

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD



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To Pastors and Congregations of the Pacific Southwest District

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Larry Stoterau
President

I send you greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I remind you to Fan Into Flame the gift of God, which is in you.... For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:6-7

The Board of Directors of the Pacific Southwest District has chosen 2008 as the year for our participation in ***Fan into Flame***, the financial initiative designed to support the ***Ablaze!*** goal of bringing the saving Gospel message of Jesus Christ to 100 million people. The Synod, at the 2004 convention, resolved to raise \$100 million above the current giving of God's people for this specific movement. A district Steering Committee led by Rev. Loren Kramer, retired District President and Mr. Bob Lichtsinn has been hard at work planning for our involvement.

During the fall of 2008, every pastor and congregational leader will be invited to a regional orientation event where ***Fan into Flame*** will be explained in more detail and every congregation will learn how they can participate. Net undesignated ***Fan into Flame*** funds will be divided in a framework based on Acts 1:8:

- 15% for Jerusalem – the local congregation mission outreach
- 15% for Judea – District mission efforts
- 20% for Samaria – work we do together through North American Missions
- 50% for the Ends of the Earth – international mission work

With this letter I am asking you to keep ***Fan into Flame*** in your prayers and watch for further information concerning these regional events. Following the orientation, every congregation will be asked to participate between January 2009 and the District Convention June 26-30, 2009. I am also asking you to share ***Fan into Flame*** information with your congregation when it arrives. It's important that we give God's people a chance to serve this initiative.

We live in a vast mission field with people dying every day without the Good News of God's love for them in Jesus Christ. Through our prayers and participation in ***Fan into Flame*** we can make a difference.

Proclaiming Jesus Christ with "hearts on fire,"

Reverend Dr. Larry Stoterau, President
Pacific Southwest District, LCMS