

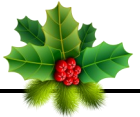


The Happenings

USA — Canada

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2019



From the Chairperson



Dear Members of the NW District:

I want to take this time to wish you all a very MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS!! We are living in crazy times now when we are not sure what are the right words to say in fear of offending someone. Do we say "Happy Holidays"? OR why not "Merry Christmas"? We are celebrating Christ's Birth after all!! We should be happy about it!!

I want to challenge ALL of us to go up to a store clerk, a person who is cleaning the bathrooms at your favorite mall, or to the person who is bringing in the carts from the local grocery store parking lot and wish them a MERRY CHRISTMAS..... I would like you to do 2 things for me....

1. See their expression....!!
2. I want to hear from you their responses....

I want to collect as many as I can then in the next newsletter I will report to you what I have discovered... it only takes seconds to take the time to go up to someone and say those precious words. Who knows, that person may be having a rough day and it could be a game changer!!

John 1:5 says, "*the Light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it*". We need to let Jesus be our LIGHT in us for others. At times I wonder what God has up his sleeve OR what is taking HIM so long.... OR there is sooo much suffering in this world. God KNOWS what HE is doing!! I think if we can just share a bit of happiness each time we meet people we don't know ... Jesus will make our lives brighter!!

Here is my email....

Shelly.hauge@yahoo.com

I look forward to hearing from LOTS of you!!!

May God's Peace be with you and MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Shelly Hauge
LCMC Northwest District Chair

LCMC Northwest District Council

Executive Committee

Shelly Hauge, Chair
Pr Eric Hullstrom, Vice Chair
Mary Stubblefield, Secretary
Mot Hedges, Treasurer

Board Members

Pr Paul Berthelot
Elvin Borg
Bruce Grohn
Carol Ann Buelow
Pr Joe Beal
Pr Drew Nelson

District Coordinator

Interim, Maureen Bessey

Website Master

Steve Hruza

Editor of *The Happenings*

Sheryl Westerhold





District Coordinator Update

To the NW District Board:

It is with a deep sense of humility and

sadness that I am tendering my resignation as the NW District Coordinator.

My life changes and challenges this past year have been more than I could ever have imagined.

I thank the Board for trusting me with this position and for the privilege of serving God by helping troubled churches seek the Holy Spirit's guidance to find their answers and solutions.

I pray to God that there is a willing disciple of Christ to step forward with their gifts and talents, and a willingness to serve in this position.

It has been an honor to serve on this Board, and I will greatly miss this family that I have grown to love and the relationships I have grown to trust.

Forever, together in Christ,

Barbara Fagley

Interim District Coordinator Update

Greetings to our Northwest District Member congregations and friends of the District!

I have accepted the Interim District Coordinator position for an additional six months upon the resignation of Barbara Fagley, our District Coordinator. I continue to work with both Reverend Perry Fruhling, Coordinator of Pastoral Ministry and Reverend Mark Vander Tuig, LCMC Service Coordinator.

As LCMC is beginning the transition process for a new Service Coordinator after Mark's recent retirement announcement, we too, in the Northwest District, will be looking for a new person or persons to continue the role of District Coordinator for the Northwest District of LCMC. I will be working with the transition team on the National level with an upcoming seminar geared to looking at the needs of the Association as well as

the needs for continuing support of our member congregations. My hope is the information gathered will be helpful as we move forward in the District creating and refining the position of District Coordinator. We may choose to divide some of the current responsibilities between two people as our District is very large and the needs for congregations are changing as we mature and find our direction through God's Leadership.

If you or someone you know has skills you believe are beneficial to the District, please do not hesitate to contact myself or a member of the District Council via email. My personal email is: ombessey@gmail.com and the District emails can be found on page 3.

Having served the Northwest District for a total of nine years as Vice-Chair, Chair, and District Coordinator for seven of the nine



years prior, as well as an additional year as Interim District Coordinator has been an amazing journey and has provided blessings and challenges along the way. God is always faithful and equips for each event.

Please understand if God calls you to this ministry, He will walk with you in this ministry. That has been the most awe-inspiring part of my journey and I look forward to seeing how God empowers the next person or persons. Please pray about this important call to Ministry!

Yours in Christ,
Maureen "Moe" Bessey



20th Annual National Gathering
October 4-7, 2020
in Arden Hills, MN



Mot Hedges



After many years of faithful service, Kathy Nida has resigned from the LCMC-NW Treasurer/Financial Assistant position.

All future donations, reimbursement requests, and correspondence for the Treasurer should be directed to the following address:

Mot Hedges
LCMC-NW Treasurer
901 Van Giesen
Richland, WA 99354



Sing Unto the Lord

You're invited to join the Mass Choir in singing at Opening and Closing Worship on Saturday, May 2, 2020 at the NW District Gathering in Post Falls, Idaho.

