



Three Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) districts — Central Illinois, Southern Illinois, and South Wisconsin — were awarded

a grant from the Bolick Foundation to deploy Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ (O AFC) teams in the three districts.

In this project, what is an O AFC team?

Each O AFC team is composed of three to five older adults who live in or, at minimum, very close to the respective districts. The teams are trained in evangelism and witnessing strategies and can offer their time and experience to your congregation.

What does an O AFC team do?

O AFC teams travel to district congregations and offer either two-and-a-half-day or five-day events that provide evangelistic practice by a) canvassing neighborhoods; b) engaging in “dry run” practice of witnessing skills with church members; and c) helping a congregation to begin or to augment its evangelistic efforts in a nearby nursing home.

What is a congregation’s responsibility if an O AFC team serves their congregation?

A congregation hosting an O AFC team is responsible for housing and meals during the event. Team travel expenses over a total of \$1,000 would also be paid by the congregation. O AFC team members can be housed with members of the congregation.



Almighty God, You have called Your church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the Good News of Your salvation so that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Canvassing

Canvassing surveys your neighborhood in search of non-churched people and their attitudes. O AFC team members will accompany church members in teams of two or three. Canvassing can be done in one of two ways:

- 1) Standard O AFC canvassing asks whether people go to church, whether there are children under 18 in the home, whether people own a Bible, and leads to a question about what people think will happen to them after they die, which in turn hopefully bridges to a short Gospel presentation.
- 2) An alternative canvassing method asks four basic questions: 1) What is great about our community?; 2) What does our community need that it does not have?; 3) What do you think when you hear “INSERT NAME Lutheran Church”?; and 4) How can we pray for you?

Canvassing offers a start, not only with the new people you meet, but also for the canvassers. After speaking of Jesus, if only briefly, with people they just met, they can be encouraged to speak of Him also with others they know better.

Contacts

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*Witnessing of
Jesus’ Love and
Forgiveness in
Your Community*



A partnership between Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ, the LCMS Central Illinois, Southern Illinois, and South Wisconsin Districts to provide neighborhood canvassing and evangelistic practice to congregations through a grant from the Bolick Foundation.

Model Schedules

The following schedules provide a general outline of how an OAFc team event can be conducted at a congregation. The final schedule will be agreed upon between the OAFc team and the hosting congregation in advance of the event.

1 A WEEK, 5 days

This schedule assumes that the congregation has done prior instruction on CID's Witnessing Helps. It is recommended but not required that, even prior to Witnessing Helps instruction, the congregation has conducted basic Every One His Witness training ("core module") and has procured from its District office a demographic study of its area.

SATURDAY — TRAVEL DAY

SUNDAY — DAY 1

- **Morning** – OAFc team introduced at church and Sunday School
- **Noon** – Church provides lunch for OAFc team and church volunteers
- **1:30 to 3:30 pm** – Canvass training for church volunteers
- **3:30 to 5:30 pm** – Canvassing
- **6:00 pm** – Church may host a congregation-wide potluck meal where a preliminary report is given on canvass work done that day and other members are invited to join in canvassing
- **Evening** – Practice witnessing skills, e.g., the skills in CID Witnessing Helps

MONDAY — DAY 2

- **Morning** – Free time; team may have Bible study over lunch
- **Early afternoon** – Nursing home outreach training PART ONE
- **4:30 to 5:30 pm** – Canvassing
- **6:00 pm** – Church provides supper for OAFc team and possibly church volunteers
- **Evening** – Practice witnessing skills, e.g., the skills in CID Witnessing Helps

TUESDAY — DAY 3

- **Morning** – Free time; team may have Bible study over lunch
- **Early afternoon** – Nursing home outreach training PART TWO
- **4:30 to 5:30 pm** – Canvassing
- **6:00 pm** – Church provides supper for OAFc team and possibly church volunteers
- **Evening** – Practice witnessing skills, e.g., the skills in CID Witnessing Helps

