



The Happenings

USA — Canada

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3

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From the Chairperson



Dear Friends of the NW District :

Greetings to you!

Our congregation/community, as well as many of you, are in the middle of Harvest. From my kitchen window I can see the wheat trucks full of grain coming through town to the local grain elevators! As I drive out of town a ways, I can see the combines, bank out wagons, and trucks out in the fields working away! It is a beautiful sight!

As Harvest ends, our churches, Pastors, staff, etc. are gearing up for Fall. Sunday School materials are being ordered, meetings of the minds of how to bring Bible Stories to our children are being sought out and music and band are being practiced. I am also assuming a Harvest Dinner is planned in there as well!

My thoughts, for this article came from in my daily devotions. 2 Chronicles 16:9, says *“For the eyes of Yahweh roam throughout the earth to show Himself strong for those whose hearts are completely His.”*

Not only are we in Harvest mode, but Sunday School and Church mode. We are searching for God to help us back to HIS church, whether we have had a broken heart, thirsty, hungry, or simply want to fellowship with other believers! Where do we get this? CHURCH! We are HIS! All around us there is feast or famine. God is TRUE and TRUE for ages and ages.

We all have a story to share. We all have had our ups and downs in life. Some worse than others. What remains the same throughout time is the WORD of GOD, God is there right beside us. He is there out in the Harvest Fields, in the Sunday School class room and in the pew! Right NOW!!

Let's join HIM!!!

Blessings!!!

Shelly Hauge

LCMC Northwest District Chair

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Barb Fagley
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Upcoming events:

- **National Gathering Omaha NB Sept 29-Oct 2, 2019**
- **NW Gathering Post Falls, ID May 1-2 2020**

Scholarships available to attend either or both events!!!!



District Coordinator Update

Barb Fagley
NW District
Coordinator

I wanted to be sure and write a note that will get in [this] newsletter. I was so looking forward to attending the NW District Annual Gathering this year [May 3-4]. Then in January, our son suddenly and unexpectedly lost his wife, Annie. She died in her sleep next to him in bed at the age of 37. As a mom and father, Richard and I felt very deeply that we had just lost our daughter, and we also dealt with the fact that our deep concern for our son's loss was inconsolable. As a mother I wanted to take away his pain and hurts, hold him tight, and protect him from all sorrow, and we tried very hard. I want to thank you for all the prayers and cards we received from all you who cared for us, just as a family would.

Then, four days after Annie's funeral, Richard went into the hospital for what they thought was a pulmonary embolism with rapid atrial fibrillation. That diagnosis changed to a bacterial and fungal pneumonia, with total body cellular breakdown and after 24 days of hospitalization and severe illness we mutually decided that God was calling him home

and he said that that was one trip he couldn't turn down. We turned off treatment and said our good-byes and Richard, in total peace, went to Heaven. Since then I have tried very hard to live according to Richard's strong beliefs, telling myself that if he could die in such peace, that I could try to live in that same peace. I have found, sincerely, that that is a very difficult path.

Then, as God would have it, four days after Richard's memorial service and after all my family left, I went into the hospital locally for one week and was eventually transferred to a large medical center in Coeur d'Alene, ID (about 160 miles away from home) for bacterial pneumonia and irregular heart rate. After 11 days, I went into a rehab center for 3 and ½ weeks for recuperation, physical therapy and help with building my strength back up. Then twice in and out of Sacred Heart Institute for rapid heart rate and low BP. I've had it with hospital beds and being sick, along with mourning.

As such, missing the gathering was a reality and such a disappointment for me. I so missed seeing so many friends and family that I don't get to see very often. And then, I asked, or someone else decided for me, to be relieved from my duties as a District Coordinator while I settled

our estate, made a lot of decisions, and rested and grieved in the sure arms of God's grace for as long as I needed. Moe is going to take over for me in the time being. I want to thank her for her kind support and eventual work and all of you for your total understanding and love in that respect. I have received so many kind thoughts, cards, letters, prayers from all my huge family of Christian friends and I cannot express to you with enough love in return for how warm and comforted they have made me feel.

