

September 2015

**THIS IS THE ONLY OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER FOR THE LCMC
NORTHWEST DISTRICT**

Volume III, issue 4

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"The Happenings"

Newsletter

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Pr John Fauerbach, LCMC 2015
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Church—Brooks, Alberta

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form is included on website)**

"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

"We reserve the right to correct or edit any
article submitted for grammatical errors."

Welcome to the Northwest District— "MISSION FOR CHRIST"

WELCOME...

On behalf of the Northwest District Council, we wish to extend an invitation to join us in the exciting opportunities of service which God has been pleased to place before us. We serve a vast geographical area and with that an enduring pioneer spirit. The Northwest Region is and always has been a vast place of beauty and challenge. The realization and affirming God's working of faith in each of us is the foundational motivation in our web site

site and Newsletter.

LCMC-NW.com is intended to be a gathering place of ideas, resources, official District news and announcements, and above all, a call to service. As the number of member congregations in the Northwest grow, our hope is that members visit this site often, to connect with one another, share information, and stay abreast of what is happening in our region. God is good! As the people and congregations of the LCMC strive together to fulfill the character of our name "Mission for Christ", it is hoped that the Northwest District of the LCMC will be a worthy and effective reflection of His goodness.

Patrick Woods
LCMC Northwest District Council Chair

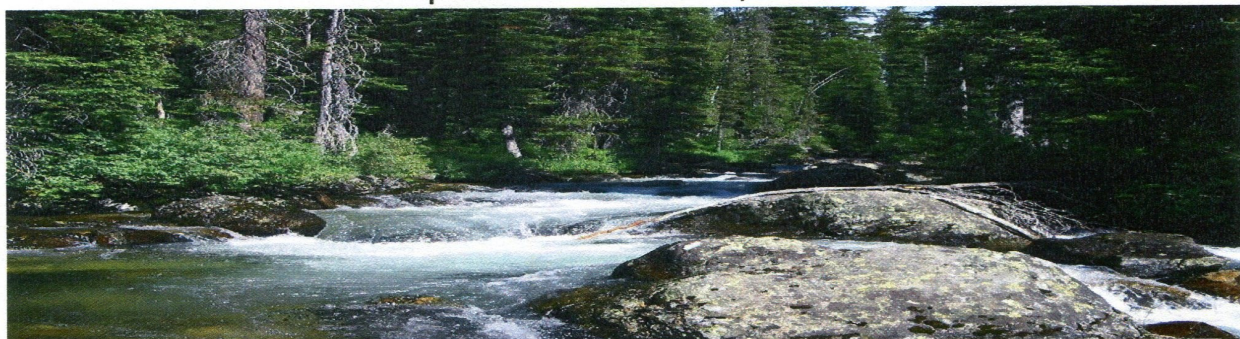


"The Happenings"

Men's Fall Retreat - Richland Lutheran (LCMC)

Stonewater Ranch Plain, Washington

September 25-27, 2015



We are pleased to announce our guest speaker:

Dr. Paul Spaulding, M.Div., D.Min.

Retired former Pastoral Certification Coordinator for LCMC

His topic is "Discipleship stories" from the Bible.

What happened to them, why and how it came out?

How can we bring the Good News to persons with "stories" such as these?

All Lutheran men in the northwest are invited to join us for this spiritual and Biblical retreat. At a scenic and peaceful mountain resort we can fellowship with like-minded men and enjoy the grandeur of God's creation.

Step away from your stress for a short weekend to meditate and prayerfully contemplate how Jesus is working in our lives to bring the Good News to our communities.

Registration:

Name _____ Church _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Cost: \$115.00 (includes two nights lodging, five meals and priceless spiritual benefits)

Send registration and checks to RLC 901 Van Giesen Drive, Richland, WA 99354

Questions or more information contact RLC at (509) 943-3164, office@richlandlutheran.org

or Norm Gillette at (509) 378-5898 or email nlg1939@msn.com.

Register online at richland-lutheran.org.

*The following is a reprint from LCMC
"By The Word"
"By The Word" is the LCMC E-Newsletter -
2nd Qtr 2015*

Congregation & Clergy Directory Update

Stay connected! Help us keep our records accurate and up-to-date. Please take a moment to review your congregation—(www.lcmc.net/congregations) and your profile (www.lcmc.net/pastors).

Need to make changes? Locate the update forms for congregations and clergy on the LCMC website, (click on Documents, then Applications and Forms, then Update Contact Information and select the appropriate form). Submit the completed form(s) to the LCMC office.