Our rehearsal is tentatively planned for late Friday morning, May 1, shortly before the NW District Gathering officially starts. Here's your chance to serve the Lord with gladness and with singing!

If you would like to join the choir, please note your interest and what part you sing when completing your NW District Gathering Registration so we can get your music ordered. There is no fee for participation.

-Carol Ann Buelow

New Board Members Needed in 2020

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. Additionally another member has resigned.

Please prayerfully 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 with January meeting over the internet, so no travel is involved for that meeting.

If you are interested, please contact any board member listed here.

NW District Board Members:

Shelly Hauge
Shelly.hauge@yahoo.com

Pastor Eric Hullstrom
grillmaster89@gmail.com

Mary Stubblefield
manwdist@gmail.com

Mot Hedges
motleyhedges@charter.net

Pastor Paul Berthelot
pjberthe@aol.com

Bruce Grohn
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Pastor Joe Beal
pastor@servelacey.org

Carol Ann Buelow
buelow@aol.com

Pastor Drew Nelson
dsnbygrace@gmail.com

Walking with the Lamb

My family and I have been involved with international Christian work for over 30 years now. We've served in Nepal, Mongolia, and among the Yupik people in SW Alaska. Our home is now in the Pacific Northwest, where I'm serving as a Regional Director for the World Mission Prayer League. My work often takes me to Bangladesh to support our work there.

Many things in mission work have changed over the years. However, using Jesus' example of demonstrating the love of his Father has not changed. He applied the love of God to human need. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and forgave the repentant. In Bangladesh, I work with LAMB (Lutheran Aid to Medicine in Bangladesh). LAMB is a small hospital by our standards, but the poor come from miles around. The hospital serves a great many mothers and children. About 3,000 children are born in the hospital every year. In addition, the hospital has established 16 healthcare centers in the surrounding Muslim villages. These healthcare centers provide information on hygiene, and programs for children with disabilities. The Muslim leaders in these villages welcome Christian workers

because they cannot deny the silent witness of love they can see.

After so many years of working with international missions I am still compelled to share the message of salvation and hope in a world of people who do not know the name of the Lamb.

As I walk down the street of a crowded Asian city, or sit in a remote village, I see people doing their best to care for families, to live in peace, and to comfort each other in times of suffering. However, they are missing out on the grace of the Lamb in their efforts. They are groping in the dark to find meaning in their lives. To declare that the Lamb is satisfaction for every soul may sound like a brash Christian; whose thinking is too narrow for the 21st Century. Perhaps, but the evidence of the Holy Spirit cannot be denied. He continues to change lives. Those living in darkness, and receive the light of the Lamb are changed people.

The World Mission Prayer League, is a Lutheran mission that has been around for about 50 years. We are a band of peculiar people



in our society. Our operating method is prayer. We send people who have an *unreasonable* commitment to spread the gospel message. Some of our workers are over 70 years old. They work in some of the warmest and coldest places on the earth. They are indeed pouring out the last days of their lives in service of the LAMB. We pray for others to join us in sharing the Lamb with people yearning for a more abundant life.

My family and I are members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Rochester, WA. This community of believers pray me though my long travels in Asia. In this way, we walk together in service of the Lamb.



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.

Mary Stubblefield
NW District Secretary

manwdist@gmail.com

Workshop being offered in February

Perry Fruhling, LCMC Coordinator for Pastoral Ministry, will present another Conflict Resolution Workshop at Richland Lutheran Church in Richland, Washington.

The Workshop will be from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on February 22, 2020.

The Reality of Conflict

Conflict often results from our seeing things from our own selfish point of view. We confuse being right with doing the right thing. We tend to act out of selfish interests rather than seeking the interest of others (Philippians 2:3).

Like Adam and Eve, we blame others when our relationships fail. But there is hope!

As we learn about how relationships are influenced by broken systems, we can begin to work together to be restored to one another. Once everyone in a conflict takes ownership for their part in the broken relationship, hope begins to flow. As we learn about how to resolve conflict in God honoring ways, we can bring hope to our families, churches, and communities.

The LCMC Conflict Resolution Workshop is designed to help you learn about yourself in conflict as well as steps to forgiveness and reconciliation from a Biblical perspective. The information is based on the work of Murray Bowen, Family Systems therapy, the Iowa Peace Network, and Peacemaker Ministries.