I also need to offer a very special thanks to the Ladies of Richland Lutheran Church for the prayers and comfort quilt made especially for me. It is absolutely beautiful and strewn with beautiful Bible verses. I was told that it was touched, held and blessed by all of you who attended the gathering. You must know that it has already been covered in tears and warmed by my arms and lap as it is held tight. I will never forget your loving tenderness sown into each stitch and covered in your love and prayers and God's great grace and peace. May He richly bless all of you for your many gifts of deep support and love. Thank you to you all - until we meet again in friendship. - **Barbie Fagley**



Congregation Information

Greetings. Just a reminder to everyone that if any information about your congregation, (such as, pastor change, address, phone or e-mail changes) that information can be submitted online at www.lcmc-nw.com where it goes directly to Steve Hruza, our website master. Or you can send me an e-mail or 'snail mail' and I will make the change and contact Steve.

Thank you for your participation in keeping our information current. Our newsletter is done quarterly and is mailed to all the churches. If you personally would like to receive the newsletter just submit your request to me, with your name and address, and I will add you to the mailing list.

Mary Stubblefield
NW District Secretary
manwdist@gmail.com



Welcome Pastor Jeff Milsten to the Northwest District

Pastor Jeff Milsten is now serving Redeemer Lutheran Church in Dayton, WA and also the Pomeroy Congregation. He grew up in Tacoma, WA; went to college at University of Virginia, taught World History in Maryland, attended seminary at Gettysburg. His first call was in Concord North Carolina, then Orofino and Kamiah Idaho, followed by Longview, WA, Niagara Falls, NY, and now Dayton and Pomeroy WA. Every call has been a blessing in many ways. An even more personal blessing is his wife Shannon and children Keegan (18), Rebecca (15), and Alex (12). In Trinity Church in Longview a member asked me what to say to her son to his question: "How does God matter in my life today?"

I gave her a few responses that began a quest for me to incorporate this reality of how God does matter today in my preaching, teaching, and youth ministry. Through presenting various elements on this topic I have seen youth and adults both interested and able to quickly apply the material in their Christian lives. As I have dealt with this question and developed many responses over the past ten plus years I have felt called to put together a workshop on this topic along with a variety of teaching elements. Teaching youth and adults has always been one of my best areas of ministry. Usually researching and setting up workshops takes one or two months to prepare; this one has taken me two years to research and prepare. I have led it and found it takes six hours to do the workshop and still not finish sharing everything (plus I have a website that has the workshop and a large variety of teaching elements for any one to use all or in part.) At the same time I can lead the main elements in four hours as is best for the group.

An overview of the workshop is as follows.

GOD MATTERS IN OUR PERSONAL LIVES TODAY.

Dozens of examples of how God has affected our world, our nation, our community and each one of us personally will be shared and discussed. We will also lift up the wonderful gifts the Holy Spirit gives us today. Then we will consider various ways to best see all this in life everyday.

Most importantly we will present ways to help our children, or anyone, to be in a stronger personal relationship with Jesus so that you do know His love, hope, blessings, and actions in one's own life today.

To view and use this workshop and many teaching elements go to <https://god-matters.weebly.com>

and to contact me my e-mail is pastorjeff100@protonmail.com.

Shalom,
Pastor Jeff Milsten

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





**Pastor Jon & Chris
Anderson**

Jon Anderson was installed on Sunday, June 9th at Peace Lutheran Church, Post Falls, ID. Jon has been an LCMC pastor since 2006. Jon and his wife Chris began their pastorates in Hampton, Iowa from 1996-2011 and most recently spent the past 8 years in Torrance, California at City On A Hill Lutheran. City On A Hill was the first LCMC church plant back in 2003, and had Steve Ernst (also in the NW District at Richland, WA) as their founding pastor.

Welcome Pastor Jon Anderson to the Northwest District

Jon and Chris have three adult children - Joshua who is an associate music professor at the University of Nevada Reno; Rebekah who is a middle school science teacher in Orland, California; Noah who is a corporal in the US Marine Corps, currently serving in Okinawa.

Jon and Chris are excited to begin this new season of ministry with the partners at Peace Lutheran. Jon enjoys ministry with all ages and as part of his Letter of Call looks forward to growing the youth and family ministries in particular. Jon also enjoys participating with the worship team. Chris is a music educator/therapist and is looking forward to establishing her music studio in the Post Falls area.

Jon & Chris met at a Lutheran Bible camp in the hill country of Texas and have enjoyed growing and walking with Jesus together for the past 34 years. They love the outdoors, a good movie, biking & hiking and look forward to exploring the beauty of Idaho.

