



LCMS World Mission Support
1333 South Kirkwood Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63122-7295
1-800-977-2017
FanIntoFlame@lcms.org

Nebraska District LCMS
PO Box 407
Seward, Nebraska 68434
1-888-643-2961
www.ndlcms.org

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Congregation
Address
City

Dear partners in the mission field,

"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

Representatives from 112 Nebraska District congregations attended one of the 14 **FANtastic Festival** orientation workshops held around the District this spring. These congregations had the opportunity to begin their consideration or indicate their response to the invitation to be a part of **Fan into Flame** in Nebraska during 2008. What about your congregation? Have your pastor and lay leadership taken the time to learn what **Fan into Flame** is all about? Do you have the option to participate in **Fan into Flame** on your July council and/or voters meeting agendas?

A number of flexible appeal plans are available for congregations to examine, modify as needed, and begin planning for. These plans include:

- × **Personal contacts** through visits to congregation members
- × **Cottage meetings** where a group gathers for *Ablaze!* education
- × **Commitment Sundays with publicity** in newsletters, bulletins, special mailings, and coordinated sermons and Bible studies
- × **Pledging a gift** from the operating budget or as part of a recently-launched or upcoming congregational campaign

A number of Nebraska District congregations have committed to holding summer or fall appeals, but there are a number of congregations that have not yet decided. Please consider including information in your July church meetings about this Synod-wide campaign to start new missions and bolster existing missions in the United States and around the world.

All District congregations are encouraged to decide by September 15 how they will be participating in the **Fan into Flame** campaign. Congregations are asked to contact the District Office with the timing of their appeal when the decision is made. The goal is to have all congregational appeals completed by Advent of this year.

Pastors or lay leaders may use a short informational PowerPoint presentation to introduce this opportunity to their council or to the voters. This presentation is available on the Nebraska District ***Fan into Flame*** webpage at <http://www.ndlcms.org/news/FIF/index.html>. Circuit coordinators are also available to visit your congregation and share resources with your leadership.

Additional ***Fan into Flame*** resources available on the District website include more information on the flexible congregational appeals and manuals to help guide congregations through their appeal. Included with this letter is a reproducible "Frequently Asked ***Fan into Flame*** Questions" brochure to help answer some of the questions that might arise as you discuss this mission opportunity in your congregation.

Ablaze! is about inviting – inviting unbelievers to have a relationship with Christ, and inviting believers to greater mission involvement. ***Fan into Flame*** is the invitation for individuals and congregations to help fund *Ablaze!* projects that spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in their communities, in Nebraska, in the United States, and around the world.

Please share this invitation with your congregation members and give them the opportunity to be a part of this unique mission effort.

Partnering with you in the Lord's mission field,

Rev. Russ Sommerfeld
Nebraska District President

Enc. – FAQ Brochure