



The Happenings

USA — Canada

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2017

From the Chairman



"Gift of Service" and "Forever Blessed"

Life takes turns, one might say, one day sweet and the other sour. We never know which it is until we turn out the light to sleep. Sometimes very good things come our way and we ask what happened. I must admit there are times I feel like that.

Then something changed all that and I had nothing to do with it. Just like the first time you realize you can't control the rising of the morning sun. All that we wish for and hope for that fills our minds is impossible to grasp. Then the bright sunshine of faith, the gift of salvation in Jesus Name and a promise of life beyond this living changes all we think we knew.

These past five almost six years of my life have had me travel a road I expected never to travel. A "Gift of Service" by the Holy Spirit just by saying "Yes, I will".

All the rest was His doing. The yes I said was to volunteer to the board of the LCMC Northwest District. In that I have found that I am "Forever Blessed" by both serving the district and knowing fellow board members.

Being able to let go of trusting yourself, reaching out in prayer to the Holy Spirit for His guidance has been both freeing and faith strengthening. Each year the board focuses on one item to improve or build. Not our goal, the Lord's will. We know this by prayer and listening to the district membership.

Our annual district gathering has been a personal blessing to me just to see how our Lord uses and works in His people. Please allow me to encourage you to consider serving the Lord by joining the district board or by serving your local congregation as you pray how our Lord might use you.

We plan to have the nominations to district board early this year, during the first day of the meeting so the new board members can get to know each other during the district gathering and not have to wait for the last minute to attend a rushed meeting where important items are just rushed.

There will be three positions open to the board this year. One individual will be ending his first term, two board members will be

ending their second term and must retire from service on the board. Please look for a form called:

"LCMC Northwest District Council Membership Nomination Information Form".

Please prayerfully consider service to the district board and I am sure you will also receive the blessing of the "Gift of Service" and "Forever Blessed" in Jesus' Name.

Your Brother in Christ,

Pat Woods,

LCMC Northwest District, Chairman

LCMC Northwest District Council

Executive Committee

Pat Woods, Chair

Pr Jeff Redlin, Vice Chair

Mary Stubblefield, Secretary

Kathy Nida, Treasurer

Council Members

Pr Paul Berthelot

Shelly Hauge

Mot Hedges

Pr Eric Hullstrom

Denel Ingraham

Suzanne Robinson

Dr Lee Wicklund

District Coordinator

Barb Fagley



Refreshed

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ. And blessings to all of you.

Initially, I must thank you for all the cards and notes and prayers that I received from so many of you, not only from friends, but from my home church, district members, and concerned friends throughout the nation. Especially you, Mary Stubblefield - your inspirational cards were read over and over again during times of deep distress. I also wanted to publically thank my husband, Richard for his constant and devoted care and love that he expressed in carrying me, sitting with me for endless days, keeping me smiling, pushing me when I needed it and holding me back when I needed that.

caused a severe colitis - resulting in a weight loss of 35 lbs. My inability to have surgery on my jaw caused a lengthy pain process and a depression.

Somewhere in there, eight days after I was discharged from the hospital I fell and severely broke my right femur. Apparently I was placed in traction at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane for four days, had a 7 hour surgery on my femur and hip. Two pins were inserted and I was totally unconscious for eight days. A pastor friend from Post Falls said I entered my own little room and stayed there for awhile.

Back to a new pain cycle. Upon discharge I spent three weeks in a rehab hospital close to home. During that stay I somehow re-broke my femur - a big step back.

When I left all hospitals I came out weighing 95 lbs. I've worked myself back up to 106 lbs with my husband stuffing my face.

I met strangers and renewed prayer chains with people I only see once a year but we pray for each other and for our children all year long.

We had Bible studies given by Rev. Dr. Jo Kinnard. She grew up Hindu, is Pakistani and is currently Called to a small town only twenty miles away from where I grew up.

We sang glorious songs, we worshiped, met global fellow Christians who worship totally unlike us. Awesome. We sang and worshiped in a small church that has eight different races, congregations and groups doing something in their church eighteen hours a day. I saw prostitutes that came in just to take a shower and leave. Can you imagine? Is God working or not.

