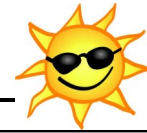




# The Happenings

## USA — Canada

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2



JUNE 2021



Greetings LCMC Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My name is Travis Powers, Youth & Family Director at Faith Lutheran Church in Great Falls, MT and your new LCMC Northwest District President. Let me begin to say that it is an honor to come along side you all and serve as your President of the NW District! I am overly excited for what God has planned for our district and looking forward in meeting all our congregations in our district. I have already put up the challenge to our Council, and have asked what it would take for myself, to personally visit with our NW District congregations and can this be done in a year? My purpose is twofold; to get an understanding of what is going on in your church communities and to provide whatever care we can on our part as an active council! I want to see, know, listen, and provide the needs as best we can for you all!

I had shared with Shelly Hauge, President at the time, my vision of a combined Family Camp and Annual Gathering setting at Lutherhaven. The vision was shared with Pastor Jon Anderson from Peace Lutheran in Post Falls, ID whose church was the host church for the annual meeting. Pastor Jon shared the vision with

his church, and they loved the idea! A Gathering Committee was formed of Shelly Hauge, Mot Hedges, Carol Ann Buelow, Pastor Jon Anderson, and me. Praise God, on May 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> our Northwest District annual meeting/family camp gathering was held at Camp Lutherhaven!

A BIG Thank You to the Gathering Team for volunteering the hours, days, weeks, and months preparing for this absolutely MARVELOUS event! There were 89 people in attendance with 17 of those 89 being kids who attended and had their own events going on. From meetings, to campfires, late nights, and early morning discussions, all in all it was a wonderful and beautiful time spent together as a body of Christ Jesus!

We say thank you to our keynote speaker Mike Bradley for bringing the Word of God to us all and enriching us with your heart and passion for Jesus, and for the LCMC association. Thank you also to Bryce Formwalt, Pastor Craig Nissen and Julie Smith, for taking time in your busy schedules to share your love for families and what God has been doing, in and around the ministry. He has called you to do! I had many favorite moments over the weekend but one of my favorite moments was when Micah, Kim's and my 12-year-old son, and one of the "Magnificent 7," comes running up to me just after campfire from all the way down by the lake with his very

### LCMC Northwest District Council

#### Executive Committee

**Travis Powers**, President  
**Pr Eric Hullstrom**, Vice Pres.  
**Carol Ann Buelow**, Secretary  
**Mot Hedges**, Treasurer

#### Council Members

**Elvin Borg**  
**Bruce Grohn**  
**Pr Joe Beal**  
**Pr Donna Zipp**  
**Jon Davis**  
**Pr Craig Nissen**

#### District Coordinator

**Pr Drew Nelson**

#### Web Master

**Steve Hurza**

#### The Happenings Editor

**Sheryl Westerhold**

first fish he had ever caught!  
"Dad, Dad look what I caught!"  
Proud Dad that I am, I took a pic and said you better let him get back in the water. Micah sprinted off back to the lake filled with Joy! Many wonderful memories were

*Continued on page 2*

**From the President**  
*continued from page 1*

created for all who attended the LCMC NW District Gathering and Family Camp at Lutherhaven! Please share your experiences at Camp Lutherhaven with us either by emailing or writing to us!

As President I would like to reiterate the importance of communication and staying connected to one another. Staying connected to each other is crucial during these times. Please contact me or another board member if there is anything you need. It is an honor to serve the LCMC NW District Congregations as your President and I look forward to meeting you all! Now as Jesus commanded his disciples, let us GO into all nations, sharing the name of Jesus to whom we all encounter!

Blessing and Peace to all my brothers and sisters in Christ  
 Jesus our Lord,

**Travis Powers**  
 LCMC NW District President

## LCMC NW District Gathering — 2021





## Meet the new LCMC Northwest District Council Members



**Travis Powers**  
Faith Lutheran  
Great Falls, MT

Travis or as his youth call him at Faith Lutheran Church, T-RAV, is originally from Spencer, IA. He toured with *Carpenters Tools International* a Christian Music group out of Wilmar, MN in 1997 to Taiwan and Hong Kong. Travis is currently serving Faith Lutheran Church in Great Falls and has done so for 6 years now. Working with youth and families has been something important to Travis, starting in his early high school years. Travis has a heart for wanting to reach out to all peoples and share Jesus with them!

