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**“The Happenings”**

**Newsletter**

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 LCMC Annual Convention—Oct  
 5-8, 2014, Faith Lutheran—Great  
 Falls MT and Faith Lutheran—Pierce  
 Idaho.**

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“For it is by grace you have been saved through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

**Thank You Peace Lutheran for supporting our Annual Northwest District LCMC Gathering for 2014**

Peace Lutheran provided a place for fellowship and worship for the five northwestern states (which includes Alaska) and three Western Canadian Provinces. There were 90 counted at the door however 101 were pre-registered through the web-site. We wish to thank the servers for the Friday night dinner and the Saturday afternoon lunch both were well attended. We had a lot scheduled; our desire was to honor the Lord and to rest in His care so He changed things around to help us do just that. The theme speaker for Saturday, Rev. Dr. Mark Brickzin, was grounded because of bad weather and not able to attend so we extended both the lunch time and the “open mike” time to inform each other of needs and difficulties.

The two-day gathering began on Friday April 4<sup>th</sup> with a Pastors’ study beginning at 9 am. What a pleasure to see our Lord working in the Pastors’ lives and in His churches. Friday’s speaker Pr. Bud Thompson who teaches the Bible at Gonzaga University delivered the message “Peace”. It was well received and the message challenged us to listen to the Holy

Spirit as we live in a world confused by peace and war.

Saturday’s meeting began with Northwest District business and council needs. A topic called “Quietness” was presented by Pr. James Robinson. We presented three morning breakout sessions and another Topic of “Confidence” was presented by Pr. Jaynan Clark. The district business was concluded with the election of four members to the council; three new, one elected to continue. Our “Open Mike” time was very rewarding to see Pastors and congregation members open up about their needs. Pastor Kurt Wandrey of Peace Lutheran Church led us in our final worship with communion. The offerings received during Friday and Saturday services were dedicated to the Oso mission Relief, over \$1200 was received. So ended the gathering of 2014; with Jesus as our focus and our guide.

Patrick Woods, LCMC Northwest District Council Chair.

# “The Happenings”

Here Is A Snap-Shot Of The 100—plus Attendees To The 2014 LCMC Northwest District “Gathering” - Held At Peace Lutheran Church - Post Falls, Idaho— April 4th and 5th, 2014



Reprint from Great Falls News



## Have You Heard? Faith Lutheran Church of Great Falls, Montana is Taking on God's Journey—Where the True Word of the Bible is heard— Where will God's Journey Take Them?

Tears mingled with prayers and song Sunday in the pews of Great Falls Faith Lutheran Church as congregation members; some of whom have worshiped in the building for more than six decades; held their last weekly service before forfeiting the church in a schism over gay clergy.

After Faith Lutheran's parent body, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), began ordaining men and women in same-sex relationships as ministers in 2009, a 71 percent majority of the Great Falls church's congregation voted to disaffiliate in protest.

The remaining 29 percent of the church membership reconstituted as New Hope Lutheran Ministry and ultimately sued for control of church property on the basis that the church constitution required a 90 percent vote for a disaffiliating group to retain control of church assets.

The suit came to an end March 12, when the Montana Supreme Court ruled in partial favor of the New Hope minority, which remains associated with the ELCA. The Faith Lutheran majority will be forced to relinquish the church building at 3125 5th Ave. S., but will maintain control of assets held in trust by the church foundation.

As the legal process wore on, the conservative majority continued holding services in their traditional building. With the suit resolved, however, they found themselves facing their final worship service in the space.

Cars filled the parking lots and lined snowy neighborhood streets Sunday as a full sanctuary listened to the Rev. Ken Waag, the church's senior pastor for the past two decades, deliver a sermon that one attendee likened to a memorial service.

"We're all leaving something behind," Pastor Waag told his congregation. "This is not an easy thing for us to do."

"God is with us," he said. "Good things sometimes come to an end so that something better can take place."

"There is no room on this journey for bitterness," he added.

After a final hymn ; "On Our Way Rejoicing" Pastor Waag spoke briefly with each member of the congregation as they filed out of the sanctuary, offering hugs and handshakes and reassurances.

"We wanted to remain faithful to the time-honored teaching of scripture and to the authority of God's Word," he said after the service.

"This truly is a grand adventure for us," he said. "I'm excited to see what God is going to do next."

"We've never been more united," he added. "There's just such a great spirit here at Faith Lutheran."

Church members expressed a similar bittersweet optimism.

"Our name is 'Faith,'" said Sandra Goff, a church council member. "That's how we're going forward."

"I cried through the whole service," added Goff, who has spent 42 years involved with the church. "I could hardly sing."

"The Bible says 'If you follow Him you will be persecuted,'" she said. "We are smiling through our tears."

One newer church member, Jo Shauer, said that she and her husband had moved to Faith Lutheran after the schism. "It was very important for us to come over here and live the scripture," she said.

Galia Fundis, another longtime Faith Lutheran member, said that she'd been part of the church since being married there 31 years ago.

"It's been in the family for a very long time," said Fundis, adding that, between her and her husband, she's raised seven kids in the church.

Still, she said, "This church is just a building; the congregation is the real church."

As the New Hope ministry takes up residence at the church building, the majority congregation said they plan to begin holding services at the Columbus Center.

# “The Happenings”



This is the only official newsletter for the LCMC Northwest District



Welcome from the

## LCMC Intermountain West District

**Your Northwest District Council:**

- Pat Woods—Chair - (Executive Committee)
- Murray Stanton—Vice Chair —(Executive Committee)
- Barbara Fagley—Secretary—(Executive Committee)
- Kathy Nida –Treasurer -(Executive Committee)
- Denel Ingraham
- Bill McLean
- Lon Roberts
- Suzanne Robinson
- Maureen (Moe) Bessey—District Coordinator

This is the very first meeting for this newly formed district. This will be held at First Lutheran Church in Idaho Falls, Idaho on March 20th and 21st, 2015 (Friday and Saturday). The guest speaker is Gemechis Buba at this District Gathering. All are welcome to attend.

## LCMC Annual Gathering

Don't Miss Out on The LCMC Annual Gathering being held October 5-8, 2014 (Sunday—Wednesday) in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Mark Your Calendars' for This Event! On Sunday, June 22, 2014—Faith Lutheran Church is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a Party**



Members of Faith Lutheran Church in Pierce, Idaho will be hosting a Potluck Lunch following the Sunday morning service at 10:00 am at the play park.

**Church Service—will be held at the Play Park—10:00 am**

Faith Lutheran is providing the main dish, coffee and drinks. Those attending this event are asked to bring a side-dish to pass.

The party is at play park (which is next to the ball field) - at 11:15 am (following the 10:00 am outdoor Church Service).