



The Happenings

USA — Canada

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Pr Travis Powers



From
the
President

Greetings in the name of
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I have always found the title of the song,
"Silent Night" interesting. Could it have been
as silent as we sing about in this beautiful
song? What we read in the scripture makes it
sound like the evening of our Lord's birth was

busy. When things get busy in our lives, it isn't very silent. In fact, it gets to be somewhat loud and noisy! Shepherds were watching over their flocks by night. There's baa baa baa'ing going on and then a multitude of heavenly angels appeared to the shepherd's, trumpets were sounding and angels singing glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will towards men. Doesn't sound very silent to me. We understand the meaning of the song "Silent Night" to be one of divine intervention. An intervention in the business and commotion-filled expanse of a lost world. We go from store to store; online ad to online ad; listening and participating; making our own noise while purchasing those many gifts for our loved ones to open on Christmas Day. It doesn't seem very silent. It's easy to get lost in the noise and chaos of the season with family events; company parties; traveling to and from destination to destination to celebrate the holidays. Is this the kind of noise meant for the season? It doesn't seem as if all is calm, and all is bright. We often hear the phrase, "Jesus is the Reason for the Season," and tend to simply forget it. I urge you this season to take a listen to the song, "Silent Night." Hear what it has to say to you.

I leave you with this. The night of Jesus' birth was a night of proclamation, shouts of great joy and timbrel praise, a night in which the world would never forget! So to say it was silent, we might do so as a statement of reverence and honor. As we are in the midst of Advent and preparing for Christmas, let us remember just how silent of a night it might have been, so that we might honor our coming Lord.

From Kim, the "Magnificent 7," and I, we pray your Advent & Christmas season is filled with the joy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the message of "Silent Night."
Merry Christmas and have a blessed New Year!

LCMC NW District President,

Pastor Travis Powers

LCMC Northwest District Council

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A “*breath of fresh air*” — LCMC National Gathering



Pr Donna Zipp

Faith Lutheran
Pierce, ID

“You’ll find that LCMC is a *breath of fresh air*” is what I was told by one of my colleagues during our last semester of seminary in 2014. It was not very long after stepping out of the ELCA and seminary simultaneously into my first pastoral call that my colleague’s premonition proved to be true.

A few months later my congregational council informed me, with what seemed to me at the time a misplaced sense of jubilation, that it was time to register for the upcoming annual LCMC gathering to be held that year in October in Des Moines.

Yikes! I thought as I gasped for breath.

Dreadful recollections and visions of past synod assemblies flooded my mind:

Those of division and exclusion. Of two different registration lines, one labeled “clergy”, the other marked “lay”. Two microphones, one on each side of the meeting hall. One marked *for*, and one *against* where embittered attendees bucked in favor, or not, of adopting whatever social statement was popular at the time.

October came and our congregational reps and I arrived in Des Moines for the 14th Annual Gathering: *Reason for Hope*. And *hope* is precisely what I found there. It felt like home. Perhaps even a little bit like our heavenly home. It was a place where I recognized familiar faces from seminary. Both classmates and professors stepping out together in faith onto a horizontal path of acceptability and accountability. A path where one eventually discovers, that *yes!* I can function and serve in the public ministry of the church where the congregation functions on the front lines of ministry...*free in Christ!*

The gathering turned out to be like what I imagine I’ll find heaven to be like when I arrive there one day. A place where folks readily pray, praise and worship God together. It’s a place to network and build relationships. It’s a place where more time is allotted for engaging in a food packaging service project for the hungry called Meals from the Heartland, rather than having a front row seat to watch folks go head-to-head picking apart social statements and bucking to pass resolutions of their desires. In fact, LCMC strives each year to break the previous year’s record of time spent for the business meeting, which typically purposely lasts just long enough to approve the annual budget and elect trustees.

This year, in Hilliard, Ohio, the 21st Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ Annual Gathering was held. The four-day event, “Speak It, Live It, Share It”, featured keynote speakers, worship and Bible study, breakout sessions, vendors, and plenty of opportunities for fellowship and networking. Whether you’re new to LCMC, or a long-time member looking to make new friends and reunite with old ones, the Annual Gathering is the place to be. If you’re looking to get inspired, get informed, get trained & equipped and get connected with other LCMC-ers, mark your calendars now for our next Annual Gathering & Convention, which takes place **October 2-5, 2022, at Hosanna Church in Lakeville, MN.**

Oh, and while you are there, don’t forget to stop by the Northwest District’s Hospitality Night...I guarantee you’ll find it all to be a *breath of fresh air!*

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Donna Zipp

Northwest District Council Member

For more information, and to see a picture of the Blessing of New Pastors, which includes our own Northwest District President, Pastor Travis Powers, please visit the LCMC Blog @ lcmc.net: [LCMC Just Held Its 21st Annual Gathering & Convention - Here's Everything You Need to Know](#) .

For the meantime, stay connected! Join the NW Lutherans Facebook Page. This is an unofficial group for Lutherans in the Northwest District Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ to discuss issues surrounding mission and ministry.

2021 Confirmation Retreat: October 21st-23rd Rasmuson Wildlife Conservation Center

On a beautiful autumn weekend we had fourteen students arrive west of Dupuyer, MT for a confirmation retreat many have been hearing the call for. It took some time to prepare but it came sooner than we thought. Four churches were able to take part, and in the future others plan to join us. We see the event growing and were greatly impressed by the attentiveness of the students. They sat and listened to everyone of us present catechesis throughout the weekend. They participated in small groups, played games, sang, and even completed a hike over five and a half miles. The students remarked about those that did not come had missed out. The weather could not have been better. We even had campfires at night and could listen to the hunters harvesting on opening weekend at the base of the mountains.