The workshop is fast-moving, hands on, and includes information on:

- Biblical Rationale for Reconciliation
- Understanding Emotional Systems
- Triggers AND Immunity for Anxiety in Congregations
- Triangulation
- Feelings and Anger
- Steps of Conflict Resolution
- Peacemaking Solutions

To register for this Workshop, please contact Richland Lutheran Church at 509-943-3164



LCMC Northwest District Gathering

May 1–2, 2020

Peace Lutheran, Post Falls, Idaho

The theme: "Small but Mighty"

The theme verse: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Tentative keynote speakers:

Sandy Miller: Sandy is Pastor of First Lutheran Church in Hope, Minnesota, and is also on the LCMC Ministry Board.

Perry Fruhling: Perry is the LCMC Coordinator of Pastoral Ministries.

LCMC 19th National Gathering Recap

A total of 763 people joined together Sept. 29 - Oct. 2 in Omaha, Nebraska for the LCMC 19th National Gathering.

The theme of this year's event was "Listen Up!", designed to challenge and encourage our congregations to listen to God's calling on our lives, His calling on the people around us, and the callings and challenges that face us across generations.

Over the course of the four day event, participants heard from challenging keynote speakers, took part in fellowship meet-ups and breakout sessions, worshiped together, networked, plus had the chance to connect with dozens of mission and ministry vendors.

In his report, LCMC Service Coordinator Mark Vander Tuig announced his retirement in the year 2020, as well as LCMC's new working relationship with people in Brazil and Norway.

On Wednesday morning, the assembly joined Mark Vander Tuig in thanking Julie Smith and Steve Hagler for their service on the LCMC Board of Trustees and welcoming two newly elected members: Jonathan Anderson (Area 2) and Randy Freund (Area 3).

Announced were three upcoming events for 2020:

- * **Three Days of Prayer:**
January 7-9 - Your congregation
- * **Called 2: Love - LCMC National Youth Event July 21-24 in Des Moines, IA**
- * **20th Annual Gathering:**
October 4-7 in Arden Hills, MN

For more Annual Gathering Recap go to:

<https://www.lcmc.net/blog/lcmc-just-held-its-19th-annual-gathering-convention---heres-everything-you-need-to-know/a869>

The NW District hosted a Hospitality Room again and it was a great success.

We had a suite this year and people from across LCMC were present for fellowship, including staff from national.

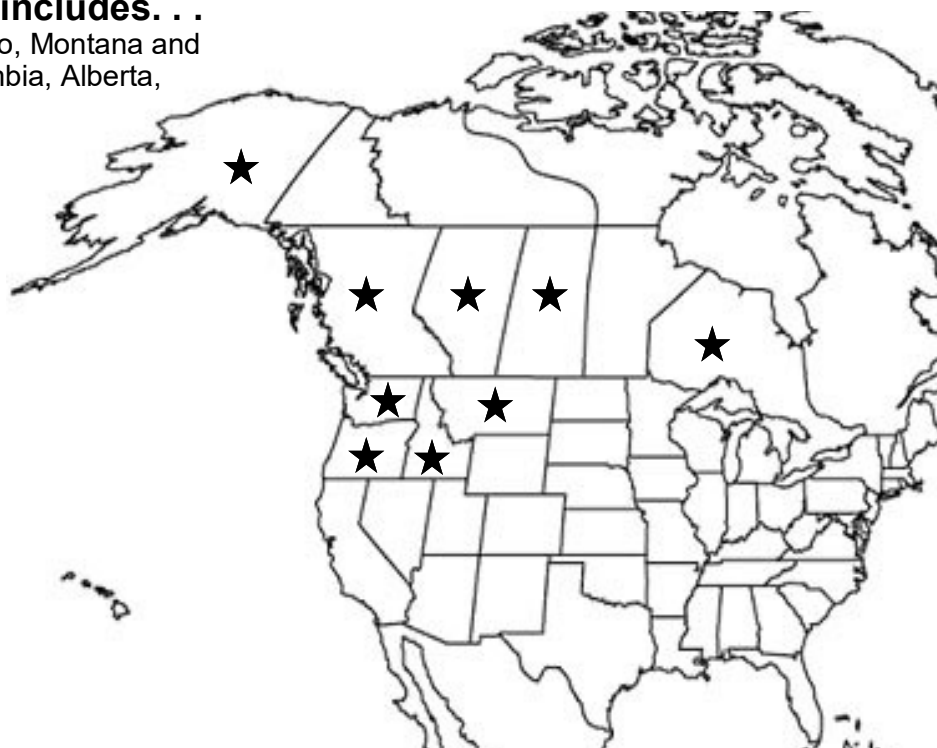
The NW District definitely has a good reputation among many in LCMC.

-Pastor Eric Hullstrom

Special thanks to Pastor Joe & Cindy Beal for hosting our Hospitality Room this year.

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