

The Future is Now
in partnership with
Fan into Flame

For God Loveth a Cheerful Giver By Rev. Arthur Bode

"In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

1 Timothy 6:19

HAVE QUESTIONS or need to meet to discuss participation? Would you like to have a presentation at your church? Call Ray or Andrea at 888.225.2111 or contact your Circuit Coordinator.



Michigan District, LCMS
3773 Geddes Rd
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Phone: 888.225.2111
Fax: 734.665.0255
www.michigandistrict.org

We believe God's Word teaches the stewardship of tithing and I have been teaching that in my ministry at Bethlehem and Grace as well as the other churches I have served. The following Scripture verses indicate that such giving and **tithing is an investment and not an expense:**

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it," Malachi 3:10.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive," Acts 20:35.

"For God loveth a cheerful giver," 2 Corinthians 9:7.

You can't out give the Lord. Therefore, during stressful and economic hard times we, with the eyes of faith, look to give our tithes and offerings and expect God to bring a return.

To get involved in *The Future is Now*, our representatives attended a workshop and we promoted the campaign in our bulletins and in a handout containing information from the FAQ resource available online. We promoted *The Future is Now* at our Council meetings prior to our Voter's Meeting and our representative

Progress to Date ...

District	\$2,730,000
National	\$48,500,000

presented the request from District with emphasis on missions and seminary students for 3% above the 8% we are already giving (2% is used for local missions). There was much discussion about local need and the economy. We also discussed that **this giving would be by faith and we would trust God to provide.**

Both Bethlehem and Grace pledged an amount equal to 3% of our 2008 general offerings beginning January 1, 2010 for each of the next 5 years.

May God direct your thoughts and plans in how we can all join together in this Great Commission fundraiser so that the residents of hell might be decreased and the residents of heaven increased.

*Rev. Arthur J. Bode, Pastor
Bethlehem, Engadine
Grace, Germfask
Trout Lake, Trout Lake*

At your next voters' meeting, will your congregation be voting on participation and/or setting a pledge goal? If so, download and print a campaign pledge form from www.michigandistrict.org (click on the campaign logo) and we suggest you take it to the voters' meeting and have the pastor and congregation president complete and sign the pledge form in front of the congregation. Then mail and/or fax the completed form to the District office to proclaim your commitment.

Congregation Highlights

We would like to recognize the following congregations who have and/or are continuing to support specific mission plants in Michigan: Good Shepherd, Lake Orion; Christ, Milford; Trinity, Oscoda; Holy Cross, Oxford; Cross of Christ, South Lyon; and Peace, Waterford.