Pastor Robin Bjella of American Lutheran Church in Winifred, MT was our opening presenter. She talked about the call students had in our current country and culture. Most important maybe was the discussion the students had about the difference between joy and happiness. They remarked after Pastor Robin spoke that happiness had to be a fleeting emotion while joy was an attribute that faith makes constantly present because of Jesus. The students participation was remarkable during the first large group session and it continued through the weekend.

The next morning, Pastor Travis Powers of Our Savior's and St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Chester, MT presented on the crux of our belief, justification by faith. The kids listened again intently as Pastor Travis presented with his usual high energy. The kids were listening because they knew in those moments that it mattered to him. His words were close to the heart and he presented the grace and mercy we receive through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. Following his conclusion we sent the students on a wilderness adventure that is a whole story in itself. To say as little as possible, we gave them directions and let junior high students lead the way back to a slot canyon containing a waterfall.

That afternoon Pastor Ken Waag of Faith Lutheran Church in Great Falls turned our attention to the roots of our faith after we took a rest and cleaned up a bit. What stood out was how he showed the faith of others being vital to our own journey. He reminded us about the people that prayed for years and years for each of us. They were a part of planting a seed needing to not only be planted but also given wings. He showed how firmly rooted the faithful can be in a world today. Where many feel trapped we are free and God gives hope and courage in the midst of the best and worst things. Then we ate, played games, and went to bed. We were all exhausted, but the pastors stayed up with our musician and cooks to celebrate the events success. We were all encouraged because it was apparent that the kids would not forget the weekend.

When we woke up on the final morning we had breakfast and began initial cleaning. Because many had traveled very far to get there we wanted to get them driving quickly. Our final session contained a testimony by Pastor Drew Nelson. He spoke about the fruit of the Gospel as seen in his own life and summarized how what the others pastors

spoke on was experienced in his life. Then we gathered around the Lord's Supper, sang the doxology, and we were blessed with a sending and promise of a next event (Perhaps skiing?! Contact us if you would like to participate or expand this event into your congregation or community). We thank God for the opportunity to share Jesus with the students and each other over the weekend. Many of us were brought into a new and even uncomfortable place but left without any heaviness. Instead we pray that we brought home the story of this journey that brings others with us to the foot of the cross daily.



Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

In Christ, **Pastor Drew Nelson**



Ordination / Installation — Called to Serve



Moe Bessey, Pr Mike Smith, Shelly Hauge



Congratulations to Pastor Mike Smith who was ordained in Ladner, South Dakota on Aug. 29, 2021. He has accepted his first call and will serve Ladner Lutheran Church (Buffalo, SD); Little Missouri Lutheran Church (Capitol, MT) and Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Ludlow, SD).



Pastor Travis & Kim Powers



Pastor Travis & Kim Powers and the "Magnificent 7" family

Praying God's blessings upon Travis Powers and family as he was installed as pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester, MT on Sept. 12, 2021. Pastor Travis will also serve St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Ledger, MT

We pray God's richest blessings upon Pastor Mike Smith and Pastor Travis Powers in their ministry!



Installations — Called to Serve



Installation of Pastor Dave Hall



We rejoice as Pastor Dave Hall accepted the call to lead Joy Lutheran Church in Billings, MT. We welcome Pastor Dave to the LCMC NW District and pray God's love and blessing be upon him and Joy Lutheran congregation!

Installation of Pastor Fred Grundmann



Pr Nelson Pr Grundmann Pr Waag Pr Powers

We rejoice as Pastor Fred Grundmann accepted the call to lead Prairie Peace Lutheran in Cutbank, MT and Valier Lutheran Church in Valier, MT on Oct. 17, 2021. Praise be to God for his faithful service!

We pray God's richest blessings upon Pastor Dave Hall and Pastor Fred Grundmann in their ministry!



Jonathan F. Davis
Peace Lutheran
Church
Post Falls, ID

Meet Jon Davis, LCMC NW District Council Member

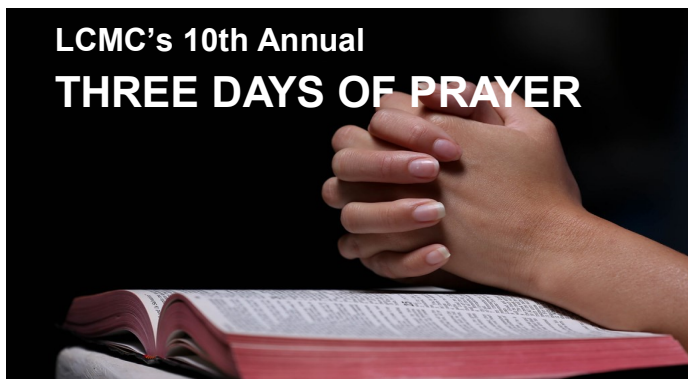
Jon is married to Georgiann and they have four boys (21 to 39). They moved to Rathdrum, Idaho in 1998 where Jon was employed by Lextron Animal Health.

We joined the Peace Lutheran Church Family in 2017 and Jon was asked to be a council member. He has served two years on the council.

At the 2021 North West LCMC gathering was asked if he would be interested in serving on the NW LCMC District Council. He accepted the role and was voted in at our last Annual Gathering.

In his spare time, he enjoys hiking in the Rathdrum Mountains and entertaining their grandchildren.

LCMC's 10th Annual THREE DAYS OF PRAYER



January 4-6, 2022
Your congregation

LCMC 22nd Annual Gathering and Convention OCTOBER 2-5, 2022 HOSANNA CHURCH LAKEVILLE, MN

