



# The Happenings

## USA — Canada

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2020



### From the Chairperson



#### Isaiah 41:8-10

*But you, Israel, my servant,  
Jacob, whom I have chosen,  
descendent of Abraham, my  
friend—*

*I brought you from the ends of  
the earth and called you from the  
farthest corners. I said to you:  
You are my servant; I have  
chosen you; I haven't rejected  
you.*

*Do not fear, for I am with you; do  
not be afraid, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you; I will help  
you; I will hold on to you with my  
righteous right hand.*

Dear Members of the NW District:

These words give us such HOPE  
in these trying times of RIGHT  
NOW!!! As I read these words, I  
am imaging ALL of us being  
HELD IN JESUS HANDS! Isn't  
that a great image? Do not fear,  
do not be afraid, for I am your  
GOD!!!! WOW! What POWER-  
FUL WORDS!!

For many of us 2020 is a year  
that we would like to forget! Who  
would have thought that the new  
norms were wearing masks,  
social distancing, quarantine and  
many other words would be a  
part of our new language! I sure  
didn't!! When this first started, I  
was hoping and praying this all  
would blow over, like when the  
swine flu hit. Boy, was I ever  
wrong! I have learned a lot in  
these past months, as many of  
you have also.

I have learned a lot in the past  
months!

# 1, my faith in JESUS CHRIST  
has grown stronger because I  
have to TRUST in HIM.

#2, I have taken more time to  
study GOD'S WORD.

#3, I have cherished the times I  
have with family and friends.

#4, I really miss HUGS, I will  
never take that for granted again!

#5, I really need fellowship with  
my church family. Zoom is great,  
but for me I need PEOPLE!!

I KNOW GOD HAS GONE  
BEFORE US and we do not need  
to be afraid! GOD'S GOT THIS!

May God RICHLY Bless you in  
the days ahead!

**Shelly Hauge,**  
LCMC Northwest District Chair

### LCMC Northwest District Council

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**Check out our  
Website!**  
**[www.lcmc-nw.com](http://www.lcmc-nw.com)**



**Pr Paul Berthelot**  
Richland Lutheran  
Richland, WA

## Church Closure



Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the risen Lord Jesus Christ. It is with great sadness that I report to you that Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boardman, Oregon, voted, on September 20, 2020, at a specially called Congregation Meeting, to end their ministry. Although this was a difficult decision for the members of the congregation to

make, it was unanimous and everyone feels that the Lord has blessed this decision.

The first blessing came when the seminarian, Mike Smith, who was serving the parish received a full time call to Short Grass Lutheran Church in Buffalo, South Dakota. Pastor Mike and his family are very happy in their new call, and he is looking forward to his ordination.

The second blessing came when the local food bank, which did not have a home, approached the parish about buying the building. Although Good Shepherd has not completely moved out, the food bank is already using the building on a lease to buy basis while the sale agreement is finalized. Everything is proceeding as planned.

Since the food bank could not use the church's "religious items", a third blessing came when the parish began donating the items to other congregations. Although many items have been given away to different churches, the parish still has a pulpit, altar, baptismal font, Pascal Candle stand, and some song books to donate. They are free for the asking. If you can use any of these items call me at 509-627-5196.

Please keep the parish in your prayers as the few remaining members work to conclude the affairs of the parish.

**Blessings,**  
**Rev. Paul Berthelot**  
**Pastor Emeritus**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



It is with heavy heart I share that Esther Braafladt died today [Nov.19,2020]. She has been battling health issues last year and this year and today she arrived safely home to Jesus and all God's people in glory. We keep Pastor Paul in our hearts and prayers. For those who may not know Paul and Esther, they helped start both LCMC (global, church wide) and also our very own NW LCMC District. I have had the honor serving as their pastor these last few years since they moved to Dupont WA. and began worship/fellowship at Christ the Servant in Lacey.



**Pr Joe Beal**  
Christ the Servant  
Lacey, WA

Yours in Jesus' love,

Pastor Joe Beal



**LCMC Northwest District Gathering**

**May 14-15, 2021**

**Peace Lutheran Church**  
**Post Falls, Idaho**



**Pr Eric Hullstrom**  
Vice Chair  
Living Word Lutheran  
Puyallup, WA

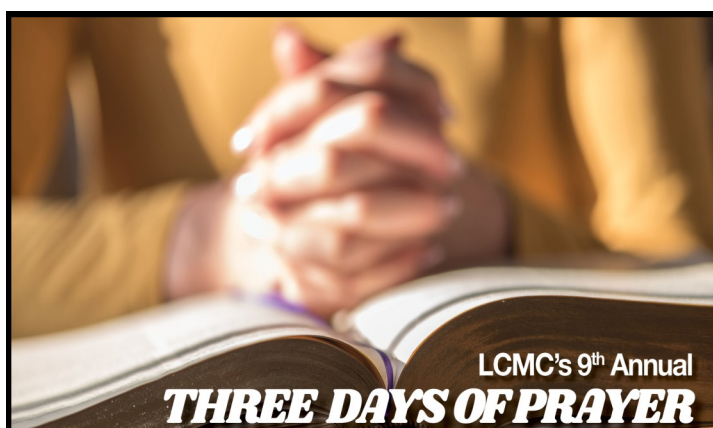
The votes are in. Everything has been tabulated. A winner is clear and therefore I am going to call it: Jesus is still King and always will be. Did you think I was going all political on you? Do not worry, I am not going to leave my Lord and Savior, the King of creation. I want Him to reign over my life. I want Jesus to be my Shepherd. I want my life in the hands of the Almighty. Any

other person, political party, organization, or group is just a sinful group of people who have no ability (or desire) to see the big picture. My awesome God is the creator of the big picture. Actually, He IS the big picture. Can I get an Amen?

But people have always, and continue to, desire worldly leaders to govern them. In 1 Samuel 8 the people of Israel demanded that Samuel appoint a king to rule over them. Interestingly, the people were concerned that Samuel's sons, who would succeed him as judge over Israel, were corrupt. So, instead of Samuel's corrupt sons, they wanted a sinful man to rule over them; one who would have even more power. And isn't that what people want today? We see it every election cycle. People make demands for so and so to rule over them; thinking that everything will be better. And like Samuel warning the people what a king will do, we reject all the warnings and place all our hopes in that person(s).

Samuel was displeased with the people's demand, but God reassured Samuel that they were not rejecting him, rather they were rejecting God as their King. And that right there is the issue: The rejection of God as King. So many people have placed their hopes in secular rulers. Their happiness rises and falls with them. We saw this when our current president was inaugurated in 2017 and we are seeing it again now in how many are reacting to the outcome of this election. "*We want our 'king' and thus we will fight for him.*" Jesus said to Pilate that his kingdom is not of this world. If it were, his followers would be fighting to save him. And that should be the reminder that slaps all Christians in the face -- we serve a King whose Kingdom is not of this world. We do not have to fight for His Kingdom. God has already won the war through the death and resurrection of Jesus, His Son. His Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom. Through faith in Jesus Christ, you are a child of God and thus are under His mighty and everlasting rule. Secular leaders come and go, but Jesus is forever. Do not reject him but be at peace with God as your King.

You may not like who was elected president or the party that rules the Congress. You may not like who sits on the Supreme Court or any other court for that matter. But one thing is for sure: Jesus reigns and through faith in him, he will never reject you. Take joy in the fact that God reigns as King now and forevermore. Amen.



**January 5-7, 2020**

[www.lcmc.net/three-days-of-prayer](http://www.lcmc.net/three-days-of-prayer)

