

Suggested Talking Points – Pastor for Reception

Pastor, we thank you for your willingness to present this exciting initiative to the congregation.

We ask that you speak to the congregation members during the after worship service reception and invite their participation in ***Ablaze! for God's Mission***. Members should be invited to attend this reception. Members of the leadership team should also be in attendance to answer any questions and hand out materials.

The reception is best held in a room with enough tables and chairs for all of the attendees. Each table should have pens and pads for each member to take notes. Refreshments are always nice to have available for members following the worship service.

Please consider the following talking points:

- Thank congregation members for their willingness to hear more about this vital new ministry support effort we want to get involved with
- Please offer a prayer to bless the food and ***Ablaze! for God's Mission***
- Recap the objectives of the ***Ablaze!*** movement and give an overview of ***Ablaze! for God's Mission***
 - The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its 29 partner and sister churches worldwide have initiated a mission movement to reach 100 million people by the year 2017. By resolution at the 2004 Synod convention, LCMS members, pastors, congregations, and allied organizations endorsed a movement named ***Ablaze!***, to deliver hope and spiritual renewal by communicating the saving message of the Gospel.
 - Key elements of ***Ablaze! for God's Mission*** are:
 - Reaching 2.5 million unreached or uncommitted people with the Gospel by 2017
 - Enlisting 3,000 mission-prayer partners
 - Training 60 outreach ministry teams
 - Ministry Equipping Workshops
 - 100 new ministry sites
 - At the heart of ***Ablaze! for God's Mission*** is Jesus' final instruction to His disciples: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

- Jerusalem – to provide resources to each circuit;
 - Judea and Samaria – regionally to help our district mission efforts;
 - Ends of the Earth – to increase our ability to proclaim the Gospel with the support of our partner churches.
- Present the goals and objectives of each component of ***Ablaze! for God's Mission*** including the direct impact Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and the Ends of the Earth will have via new mission and ministry.
 - Perhaps present the workshop PowerPoint
 - Following the presentation a request for support should be made:
 - As you can see, this campaign is critical to the vitality of our district and entire church in this and many decades to come.
 - Your financial support of this worthy initiative is the key to our overall success. I ask that you and your family prayerfully consider your sacrificial gift to this campaign.
 - In your brochure is a gift plan card. I ask that you prayerfully consider a pledge in one of the defined categories.
 - Let me be the first to thank you for your prayerful consideration of my request on our campaign.
 - Upon conclusion, offer a chance for comments and discussion about the request:
 - End the reception with a blessing and prayer.