

Our History

Christ our Savior Lutheran Church held its first worship service, February 16, 1986 at Lago Vista High School with 140 members and guests attending. The present church building was built by 17 volunteer "Laborers for Christ" and members of the congregation. The church is located in a small town outside of Austin, TX. It is currently being served by Pastor John Ellwanger. Christ Our Savior presently has 142 communicants and 167 baptized members.



Our Need

Fan into Flame has enabled Christ Our Savior to raise significant funds for our own mission needs as well as to share responsibility in the broader needs of our District and Synod. Fifteen percent (15%) of the net funds we raise will be returned to our congregation.

From the new money we receive from gifts made in our congregation, we have decided to provide it to either the Texas District or the International component of this movement. This will be decided by our voters.

With support from Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, our District and Synod will be able to fulfill these needs:

- Planting new congregations
- Initiating new outreach ministries
- Adding workers for evangelism and outreach
- Training people for mission outreach in the United States and around the world
- Building our relationship with our national and international church partners
- Protecting missionaries in the field

Our Results

The members of Christ Our Savior responded positively to our **Fan into Flame**. The Spirit moved our members to provide these results:

- Goal- \$10,000
- Raised- \$19,019
- % of Goal- 190%
- Gifts- 25
- Average Gift- \$760.00
- Amount to be returned for District outreach- \$2,377

January 16, 2007

Dear Fellow Pastor:

This letter is written in the hope that it might offer some encouragement to you and your congregation as you enter into or consider entering into Synod's Fan into Flame fund raising effort.

With over fifty years in the active ministry I've seen a good many major fund raising efforts of Synod and I have to admit I was a little skeptical and reluctant to get involved in another such effort. Besides, the small congregation I serve part-time and semi-retired would not seem to have the kind of resources that would make much difference in such an amount as \$100 million. We have approximately 150 baptized members and average 90 in attendance every Sunday.

On the other hand, the Lord has richly blessed us and we need to get serious about his great command to take the Gospel to all nations. I asked our Church Council for their support and they responded by setting a goal of \$15,000 and voting to underwrite this goal from our congregation's funds. We then asked the members of the congregation for their pledges and within about three weeks, they had over subscribed this goal without any undue pressure, to a final amount of \$17,570.

Doing the math, if every congregation in Synod would do the same proportionately, this goal of \$100 million would be reached three times over.

Surely, if there was ever a time when the world needed the light of the Gospel it is today, and if there was ever a time when God's people had the resources to reach out into all the world, it is today. Surely, if every pastor will be willing to take the lead, congregations will respond and the Lord will mightily bless pastor, congregation, Synod and the world in which we live.

We are excited about Fan Into Flame and hope you will be, too.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

John P. Ellwanger, pastor
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lago Vista, Texas