



## The Nebraska District *Ablaze!* Update

September 19, 2008

# HELP! How Do We Get Started?

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

Nebraska District  
LCMS  
PO Box 407  
Seward NE 68434

888-643-2961  
[www.ndlcms.org](http://www.ndlcms.org)

Are you a member, leader, or pastor of a Nebraska congregation that would like to be involved in *Fan into Flame*, but haven't begun your appeal yet? Are you wondering how to get started? Below are some easy steps to follow to begin the implementation of *Fan into Flame* in your congregation.

- Step 1:** Present *Fan into Flame* to your congregation's leadership. A short PowerPoint presentation and other resources are available on the District website, [www.ndlcms.org](http://www.ndlcms.org), to help you share.
- Step 2:** The congregation agrees to take part in *Fan into Flame*.
- Step 3:** Determine a goal for your congregation in dollars to be raised. A common benchmark is 10% of last year's operating budget to be paid over 3-5 years. Boldly commit to your goal amount by making a written pledge. A **Congregational Pledge Agreement** is available from the *Fan into Flame* page on the District website, [www.ndlcms.org](http://www.ndlcms.org).
- Step 4:** Fax/E-mail a copy of the completed pledge agreement to the Nebraska District Office, 402-643-2990 or [Andrea.Essling@lcms.org](mailto:Andrea.Essling@lcms.org).
- Step 5:** The congregation chooses how and when it will participate to reach – or exceed – its goal:
- 1. Adopt an education and stewardship plan with:**
    - ◆ An appeal that has personal visits
    - ◆ Cottage meetings that ask for pledges; and/or
    - ◆ A "Commitment Sunday" for *Fan into Flame*

*Materials and professional assistance can be provided if a congregation chooses one of the above options.*

- 2. Choose its own fundraising plan**
- 3. Tithe a portion of an upcoming local campaign**
- 4. Agree to add new funds to its budget and make special contributions to *Fan into Flame*.**

Remember, *Fan into Flame* gifts are above and beyond normal giving to Synod, District, and World Mission. We are starting new outreach ministries by God's grace, and you and your congregation are invited to be a part of this exciting mission effort.

Professional assistance can be provided by Andrea Essling if a congregation chooses to participate between September 2008 – December 2008.

### First Trinity, Bloomfield, Featured in National Newsletter

The Sept/Oct issue of *Fan into Flame Update News* features an article on First Trinity, Bloomfield's *Fan into Flame* appeal. View the newsletter and read the article online at [www.fanintoflamecms.org](http://www.fanintoflamecms.org)

### *Ablaze!* Factsoids

Looking for a way to begin *Ablaze!* education in your congregation? Share a few of these *Ablaze!* facts in your next bulletin.

1. Two out of three people in the world today have no relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. The *Ablaze!* movement is about touching the hearts and minds of people throughout the world and sharing with them the love of Christ.
3. *Fan into Flame* gifts will provide financial support for the *Ablaze!* movement goals.

### Campaign Update

Commitments to date from individuals and congregations in Nebraska for *Fan into Flame* are \$2,269,461 as a result of 446 gifts.

National gifts and commitments to date total over \$34 million.