Questions? Contact Cathy Nichol:
cathy@LCMC.net or 734.788.7476



Beyond the River
Academy offers
a new class on
**Intentional Interim
Ministry!**

For details, contact:
Pastor Warren Baker
birders1and2@gmail.com
712.330.2018

Calls/Deployments to Intentional Interim Ministry

Pastor Joan Scheffler



Front, l-r: Pastors Kevin Weeks, Joan Scheffler, Craig Nelson and Warren Baker

Back, l-r: Pastors Rusty Bailey, Martha Nelson, and John Nelson

Pastor Joan Scheffler was called by St Paul's Lutheran Church, Franklin Grove, IL, and deployed by them into Intentional Interim Ministry on May 17, 2015. Pastor Rusty Bailey presided. Pastor Joan is a 2015 graduate the Interim Ministry course at Beyond the River Academy. Her daughter, the church council president, placed the stole. Joan and her husband, Jerry, have 4 children and 10 grandchildren.

Submitted by Pastor Warren Baker

Pastor Gary Truitt



l-r: Pastors Ingrid Aderhold, Gary Truitt, Greg Worsch and Warren Baker

Pastor Gary Truitt was called by Faith Lutheran Church Pierce, ID, and deployed by them into Intentional Interim Ministry on April 26, 2015. Pastor Ingrid Aderhold presided at the service. Pastor Gary is a 2015 graduate of the Interim Ministry course at Beyond the River Academy.

Submitted by Pastor Warren Baker

*The following is a reprint from LCMC “By The Word”
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Is the Annual Gathering Worth Attending? More than You Can Imagine!

By: John Fauerbach

*Pastor, Our Savior's & St. Olaf Lutheran Churches,
Chester-Ledger, Montana*

During the Annual Gathering in Des Moines last fall, our group from two Montana churches was sitting at a table awaiting dinner. Mike Violet's wife, Suzie, did not feel well and stayed in her room, so we had an empty seat at our table. It was no accident!

I love lots of cream in my coffee so I got up to borrow more from an unoccupied table toward the back. Two men came walking toward me. I recognized one as an LCMC staffer, who asked, “Do you mind if this gentleman sits with you?” I said, “Of course not,” and was introduced to Rev. Jordan Long from the South Sudan.

I introduced Rev. Long to the others at our table, and told him we were all from Montana. We informed him that as of that moment he was a Montanan too. We laughed together.

We had a great meal and conversation during which God was at work. And God kept working. Members of our group bumped into Rev. Long at various times during the Gathering and talked. Some attended Rev. Long's breakout session. Together and separately we were all thinking about Rev. Long, talking about Rev. Long, talking with Rev. Long and praying for him.

We seemed to have established a connection with Rev. Long, who expressed to us on several occasions how much he would love to visit us in Montana. At some point Mike Violet and I had an in-depth conversation about what was going on between our members and Rev. Long. In prayerful discussion we committed everything to Jesus. We were led to believe the only reason Rev. Long should be so heavy on Mike's heart was that the Holy Spirit was speaking to Mike. We asked that God guide Mike and the rest of us in how we should respond.

We discussed how great it would be to bring Rev. Long to speak to our church. Although we prayed about it, we were led to believe the money to pay for a trip from the South Sudan to Montana, even if we could raise it, would be better spent on the needs of the people of South Sudan than on air fares. So, we decided to leave it in God's

hands, rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us—and of course, keep praying.

The Annual Gathering was the perfect opportunity for the Holy Spirit of God to begin a work in us, and I am sure He began a work in many others who attended. We went expecting God would be alive and at work there. He was! He brought Rev. Jordan to our table. He led our conversations and our many meetings and spoke to our hearts. When we returned home, we put Pastor Long on our prayer list. At our quarterly meeting we voted to send support to him. We even discussed bringing Rev. Long to our church to speak, but again reasoned that the money would be better spent helping the people in the refugee camps. We put our faith in God, remained faithful, tried to follow as the Holy Spirit led and kept praying.

In early March I got a phone call from Rev. Chris Miller, pastor of the LCMC Church in Big Fork. That's in the Kalispell area of Montana deep in the Rockies, about five hours from Chester. Rev. Long had not yet returned to Ethiopia—he had been ministering in the Des Moines area. He was going to speak at a gathering of churches in Kalispell. Acting on Rev. Long's request, they wondered if we'd welcome a visit from Rev. Long on March 22. My gaze shot toward heaven and a huge smile broke out on my face as I sat back to listen as Chris described the miracle that was an answer to our prayers.

Although we had no hope of ever seeing Rev. Long again, for reasons we now know was the Holy Spirit of God working in us, we had already discussed how we would organize a visit should one materialize. Such was the desire of our hearts that God send Rev. Long to us.