Jon loves Jesus, loves people and enters this new season of ministry especially alive to walking with others to discover and develop a relationship where they are beloved by the Father, belong to His family, are becoming more and more like Jesus, and are sent empowered by Holy Spirit to be a blessing to others.

Jon is also excited that Peace Lutheran will be hosting the 2020 NW District Gathering.

Summer time means mission time for Richland Lutheran Church

Let me qualify that – mission work goes on year round, but primarily to the local community. Summer time is when we typically send people outside of our local community on short-term mission trips.

Regional:

Each year since 2005 our high school youth have gone to Lodge Grass, Montana, to work on the Crow Indian Reservation. This year a team of 16 youth and adults spent a week in Lodge Grass spreading the gospel message and working with the children and families of that community. We want to also thank the good people of Peace Lutheran Church in Belgrade, Montana. Since Lodge Grass is a 12 hour drive from Richland, they allow our team to spend the night in their church to break up the long trip.

Internationally through East European Missions Network (EEMN):

Daniel Miles, a recent high school graduate, is in Slovakia for 12 days as part of a team leading a Life & Adventure Teen Camp.

Andrew Miles, Kelly Westlund, and Mot & Pam Hedges will be in Estonia for 18 days as part of a team conducting Youth and Adult Camps in Kuressaare and Tartu.

Additionally, in the summer, we welcome home Mike and Julie Penley, who are long-term missionaries serving at Annoor Sanatorium in Mafraq, Jordan. They return each summer for rest & relaxation and to avoid the brutal heat of the desert in Jordan.

The work of the Great Commission does not just involve the above people. It also involves those who send out the missionaries, supports them financially and with their prayers.

Mot Hedges

Richland Lutheran, Richland, WA



Mot Hedges

Prayer and Discernment



Pr Eric Hullstrom
NW District Board
Vice Chair

I serve as the pastor of Living Word Lutheran Church in Puyallup, WA; a congregation that is known as "a church in a box". That is just a fun way of saying that we have a large covered

trailer that stores all our equipment; a trailer we unload and load every week for worship. You see, for 10 years, this congregation has been renting space; most of which has been at a county community center in a park. The building used to be a church building, so it is perfectly suited for us, except that it is not ours. So, for 10 years, this congregation has been searching for a home of their own. Well, our search may be over.

A 5-acre property with a church building, about 15 to 30 minutes away from our current location, has been presented to us. Currently, we are in a 60-day feasibility study phase to determine if this building will be "feasible" for us. It is nearly move-in ready (with some upgrades and minor repairs to be made) but eventually a sanctuary will need to be built. In the meantime, the fellowship hall will work. There are so many possibilities with this building along with many challenges. I admit, it has been hard to keep my emotions in check and resist the urge to mentally move into the building prematurely. The congregation is excited and believe me, I really want this for them, but I am still cautious, because this may be the worst thing for us.

What in the world are you talking about, pastor? We've been waiting for this for 10 years. (I can already hear my congregation asking that question).

There are many who think that if we get this building we will start to grow. They believe our stagnant numbers are due to us not being as visible. There may be some truth to the stagnant numbers theory, but we also must be careful. You see, a church cannot take a "Field of Dreams" approach when it comes to ministry in a community. There is no ghostly voice saying, *If you build it, they will come*. It worked in the movie but that's not reality.

What needs to happen is the church needs to be the church. We need to live out our faith in our everyday lives. We need to be willing to get our hands dirty. Jesus never set up camp in one location for very long; he moved around and went to the people. Church buildings are great, but they can't be home. Churches are a ministry launching pad not a clubhouse. Church buildings are a place to gather for corporate worship but then you must be sent out, and thus my prayers. I am not praying that God give us this building. (*WHAT?!?* -- Just hang on a bit here). What I am praying for is that God prepare the hearts of this congregation to do the ministry that is required for HIS kingdom to grow. As a farmer needs to prepare the soil before planting so must our hearts be ready. Along with that, I am praying for what Solomon asked when God said to him, **Ask what I shall give you.** Solomon replied, ... **Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?** (1 Kings 3:5 & 9) God help me.