He and his wife, Kimberlee have been married 22 years this Aug 14th. They are the proud parents of 7 children nicknamed by their congregation at Faith Lutheran "The Magnificent 7," which consist of 1 biological son Mikhail (19), 2 adopted sons Isaac (16) & Micah (12), along with being legal guardians of their 3 niece's beginning with Rosa(16), Kelena (12) & Sofia (11) and their nephew Leo (14).

Some of Travis' hobbies are singing, watching movies, gaming with his oldest son Mikhail, but if you were to ask him what his most favorite past time this side of heaven is, he would reply...watching the Chicago Cubs or going to any baseball game, laughing and sharing Jesus with everyone he meets!



**Pr Donna Zipp**  
Faith Lutheran  
Pierce, ID

Donna serves as Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church of Pierce, Idaho. Before she and her husband Rodney, both native Texans, were called to serve in Pierce, Donna previously served on the Texas District Council.

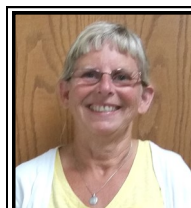
She is a graduate of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, and has served in youth, children's, and pastoral ministry. A former educator of young children through college students, Donna believes that intergenerationally is the best way for God's children of all ages to learn, worship and grow in faith together. She is especially passionate about joining Jesus in the work He is already doing out and about in the community. One way she is doing that since coming to Pierce is by serving as a substitute teacher in the local school district. When Donna isn't on mission with Jesus out in the community, she can usually be found discovering yet another new hiking trail in the beautiful Clearwater Forest with Rodney.



**Pr Craig Nissen**  
Calvary Lutheran  
Kalispell, MT

Pastor Craig Nissen is married to Christen, and they have four boys (9 to 23) They moved to Kalispell, MT in August 2019, where Craig serves Calvary Lutheran in the Evergreen neighborhood. Previously he served congregations in Sheldon, IA and Slayton, MN. Bible Camp ministry was very formative for Craig, being a camper, summer counselor, then full-time staff at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Ministries in northwest Iowa.

Currently, he's fascinated with the role of informal settings, events, and interactions in faith formation. He's on a team of chaplains serving the Flathead County Sheriff's Department. Otherwise he stays busy dating his wife, raising his boys, and growing salsa ingredients in the community garden behind Calvary.



Dear Members of the LCMC NW District, thank you for allowing me to serve on the council. I served 7 years with the last 2 as Chairperson! It has been an honor to be a part of an amazing group of pastors and lay people.

The Gatherings have always been a highlight — a time of great renewal, fellowship and good food! I hope to see you at next year's Gathering in Great Falls, MT. Blessings & God's Peace, **Shelly Hauge**



To my North West District family in Christ.. I just want to say it has been an honor to serve on the NW District Council these last 7 years. As secretary I have spoken on the phone with you, your congregation's pastor or members many times even if I haven't met you in person. You are all part of my family now and I have to say that I have personally met many of the most wonderful people ever in this district. Our district is doing great things. The new Council is enthusiastic with plans to do even more. I pray for all of you and ask you to continue to support one another and your Council. God bless you all and I hope to see you next year in Great Falls, MT. Love in Christ, **Mary Stubblefield**



**Pr Drew Nelson**  
NW District Coordinator  
Conrad Lutheran Parish  
Conrad, MT

## NW District Coordinator and Gathering 2021

In the middle of May my family was able to attend an annual gathering off put by our global pandemic since 2019. It was a joy to be able to travel to Camp Lutherhaven, near Coeur

D'Alene, ID. There we were greeted by a great hospitality staff that not only made our meetings and meals possible, but also facilitated a kids camp. Our theme was "Small and

Mighty" with speakers Mike Bradley (LCMC Service Coordinator), Julie Smith (LCMC District Coordinator), and Bryce Formwalt (Texas District Coordinator). Each presented on a topic that connected to the theme in an effort to show the resources we share across our whole association. They also spoke about where we are going together and plans for the future.

Being the Northwest District Coordinator this is an essential event for me. The connections between both pastors and lay people that attend become valuable relationships that spread over 69 different churches. You could see that people had missed one another. There was not enough time to talk about all that had happened since we had seen each other last. Each of us had so much to share paired with questions desperately needing answers. The word revival kept coming up and echoing in my ears and I believe in places like that are where it starts to happen. I am still amazed at the grace I am shown as people seek and listen to me.