We sat and talked and laughed with a church in our NW District that was estranged and is now re-joining in our fellowship with a new pastor. I met the new pastor from



How deep is Thy love



My pastor, Ingrid Aderhold, was devoted to my spiritual needs and sort of mean when we played Uno. She helped Richard clean out the refrigerator, make beds and clean my house when I came home.

This NW District Council asked me to step aside and rest when sickness and pain overtook me and I thank you for that. I know I needed it, so my husband and I ran away from home for two months to rest and restore our relationship. I also needed to come to terms with God again. I felt like I was truly called to this position. My excitement and passions were on top of the mountain when in an instant, with a broken jaw, God took away my voice. WHY? - I asked. WHY, I yelled at God. WHY, I cried to Jesus. My excessive pain, total diet change, and strong pain medication

Through all of this God's grace and presence has been with me. One night at 2:15 a.m., when I was awake and sure that God had forgotten all about me, praying - I saw a definite butt imprint made at the end of my bed, and I know without a doubt that Jesus and His angels were there in my room holding me up to God in prayer. How deep is Thy love. Well now - I had to work to get better. No more pity - we march forward.

After calling Pat Woods, I attended the National Gathering in Minneapolis, MN. Refreshed by so many friendships I walked without a walker, I networked and made new friends, encouraging people to be raised up in the Lord. I sponsored a Hospitality suite which was well attended by friends from the NW District, Iowa and Illinois.

the two-point parish in East Central Idaho - Drew Nelson, his young wife and two infant children. He says, he is at Home! Pastors Mark & Wenda Fry were both called to Joy Lutheran in Billings, MT. I attended their installation along with my pastor, Ingrid Aderhold.

Odessa, WA and Dayton, WA are both interviewing and praying for results (as of this writing).

Like ladybugs and butterflies that keep showing up in my life, God is showing up in small but glorious ways in our lives and in the lives of our district. To Him be the honor and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Barb Fagley
NW District Coordinator



The 2017 Annual Gathering was held October 8-11 in Minneapolis, MN with 904 attendees.

The theme for this year was "We Confess Our Faith" as we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The Bible study was presented by Pastor Jo Kinnard from Inwood, IA, who focused on Romans 10:5-15.

The format of the keynote addresses was modified this year. There was a short introduction to each topic, followed by a panel discussion, and finally table discussions by the attendees. The topics we discussed were key

Gathering News

Reformation doctrines: Justification, the Two Kingdoms and the Priesthood of all Believers. The format seemed to be very well received.

During the business sessions, two resolutions were introduced. One was concerning a change to the process of certifying pastors that appeared in the "Calling a Pastor" documents produced by the Board for Ministry. The change was related to what is considered equivalent to a Master in Divinity degree. The second resolution dealt with the process by which the change was made. Some individuals felt that the change was significant and should have been brought to the convention for a vote before implementation. Both motions were tabled in order to give people more time to consider these and talk with their congregations.



The 2018 Annual Gathering is scheduled for October 7-10 in Des Moines, Iowa.

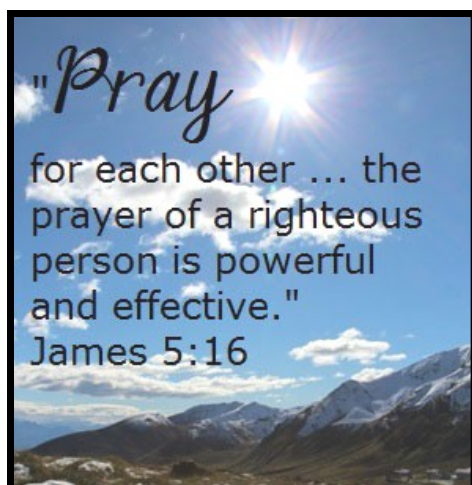
In other news, Steven Lien has resigned as the Coordinator for Pastoral Ministry in order to accept a call to a LCMC congregation in Arizona. We give thanks to God for his ministry.

Mot Hedges

NW District Council Member

LCMC Northwest District includes. . .

Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Canadian Provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan).



Getting to know our website and webmaster

As you probably know, the website not only has information about the LCMC, but it also lists all the current members for the Northwest district.

