



The Nebraska District *Ablaze!* Update

August 8, 2008

Congregations Moving Forward

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.

Jesus said, "As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work."

John 9:4

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Fan into Flame is an invitation for individuals and congregations to prayerfully consider providing funding for innovative projects and programs that will advance the *Ablaze!* movement's goal to share the Gospel with 100 million people in Nebraska and around the world.

The Nebraska District's involvement in *Fan into Flame* during 2008 is part of our commitment to walk together with other districts and congregations of Synod, as well as an example of living out our 2006 Convention theme, "I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields. They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35b)

We are calling on each of the 245 Nebraska District congregations to join with us and participate in this exciting and unique mission opportunity. Every congregation may choose to participate in whatever way works best for them. Following are some easy steps every congregation can take to initiate *Fan into Flame* among their members.

1. Take information and your enthusiasm for *Fan into Flame* to your leadership. More information is available at www.ndlcms.org/news/FIF/index.html.
2. Consider making a pledge over the next 5 years above current district and Synod mission giving. We are asking *all* congregations in the Nebraska District to partner with us.
3. At your approval meeting, vote to make a gift of new money of 10% of last year's budget pledged to be paid over the next 5 years. A pledge form is available on the District website, www.ndlcms.org/news/FIF/index.html.
4. Contact the Nebraska District Office to apprise them of your decision, whatever that may be. The District Office can provide resource materials and support for your leaders as you begin plans to implement the appeal.
5. Commit to partnering in this mission endeavor by praying for the Lord's blessings on *Fan into Flame*. By giving God's people a chance to support this historic mission funding effort, we will all be blessed to see how God can use individuals and congregations to spread the story of salvation through Jesus Christ.

If you need assistance or to learn more, take time to contact your *Fan into Flame* circuit coordinator or the Nebraska District Office. There are people willing to support you as you develop plans and as you gather to celebrate the Spirit's blessing through this initiative.

Is Your Congregation Moving Toward a Decision?

Has your congregation committed to being part of *Fan into Flame*? If your congregation hasn't yet made a decision about when or how you will participate in *Fan into Flame*, **it's not too late!** Now is the time to gather information, approach the congregational leadership, and share with them the tremendous opportunities God is giving all of us to spread the Good News of Jesus through *Fan into Flame*.

The resources you need to educate yourself and your leadership can be found on the District website, www.ndlcms.org.

Congregations may choose to run a fall appeal, or to sign and return a pledge agreement that would allow more time to make plans for implementation.

Every congregation is strongly encouraged to contact the District Office once a prayerful decision is made.

Campaign Update

Commitments to date from individuals and congregations in Nebraska for *Fan into Flame* are \$2,140,578 as a result of 367 gifts.

National gifts and commitments to date total over \$33 million.