Truly it was a joy and privilege to be a part of this gathering. My own role was an honor to serve in as I was able to participate in worship leading on Sunday Morning. Of course, I love meetings and giving reports as much as everyone else, but was amazed at the movements we made. Bringing new people and leadership onto the Northwest District Board encouraged me as I have already heard ideas much better than my own with witnessing talents and gifts I do not possess. All to say that we are part of a district and association that is blessed. I am so thankful that we emerged from our hiding to find that God has made a safe place for us. Yes, we often find ourselves in the midst of the valley of the shadow of death, yet does not the Psalm start with the fact that we are led beside green pastures and rest beside still waters. The Lord restores our soul and I saw it happening there. He has given us a safe place in the midst of our enemies and I can say today that my cup overflows.

There are open doors all over and move through them knowing that God is with us. Whatever

may face us on the other side cannot stand against the majesty of God. It was such a relief to build one another up rather than debate. Those are the moments where we each become theologians. When we share the cross and resurrection of Jesus with each other we are as one meditating, praying, and suffering the Word as it is done to us. There we become theologians who experience God in daily life rather than in emails and ivory towers. When we lay our life down for another we show the love God has for each of His sons and daughters.

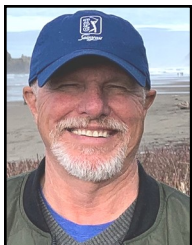
There is our foundation. The Rock has been passed on and it is time to start handing over the keys to the kingdom. There is another generation listening to the Gospel today so I am thankful for those who persevered in their preaching to and praying for me. I saw irreplaceable people go off of the board and cannot express my gratitude enough for them. They have continued a legacy that started with Jesus and even been willing to put up with a young man like me to the point it has reached my own children. Praise God alone for this, but know he used many of you in the lives of others just like this.

Throughout our gathering was the sense that the church wanted to go out. It knew that the doors had been closed to their buildings on purpose for the past year so that the Great Commission could take its place again. I am so excited to see what will arise in the near future and what good works God has provided for each of us to do. What I am most thankful for over the weekend was one comment though...

As we were leaving another person and I were commenting on how much the Sunday service had reached us. We heard that our faith needed to be again more like children's, and there the example was right in front of us. I wonder what they thought when this pastor and I were standing in front of them and said, we should be more like them... It was a joy to have whole families there and I cannot wait for next year. We plan to be in Great Falls, MT and have many ideas already pouring in. Look at this great place God has made us to be courageous in. May you know his love and forgiveness always and give what you have to the whole world generously. Jesus gives us this freedom today and always. Please pray for me, my family, our congregations, districts, and the whole association, and I hope you can be there with us in 2022.

*"Whose son are you, young man?" Saul asked him. David said, "I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem." (1 Samuel 17:58)*

In Christ, Pastor Drew



**Mike Bradley**

## BEING A SAFE PLACE

Is it difficult in your congregation to discuss a challenging topic without creating offense, irritation, and hurt feelings?

Mike Bradley, Service Coordinator for the National LCMC, addressed this topic by challenging each participant

at the Northwest Gathering to **"Grow into becoming a Safe Place"** as we interact with others.

In a nutshell, we were encouraged to be more like Jesus. *"Growing in what it means to be a safe place is simply a metaphor designed to help us be more intentional in being transformed and empowered to think, speak, and act more like Jesus; nothing more, nothing less, and nothing else."*

Each of us knows someone who takes time to listen, is easy to talk to, is honest, and trusting. Those people are "Safe Places" for us. Mike encouraged everyone to grow into becoming "Safe Places" in becoming more effective as Christ's disciples, both in the public realm as well as within our family and friendship relations.

We will know if we are with a person who is a Safe Place because we can:

- build authentic relationships, ask real questions and get to know Jesus

- take the time to engage in authentic dialogue without rejecting, lecturing or shaming about real doubts and questions
- begin bringing to the surface things hidden from our past that have been hidden out of fear of being judged or condemned
- have the courage to own up to insecurities, pride, and anxieties that we wrestle with
- learn to grow through our failures

Mike Bradley led the Gathering in a 1 hour session but he actually has a 1 day seminar on this topic of growing to become a Safe Place. He is passionate about helping leaders and congregations create an atmosphere that is a safe place for developing healthy leaders and disciples in the church, and equipping God's people for lives of effective witness and ministry in the world.

