

Our Church

Lord of Life Lutheran Church in west Omaha has a baptized membership of 334, with 254 confirmed. Our congregation has an average weekly worship attendance of 130 people, and we celebrated our 25th anniversary in 2007.

Our Plan

As a pilot congregation we conducted our appeal in May and June, 2008. Our **Fan into Flame** committee set a goal of 10% of our 2008 budget, or \$20,000. As part of our appeal, the committee believed it was very important to inform the congregation about *Ablaze!* and **Fan into Flame**.

Our April, May, and June newsletters included articles on *Ablaze!*, **Fan into Flame**, and our upcoming cottage meetings.

Beginning April 20, we included *Ablaze!* inserts in the Sunday bulletins to educate the congregation about *Ablaze!* **Fan into Flame** inserts were included in the Sunday bulletins beginning on May 4, the campaign kick-off Sunday, and continued through June 22. An *Ablaze!* **Fan into Flame** banner was hung outside next to the sidewalk by the front doors on our kick-off Sunday and remained there until June 29. Posters with **Fan into Flame** information were posted on the bulletin board each Sunday. Beginning with our kick-off Sunday, *Ablaze!* and **Fan into Flame** were mentioned during the sermons in relation to missions and outreach.

Our campaign began with a letter to every household announcing our participation in **Fan into Flame**. A second letter was sent to all households inviting them to sign up to attend one of the four cottage meetings we held at the church. The Board of Elders called the families in their elder groups to encourage attendance at one of the hour-long cottage meetings, which consisted of dessert, a brief devotion, the showing of the **Fan into Flame** promotional DVD, a PowerPoint presentation, and time for discussion, questions and answers. Each family attending was given a **Fan into Flame** information packet containing the information pieces suggested by the campaign guidelines. Everyone was asked to prayerfully consider making a commitment to **Fan into Flame**.

The third letter with a pledge card enclosed was mailed to the members prior to Commitment Sunday, June 22. Pledge cards were also inserted into the bulletins on June 22. During the worship on Commitment Sunday, each communicant member was invited to place his or her **Fan into Flame** commitment card on the altar during the offering.

Our Results

On Commitment Sunday, pledges for \$49,750 were received. This was announced to the congregation on June 29, our Celebration Sunday, when we gave thanks to God and celebrated with special refreshments after each worship service. On June 29, additional pledges were received, bringing our final total to \$60,050, just over three times our goal of \$20,000. We have 40 giving units who made pledges and the first payment sent in was \$10,469.33.

Our Outreach Effort

We haven't fully decided how we are going to use the congregation's percent of the funds raised. At the time that we began the **Fan into Flame** campaign we had also formed a vision committee to evaluate the congregation's ministry and building needs. The Board of Evangelism will consider new ways of outreach into the community and additional ministries that we might now start to reach the needs of the community.

