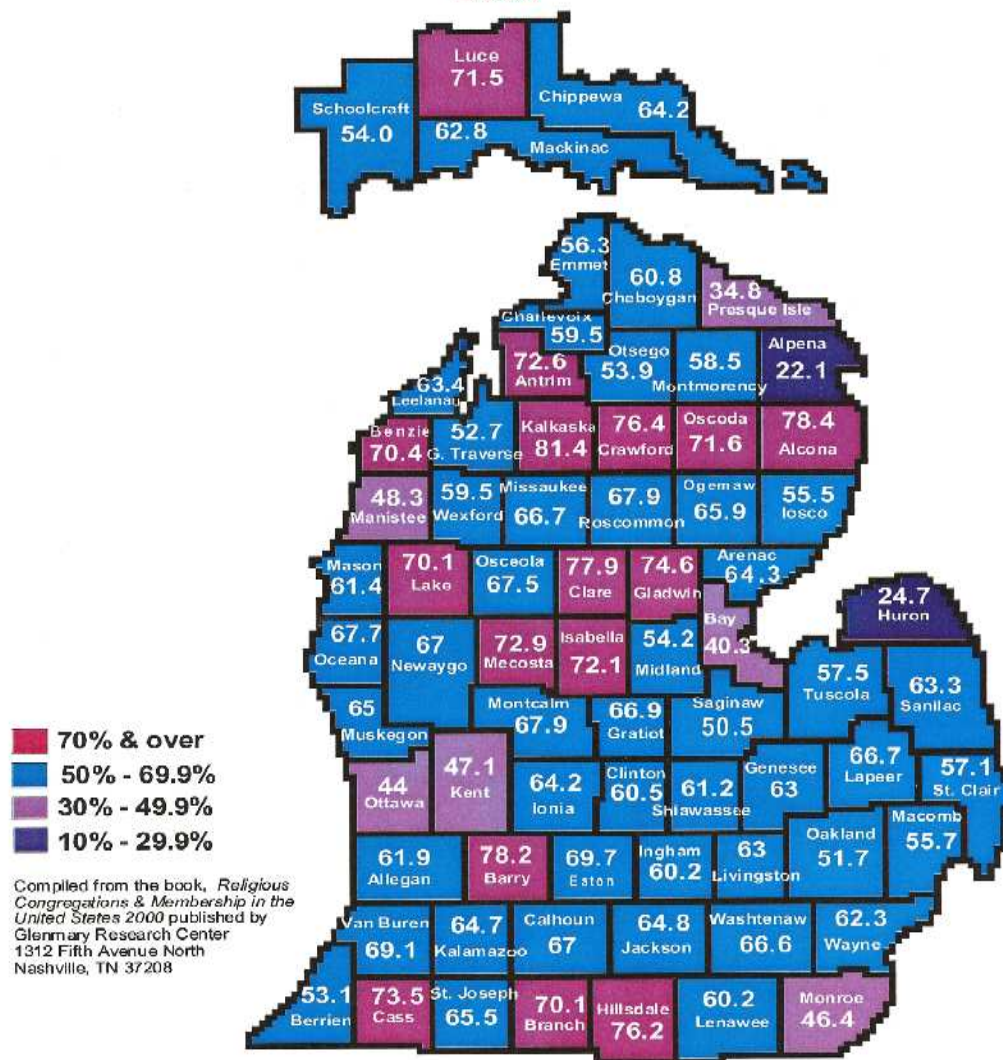
72.9% were unchurched.

That is 29,563 people.

Neighbors...  
Friends...  
Coworkers...

## Percent Michigan District, LCMS Population Unchurched

2000



**Do those who know you  
see you as a witness  
for God or are you just  
one of the crowd  
blending in unnoticed?**

**This is an important question for each of us... Ponder it for a moment**

**We talk about everything but the most important thing in our lives – God, and what he has done for us.**

**Is it uncomfortable for you to discuss your faith with your unchurched friends?**

**Outside the view of fellow Christians, do we still “shine like stars in the universe” for our Savior?**

**Do you ever initiate a discussion about what the Lord has done for you?**

# Fanning the Flames

**We're looking not only at fanning the flames – we need to throw gas on this fire!**

**We need your help and your wholehearted participation.**

**These are the steps we intend to take to get this blaze going...**

- Brief and Inform Church Leadership**
- Ablaze Month**
- Ambassador Training**
- Maintenance and Sustainment**

# Brief Leadership

- **Church Council, the Boards, and Auxiliary Groups**
  - **Dorcas, Men's Club, and C.O.L.T.**
- **March – April, 2008**
- **Coordinate dates and times**

# Ablaze Month

- **May 12, 2008 – Voters' Meeting**
- **Premise that all are expected to participate**
- **Series of sermons – 4 weekends beginning May 10-11, 2008**
- **Display an Ablaze banner**
- **Congregational Meeting – June 1, 2008**
  - **Fan the Flames**
  - **Guest speaker- Pastor Davis**
  - **Luncheon**
  - **Promote Ambassador Training**

**“We are therefore Christ’s  
ambassadors, as though  
God was making his appeal  
through us.”**

## **2 Corinthians 5:20**

**As His believers, we are Christ’s ambassadors to bring his message of love, forgiveness, and salvation to others.**

**When he was here at Chapel of the Lakes recently, Dave Britton told us that each day we preach a sermon with the lives we live. It is an awesome responsibility – being a representative of Christ**

# Ambassador Training

## • “Contagious Christian” curriculum

The Becoming a Contagious Christian course is designed to help everyday Christians, like you and me, to confidently spread their faith to people they know.