I immediately told Pastor Chris that not only would we welcome a visit, Rev. Long could stay in a beautiful farm home with Mike & Suzie Violet, members of our congregation. We would meet him on the road or go to Kalispell to pick him up, and deliver him back. We'd feed him, and best of all that Sunday he would enjoy one of our largest days of attendance because that Sunday was

our special Polka service. Rev. Long would be a blessing for us and our Polka service, something I guessed he'd never before experienced. Pastor Chris said he'd get back to me with details, then he and I prayed together before ending our conversation.

I notified Suzie and Mike. We prayed. They contacted Pastor Chris to tell him and they prayed. We exercised patience and kept on praying. Four days before our Polka service, Pastor Chris called to say Rev. Long was coming. We praised God, changed our bulletin for that Sunday and started spreading the word.

On Sunday morning Rev. Long got up early for a 30+ mile drive on dirt and gravel roads and over Tiber Dam to our sister church, St. Olaf, in the middle of mostly unpopulated prairie. There was a traffic jam of



Rev. Long with members of St. Olaf

sorts...they had to wait for deer to get off the road. Rev. Long took pictures. At St. Olaf's he was well received by a small but enthusiastic group of worshippers.

From there we made a 40+ mile dash across the prairie and the dam to Our Savior's in Chester. Our Polka service was a great success, as was Rev. Long's presentation. People were very moved by the suffering, political turmoil and needs of refugees in the camps, and by Rev. Long's dedication to God and to the people of the South Sudan. I believe Rev. Long was moved by our appreciation and perhaps astonished by an all Polka worship service. We all enjoyed the fellowship, food, conversation—and of course, Polka!

Everyone agreed it was a miracle! A pastor from the South Sudan in Africa speaking in our two churches



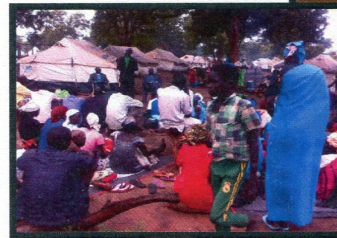
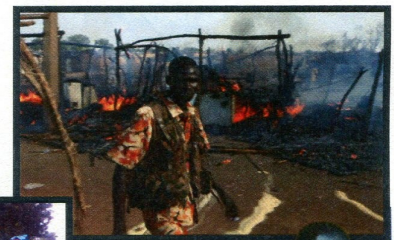
Violett family with Suzie & Mike Violett by Rev. Long, the Polka players

in the middle of Montana's isolated North Central prairie? Impossible! Can't happen, but it did. Why? It was the power of the Holy Spirit of God working in Rev. Long, in our two LCMC prairie churches, in the churches in Kalispell, in our LCMC, and especially at our Annual Gathering in Des Moines.

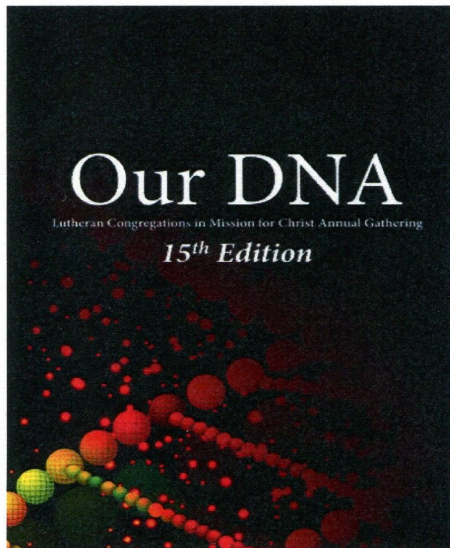
Our journey with Rev. Long has not ended. He asked that two from our congregation come with him on a missionary trip to Ethiopia. How that goes is in God's hands. We'll keep praying! The point is that wherever this journey goes from here, it began at our LCMC Annual Gathering.

Our journey of experiencing the power of God's Holy Spirit working in us and in those around us to bring about the miracle of having Rev. Long visit us in Montana so we could help the people of South Sudan began at the Annual Gathering. I encourage you to seek God in prayer and let Him lead you to *your* journey. I encourage you to begin your journey by joining us at the Annual Gathering in Frisco, Texas, this October and see what God has in store for you!

Scenes of the conflict and overcrowded conditions in refugee camps in South Sudan ~ from Rev. Long's presentation



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Don't miss our **15th Annual Gathering** **October 4-7, 2015**

Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center

7600 John Q Hammons Drive
Frisco, TX 75034

Theme: Our DNA

Watch for more info on our website: www.lcmc.net

Schedule of Events *(Subject to change)*

Sunday, October 4

- 4:00 p.m. Registration Opens
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Opening Worship w/ Holy Communion:
Rev. Becky Hand
- 8:30 p.m. Dessert & Fellowship

