



March 2008 Story
Circuit Rider for Rural South Dakota

Imagine living 10 miles or more from your nearest neighbor. What if you would have to drive several miles down a long dusty driveway to reach your mailbox? Many rural ranch families in the Northwest quarter of South Dakota face such severe isolation. These ranch families and their employees are often involved in raising wheat and cattle to feed the rest of America.

Needless to say, because of the extremely long distances needed to travel to be part of a church family, many of these people have no church home. Thus, they are without spiritual guidance and support on a regular basis. Often when times of crisis and illness or even death touch one of their communities, there is no one to give them reassurance of God's love and hope of eternal life.

The ministry of the LCMS South Dakota District has its roots in circuit riders from 100 years ago. Now, with your Mites, a new circuit rider ministry is being established to seek out the ranch communities who are looking for spiritual guidance and strengthening of their faith in Jesus. This ministry will establish an itinerary for

- ✠ home worship on a regular basis,
- ✠ in home Bible study
- ✠ prayer groups
- ✠ and offering the sacraments when and where appropriate at these ranch communities.

By God's grace these Christian communities will become self-sustaining and be able to reach out to many others who do not yet know the love of God for all people offered to them in Jesus Christ.