



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

The Happenings

USA — Canada



MARCH 2019

From the Chairman



Our newsletter editor is very good at sending out reminders that it is time to submit articles to meet the publication deadlines; however, at times I can be a procrastinator. The last few days Richland, Washington has been hit hard with wind and snow. I have spent most of my time either shoveling snow or recovering from shoveling snow. This was a perfect excuse to put off writing my article. Unfortunately there were negative aspects of this snow. The Tri-Cities does not usually get much, so the local community is ill prepared to handle removing significant amounts of snow. The road conditions were so bad that church services were cancelled. What a loss! We missed an opportunity to come together and worship God as part of the Body of Christ.

God did not create us to be alone. When we come together in fellowship and worship at our local church service, it gives us an opportunity to interact with other believers and find out what is going on in their lives. Only then we can share each others burdens, pray specifically for each other, and show our love for one another.

We must also remember that each local church is just a small part of the world-wide Body of Christ. On my first short-term mission trip to Slovakia, a little boy asked "You have the same God in America as we do here?" We need to find ways to learn about and interact with fellow believers around our community, our country and the world. I have had several missionaries tell me that they could not do their work without knowing that people back home and around the world were praying for them.

The internet has made it very easy to learn about and interact with people outside of our community; however, there is nothing like doing that in person. A wonderful opportunity to meet and worship with fellow believers is the next LCMC-NW Gathering May 3-4, 2019, in Richland, WA. Come and interact with your fellow believers from around the

LCMC Northwest District Council

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Bruce Grohn

District Coordinator

Barb Fagley

Northwest, so we can share each others burdens, pray specifically for each other, and show love for one another. I look forward to seeing you here.

Yours in Christ,

Mot Hedges
LCMC Northwest District Chair

A Note from our District Coordinator



Whether you knew it or not my personal life has been disrupted as of late.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays came and went with all their activities and busyness. Then on Jan 6, our young daughter-in-law (age 37) died in her sleep next to her husband, our son. No-one expected this and our son has gone through extreme stress, sadness, guilt, and self-blame, in that he couldn't save her when he woke up hearing her struggle for her last breath. Richard (my husband) and I live about 3 hours away and so we rushed to his side.

The next few weeks were full of sadness and plans that no one was prepared to make.

Then four days after the funeral, I admitted Richard to the hospital with rapid Atrial Fibrillation, possible pulmonary embolism, and extreme low BP. After eleven days in treatments for pneumonia and cardiac med adjustments he was discharged, only to return to the hospital for continued low BP and Atrial Fibrillation again. After seven more days of hospital life, a bronchoscopy, and a timed cardiac conversion, we are at Devin's home. All three of us are tired and exhausted, and dealing with bad weather in our inability to leave for home in Orofino. Thank-you especially to Mark, Perry, Mot, my church family and

the three pastors who met with me and our family for visits, condolences and prayers. To those who picked up the slack in my absence and to all of you who offered up so many prayers, thank-you and our hearts feel full of your love.

Devin, our son, is back to work but still in extreme pain and sorrow and as a mom it is so hard to leave him alone, to come home to a dark house every night. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Together in Christ, who bears all our sorrows and cares -

Barb, Richard, and Devin Fagley

New Board Members Needed

The LCMC-NW Board is in need of new members. Two current board members will reach the end of their term limits in May in conjunction with our Annual Gathering and will need to be replaced. Please consider serving on this board to represent our LCMC Churches in the Northwest. A term is 3 years with a limit of two terms. We meet 4 times per year in varying locations and this past January we held our first meeting over the internet, so no travel was involved.

All of our current members are from Oregon and Washington, so we would love to have representation from Montana and Idaho.

If you are interested, please contact any board member.

LCMC Northwest District includes. . .

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



Check out our
Website!

www.lcmc-nw.com

Opening Doors With Youth and Families



Christ Community Lutheran Church in Lebanon was formed in 2010.

Throughout that time, there have been few youth of high school age and younger. This is more common in LCMC churches than we care to admit. But keep in mind, part of the “few youth syndrome” also existed in our former synod churches.