Monday, October 5

- 8:00 a.m. Registration Opens
- 8:30 a.m. Bible Study: *Rev. Steve King*
- 9:00 a.m. Opening & Welcome: *Rev. Mark Vander Tuig*
- 9:05 a.m. Introduction of Board & Staff
- 9:15 a.m. LCMC - Lutheran Men Presentation
- 9:30 a.m. Keynote Speaker: *Rev. Bruce Wilder*
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. Keynote Speakers:
*Rev. Bill Sullivan, Mrs. Sharon MacFadyen,
Rev. Mark Vander Tuig*
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. Report of the Coordinator for Pastoral
Ministry: *Rev. Steve Lien*
- 2:00 p.m. Report of the Service Coordinator:
Rev. Mark Vander Tuig
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. Opening Business Session
- 4:15 p.m. Introduction to Breakouts

- 4:30 p.m. Breakout Session 1
- 5:30 p.m. Area Caucuses
- 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner

Tuesday, October 6

- 8:30 a.m. Bible Study: *Rev. Steve King*
- 9:00 a.m. Opening & Welcome: *Rev. Mark Vander Tuig*
- 9:00 a.m. Keynote Speaker: *Rev. Paul Cross*
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Breakout Session 2
- 11:45 a.m. International Focus
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Report of the Coordinator for New Ministry
Development: *Rev. Dan Clites*
- 2:00 p.m. Keynote Speaker: *Rev. Steve Paulson*
- 3:15 p.m. Breakout Session 3
- 4:30 p.m. Business Session
- 5:30 p.m. Area Caucuses & Election of Board Members

Wednesday, October 7

- 8:30 a.m. Bible Study: *Rev. Steve King*
- 9:00 a.m. Keynote Speaker: *Rev. Bill Bohline*
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Closing Worship w/ Holy Communion:
Rev. John Waak
- 11:45 a.m. Close Gathering

SPOT LIGHT

Trinity Lutheran Church Brooks, Alberta (Canada)

Vacationing or just touring the Canadian Rocky Mountains —We welcome you to stop and refresh your body and soul with us on Sundays— 10:00 am .

You will find us at 811 Cassils Road West - phone (403) 362-4259

Trinity Lutheran Church was organized in 1965 and is currently a member of the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). With a membership of over 800 baptized members, Trinity is part of the larger Christian community in the Brooks area through its participation in the Eastern Irrigation District Ministerial Association.

Here we have some information about their pastor. Pastor John is a 1979 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. Pastor John currently serves as an on-call Chaplain at the Brooks Health Care Centre, and as the Chaplain (and a volunteer firefighter) for the Brooks Fire Department. He is also involved in the local Eastern Irrigation District Ministerial Association (currently serving on the Pastoral Care Committee at the Brooks Health Centre) and the Alberta Pastoral Care Association.

Pastor John (also known as PJ) and his wife, Maggie have a blended family of five children and twelve grandchildren who live in England, Kansas and Alberta. Besides traveling to visit his family, PJ enjoys reading, baseball, fishing and camping.

Mark Your Calanders
in celebration of...
Trinity's 50 Years - All are Invited

Date and Time: Sunday, September 20, 2015
Mini Hymn Sing: 9:30 am
Worship: 10:00 am
Celebration Potluck Lunch to follow



"The Happenings"



This is the only official newsletter for
the LCMC Northwest 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
Jeff Redlin
Lon Roberts
Suzanne Robinson
Shelly Hauge
Mary Stubblefield
Maureen (Moe) Bessey—District Coordinator
Keith Aderhold—District Web Master

Our Newest Congregation Members to the LCMC Northwest District

We would like to take this moment to welcome Melville Lutheran Church of Melville, Montana as our newest congregation members to the LCMC Northwest District.

Patrick Woods

LCMC Northwest District Council Chair

If you or your congregation would like to have information added to the next LCMC Northwest District "The Happenings" please submit to: lcmc-nw.com/contact/

News From

Valhalla Evangelical Lutheran Church

Valhalla Center,
Alberta (Canada)

Pastor Ella Loberg will be retiring at the end of September 2015.

The church has begun their call process and have been in contact with Pastor Warren Baker with the Shalom Ministry Team for help with a Interim Pastor during this period.

"Give ear to my words, O Lord:
Give heed to my sighing.
Listen to the sound of my cry,
my King and my God, for to you I pray.
O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice:
in the morning I plead my case to you, and watch..."

Psalms 5: 1-3

"O God, ruler of this world and our daily lives; we know that you control the storms, the wind, the heat and the flames. We humbly come before you to ask for your divine aid, intervention and comfort to those in our region who are suffering loss of home and life because of the wild fires. We ask you to watch after those who are fighting on the front lines around our homes and in the forests. Ease our fears and grant to us a sense of peace, understanding, and trust, that in all things, you will be there to sustain and hold us in your heavenly arms. Amen"

The District Council offers our sincere prayers in this time of great concern for all of God's children in our area.