



# The Happenings

## USA — Canada

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### From the Chairman



As I write this article for the newsletter, I am preparing to leave on a short-term mission trip to Estonia. One of the activities we do is ask the students to list names or attributes of God. In my research on the internet I found a list of 102 names/titles for God and Jesus used in the Bible. But the more I thought about it, the real question is the one Jesus asked his disciples in Matthew 16:15 – “Who do you say that I am?”

Can we respond as Peter – You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Once we respond, we have to own our answer (Name it and claim it). It may be easy for us to say the words that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God, but how do we live up to our response? Even the disciples had their problems doing that until the power of the Holy Spirit came upon them at Pentecost.

I think in today's secular world we have real difficulty in showing a proper response to God. So many people just live for themselves and have no respect for any authority. We don't understand what it might be like to live under an earthly ruler (such as a Roman emperor) who has control over our life or death. So how can we respond to a God who is so much greater?

One way is to remember that you are part of the body of Christ. You are not in this alone. You are a part of your local congregation, part of the LCMC-NW District, part of the national LCMC organization and part of all the world-wide believers. Be active in these organizations. Allow yourself to be encouraged by your fellow believers. See how the Holy Spirit can work in your life and that of others.

I encourage you to attend the upcoming LCMC 18th Annual Gathering October 7-10, 2018, in Des Moines, Iowa. Also. Put on your calendar the LCMC-NW Gathering May 3-4, 2019, in Richland, WA. Come and be filled with the Holy Spirit so that you can also say as Peter did – “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Yours in Christ,

**Mot Hedges**

LCMC Northwest District Chair

### LCMC Northwest District Council

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# Welcome



## Good Shepherd Lutheran to install new pastor

Pastor Mike Smith has worshiped with Good Shepherd Lutheran, Boardman, Oregon since 2010. During that time he was mentored by interim Pastor Paul Berthelot. Pastor Smith said, "I was a cradle Catholic and had been looking for something more when I met Pastor Paul Berthelot and started traveling the road of discovery of Lutheranism. Through my mentorship with Pastor Paul I had found my calling to the Lutheran Faith and my calling to Pastoral Ministry."

Currently Pastor Smith is attending Beyond the River Academy and is scheduled to graduate in a year and a half.



**Pastor Mike Smith**



**Pr Paul Berthelot**

Good Shepherd's previous pastor, Colin Brown, resigned due to health issues.

Pastor Smith said, "With the guidance of Pastor Paul, I decided to put my hat in the ring and apply for the position of pastor. As of July 1, 2018 Good Shepherd Lutheran called me as their pastor and now Pastor Paul Berthelot is the Pastor Emeritus.

As of this writing, Pastor Mike Smith's Installation Service will be Sunday, August 26, 2018.



## Secretary's Note

Thanks to the many who responded to the request to submit updated information for your churches. The information has been updated in both of our files and on the website.

Thank you to Steve Hruza, our NW District Webmaster, for updating the website. He has put the congregational information into a new format that makes it easier to look

up information on the churches.

I encourage you to check it out: [www.lcmc-nw.com](http://www.lcmc-nw.com)

A reminder: Information on congregations who are **not** NW District members is not on the web listing. For information on those churches you will need to contact a member of the NW District Council or me. My number is 541-409-2878 or email me at [manwdist@gmail.com](mailto:manwdist@gmail.com)

Again, thank you,

**Mary Stubblefield**  
NW District Secretary





## Connecting With Youth

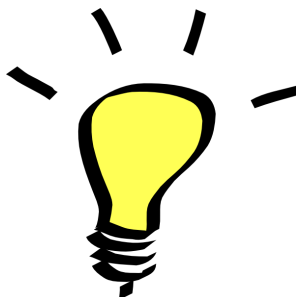
*Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. Psalm 127:3*

At the July board meeting held in Waterville, WA, discussion took place about helping congregations make connections with their youth. Some of our churches in the LCMC NW have very active youth programs - along with youth leaders or directors. Some churches have regular youth activities. There are also churches which don't have that "critical mass" to conduct youth activities.

