



# Setting Hearts Ablaze!

## I'm In!

Let's read through the entire Bible together in 2007. What if you and I and lots of brothers and sisters throughout our congregations committed to read the entire Bible this next year? Would that make things different? Would we be more on fire for Jesus, more "Ablaze?"

**Resources abound.** Christian bookstores are filled with different "through the Bible in a year" editions of the Scriptures. Our Synodical website ([www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)) has guidance on reading through the Bible annually as does Lutheran Worship. The Navigators have a very handy schedule as well. The resources are at our fingertips.

**God abounds!** The Word is where God wants us to be because that is where He can be found. Scripture attaches to itself too many promises about the power, value, and protection of the Word to recount them in this short article. A friend of mine when asked, "What does it mean to have a passion for Jesus," said, "To have a passion for Jesus is to have a passion for his word because that's where we meet Him!"

**History abounds.** At the root of our heritage in the Reformation Movement is "aggressive" reading and use of the Scriptures. One of Luther's greatest accomplishments was putting the Scriptures in the hands of lay people. (Surely he meant for them to be read, not simply held!)

**Leadership abounds.** When our District met in Convention this last summer, one of the key resolutions presented to the delegates called for them to read through the Scriptures annually. The delegates, our congregational leaders, agreed to take

up this challenge!

**Evangelism abounds!** Aggressive Bible reading will better position the Church to share Jesus. This is not because we will have more "information about God" on the tips of our tongue (although we will). Rather, we will have hearts on fire! We will be more and more like the Emmaus disciples who said, "Did not our hearts burn within us?!" Or like Peter and the others who said, "We cannot help but speak about what we have seen and heard."

Let's read through the entire Bible together in 2007. Are you in? Consider the possibilities to get others involved. Where might this challenge and encouragement take hold? Church Councils and Boards of Elders ... Confirmation Classes and Youth Groups ... Home/Small Groups ... Choirs, Contemporary Choruses, and other Music Groups ... Congregation wide emphasis in 2007?

If you would like on-going support and encouragement to read through the entire Bible together in 2007, email [ablaze@michigandistrict.org](mailto:ablaze@michigandistrict.org) and say, "I'm in." Let's share our stories. Let's share our experiences as we read through the entire Bible together in 2007.