The website has been redesigned with a newer look and will now display correctly on mobile devices (such as iPads, tablets, cell phones). I want to be sure that the information on the "District Members" page is accurate and up-to-date. Each member's listing can have the following information displayed:

- 1 outside (or inside) photo of the Church
- Church Name
- Physical Address
- Mailing Address (if different from physical)
- Pastor(s) Name
- Church Phone
- Email Address
- Link to your Website

Please check your current listing to see if the information needs to be updated. It would be great to have a photo for each member's listing. Perhaps you want to change the one that's there to a newer one or you realize that your listing has none and want to have one added.

In any case, if you want to update your listing, please click on the "online form" link on the District Members page. This will submit the information to the current Executive Committee Secretary and myself (webmaster). I will then apply the requested update to your listing and email you when completed so you can review it.

Lastly, I'd like to bring to your attention that there's a new page on the website called "Youth Events" and can be found on the main navigation bar along the top of each page. Each listing will have the event name, event date(s) and a link for more info to the church's website organizing the event. If you have a Youth Event that you would like to have reviewed and added, please contact Pastor Jeff Redlin at jeff.redlin@gmail.com

Thanks to all who helped me with this project.

My name is **Steve Hruza** and I'm the webmaster for the LCMC-NW.com website.



Born and raised in New Jersey I

moved to western Montana in 1997. After a few years I realized I had an ability for troubleshooting computers, so I got my basic computer certification in 1999. I then discovered web designing and made the decision to start my own business in 2000 (HighTechServices.biz). I was certified as a web designer in 2002. I worked as a senior web developer with a local web design company for several years. This year marks my 20th anniversary in this field of technology. Wow! It has been challenging trying to keep up with the ever changing fast pace of Internet technology!

In 2007, I moved to the Flathead Valley in MT. My wife Susan and I live in Whitefish and are members of Christ Lutheran Church. We're on the praise & worship team together – she sings and I play the drums.

I want to thank the LCMC-NW council for the opportunity to serve all of its members in this capacity with the tech skills God has enabled me to do.

Meet the newsletter editor



Hi, I'm **Sheryl Westerhold**, the editor for *The Happenings* NW District newsletter.

I was born in ND but grew up in CA. I married my high school sweetheart, Fred Westerhold. After Fred went into pastoral ministry we have lived in Saskatchewan, Canada, ID, WY, ND and now OR. Here in Lebanon Fred is

pastor of Christ Community Lutheran Church. Here I am editor of the church newsletter, *Footnotes of Faith*, and it's one of my favorite ways of serving in the church.

Now I've also been given the privilege to serve as editor of the LCMC Northwest District newsletter. Each quarter there will be updates and good news to share with you. Since our northwest district is so large, we hope the website and newsletters will be good tools for keeping all of us connected.

God's blessings as we get to know each other. And I hope to see you at the NW District Gathering in April here in Lebanon, OR!

Meet three of our newest members to the LCMC Northwest District



Denny Park Lutheran Church — Seattle, Washington

Denny Park Lutheran Church was founded in Seattle in 1888 by people rich with a Norwegian heritage. The present church building, located across the street from Denny Park, was built in 1939 and is considered a rich historical landmark in South Lake Union. Through the years the church has seen many transitions; including membership in the American Lutheran Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and presently with the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC).

Our current membership includes long time Denny Park Lutheran Church members along with those who merged in the summer of 2013 from Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. Sunday worship offers a liturgical style service with traditional hymns and music accompanied by a rich pipe organ and choir.

Pastor Deborah Olsoe Lunde is the interim pastor while we are currently in the Call process.

