

*“I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields. They are ripe for harvest.”*

- John 4:35b

## Pacific Southwest District Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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### Pacific Southwest District Steering Committee Members

- Mr. Bill Buerger  
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- Mr. Mark Hansen  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
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- Rev. Jim Johnson  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Goleta, CA
- Rev. Dr. Loren Kramer  
Co-Chair  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Capistrano Beach, CA
- Mr. Bob Lichtsinn  
Co-Chair  
St. John Lutheran Church  
Orange, CA
- Mrs. Naomi Liles-Shirley  
Faith Community Lutheran Church  
Las Vegas, NV
- Rev. Ron Martin  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
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- Mrs. Laura Rusch  
First Lutheran Church  
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- Rev. Dr. Larry A. Stoterau  
District President

The economic news has not been good lately, particularly in many areas of our Pacific Southwest District. Congregations are facing financial challenges caused by lay-offs, foreclosures, and government budget crises. So why should church members take a serious look at their support of the *Ablaze!* movement through participation in **Fan into Flame** at this time?

Paraphrasing a recent remark by a District Campaign Steering Committee member – “It’s all there in the Gospel.” There surely hasn’t been a more uncertain or daunting outlook for our national economy since the Great Depression of the 1930s. A natural reaction to these events is to hunker down and attempt to ride it out. But our faith suggests that opportunities still exist to present the bold mission vision of *Ablaze!* to LCMS members here in Arizona, California, and Nevada as well as nationwide. There are even statistics to support this as the **Fan into Flame** national campaign registered its best quarter yet from October through December 2008, with pledges and gifts of more than \$5.5 million raised during this period!


Informing and educating a congregation about *Ablaze!* and **Fan into Flame** requires time which is essential to serious consideration and ultimately, a decision to participate in the campaign. Congregations are encouraged to initiate the process now, with a goal of declaring their intention by the District convention. Pledges and appeals can be scheduled for later this year, but a demonstration of commitment at the convention would send a strong message about the faith of our local churches.

Is not the harvest outcome worth the effort?

Learn more about participation by visiting the *Ablaze!* section of the PSD website, [www.psd-lcms.org](http://www.psd-lcms.org) or by calling Tony Perito, **Fan into Flame** Campaign Director at the district office at (888) 773-5267 for more information.

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The Pacific Southwest District joyfully joins with other Missouri Synod Lutherans throughout the country in support of **Fan into Flame**. While providing LCMS World Mission needed funds to share the Good News of Jesus throughout North America and around the world, the Pacific Southwest District plans to allocate 15% of net unrestricted gifts offered by our members toward local outreach.



**75** **CAMPAIGN UPDATE** - Pledges and gifts to the Pacific Southwest District from individuals and congregations total \$1,088,018 as of Jan. 31. To date, the Pacific Southwest District has received \$117,763 for mission work in the district. Nationally, there is \$43,644,784 in pledges and gifts committed to **Fan into Flame**.