

“Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

2 Corinthians 9:6

Pacific Southwest District Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

A LOCAL FAN INTO FLAME STORY

When Pastor Ron Martin of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Orange, California was asked to serve on the district steering committee for **Fan into Flame** in the Spring of 2008, he had some reservations. It wasn’t that he didn’t support the *Ablaze!* movement or the **Fan into Flame** campaign. Who could argue with such a biblical based initiative? Like most pastors he felt he was already over-extended and would be hard pressed to find the time to do the job justice. But as he prayerfully considered the potential impact of our district’s campaign, he felt compelled to join the group.

Once he started attending the meetings, he got excited about the impact **Fan into Flame** would have both locally and to the ends of the earth. He recalls that when he was shown the suggested goal for his congregation, his first inclination was to suggest lowering it. “After all,” he said, “We’re already giving 10% of our offerings to outreach and our budget is very tight. In these tough economic times, how can we ask our people to do more?” But when he presented the \$150,000 goal to the congregational lay leadership team, they unanimously adopted the suggested goal. A commitment form was filled out and the first payment was made in December of 2008. Regular monthly payments will begin in July of 2009.

Pastor Martin states: “We have found that the more we focus outward as a congregation, the more the Lord blesses us in all sorts of ways. We have found that when we give our people opportunities to support outreach, they usually surprise us with their generosity. We don’t pressure our people. We just explain the opportunity and then wait to see what the Lord does. Then everybody loves getting the reports of what the Lord has done through our gifts.”

Learn more about participation by visiting the *Ablaze!* section of the PSD website, 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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For your consideration...

A boy who graduates from high school in 2009 will not be a pastor until 2017. We don't have the time to stall!

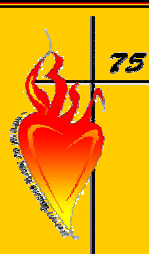
Pacific Southwest District—LCMS
President: Rev. Dr. Larry A. Stoterau
District Office:
1540 Concordia Drive East
Irvine, CA 92612-3203

Phone: 949-854-3232
Toll free: 888-773-5267
Fax: 949-854-8140



Pacific Southwest District Steering Committee Members

- Mr. Bill Buerger
Epiphany Lutheran Church
Chandler, AZ
- Mr. Mark Hansen
Bethany Lutheran Church
Long Beach, CA
- Rev. Jim Johnson
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- Rev. Dr. Larry A. Stoterau
District President



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.