



The Happenings

USA — Canada



VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2020

From the Chairperson



Dear Members of the NW District:

Good morning from HOT Odessa WA!! I hope and pray all of you are doing well during these CRAZY times!! I came across a quote from Henry and Richard Blackaby that says this, "Hope in the Christian life is not wishful thinking. It is a confident expectation." Words for thought as we are still in many phases of Covid 19, harvest, work, daily life. We have HOPE that JESUS CHRIST has gone before us. We have HOPE that Covid 19 will end. We have HOPE that our country will rebound. The list could go on and on.... Thank goodness as Christians we can confidently expect it. Amen.

The NW District Council met via Zoom and a few of us met in person in Richland WA on Monday, July 20, 2020. It was interesting to hear how our churches are doing. We have council members as far south as Lebanon OR and east as Conrad MT and in between.

We talked about how we are connecting with our congregations through Zoom, You Tube, email, drive in, and in person. We are all in different phases of this pandemic. We are all using our gifts from our Lord to get the GOSPEL out to our people. It is amazing how creative we are learning to be. I learned so much! Keep up the good work!

At our meeting we welcomed 3 new members. Since we haven't officially voted them in (we need to do that in person at next year's District Gathering). We have nicknamed them, "new members in waiting". They are:

- Holly Kaczmarek, Dayton WA
- Travis Powers, Great Falls Mt
- Pr Alec Rivera, Kellogg ID.

Mary Stubblefield, Paul Berthelot and I will remain on council until next year's District Gathering. We will have a fun year!

May God's Peace be with all of you!

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

Pastor Drew Nelson

Website Master

Steve Hruza

Editor of *The Happenings*

Sheryl Westerhold





August 11th, 2020

Grace and peace to you all from God the Father and Our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Northwest District Board met July 20th, 2020. Some met in person at our meeting in Richland, WA and others joined via Zoom. Because we have not had an annual gathering this year as a district we also invited three new potential board members. They have not been voted onto the board, but we have invited these three people to begin building with us proactively.

Travis Powers of Faith Lutheran Church, Great Falls, MT was invited to share his vision concerning youth in our region. He is tentatively planning an event in Great Falls. This would be designed for both youth and leaders and is dependent on our areas context concerning COVID-19, etc.

We are developing a potential connection with the Augustana District Board of Missions.

FROM THE NORTHWEST DISTRICT COORDINATOR

*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."
+Hebrews 11:1*

Two missionaries associated with New Hope Mission Society (NHMS) gave a presentation at Conrad, MT. The society's mission is "to bring the love and salvation of Jesus Christ to the Muslim World". Their missionaries come from many different countries. LCMC national is a Mission Partner with NHMS.

Also, we discussed ways in which regional pastors might be able to assist national LCMC with interviewing candidates requesting certification as pastors. Currently it can take 1-2 years to complete the process which can be quite a hardship for some applicants. We will be in contact with Perry Fruhling at national level to see if there may be a way to help speed the process.

Resurrection Lutheran Church

As many of you know already, in July Resurrection Lutheran Church was broken into and vandalized. Upon seeing the destruction and chaos Pastor Doug Vaughan had a heart attack and went into critical care at the hospital. When this news began to spread throughout our district and association support started to arrive and Pastor Doug seemed to be getting healthy. Yet, after leaving the hospital, his health took another turn for the worse.

Suddenly I received the news Sunday morning, August 16th that he had died from further complications. Pastor Fred Westerhold will be officiating the funeral that will take place at a time and place to be announced. Also, support may still be sent for the church, medical, and funeral expenses via the congregation's profile on the LCMC website or by going to Pastor Doug's contact information there. Some are discussing selling the building still, while others want to consider bringing in a pastor to "re-plant" Resurrection Lutheran Church right there. In light of this, we covet your prayers. Doug's wife Betsey will need brothers and sisters to stand beside her through this trying and tragic time. Simultaneously, we are thankful for the faith that Doug had and the testimony he gave amidst this chaos. May we hear our call to proclaim the truth about these events and always give grace and mercy in return for persecution like this.

