

# ATLANTIC DISTRICT



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
The Rev. Dr. David H. Benke

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Precious Name of Jesus!

I am writing to commend to you the Atlantic District Ablaze Congregation Grant Program. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has boldly moved out in faith with the Ablaze! Covenant Congregation and Transforming Congregations programs. Designed to assist parishes in establishing new congregations or in revitalizing current ministries, these programs are taking place throughout the Atlantic District.

The Atlantic District Board of Directors, having examined its resources, has determined to assist with local funding for projects deemed to have merit as either leading to the planting of new congregations or revitalizing existing ministries. The size and term of the grants is substantial, with a \$5,000 to \$25,000 range. There is currently a cap of \$300,000 on the total available for the grants portion of this program. However, as God grants blessing and increase, there may be additional resources available.

The Grant Application Form is included for your examination and use. As you will see, there are measures of specific accountability included for any congregation or ministry that participates. The Board has determined that a congregation (or an association school or parish school) must be actively and regularly contributing to the mission of the Church through the District to be eligible to apply for an Ablaze Grant. Applications must be received by the Atlantic District office by May 1, 2010.

Distribution of the Grant Awards will be made on or about June 15, 2010, with first distribution of funds on July 1, 2010. Payment of the second distribution of award funds depends upon the timely submission of the six month report by January 15, 2011. Once the committee determines satisfactory use of monies given in July 2010, the remaining portion of the award will be distributed before January 30, 2011.

May the Lord by His grace and mercy allow this program to bring forth great increase in the harvest field, for the sake of Christ's Kingdom!

In Christ our Lord,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David H. Benke".

Rev. Dr. David H. Benke, President