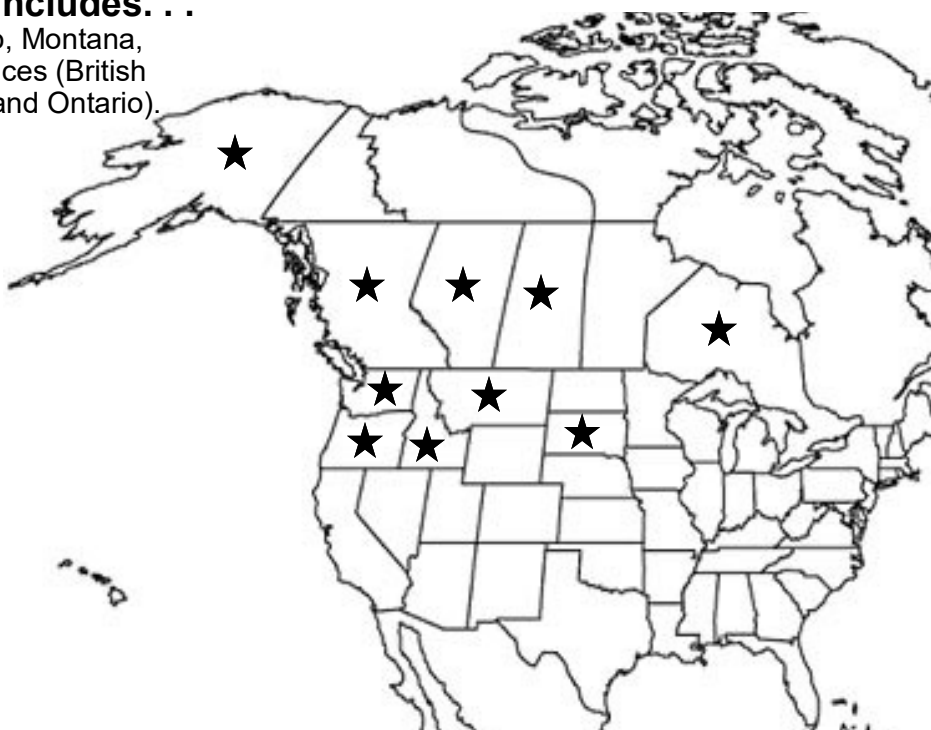
He is also the author of the book, **Being a Safe Place for the Dangerous Kind.**

In Christ,

**Bruce Grohn**  
NW District Council Member

## LCMC Northwest District includes. . .

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





**Barb Fagley**

## NW District Gathering, 2021 — Reconnecting

### To the Northwest District,

I don't know if you remember me, but my name is Barb Fagley and I used to be on the District Council, and in fact, I was a very active member of the Council and the District. Then in March of 2019 my husband, Richard, of 49 years, died and a very large part of my life left with him. So as I left my old life behind, everything changed. Sadly, additionally my young son (43) lost his wife of 14 years suddenly and unexpectedly in January of 2019. Within 45 days I had lost a daughter-in-law and a husband, and he had lost a wife and a father. So I left my home of 27 years, my friends, my doctor, my church, and my neighbors and moved to Spokane to live with my son. I must caveat this statement with the fact that one should never move back in with their children, (at least not one in their right mind). However, he says that we are a widower and a widow living together, but that should not define who we are. And so after many challenges, new friends, a new church, a few arguments, and a lot of love, we are, and I am, finally learning how to live together in a new relationship. And also with bunches of God's grace and love, my life in Him and from Him, slowly started to come back.

I also finally found myself wanting to reconnect with old acquaintances and old relationships. I decided to attend the Northwest District Annual Gathering at Camp Lutherhaven in Mid-May. What an awesome joy to once again connect with old friends, and make new ones. I found my child-like faith returning. I found the excitement of enjoyable fellowship. I met new friends, smiled and found my "happy" once again. I laughed, smiled, talked too much and probably told too many stories. I learned how not to expect anything less than all that God wants to give me.

I was wonderfully excited by the number of young pastors and their families that were there. Pastors that I truly believe are the future of our faith and our religion, our churches, and our fellowship of believers in the Northwest District. Their true enthusiasm and the energy they exhibited was contagious and amazing. God bless those people that raised up these young leaders in such a wonderful way. My all of us, and I mean "ALL" of us choose to do the same. I pray that we should always be on the look-out for our young men and women and maybe those "not so young" who may be called to serve our Lord with their talents and love of God. I challenge us to be the eyes and ears of our Lord and copy the heart of God to raise them up in support. And if you don't have anybody in your church, then offer your prayers and financial help to those churches who do find and have found these people who are called to serve.

Thank you to all of you who lifted me up in prayer and support during my season of loss. May God bless you and keep you. May His face shine on you and give you His peace.

Live in His peace and love - **Barbie**



## LCMC 21st Annual Gathering and Convention

OCTOBER 3-6, 2021

UPPER ARLINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

HILLIARD, OH