The Lord be with your spirit,
Rev. Drew S. Nelson
NW District Service Coordinator-
LCMC
Augustana District Ambassador -
LCMC
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LCMC Northwest District Gathering

May 14-15, 2021

**Peace Lutheran Church
Post Falls, Idaho**



Mot Hedges

Richland Lutheran
Richland, WA

Mission Work During Corona Virus

Since 2012 my wife and I have gone on mission trips to former communist countries in Eastern Europe. This year we were scheduled to go to Estonia. We were to be part of a camp for teenagers. These camps are organized through the Spiritual Orphan Network (formerly East European Network) with team members coming from all over the country. Since we were unable to travel due to the Corona Virus, a decision was made to do a virtual camp using Zoom. Our Estonia partners set up a 3 day camp in Tartu, Estonia. The camp was all day with the American team joining for the last 3.5 hours of the day. There is a 10 hour time difference, so that meant that our Zoom meeting started at 5:30 am. The theme for the camp was Hope – Our Hope for eternal life is in Jesus Christ. We had video presentations that covered Bible topics related to this theme and then we broke up into smaller discussion groups. Most Estonian teenagers have taken several years of English in school, so there was minimal need for translators.

Some of the camp participants wanted to know more about what was happening in the United States with Black Lives Matter, so we added an extra session on the last day. This meant that we now started at 2:00 am! We discussed some of the history of racism in the United States, while trying to keep a biblical perspective. When we asked the students if there was racism in Estonia, they initially said no. However, after some reflection, they thought that there may be some racism with Russians living in Estonia. We then asked about the Roma (gypsies). One of our team members is an American Pastor who is a missionary in Latvia, just south of Estonia. He is Hispanic and is frequently mistaken for Roma. He has experienced more racism in Europe than anything he experienced in the United States. This discussion on racism was very impactful on the students.

We had no idea how effective a virtual camp would be, however, the feedback from the students was very positive. While we would have been there in person, God's word will not come back unfulfilled.

—Mot Hedges



LCMC 20th Annual Gathering and Convention

Our 20th Annual Gathering & Convention is going to happen, just not the way we have gathered in the past. We will still be meeting at North Heights Lutheran Church in Arden Hills, Minnesota, but for one day only, on **Monday, October 5th!**

Because of the restrictions placed on large group gatherings by the State of Minnesota, we must limit our gathering to 250 people. Registration for this year's event is first come first serve, online only, and limited to voting delegates.

(Check out our Frequently Asked Questions page at lcmc.net to learn more.)

The event will be live streamed as usual, however this year we plan to offer a more interactive experience for those who will be "attending" the event from home.

Those who belong to congregations, districts, fellowship groups and networks and have the technology available may consider hosting small gatherings to live stream the event so that people may join together to participate online.

This may be a very different gathering than what we're used to, but just like the printing press facilitated the Reformation, so also may technology and the internet facilitate even more people being a part of the Annual Gathering and Convention than ever before possible.

We hope to see you there!



**IMPORTANT
REMINDER**

LCMC-NW.com – Please check

As you probably know, the website not only has information about the LCMC, but it also lists all the current members for the Northwest District.

I want to be sure that the information on the “District Members” page is accurate and up to date. Each member’s listing can have the following information displayed:

- 1 photo of the Church
- Church Name
- Physical Address
- Mailing Address
- Senior Pastor
- Associate Pastor
- Lay or Interim Pastor
- Church Phone
- Email Address
- Link to your Website



Steve Hrusa
NW District
Webmaster

Please check your current listing to see if the information needs to be updated. It would be great to have a photo for each member’s listing. Perhaps you want to change the one that’s there to a newer one or you realize that your listing has none and want to have one added.

In any case, if you want to update your listing, please click on the “online form” link on the District Members page. This will submit the information to myself (the webmaster). I will then apply the requested update to your listing and email you when completed so you can review it.

**Date
change!**

Pre-Retirement Retreat for Pastors and Spouses in the LCMC October 6-8, 2020

Basically, in conversations with many Pastors, I sense that there is a need for a Pre-Retirement Retreat in the LCMC. Last summer I surveyed all the retired LCMC Pastors, and the categories of this retreat reflect their feedback when I asked them, “What do you know now that you wished you knew before you retired?”

- Caring for your faith life in retirement
- Respecting Pastoral Protocol
- Change of Identity when you retire
- Future Serving Opportunities
- and yes, the most often stated....Finances in Retirement

I selected Camp Okoboji in NW Iowa for 3 reasons.

1. It is a 3 hour drive from our next Annual Gathering this fall.
2. I knew Rod Quanbeck would be terrific to work with as the director of the camp.
3. I wanted this event to have a retreat feel to it, versus classes.

Retreat cost:

The cost is \$125 for the Pastor and \$100 for the spouse.
Plus, if you would prefer to have a cabin instead of being in the lodge, that is an extra \$75.

I pray that this serves a number of Pastors and spouses and helps them better prepare for the years ahead. No minimum age to attend.

Peace,

John

Senior Pastor John P. Nelson
Hosanna! Lutheran Church LCMC, St. Charles, IL

To Register, call:

Chris Baugh
1.800.OKOBOJI