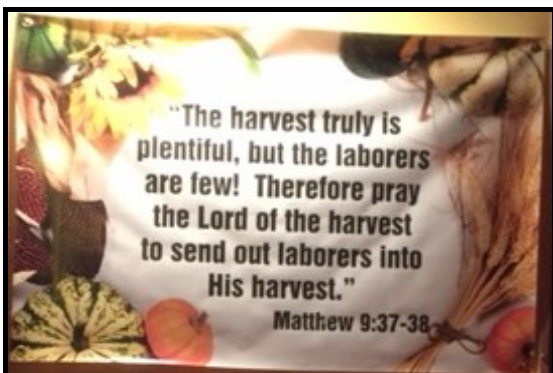
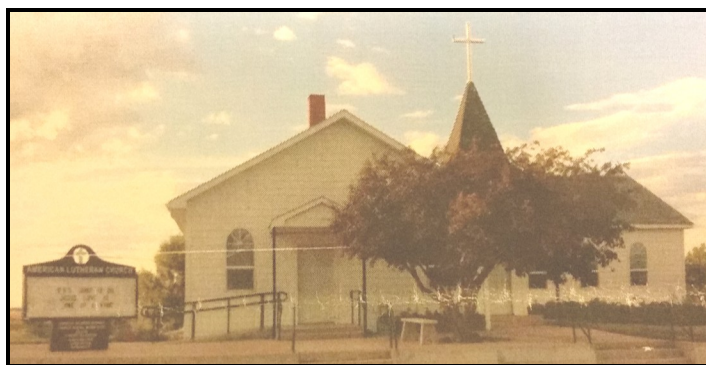
American Lutheran Church — Winifred, Montana

Winifred is located in central Montana, about 38 miles north of Lewistown and is a small farm, ranch, school, manufacturing and tourism community of 210 people. American Lutheran congregation was founded in 1929. We joined the LCMC in 2010 after leaving the ELCA. Pastor Joe Leavengood was installed Oct. 12, 2015.

We have a Contemporary liturgical worship service with communion every Sunday and we participate in our community's ecumenical Lenten services.

We have:

- Ongoing collection of food for local food bank
- Monthly collection for special needs projects such as the pregnancy care center, foster children, community crisis fund, and angel tree
- Annual missions collection and service for special missions project
- American Lutheran Church Women (ALCW) host an annual harvest dinner to raise funds for a variety of outreach projects and missions
- Host annual community "Ladies Tea"



This is our church's front window that is decorated seasonally. As a "ministry" it is our church's witness to Christ in downtown Laurel.

New Hope Fellowship Lutheran Church of Laurel — Laurel, Montana

New Hope Fellowship Lutheran congregation was founded in 1997. We were first affiliated with TAALC and now with LCMC. Our current location is downtown Laurel where we worship in the Laurel Chamber of Commerce building.

The geographical area consists of Scandinavians and Germans and the workforce includes Farming, Railroad and Refinery.

Our worship style is a Blended Service - Contemporary.

We offer: Prayer meetings, Bible studies, Sunday school

Mission focus: LaVie pregnancy center, Friendship House, Rescue Mission, Montana Family Institute and Team Mentoring

Areas of Need: a Pastor, Growth and Church Building

LCMC Northwest District Gathering

April 20 & 21, 2018

at Christ Community Lutheran Church
Lebanon, Oregon

Keynote Speakers:

Mark Vander Tuig and James Nestingen



The Gathering Committee includes:

Shelly Hauge

Kathy Nida

Mary Stubblefield

Sheryl Westerhold

April 2018						
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Children's Program Provided at Northwest District Gathering

By Suzanne Robinson

The Northwest District Gathering is for the entire family! Worship times and meals are enjoyed by everyone, including children, and then there is a great learning time for the children. The ages for the children's program is 5yrs. – 11 yrs.



The topics we will discuss will be "The Wordless Bible", and "God Knows My Name". We will be playing games, doing crafts and watching a Christian video. Snacks for the children will be provided, plus meals being served with everyone.



Bring your children, grandchildren, friends or neighbors.

A registration form will be provided in a packet that will be mailed out prior to the Gathering.

Indicate on the registration form if you will be bringing children and provide us with their names and ages so we can be sure to be prepared for them.

A suggested donation of \$5.00 per child would be appreciated to cover the cost of meals and supplies.

Check out our
Website!
www.lcmc-nw.com



An eight-year-old girl was showing her four-year-old sister some pictures from her Bible. The younger sister was fascinated by a picture of Mary and baby Jesus. After examining it intently, she asked, "But where's Joseph?"

The older sister thought for a moment and replied, "He's taking the picture."