



CNH District LCMS . . .

17 By 17 ... An Ablaze! For God's Mission Update

A Bi-Weekley Ablaze! publication from the CNH District - LCMS  
November 08, 2007

**Ablaze! for God's Mission**, in partnership with **Fan Into Flame** is a movement to inspire individuals and congregations in the CNH District to respond as recipients of God's abundant grace through the sharing of resources in the work of mission.

**"17 By 17"**

The CNH District has a vision. . .this vision is to add **17,000** new faith communities to our District by the year **2017**.

**Fan Into Flame**

LCMS Fan Into Flame Goal:  
\$100,000,000.  
CNH District  
Goal: \$3,500,000.

Campaign Update

Commitments from individuals & congregations to date:

CNH District:  
\$830,860.  
LCMS Worldwide:  
\$25,647,714.



**Ablaze! and Fan Into Flame Resources:**

- [Ablaze! Start Up Kit](#)
- [Fan Into Flame Campaign Manuals](#)

IT ONLY TAKES A SPARK . . .

by: Anne Francisco FIF Campaign Communications Officer

When I attended the fall pastors conference in Sacramento with my husband last month, I heard President Newton introduce the *Fan into Flame* campaign, the vehicle that will gather funds for the *Ablaze* movement and LCMS World Missions. It's the part that will make us get serious with our wallets and our watches (time). It all sounded good, but I couldn't help but put on my skeptical lenses. Doubts about how such huge goals could be accomplished have flitted about inside my head. Until last Saturday, when I was reminded that *all things are possible with God*.

We attended a memorial service for the sister of one of our members. Patti's life here on earth had ended suddenly earlier in the week. The Lutheran church in Livingston where she was a member is small. The service was held in the large chapel of a funeral home in Turlock.

In his homily, Patti's pastor--bereft at the sudden and shocking loss of a friend and partner in the Gospel--recounted his early memories of Patti nearly 20 years ago. Patti and her husband Rocky were passionate about seeking the lost in the Livingston area, especially the large Hispanic population that was not served by the English-speaking pastor and congregation. God worked through their persistence and prayers. A pastor was called and a bilingual Lutheran congregation was birthed in the Livingston community.

We had arrived at the service late and the only seats left were in the second row (of course--it was a *Lutheran* funeral!). At the conclusion of the service, guests were invited to come forward--beginning with those in the back--to greet Patti's family who were seated in the front. At least 20 minutes later, I turned around to see how long it might be until it was our turn to be dismissed. The pews were still full of people. The large number that had already passed us must have stood in the back during the service. I quietly watched as many more men, women, and children--by far the greatest percentage of them Hispanic--streamed past us to offer their condolences to the family and to share how she had touched their lives.

When our turn came we greeted the pastor and shared our sympathy with him as well. We talked about Patti and Rocky and their vision. The tune from an old VBS song came to mind as we smiled and sang together. "It only takes a spark, to get a fire going . . ."

Yes, with God *all* things are possible.

- [Videos, Graphics, Photos](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Profiles from successful campaigns in other LCMS congregations](#)

## Circuit Convocations - Mark Your Calendars!

Come hear President Newton speak about *Ablaze!* and *Fan Into Flame* - and how your congregation can become involved.

DATE            CIRCUIT #

Feb. 9	1
Jan. 26	2
Mar. 1	3
Jan. 5	4 & 19
Mar. 9	6
1/20 or 3/28	7
Feb.10	8 & 18
Jan. 19	9
Feb. 23	13
Feb. 24	14
Jan. 13	15
Dec. 1	16
Feb. 2	17
Feb.10	18 & 8
Jan. 5	19 & 4

[Click here for more details](#)

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**Mosaic Ministry--An Early Recipient of *Fan into Flame* Funds** The California-Nevada-Hawaii District is an early recipient of *Fan into Flame* funds. One of the district's "Judea" (cross-cultural) projects is its new Mosaic Ministry. This multi-ethnic, multi-generational church start brings the Gospel to several large population groups of "1.5 to 2nd" generation immigrants.

The first celebration event early this year was successful - 210 people attended. Represented were people from Brazil, Columbia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Iran, Liberia, Mexico, the Philippines, the U.S., and Vietnam.

Pastor Tesfai Tesema presented the vision for Mosaic. The worship team of one of the host churches, Mount Olive Lutheran, Milpitas, Calif., assisted with the event.

South Bay Mosaic is a multiethnic church plant of the CNH District in collaboration with its Circuit 18 congregations. It is hosted by Mount Olive and First Immanuel, San Jose, Calif.

Mosaic was able to achieve its main goal, which was to rally people for the creation of a new worshipping community. There will be three more events before the public opening of the church.

Mosaic's three-year plan calls for:

- 150 families gathering for worship, with 20 adult home Bible-study groups;
- more than 100 children in a multiethnic ministry;
- serving 50 or more men and women through GED, ESL (English as a second language), and counseling programs;
- 50 children reached through tutoring, sports, language classes, or spiritual retreats;
- 30 leaders trained

## News from Circuit 14

### St. Mark Lutheran Church, Santa Rosa

Things are just beginning to happen in Circuit 14 of the CNH District. Pastor Jim Beyer, pastor of St Mark Lutheran Church in Santa Rosa, and Circuit Coordinator for *Fan into Flame*, reports that his own congregation is planning to launch a "50 Days Ablaze" missional focus beginning in Epiphany and carrying on into Lent.

Significant time will be spent during Lent in prayer as the congregation focuses on praying for the Holy Spirit to open up the hearts of those who do not know Christ to the saving work of Christ accomplished in His suffering, death and resurrection.

During the Easter season, the congregation will launch a "Fan into Flame" missional focus which will conclude with an "Ingathering Sunday" on the series of festival Sundays:

Ascension (all authority given)  
Pentecost (the Holy Spirit's power given)  
Trinity (therefore, *go make disciples*).

St Mark, Santa Rosa, intends to continue the Ablaze! missional focus into the future, using funds received through *Fan into Flame* to put the vision to work in their community.

### **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Healdsburg**

Word has also come in from Pastor Clint Lutz of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Healdsburg, of their intention to do a "50 Days Ablaze" mission focus during the Easter season in 2008. To catch up with available materials for doing a "50 Days Ablaze" emphasis with sermon helps, worship helps, daily devotional readings, and Bible study helps, check out the church's website: <http://www.stlukecabot.org>.

#### Quick Links

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[Ablaze! Resources](#)

[Fan Into Flames Resources](#)

[Triads](#)

[Learning Communities](#)

[17 By 17 Archives](#)

BLOGS now available on the CNH Website

1. [Faith Communities](#)
- 2) [Triads](#)