WEDNESDAY — DAY 4

- **Morning** – Free time; team may have Bible study over lunch
- **Early afternoon** – Outreach at a nearby nursing home
- **4:30 to 5:30 pm** – Canvassing
- **6:00 pm** – Church provides supper for OAFc team and possibly church volunteers
- **Evening** – Free time; if during Advent or Lent, there may be church service that night

THURSDAY — DAY 5

- **Morning** – OAFc team works on its final canvass report
- **Early afternoon** – Outreach at a nearby nursing home
- **4:30 to 5:30 pm** – Final canvassing
- **6:00 pm** – Church provides supper for OAFc team and possibly church volunteers
- **Evening** – OAFc team completely finalizes its canvass report and packs to depart for home in morning

FRIDAY — TRAVEL DAY

2A A (LONG) WEEKEND, 2.5 days

This option assumes that the congregation has done prior instruction on CID's Witnessing Helps. It is recommended but not required that, even prior to Witnessing Helps instruction, the congregation has conducted basic Every One His Witness training ("core module") and has procured from its District office a demographic study of its area.

SATURDAY — DAY 1

- **Morning** – OAFc team travels to church
- **2:00 to 4:00pm** – Canvass training for church volunteers
- **4:00 to 5:30 pm** – Canvassing
- **6:00 pm** – Church may host a congregation-wide potluck meal where a preliminary report is given on canvass work done that day and other members are invited to join in canvassing
- **Evening** – Practice witnessing skills, e.g., the skills in CID Witnessing Helps

SUNDAY — DAY 2

- **Morning** – OAFc team introduced at church and Sunday School
- **Noon** – Church provides lunch for OAFc team and church volunteers
- **1:00 to 4:30 pm** – Canvassing
- **4:30 to 6:00 pm** – Canvassing teams prepare their reports
- **6:00 pm** – Church provides supper for OAFc team and possibly church volunteers
- **Evening** – Practice witnessing skills, e.g., the skills in CID Witnessing Helps

MONDAY — DAY 3

- **Late morning** – Nursing home outreach training
- **Early afternoon** – Outreach at a nearby nursing home
- **Late afternoon** – OAFc team travels home

2B A (LONG) WEEKEND, 2.5 days

*This option does **not** assume that the congregation has engaged in prior instruction on CID's Witnessing Helps. Also, this option does not involve canvassing. It is recommended but not required that the congregation has conducted basic Every One His Witness training ("core module").*

SATURDAY — DAY 1

- **Morning** – OAFc team travels to church
- **3:00 to 4:00 pm** – 15-minute opening devotion followed by instruction on "Beginning an Evangelistic Conversation"
- **4:00 to 5:15 pm** – Practice "Beginning an Evangelistic Conversation" with congregation members
- **5:30 pm** – Church may host a congregation-wide potluck meal to welcome the OAFc team
- **6:30 to 7:15 pm** – Instruction on "Listening Discerningly to a Nonchurched Person"
- **7:15 to 8:30 pm** – Practice "Listening Discerningly to a Nonchurched Person" with congregation members

SUNDAY — DAY 2

- **Morning** – OAFc team introduced at church and Sunday School
- **Noon** – Church provides lunch for OAFc team and perhaps those wanting to practice witnessing skills in the afternoon
- **1:00 to 2:00 pm** – 15-minute opening devotion followed by instruction on "Making a Simple Statement of the Gospel"
- **2:00 to 3:15 pm** – Practice "Making a Simple Statement of the Gospel" with congregation members
- **3:15 to 3:45 pm** – Break
- **3:45 to 4:30 pm** – Instruction on "Defending the Resurrection"
- **4:30 to 5:45 pm** – Practice "Defending the Resurrection" with congregation members
- **6:00 pm** – Church provides supper for OAFc team

MONDAY — DAY 3

- **Late morning** – Nursing home outreach training
- **Early afternoon** – Outreach at a nearby nursing home
- **Late afternoon** – OAFc team travels home