



The Happenings

USA — Canada

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From the Chairman



My wife and I have been traveling a lot recently. We were on a short-term mission trip to Estonia in August and attended the LCMC National gathering in Des Moines, Iowa in October.

Estonia is part of the former Soviet Union and regained its independence in 1992, following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Estonian Christian community suffered greatly under communism and we are working to help rebuild the body of Christ. For our short-term mission trip, we are part of a team that partners with local churches to hold week-long English camps using Bible stories. Our students are primarily adult women who are members of a local congregation. In the city of Tartu these camps have been held every year since 2006; however, the number of students attending has been

declining for the last two years. We were concerned about the effectiveness of our program. At the end of the camp, we discussed our concerns with some of the Estonian pastors. The pastors told us that the members who have attended show increased involvement in the church and an improved ability to witness and disciple other members of their congregation. While the numbers of students may have declined, through the many years of short-term mission trips we have been effective in making better disciples of the remaining students.

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 tells us to “Go make disciples of all nations...” Making disciples takes time and commitment. Jesus spent three years working with the apostles before they were ready. Also, you can’t worry about numbers. At times great crowds followed Jesus numbering in the thousands, but Acts 1:15 has only 120 followers remaining after the resurrection and ascension. These few followers went on to make Christianity the dominant religion in the Roman Empire in just 200 years.

We are all commissioned to make disciples. This was reinforced by the keynote speaker at the LCMC Gathering in Des Moines. Start with people that

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you know. Just remember that it takes time and dedication. Don't let the lack of quick results discourage you.

I look forward to seeing you at the LCMC-NW Gathering May 3-4, 2019, in Richland, WA.

Yours in Christ,

Mot Hedges
LCMC Northwest District Chair

LCMC 18th Gathering 2018

Approximately 800 people attended the 18th Annual Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa.

The Keynote Speakers were from *Church Doctor Ministries* (Dr. Kent Hunter and Tracee Swank). *Church Doctor Ministries* has worked with over 1700 churches of many different denominations over the last 40 years. They provided the sobering statistic that over 80% of churches in the US are plateaued or declining. Additionally church members are aging, 80% of church members are over 40 years old and 40% are over 60 years old.

They see a cycle that has repeated throughout history for the followers of God: drifting from God, ignoring prophets, deterioration of civilization, feeling of hopelessness, receptivity, repentance, then back to faithfulness.

They have started to see signs that the United States may be on the cusp of another revival or awakening. In order for this new awakening to occur, Christians must utilize their spiritual gifts and we must operate as the priesthood of all believers.

-Mot Hedges



The excellent presentations from the 2018 Gathering are now available online at www.LCMC.net

Select Events, then Video & Podcasts. I highly recommend watching these videos.



The next Annual Gathering will be held Sept. 29 – October 2, 2019 in Omaha, Nebraska.

Grace Lutheran Church (NALC), Enterprise, OR



Grace Lutheran congregation is seeking a permanent part-time pastor.

You can visit their website at: gracelutheranenterprise.com

LCMC-NW District Gathering
May 3-4, 2019
Richland Lutheran Church, Richland, WA

The Keynote Speakers will be
Mark Vander Tuig and Walt Kallestad



Mark Vander Tuig is the Service Coordinator for Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ since 2010.

For the first 10 years of his ministry he served congregations in Minnesota: Montevideo and St.

Cloud. In 1990, he and his family moved to Altoona, Iowa where he served Lutheran Church of the Cross until 2010. During those 20 years the congregation grew from 74 in wor-

ship to over 1100 each weekend.

Pastor Vander Tuig and Lutheran Church of the Cross are charter members of LCMC. Mark also served on the Ministry Board of LCMC for seven years. Mark graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 1976, with Bachelor's degrees in both Religion and Psychology, from Luther Seminary in 1980 with a Master's of Divinity degree, and from St. Mary's College in 1985 with a Master's of Counseling and Psychological Services. Mark also holds a certification from the University of Minnesota in Chemical Dependency Counseling and Education.



Walt Kallestad is the former Senior Pastor of Community Church of Joy in Glendale, AZ. During his 26 years, the church grew from 200 to over 10,000 members. Walt graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota,

Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Walt also served as the Chief Executive Officer of The Joy Company, a 180-acre master-planned mission center in Arizona.

A popular national and international speaker, Walt presents an inspiring vision for reaching non-churched people with the message of Jesus Christ, and he helps leaders sharpen their call for ministry.

He has written several books, including *Total Quality Ministry*; *Wake Up Your Dreams*; *Entertainment Evangelism*; *Christian Faith: The Basics*; *Be Your Own Creative Coach*; *Turn Your Church Inside Out*; *Entrepreneurial Faith*; *A Passionate Life*; *The Passionate Church*; *World Changers: Live to Serve*; and *Reign Down: A Call to Personal Repentance*.