The LCMC NW board is in the beginning stages of addressing this topic of "connecting with youth", yet it is something that the NW board will continue to address, hopefully bringing about fruition in youth ministry throughout our congregations. There ARE youth in all of our congrega-

tions. They may not be "members" per se, but may be grandchildren, youth in the neighborhood, and friends of congregation families.

How would youth be served and what would this look like in the LCMC NW?



- Church youth leaders in regional areas find ways to plan and share ideas with each other. *A great opportunity will be at next May's LCMC NW gathering in Richland, WA.*
- Congregations that have youth events, extend invitations to other LCMC NW youth to attend.
- Area church youth leaders work more closely together.

- Promote Christian youth gatherings that would be rewarding experiences for youth.
- Give ideas to parents for building their children's faith and awareness of faith based activities.
- Share ideas that congregations can use for those annual standard events like VBS, Christmas, Easter, etc.

What is most interesting is that youth today have a strong yearning to know who they are, what life is all about, and what path they will take in life's journey. It makes very good sense that the teachings and salvation offered by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, provide the strong foundation needed for young people today. It would seem that one task of the LCMC NW is to foster and grow those connections between congregations, parents, and youth.

**Bruce Grohn**  
NW District Board Member



### "Who Broke My Church: Reaching the Unchurched"

presented by Tracee Swank with Church Doctor Ministries.

**Sat., Sept. 22, 2018**

**9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Lacey, WA.**

Register online at [whobrokemychurch.com/events](http://whobrokemychurch.com/events) before Sept. 14th.

\$55 per person, includes lunch and a copy of the book.



**LCMC-NW GATHERING**  
**MAY 3-4, 2019**  
**RICHLAND, WA**



## Men's Fall Retreat is just around the corner

**LCMC men, mark your calendar for September 14, 15, 16 for our annual retreat at Stonewater Ranch in Plain, Washington.**

Plan to join the Richland Lutheran church men for a weekend of fellowship, inspired Bible lessons, solitude for meditation away from the hectic pace of daily life and, refreshing mountain scenery promising a quiet and spiritual experience communing with nature and God's creation.



Our retreat leader this year is Itinerant Minister with Cross Country Ministries, Richard H. Lafever, of The Dalles, Oregon. After eight years of Christian lay ministry, Dick entered seminary in 1977. A speech pathologist, he became Director of Special Education for Wasco County. He has worked with the Fellowship of Christian Cowboys becoming president of the group putting on cowboy church services and Bible camps at rodeos in Oregon and Washington.

Ordained in 1994 as an itinerant minister by Cross Country Ministries, Dick has served as interim pastor for several churches and planted a church in the desert near Quartzite, AZ for winter snowbirds there for 10 years.

Dick has a dramatic and heart-rending story of tragedy after the death of his adult daughter and lengthy trial of his spirit to deal with God's-inspired call to forgiveness. You will not want to miss his story outlined in his 2008 book, Ultimate Betrayal-A Testimony of Forgiveness.

We have our usual congenial accommodations at the Challet Lodge at Stonewater with three nights lodging and five nourishing meals, plus plenty of men's fellowship and quiet time for rest, relaxation and enjoying the Resort. Cost is \$125. Register with the RLC church office at 509-943-3164. For questions call Norm Gillette 509-378-5898 or Ted Stuenkel 509-628-2002.

## Get Ready to "Grow Up"



**LCMC 18th Annual Gathering**  
OCTOBER 7-10, 2018 DES MOINES, IA

"Growing Up" is the theme of our next Annual Gathering, and we've invited **Dr. Kent Hunter** of Church Doctor Ministries to help us to consider how congregations of any size can be focused on the Great Commission and develop a kingdom mindset.



**Jo Kinnard** will be returning this year to serve as our Bible study leader as we reflect on the text of Ephesians 4. It is time for our churches to "grow up" and become mature, hearing the call for every member to carry out the work of ministry as God has designed His Church to do.

For additional information on the Annual Gathering go to website [www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net).