

The Nebraska District *Ablaze!* UpdateThankful Hearts "On Fire"  
for Missions

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.

**"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done."**  
Psalm 105:1

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Individuals and congregations in Nebraska are being invited to be a part of *Fan into Flame*, the historic mission effort to provide funding in support of *Ablaze!* outreach projects. Congregations that have educated members on the mission focus of *Ablaze!* and extended the invitation for members to be prayerfully involved in *Fan into Flame* have been used in miraculous ways by God to spread His message of salvation through Jesus Christ in their communities, in Nebraska, and around the world. Here are a few congregations we celebrate with and give thanks for this week!

**Congregations Step Forward**

More congregations in Nebraska are stepping forward and committing to being involved in *Fan into Flame*. 5 new congregations have begun appeals or sent pledge agreements.

**Trinity**, Arapahoe  
**St. Matthew**, Cedar Bluffs  
**Trinity**, Hebron  
**Immanuel**, Hooper  
**Faith**, York

3 of these congregations made pledges of new money from their budget over and above their current ministry giving.

2 of these congregations are in the process of collecting pledges. One has exceeded its goal, and the other is near its goal after only one report.

**Imagine how God can use your congregation to reach more people with the Good News of Jesus!**

**Campaign Update**

Commitments to date from individuals and congregations in Nebraska for *Fan into Flame* are \$2,843,317 resulting from 818 gifts.

National gifts and commitments to date total \$38.4 million.

**In Our Own Words** by Dick Jostes

When asked why Grace Lutheran Church, Norfolk, chose to participate in *Fan into Flame*, no one answer came quickly to our minds. Grace wanted to support *Ablaze!* and *Fan into Flame* because:

- *Fan into Flame* gave us a great way to bring the *Ablaze!* story to more members and to help them take the *Ablaze!* effort personally.
- Pastor Wilke was a missionary to the Philippines for seven years. This has given a practical missions perspective to Grace Lutheran's pulpit and to Bible studies led by Rev. Wilke.
- A mission-minded culture is part of Grace Lutheran Church's character.
- We have supported Orphan Grain Train for several years. In fact, when missionaries visit the Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk they often stay over the weekend to give presentations at Grace Lutheran on Sunday morning.
- Several members have visited Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa, to meet missionaries there.
- Grace supports a volunteer missionary through LCMS World Mission.
- Several members of Grace attend the "Big Event" fundraiser each November. Hosted by Christ Lutheran's *Servants of Our Savior* LLL Group, monies are raised in support of LCMS World Mission projects and Orphan Grain Train.

**By the conclusion of their congregation's appeal, God had moved the members of Grace to give over 150% of their \$60,000 congregational goal, all of which are gifts over and above support for the mission work they were previously and are currently involved in.**