Churches with large member numbers in large auditoriums can make a huge difference. Small, country churches can make a huge difference. Churches meet-

ing in tiny downtown store fronts can make a huge difference. Churches meeting in the living room of the pastor's home can make a huge difference. Churches meeting in a tent with a dirt floor can make a huge difference. It is not the location or the building or the size or anything of this world that matters. What matters is the Holy Spirit working in the lives of the people. The church is the people, not a building made of bricks, mortar and wood.

This is not a popular notion with many, and some may even think I am turning my back on this congregation's dream. Believe me, I am not. I am trying to see the bigger picture. And so, my prayer is for the hearts of the people here; that they may hear the clear voice of God leading them and empowering them to be the church. If this property is going to be ours, then we will need to get off our butts and do some serious Kingdom work, God help us. If people just want to build a clubhouse, then please, let's abandon this process. Wherever we gather, wherever we worship, we will glorify God. The Church is not comprised of buildings. The Church is the people. So, be the Church, wherever God places You and bring glory to His holy name. Let us pray...

Oh God, give me wisdom to lead Your people rightly. Give Your church faith and courage to follow you wherever You lead. Prepare the hearts of Your people to do some serious Kingdom work for Your glory. Oh God, if it be Your will for Your church to exist in a building, then so be it. If Your church is to exist in a tent, then so be it. Wherever we are to exist, may Your Spirit be with us to guide, strengthen, encourage and to send us out. Oh God, it is all about Your glory.

In Jesus name I pray, Amen.



Bruce Grohn
Christ Community
Lebanon, OR

Looking for a Bible study that has depth, discussion, and sound doctrine? Then you will want to look into:

Living Way Bible Study Series

At this past LCMC NW District Gathering, held May 3-4 in Richland, WA, I was intrigued with a presentation on the **Living Way Bible Study**. The model for this Bible study series is Bible Study Fellowship (BSF). If you are familiar with that organization out of Texas, then you will have a framework on how the Living Way Bible Study works.

Study units vary in length from a few weeks to several months. The current list of topics include:

- **Old Testament** studies: Genesis, Judges, Ruth, Ezra, Nehemiah, Messianic and Penitential Psalms, Daniel, Jonah, Great Miracles of the OT, and Great People of the OT.
- **New Testament** studies: Mark, Luke John, Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians, the Pastoral Letters of Paul, Hebrews, James, I Peter, II Peter and Jude, I - III John, Revelation, and Great Miracles of the NT.

The Four Step (BSF model) approach involves:

1. PERSONAL – The student prays for guidance from the Holy Spirit and answers the Personal Application (P.A.) questions at home

Looking for a Bible study?

using only the Bible (no commentaries). *To do this part well, it is best to complete the weekly study in small chunks over several days rather than doing the homework in one setting.*

2. SMALL GROUPS – The class meets for an opening and divides into small groups of 8–10 people. The small group leader guides the group through the P.A. questions, encouraging each to share their answers and discuss further as time allows.

3. THE MESSAGE – The lecture or message is given by a pastor or layperson who has researched the material and presents the study, giving personal insight and augmenting, but not duplicating, the author's comments. *The message is presented as a review of the personal study and the small group discussion.*

4. THE NARRATIVE – The author's comments or narrative, along with the P.A. questions for the next lesson, are given out at the end of the class. At the next class meeting, before answering the P.A. questions, the small groups may choose to review the author's comments of the last lesson, and share what each has highlighted as meaningful or important.

This weekly cycle is repeated for each lesson in subsequent weeks.

By now, you probably are getting a sense that there is "meat" in this study and there is the expectation that each participant be committed with time and effort. Yet, with that time and effort, each will be deeply rewarded!!

If you are seeking more information on the Living Way Bible Study Series, I urge you to contact:

Pastor Joe Beal
Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
4300 Carpenter Road SE
Lacey, WA 98503

360-456-2755

cslc@servelacey.org

Pastor Beal's congregation has been using this series and he can help you with your questions and inquiry.

The Living Way Bible was developed by the Southwest District, Missouri Synod Lutheran church for use in congregations. The website from which to download study units (which are free) is:
<https://www.livingwaybiblestudy.org/>

Bruce Grohn
LCMC NW District Board Member

National LCMC Annual Gathering

Sept. 29 – October 2, 2019

in Omaha, Nebraska.

Speakers: "Greg Finke and Grace Johnson will take the stage as our keynote speakers this year to help us better understand how we can "Listen Up!" to God's calling on our lives, his calling on the people around us, and the callings and challenges that face us across generations."

