



KANSAS
MISSION
ABLAZE!

PROCLAIMING
THE MESSAGE
TODAY,
TOMORROW,
FOR ETERNITY

NEVER LET
THE FIRE IN
YOUR HEART
GO OUT. KEEP
IT ALIVE.
SERVE THE
LORD.

ROMANS 12:11

KANSAS DISTRICT
LCMS

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Topeka, KS 66604
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The Next Steps for Congregations

Here are some helpful tips for congregations as they consider participating in the *Fan Into Flame* campaign.

- ◆ Pray for God's guidance and blessing.
- ◆ Educate members about *Ablaze!* and *Fan Into Flame* – use bulletin inserts, pulpit announcements, weave *Ablaze!* themes into sermons. Many resources are available at www.kslcms.org.
- ◆ Decide on participation – which of the appeal plans listed below will work best for your congregation?
- ◆ Set a financial goal – to be accomplished over 3-5 years.
- ◆ Identify projects that need funding – what dreams do you have for reaching beyond the walls of your church into the surrounding community?
- ◆ Select a time to conduct your appeal, preferably from now through Advent 2008. We understand that it takes time to reach a decision and plan to run the appeal, but once that is complete, the actual appeal can be run in 4-8 weeks.
- ◆ Invite members to support this effort – give every member in your congregation the opportunity to support this local and global effort for God's mission, both spiritually and financially.
- ◆ Contact your Circuit Coordinator, Andrea Essling (District 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.

Congregational Flexible Appeal Plans

Each congregation is unique. The following five appeal plans can be taken individually, in various combinations or altered to fit each situation.

- ◆ Personal Contacts – highly personalized approach consisting of visits to members, alongside education and commitment components at the congregational level. Congregations that implemented this plan raised on average 200% of their goal. Grace Lutheran, San Marcos, TX, began their appeal by recruiting a leadership team that consisted of the pastor and 4 highly mission-minded members. The leadership team then set out to meet with other highly mission-minded members of the congregation. Not every member of the congregation received a personal visit, but all members had the opportunity to learn about this effort through bulletin inserts and pulpit announcements on 6 consecutive Sundays. The members of Grace joined together to more than double their goal!
- ◆ Cottage Meetings – group-oriented approach in which *Ablaze!* education takes place through focused Bible studies and sermons, along with leadership-led cottage meetings and a Commitment Sunday. Congregations that implemented this plan raised on average 160% of their goal. Messiah Lutheran in Oklahoma City, OK, implemented this plan and raised \$113,000 on an \$80,000 goal. The leadership team visited a select group of individuals for leadership gifts and then held a congregational banquet.
- ◆ Commitment Sunday with Publicity – relies strongly on strategic and effective publicity in congregational newsletters, bulletins, mailed letters and coordinated sermons and Bible studies, concluding with a Commitment Sunday. Congregations that implemented this plan raised less than 70% of their goal.
- ◆ Tithe from a Capital Campaign – equal to goal that is requested.
- ◆ Budget-line item – consider a pledge of 10% of last year's budget pledged over the next 5 years. For example, if last year's congregation budget was \$100,000, your requested pledge would be \$10,000, which equates to \$2,000 per year starting in 2008.

For more information on these appeal plans, contact your Circuit Coordinator (contact information on our website) or Andrea Essling at Andrea.Essling@lcms.org or 888-643-2961.

For more information about *Ablaze!* and resources for your congregation, visit the LCMS *Ablaze!* website.

www.lcms.org/ablaze

You can also access this website and more *Ablaze!* and *Fan into Flame* information from the Kansas District homepage.

www.kslcms.org