In the past year, Christ Community has seen a change in this pattern, mainly because of the connection that has been developed between *Hand In Hand Farm* and our congregation. The following annual report from our Education Committee chair says it best:

We welcomed Hand In Hand Farm with their Tuesday night classes in improving oneself and family. At first there was only mild interest on the side of Christ Community people, but that grew in time. In August we put on a Vacation Bible School for the first time in our new place, which used a great deal of our church facility. We were so grateful to have working air conditioning as the days reached three-digit temperatures. But children from the neighborhood and from Hand in Hand Farm came and learned what it meant to “Ride for the Brand”. Thank you to everyone, and you were many, who helped make VBS such a success.

In September we welcomed a second round of the Hand In Hand adult classes on Tuesday nights, and created a Youth Group program for the children of those adults, pre-school to high school. Our lessons this

year have mostly been Old Testament lessons: Creation to Moses, and then in December the Christmas story. With the guidance of Dave Berger and Athena Perry we are learning ways to include all the kids in learning good Christian values and some Bible basics. Sometimes it is a stretch for us “Grandpas and Grandmas” to make the program work, but it is going well.

Debbie Stumpff
2018 Annual Education Report

How did this come about? Mainly because of the joint efforts of Pastor Fred Westerhold and Dave Berger, director of Hand In Hand Farm. Dave knows that families need the support of a Christian community to be able to develop positive relationships – and to hear the message of grace and forgiveness that Christ gives us.

Bruce Grohn,
CCLC, Lebanon, Oregon
NW District Board Member



Music

Bible stories

Crafts

Games

We love Tuesday Night Youth Group!

PREPARE TO BE SPIRITUALLY RE-ENERGIZED!

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

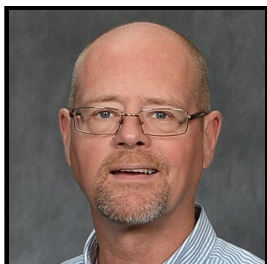
Theme:
"My Feet are on the Rock: *Standing Firm in a Shifting World*"

Psalms 62:6



The two day event will refresh you, challenge you, and energize you to be the best you can be for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

SATURDAY KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



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



Walt Kallestad is the former Senior Pastor of Community Church of Joy in Glendale, AZ.

FRIDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

Jeff Simunds - Tower of Light Ministries provides help and support for people struggling with unwanted same sex attractions.

Walt & Mary Kallestad - Pastors juggling church ministry with family home life.

Richland Lutheran Church service and evangelism showcase.

Living Way Bible Study - The solution for growing churches, empowering spiritual growth for every congregation by examining Scripture four different ways.



Please register for the conference early (by March 31st) to enjoy the lowest rate for the LCMC-NW District Gathering. We need final numbers as soon as possible to prepare food and supplies for the event.

You can register and pay on-line by contacting Pete & Joan Mattich at pinerpoint@gmail.com

Stop, look and listen

Christians observe Lent for these reasons:

- It causes us to STOP. Lent says, “Stop and rest awhile,” as well as “Stop doing wrong.”
- It tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ offering healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.
- It tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words aren't only important for our safety in travel; they're also helpful for our journey through the 40 days of Lent.



Tomb, thou shalt not hold him longer;
Death is strong, but life is stronger.
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right.
Faith and hope triumphant say,
Christ will rise on Easter Day.

—Phillips Brooks

Let laughter ‘spring’ forth!

“Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush.” (Doug Larson)

“Easter is the only time when it’s perfectly safe to put all of your eggs in one basket.” (Evan Esar)

“Spring is the time of year when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade.” (Charles Dickens)

“The world is mud-luscious and puddle wonderful.” (e.e. cummings)

“In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.” (Margaret Atwood)

A pastor was speaking to a group of second-graders about the resurrection of Jesus when one student asked, “What did Jesus say right after He came out of the grave?” The pastor explained that the Gospels do not tell us what He said. The hand of one little girl shot up. “I know what He said: He said, ‘tah-dah!’”

