

Our Church

First Immanuel was established in December of 1853. Located in a suburb of Milwaukee, we consist of a church and school, providing quality Christian education for children in kindergarten through eighth grades. Our membership consists of 2,943 baptized members and 2,390 communicant souls. Rev. Randy Raasch has been with our congregation as senior pastor since 1989.



Our Plan

We began our simple appeal by recruiting a leadership team that consisted of Rev. Raasch and our development officer, Lori Newhouse. Together, Pastor Raasch and Lori set out to visit 15 mission-minded families to discuss *Ablaze!* and **Fan into Flame** and to personally ask for their support. We succeeded in raising \$174,000 from just these 15 visits! Over the next several weeks, we used bulletin inserts and pulpit announcements to educate the general congregation about the *Ablaze!* movement. Our members were invited to make a pledge to this historic mission movement on two Commitment Sundays, which were held during the last two weekends of our appeal. Our first Commitment Sunday alone raised \$286,000 for our mission work!

Our Results

Thanks to the blessings of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the motivation of our leaders and the generosity of our members, we exceeded our goal by 368 percent! This is truly astounding and we could not be more pleased with the results of our **Fan into Flame** appeal. We will now be able to significantly enhance the mission outreach we do as a congregation. Our statistics are compelling:

- Goal- \$150,000
- Raised- \$551,990
- Gifts- 285
- Average Gift- \$1,937
- Amount received for local outreach- \$74,519

Our Outreach Programs

Prior to beginning our appeal, we developed a case statement for First Immanuel; this case statement outlined the mission projects that we would fund with the monies we received back from **Fan into Flame**. Some of the projects which will be supported by the **Fan into Flame** effort are:

- Evangelism Training
With the help of Jim Berg and Harvesters For Christ, we will be training our members for effective outreach, both in Cedarburg and at our River of Life campus in Saukville.
- Mission trips to Mexico, Dominican Republic, Eastern Europe, China
Fan into Flame resources will be used to provide assistance to those who are committed to serve in short-term mission trips, but lack the funds to participate.
- Adult Day Programs including providing a location and service staff for Senior Meals [meals provided by the county] and Senior Game Days
The demographics of Ozaukee County and the escalating financial pressures experienced by seniors in our community lead us to develop outreach programming which would provide opportunities for food, fellowship and the loving care of Jesus for senior adults.
- *Ablaze!* Tuition Discounts
Coupons offering tuition discounts to unchurched families to attend FIL School are also a part of First Immanuel Lutheran Church's *Ablaze!* plan. Reaching out to families with a Christ-centered education will ignite the hearts of both children and adults with Christ's love.



Rev. Randolph H. Raasch



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In 2006 our South Wisconsin District resolved to participate in our synod's *Fan Into Flame* campaign. First Immanuel Lutheran was asked to be a pilot congregation. Since this campaign is designed to fuel mission endeavors locally, regionally, nationally and globally, our Congregation Assembly voted unanimously to participate.

In previous campaigns, as we raised resources for buildings, much time was spent in pre-campaign planning and programs. The beauty of the *Fan Into Flame* campaign is that it does not consume much time or energy. The materials provided by synod gave an easy to understand presentation of the campaign's goals and objectives. Because this campaign is about sharing the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with a fallen and hurting world, there was no need to "sell the program." Since the Christian Church is a mission, this campaign was received by our congregation with joy and gratitude as it fit nicely into our vision.

Besides the synod's goal of putting missionaries back into the fields, which are ripe for the harvest, our congregation established four goals where we will use the 15% of funds that will be directed to our First Immanuel Lutheran mission and ministry, such as,

- assistance for members to attend short-term foreign mission trips through LCMS World Missions and associated Lutheran missions;
- tuition vouchers for unchurched families of our ministry area to attend our day school;
- programs to provide care of the body, mind and soul of our community's senior citizens; and,
- utilizing "Harvesters for Christ" to equip our members to reach out to family and friends with the Good News of Jesus.

The campaign goal given to our congregation was \$150,000. By the grace of God we received pledges in excess of \$550,000. It was with the joy of being part of the Gospel ministry that the people of First Immanuel Lutheran decided what to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, but simply in response to the love of God in Christ Jesus.

The *Ablaze!* initiative and the *Fan Into Flame* campaign have energized and motivated our family of faith to live beyond ourselves.

Rev. Randolph H. Raasch
Senior Pastor

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10)