

# Ablaze!

*Igniting the World with Christ's Love*



*Volunteers pass out Daily Devotional books for Ablaze! kickoff at Trinity, Paw Paw.*

Have you been eagerly checking your mail daily in anticipation of a three-ring binder from St. Louis that contains 24 easy steps to get involved in *Ablaze!*?

By now hopefully most Michigan District congregations have become aware of an initiative known as *Ablaze!*. The logo can be seen on more and more things. Presentations have been made. Pages on the Synodical website have been dedicated to it.

But when will the packet come? Where is the three-ring binder? Where is all the programmatic information?

Quit waiting. Quit running to the mailbox to see if the *Ablaze!* program has arrived. It does not exist. It, that is the three-ring binder, is not coming.

*Ablaze!* is not a new Synodical *program*. There is not a set pattern for you to follow. *Ablaze!* is an “*initiative*.” *It is an idea*.

And the idea is this: Let us see what would



*Ablaze! Banner at Trinity, Paw Paw.*

happen if members of our churches and partner churches around the world committed intentionally to share the Gospel with 100,000,000 people between now and the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the posting of the 95 Theses which will be celebrated in 2017.

*Ablaze!* is more of a friendly challenge than anything else. Let us challenge one another to determine to give a clear, personal presentation of the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus, offering them an opportunity to respond. Let’s keep count. Let’s put ourselves in a position to see the wonderful working of the Holy Spirit through the power of the Gospel in the lives of 100,000,000 people.

To this end, members, congregations, and districts are encouraged to set goals. If you work the math backwards, the Michigan District’s “share” of 100,000,000 is about 10,000,000. That is only about two or three contacts each year between now and 2017 for each of our District’s 230,000 members. What would we have to do to spur on that kind of effort? What would it take to spark such activity, fan that spark into a fire and set the whole thing ablaze?

While there is not a set program, resources are available. Check out [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org) for ideas and avenues for involvement.

Plan now to attend the *Igniting Congregation Event, September 23-24 at Immanuel, Macomb*. See [www.centerforusmissions.org](http://www.centerforusmissions.org) for registration information.



*Rev. David Davis, St. Luke, Haslett, is available as an Ablaze! resource person to Michigan District congregations. During the next three years he will seek to excite, encourage, and equip our people for involvement in the Ablaze! movement.*