



**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.

Redeemer, Sioux City a pilot congregation for Fan into Flame in Iowa District West just completed a successful campaign. For information on how your congregation can become involved contact the District office.

**The total of gifts and pledges received Synod-wide to date is \$43,976,843.**

**Total pledged for IDW:  
\$320,470  
Praise God!**

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## REDEEMER, SIOUX CITY LEADS THE WAY

Redeemer, Sioux City, a mission minded congregation, was willing to be one of the first congregations in Iowa District West to participate in **Fan into Flame**. They were first involved by hosting a Mission Ignition Festival that the District had prepared. Pastors Zirpel and Senstad put in much time and effort along with their members. The event was well received by Redeemer's members and members of the circuit congregations. They were reminded of the need not only to share the message of Christ's love with those around the world but also right here in Iowa, right where we live.

Redeemer tied their **Fan into Flame** appeal into their normal Stewardship campaign. They did a four week sermon series leading up to Commitment Sunday. These along with other worship materials will soon be on the District web site.

Pastor Senstad in encouraging other congregations to participate in **Fan into Flame** says, "It's quality material. It's The Lutheran Church Missouri--Synod doing the quality material. This is what we are about as churches--we are to be doing mission work!"

### ...to the ends of the Earth...

Funds raised in **Fan into Flame** will be distributed in accordance with a framework based on Acts 1:8 *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Fifty percent of net funds raised will be used to *the ends of the earth*. The following project is one example of what the funds will support. Check back next month for another example.

#### *Matongo Lutheran Theological College and Seminary Expansion, Kenya*

Adding a library and conference center to the MLTCS campus in Sondu, Kenya, will serve Lutheranism across East Africa. The library addition will enhance the training of pastors, deaconesses, evangelists, teachers, and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya workers. The conference center will serve both the school and the community. Rental income from the conference center will help MLTCS become self-sustaining. Library: **\$176,215** Conference Center: **\$212,187**

See the following article on this project by Pastor Andreasen (Immanuel, Spirit Lake).

The first step in starting a congregational appeal is to determine the type of appeal a congregation will undertake. There are four basic appeals that can be taken individually, in various combinations, or altered to fit each situation:

**Personal Contacts:** a highly personalized approach consisting of visits to congregational members, alongside education and commitment components at the congregational level.

**Cottage Meetings:** a group-oriented approach in which **Ablaze!** education takes place in the congregation through focused Bible studies and sermons, along with leadership-led cottage meetings and a commitment Sunday.

**Commitment Sundays with Publicity:** relies strongly on strategic and effective publicity in congregational newsletters, bulletins, mailed letters, and coordinated sermons and Bible studies, concluding with commitment Sundays.

**Pledge a gift:** over a 3-5 year period from mission-allotted funds from the operating budget, or as part of a scheduled or recently-launched local congregational campaign.

The goal of The Evangelical Lutheran Church Body is to unite the Matongo Lutheran Theological College (MLTC), the Matongo Lutheran Teachers Training College (MLTTC) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya's Deaconess program into one university. The Neema (meaning 'grace' in Swahili) Lutheran University of Kenya is well on its way to becoming a self-sustaining university recognized by the Kenyan government's educational accreditation agency and will be able to offer a bachelors degree in education and theology.

To become fully accredited in Kenya, the library of the institution will have to be built in order to house at least 10,000 volumes. Plans are underway to begin the construction of this facility which will not only house the library, but also the chapel and additional classroom space, as soon as the Fan Into Flame moneys for this project are gathered. The goal is \$175,000 representing 80% of the total cost of this facility. The additional 20% of the costs are being raised in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya.

Both MLTC and MLTTC have served the growing needs of a growing church. Since 1977 MLTC has trained 76 pastors, 110 evangelists and 4 deaconesses. There are currently 54 students in the Theological College from five different East Africa nations. Since 1994 MLTTC has graduated 900 students who have received certificates for Primary Teacher's Education. The church body's 700 congregations provide much of Kenya's public school programs especially in the rural regions. With her current 122 pastors serving those 700 congregations, it is very obvious that more training needs to be provided.

One student tell this story, *I came to Matongo because my home congregation was falling down. People were waiting for Baptism and Holy Communion and to be visited by a pastor. I saw others who graduated but were posted elsewhere, so I decided I myself must study to become a good pastor. I want to return after ordination to serve them. In Kenya, many street preachers try to bring people to Jesus through miracles. But Jesus gave His Word to the apostles. Education is so important to being a good pastor! At MLTC we have studied the Word and how much we need both the Law and the Gospel. As our Lutheran Confessions say, through the Word we are brought to Christ. I thank God for leading me to Matongo and for what I have learned here.*" (Jerim Onanda)

For more information about this Fan Into Flame project you may contact the Rev. Phill Andraesen of Immanuel in Spirit Lake, Iowa. He would be happy to address any questions or offer a presentation for your congregation about the project. He can be reached by writing him at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Box 422, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360 or by emailing him at [pandraesen@imluth.homedns.org](mailto:pandraesen@imluth.homedns.org)



The entire student body and faculty at Matongo Lutheran Theological College