



The Nebraska District is Built on a Mission Foundation

The Nebraska District, in response to the opportunities for new mission work God is placing before us, joyfully supports *Fan into Flame* to help provide resources for witnessing opportunities in the communities of Nebraska and throughout the world.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8

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The Nebraska District, at its first convention, laid the foundation of biblical mission work. It is on this foundation the mission and ministry of the congregations and schools of Nebraska is built.

According to the following excerpts from *Thy Kingdom Come*, a history of the Nebraska District edited by Rev. Dr. W. Theophil Janzow (pgs. 32-33), the delegates at the District Convention in 1882 gave a great example of mission-mindedness:

The first convention of the Nebraska District can be called a mission convention. The delegates were encouraged by the reports of the circuit missionaries, who had sought out scattered Lutherans throughout the state and provided them with spiritual care.

Reports from the missionaries were very positive. "God has richly blessed our ministry," they said, referring particularly to the work of finding the scattered Lutherans, bringing them together for services, and sharing the Bread of Life with them.

President Schwan reported that several thousand dollars were needed for the purchase of a suitable building for a church and a school in New Orleans to serve a Black congregation. An offering at the convention provided a substantial amount for this purpose.

President Schwan also called attention to the need of the Saxon Free Church in Germany, especially the congregation in Planitz, for support. Congregations in the District were encouraged to loan funds to this congregation and, in general, to come to the aid of the Saxon Free Church.

Even more remarkable is the Acts 1:8 example these delegates gave 126 years ago.

- They received reports on the local mission work taking place in their very own circuits and in the Nebraska District. (*Jerusalem and Judea*)
- They took a sizable offering to provide for a new mission church in New Orleans, a national project. (*Samaria*)
- They were also encouraged to provide financial support to international ministries by aiding the churches in Germany. (*The ends of the earth*)

May the heritage these faithful delegates left for the congregations of the Nebraska District provide encouragement and a model as congregations participate in *Fan into Flame*.

Pilot Congregations Kick Off Appeals

The pilot phase for *Fan into Flame* in Nebraska continues this month. More congregations have had or are planning their Kick-Off Sundays in the coming weeks.

First Trinity, Bloomfield
Sunday, June 1

Lord of Life, Elkhorn
Sunday, May 4

Grace, Fairbury
Sunday, May 4

Peace, Grand Island
Sunday, May 11

Immanuel, Loup City
Sunday, May 18

Pacific Hills, Omaha
Sunday, May 4

St. Paul, Omaha
Sunday, May 18

Immanuel, Tilden
Sunday, April 6

Please remember these congregations in your prayers, as well as those that are still considering how and when they might participate.

Campaign Update

Commitments to date from individuals and congregations in Nebraska for *Fan into Flame* are \$1.6 million as a result of 14 gifts.

Visit www.ndlcms.org for more information and useful resources