

## **Our Church**

Elm Grove Lutheran Church is located in Elm Grove, a suburb of Milwaukee. The church was founded in December of 1940; fifteen years later, Elm Grove Lutheran School was established. We have 1,730 baptized members, 1,290 confirmed members and a weekly worship attendance of 500 souls. Our school offers classes for Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grades.



## **Our Plan**

Presently, we are running four separate appeals at our church. One of these is **Fan into Flame**, for which we have a goal of \$102,000. Members of Elm Grove Lutheran have the opportunity to contribute to any or all of the four appeals. In order to raise the \$750,000 dollars necessary to finance our multiple needs, we have recruited a leadership team of 4 individuals and a visitation team of eight individuals. We plan on personally visiting approximately 100 members of our congregation, hosting two cottage meetings and holding two Commitment Sundays. Our local appeal will be twelve weeks in duration. We are excited to witness the work of the Holy Spirit and Heaven's Missionary over the next several weeks!

## **Our Results to date**

We are almost midway through our appeal. Thanks to the generosity of our leadership team and a handful of our members who we have personally visited thus far, we have already raised \$25,000 from 14 gifts! Our average gift is \$1,766. We are moved by the positive response that has been shown toward **Fan into Flame** in our church!

## **Our Outreach Effort**

New money raised for **Fan into Flame** that is returned to our congregation will be used to produce a professional quality CD/DVD of our congregational worship life and music. The CD/DVD will be utilized for evangelism efforts and will be available for gift giving to friends and relatives.

Fellow Redeemed,

As of the date of the writing of this letter, Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church is half way through a major congregation capital fund appeal that includes *Fan into Flame*. Members of our congregation are responding positively. Permit me to explain to you our efforts.

Our congregation's total appeal consists of a goal of \$750,000. *Fan into Flame* consists of \$102,000 of that amount. Rather than earmarking only 10% of our total appeal for *Fan into Flame*, we opted to designate 10% of our anticipated fiscal year envelope offerings (the basic guideline for congregation participation in *Fan into Flame*). In this manner, hopefully a larger amount will be generated for the synod-wide effort.

Why is Elm Grove Lutheran Church participating in *Fan into Flame*? Put simply, the answer is because we too are a part of the entire Body of Christ and not an isolated individual member congregation. One of the organizing purposes of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is to “Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world” (LCMS Constitution III.2). Having spent 25 of my 35 professional years in positions all over the world and across the breadth and depth of our church body, I know all too well what it means to be ‘at the disposal’ of local congregation support. There are hundreds—indeed, thousands—of church workers and ministries both within the LCMS and within our partner churches worldwide that depend on congregations like Elm Grove Lutheran for financial support. In other words, we can do no less than participate in *Fan into Flame*.

I therefore personally solicit your personal and congregation support for *Fan into Flame*. Together we can accomplish marvelous things for the sake of Christ and His Church.

In His Name,

LARRY W. MYERS  
Administrative Pastor  
Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church