



The Nebraska District *Ablaze!* Update

April 2, 2009

Is It Too Late?

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.

"I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

1 Corinthians 9:23

Nebraska District
LCMS
PO Box 407
Seward NE 68434

888-643-2961
www.ndlcms.org

NO! It's never too late to tell people about Jesus, and that's what *Ablaze!* and *Fan into Flame* are all about. Your personal or congregational involvement in *Fan into Flame* provides resources to support projects that share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

If you are a member, leader, or pastor of a Nebraska congregation, and you would like to be involved in *Fan into Flame*, but haven't begun your appeal yet, there's still time. Below are some easy steps you can prayerfully 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. Click on *Fan into Flame*.

Step 2: Educate members about *Ablaze!* and *Fan Into Flame* – use bulletin inserts, pulpit announcements, weave *Ablaze!* themes into sermons. Many resources are available at www.ndlcms.org or www.lcms.org/ablaze.

Step 3: Determine and approve 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.

Step 4: Fax a copy of the completed pledge agreement to the Nebraska District Office at 402-643-2990.

Step 5: Choose an appeal plan that will work best for your congregation to reach or exceed your goal and decide when you will conduct your appeal.

Contact your Circuit Coordinator or the District Office for assistance – we have lots of resource materials and tools to help you conduct your appeal. We can even schedule a visit to your congregation.

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.

District Campaign Consultant Moves to Michigan

Andrea Essling, who serves the Nebraska District as *Fan into Flame* consultant, has moved her office from the Nebraska District to the Michigan District as they begin their campaign. Andrea is still available as a resource for congregations that are in the midst of or contemplating appeals, as well as those that have questions about *Fan into Flame*. She may be reached at Andrea.Essling@lcms.org or 616-389-7747. Congregation reports and general *Fan into Flame* questions may still be directed to the District Office.

Ablaze! Resources

Are you looking for quick and easy ways to begin *Ablaze!* education in your congregation? LCMS World Mission has produced a number of great, ready-to-use resources for congregations. Go to www.lcms.org/ablaze for:

- Bulletin inserts
- DVDs and videos
- PowerPoint presentations
- Worship resources
- Bible studies
- Prayer resources
- Promotional items
- Personal evangelism tools
- Music
- Logos, graphics, and banners
- *Ablaze!* stories
- Much more!

Ablaze! is about every LCMS member sharing the hope he or she has in Jesus Christ with those they encounter each day. Help educate and equip your members today!

Campaign Update

Commitments to date from individuals and congregations in Nebraska for *Fan into Flame* are \$3,279,771.

National gifts and commitments to date total \$45.5 million.