

Immanuel Lutheran Church of East Dundee is so excited about our participation in the Fan Into Flame appeal in support of the Ablaze movement. Our congregation's mission in this blessed portion of the Lord's kingdom is to draw people closer to Christ and to assure them of His gifts: the abundance of life here on earth and the fullness of eternal life with Christ in heaven. The Ablaze movement gives us the opportunity to live out this mission in some very meaningful ways as we get to share our joy of trusting and following Jesus who has given us Himself, His life, His death and His resurrection so that we may have life and forgiveness in His name. What better gift to be able to share with a family member, a friend at work, children at our school, a neighbor down the street—we are a congregation that is ablaze for Christ for we trust that one day we will reign with Him in heaven shining like the stars of the universe because of His triumph over death and the grave.

The timing of this appeal occurred just after our congregation finished a major capital campaign to finance our debt following a successful building program so we have followed Plan 5 of the appeal effort in financing our gift amount from our General Fund offerings. Our Board of Trustees boldly stepped forward in faith to express our commitment to the Fan Into Flame fundraising appeal and our participation with all the churches in the Northern Illinois District in supporting this worthwhile and awesome goal of propelling the Ablaze movement in reaching its goal of touching 100 million people with the great Good News of Jesus by the year 2017—we are so blessed to be a part of this church body which is living out the Great Commission of Jesus in baptizing and teaching all the nations. We wholeheartedly support the Ablaze movement and it is an honor for us to play this small part in furthering the work of the kingdom of Christ.

We are pledging a gift of \$100,000 over the next five years—nearly \$40,000 will be paid during this coming year using a portion of a large estate gift the congregation is receiving. It was a gift we did not expect or plan for and so as a thank you to the Lord we are returning to Him a portion of it to be used in the greater needs of the Church. The remaining \$60,000 will be given to Fan Into Flame over the next few years in the amount of \$15,250 annually.

We look forward to using some of the mission money returned to us to further the mission work being done at St. John's in Elgin for the Hispanic mission of San Juan—we also are developing some mission plans for us locally in the Dundee area to reach out to those new to our community and through the power of the Holy Spirit to draw them closer to Christ.

One member of the Board of Trustees spoke so eloquently of this gift by remarking what a wonderful way it is to say thank you to our beloved Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod which has blessed this congregation over our 146 year history with such faithful pastors and teachers who have shared the love of Christ with the members of this congregation and community. We certainly encourage other congregations to join us in participating in the Fan Into Flame appeal and we look forward to witnessing the awesome power of God at work in us and through us as He continues to set us ablaze for Christ and His mission to seek and to save the lost.