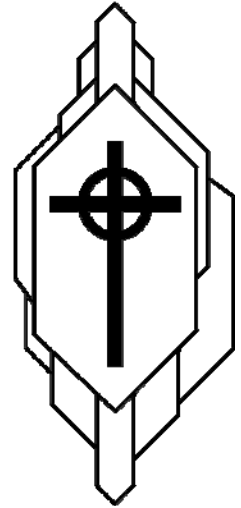


November 1, 2008



Ablaze is an invitation to participate in LCMS efforts to reach 100 million people with the Gospel and to plant 5,000 new churches – the most exciting and dynamic program in our church body in many years. The **Ablaze** goal for each of us at Prince of Peace is to have at least seven “critical events” each year. A critical event is “*When one Lutheran Christian gives witness about Jesus of the hope that is within him or her to another person so that person may encounter Christ.*” The other goal is to plant 5,000 new churches. Our part of that is to plant at least one, and up to four, new churches by 2017.

Ablaze at Prince of Peace

During **Ablaze** Phase 1 (April 2007-March 2008) Prince of Peace recorded over 600 Critical Events and exceeded our goal of \$185,000 raised in support of **Ablaze** for God’s Mission, the global and national **Ablaze** campaign. We are now in Phase 2 of **Ablaze** at Prince of Peace – with more emphasis on mission to our neighbors.

Answers to frequently asked questions:

1. Are there some helps for me that will give me basic outline points for speaking to my friend about Jesus?

The first step, the only indispensable one, is to pray for the person – that God would draw them to Himself. Prayer is the real work of a Christian who cares for someone’s relationship to Christ. God will bring that person to you when the time is right for you to be part of His plan to bring that person to Himself. You can prepare for that time by being on the look out for the opportunity and by knowing some of the key points of God’s plan of salvation:

- God loves us and wants us to be eternally with Him (John 3:16)
- But sin separates you from God (Romans 3:32. Romans 1:21)
- God gives us the gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23 & 5:8)
- The gift comes through faith, which is also a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8)
- Now that we are in Christ, we are a new creation (2 Cor 5:17) created with a purpose (Ephesians 2:10 & 3:12)

2. There are many worthy mission and mercy programs that are brought to our attention at Prince of Peace. How do I make the choice to give to one of them or to give to *Ablaze* Phase 2?

Where your heart is, that is where your treasure should be. If the mission of Prince of Peace to make disciples of those in our Northern Virginia community touches your heart, then *Ablaze* Phase 2 is for you. If there is another work of the Lord that has touched your heart, then that is where your support should go. Pray, asking God to make this clear to you.

3. What is the Prince of Peace *Ablaze* fund raising campaign?

We are now in Phase 2 of the campaign. Phase 1 pledges and contributions were sought for one year between April 2007 and March 2008 to support the worldwide LCMS *Ablaze* effort. The Phase 1 goal of \$185,000 was exceeded. Phase 2 will be for a follow-on three year pledge period to support Kingdom building initiatives selected by the people of Prince of Peace. The Phase 2 *Ablaze* Initiatives were chosen earlier this year as part of a prayer and discernment process in *Whisper in the Whirlwind*. The *Ablaze* Initiatives are:

- Grow Ministry to Students
- Neighbor 2 Neighbor
- Spanish Language Mission Development
- Lorton Mission Start



***Ablaze* Initiative Updates**

Prince of Peace overwhelmingly voted to become an *Ablaze* Covenant Congregation – committed to planting up to four new mission congregations over the next 10 years.

Grow Ministry to Students – Joel Dietrich and Karin Meissner, recently-installed Minister to Students and Associate Minister to Students, are at work praying and planning for a large disciple-making effort. The Student Ministry Leadership Team to carry-out this ministry is being formed.



Spanish Language Mission Development – Voters approved signing a Covenant this summer to work together with two other nearby LCMS congregations. The Spanish Language Mission Board has been formed met eight times. Rob Winston and Yvette Moy are the PoP members of the Board. A Search Committee to identify and call the Mission Developer has been formed. Shirley Dewitt and Scott Risser serve on the Search Committee. Five names have been returned from the District President. With a Ministry Position Description completed, the interview process is ready to start.

As part of Ablaze, PoP voted to strive for 2% of the PoP budget to support the mission, \$34k in FY09. PoP provided the first quarterly payment in October 1, 2008.



Neighbor 2 Neighbor (formerly Bridges of Hope) – A major focus of the year-long PoP Seek First the Kingdom of God theme for this year will be expanding ministry beyond the PoP campus out into our neighborhoods. The PoP people on the N2N team are Phil Morrow, Pastor John, Pastor Terence and Chris Meisinger.

Open Arms Lorton – Looking into possible FCPS meeting space for gathering a mission group in the Lorton area. PoP Prayer and Planning teams are meeting November 6th. When a mission start is begun, an Open Arms approach is being considered. That is, the church would start with an Open Arms Child Development Center, similar to recent mission starts in Ashburn, Leesburg and Richmond.

