

**Fan into Flame** is a movement to inspire individuals and congregations in Iowa District West to respond as recipients of God's abundant grace through the sharing of resources in the work of the mission.

Explore now how your congregation can be involved in the "Fan into Flame" Campaign.

**The total of gifts and pledges received Synod-wide as of Dec. 2**  
\$52,049,3997

**Total pledged for IDW:**  
\$324,653

*Praise God!*

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## ... a roar of excitement goes up!

Did you hear the roar coming from Adel? No, it wasn't the roar from a football game--although the Adel-Desoto-Minburn football team did qualify for the first round of the state playoffs in October. No, it wasn't when Dylan Book, high school senior and member of Faith, Adel, came home from a 23-day hospital stay following a work accident. No, this roar went up after the "Fan into Flame" commitment Sunday November 29 at Faith, Adel. Craig Jensen, financial secretary announced that \$70,545 was pledged, smashing the goal of \$50,000 that they had set for themselves! It has since climbed to \$79,405. There was celebration and awe at the response of the congregation to the challenge to raise funds to help reach those who do not know Jesus as their Savior.



Rev. Mark Gerken, IDW executive assistant for missions and a member of the Fan into Flame steering team, met with the Stewardship Committee to explain the program and the options that were available to them. The committee also met with the consultants from Synod to receive guidance as to how to best adapt the program to the needs of the congregation. The goal for the size of congregation Faith is was \$35,000. The committee felt that the congregation could do more than that. After going home and praying about it, they decided on the goal of \$50,000; this in spite of the fact that plans will be brought to the congregation in February for expansion of the fellowship hall and classrooms!

Faith, Adel followed a four-week campaign, using Bible studies, sermons and posters put up around the church to raise awareness and to pique everyone's curiosity on how to spread flames for Ablaze. There were also signs equating Jerusalem with Adel, Judea with Iowa District West, Samaria with the United States and then the rest of the world.

A tool to show the progress of how much money was pledged was a flat world map put on the wall in the sanctuary. Starting with a small flame for Adel, flames were to be added spreading across the world as pledges came in. Members of the stewardship committee were asked for their commitment ahead of time as well as treasury commitments from two organizations – Woman's Guild and the Fellowship Committee. Those pledged amounts were placed on the map right away.



On Commitment Sunday the committee supplied Pastor John Burger a pretend fire with copper mylar paper, yellow tissue paper, logs and flashing lights for a children's message. It was to show the Holy Spirit is alive in us and we are to let God use us to spread the fire about God's love and mercy. The children were shown the map with the flames spreading over it and how we were raising funds to spread God's Word over the entire world.



Teresa Wichtendahl, chair of the Stewardship Committee, shared the following Bible passage that she believes totally explains the success of the campaign. "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

"Now isn't that the best verse ever to describe what happened in our church? It struck me that we came up with a goal, but it was a man-made goal. The Holy Spirit had another goal already in mind for us and used our congregation to attain it!" says the excited Wichtendahl.

Plans are in place to have a suggestion box plus a luncheon in January to brainstorm ideas on how to use the 15% that will come back to the congregation. Since members come from several communities in Dallas County, the plan is to look for ways of reaching all of Dallas County.