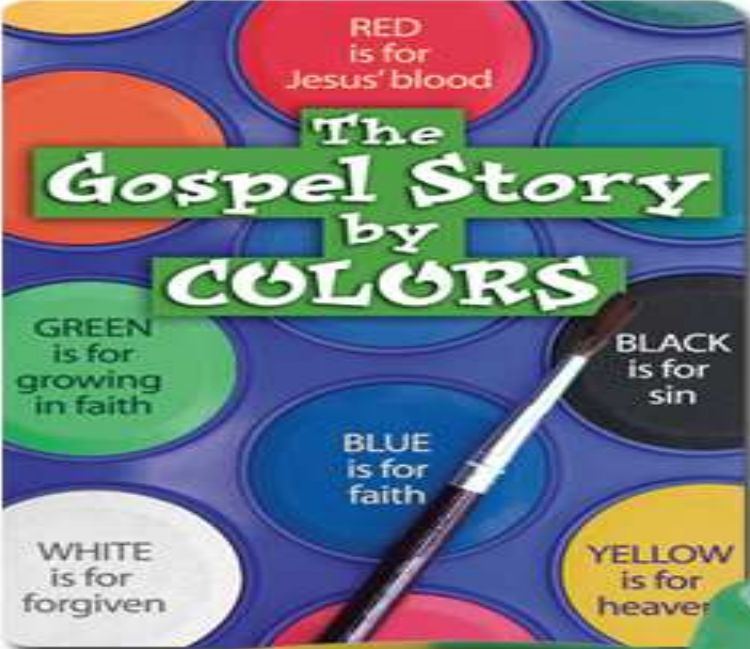
- The course consists of 6 lessons
  - This training is a means to equip us Christians to take on a key role in fulfilling God’s central purpose on earth – “to seek and to save what was lost”.
  - It teaches how to communicate the message of Christ in your own personal, God-given style. You will have the sense of the Holy Spirit working through you as you build relationships, raise spiritual topics of conversation, express what God has done for you, and encourage your friends toward commitment.
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- **Ongoing and continuous**
  - **2008 Schedule**
    - **June 4 – July 29**
    - **August 6 – September 10**
    - **October 8 – November 12**
  - **Ablaze Contact and Recording System**

# Ambassador Training

1. **6 Trainers will be selected to assist Pastor in conducting the training, beginning in April, 2008**
  1. **It is expected that as the training progresses, there will be times when classes will be scheduled simultaneously – more than one class at a time.**
  2. **Expect more than 6 lessons for the trainers**
  3. **Trainers will be expected to be accountable for every one they train through periodic contacts to determine how implementation of the training is going, if help is needed.**
2. **We'll create an expectation that everyone is expected to participate in Ablaze and will be trained.**
  1. **Graduates will receive a silicone bracelet to be utilized as a discussion stimulator.**
  2. **We want to include kids as His ambassadors also**
    1. **Bracelets for them - Include in Sunday School**
3. **Finally, our new members also will be encouraged/directed to participate in Ablaze and the training**

# The Gospel Story in Colors

**FRONT**



RED is for Jesus' blood

**The Gospel Story by COLORS**

GREEN is for growing in faith

BLUE is for faith

WHITE is for forgiven

BLACK is for sin

YELLOW is for heaven

**BACK**

**Black** is for sin. Everyone sins. No one is perfect.  
(See Romans 3:23.)

**Red** is for Jesus' blood. Jesus died on the cross. His blood takes your sins away.  
(See 1 John 1:7.)


**Blue** is for faith. God gives eternal life to all who trust in Jesus as their Savior.  
(See Galatians 2:16.)

**White** means you are clean and forgiven. Jesus washes you clean. He makes your sins disappear. (See Psalm 51:7.)


**Green** is for growing in faith. You can learn about Jesus at church, at Sunday school, and in the Bible. When you know Jesus, he makes your faith grow.  
(See 1 Corinthians 3:6.)

**Yellow** means you get to go to heaven. Jesus is making a special place for YOU so someday you will live with him forever!  
(See John 14:2-3.)

**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.**  
*Acts 16:31 esv*



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# Maintenance and Sustainment

**THE FIRE MUST NOT DIE OUT!**

- **A Major Part of our Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan**

Our being ambassadors for Christ and His shining stars in this dark world is central to our mission, vision and strategic plan. It is a movement – it is endless in its pursuit of achievement.

- **Budgets, programs, goals, targets, staffing, etc. in the future will be important to sustainment**

It will be key to all that we plan in the future

- **Ongoing emphasis and feedback to leadership and congregation**

It will require on-going emphasis and feedback at every level of the leadership and of the congregation

**THIS IS GOD'S COMMAND TO US – MAY WE SHINE LIKE STARS IN THE UNIVERSE FOR HIM – LET US IGNITE THIS COMMUNITY WITH CHRIST'S LOVE**