



# The Happenings

## USA — Canada

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1

MARCH 2022



From the President: Pr. Travis Powers

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

One of my favorite Bible stories is of Jesus standing on the shoreline. He meets Peter in his boat as he comes in from a long night of catching nothing. Jesus tells Peter to go out deeper and cast his nets. In the movie "Son Of God" the actor who plays Jesus wades out into the water and asks Peter to help him. Peter acknowledges and pulls Jesus in. They go out together and Peter asks, "What shall we do? I have fished all night and there is nothing." Jesus says, "Go out deeper and cast your nets". Throw after throw and pull after pull - Peter hauls in a bounteous catch. After several full nets, Peter looks at Jesus and says, "How has this happened?" and "What are we going to do?" Jesus' reply is, "Change the world."

I thought of this scene in "Son of God" and then the word "networker" just kept resonating in my thoughts. Here is what I came up with...

Peter was a "networker". Take the two words that form "networker" and you have "net" and "worker". Peter was a "networker" in the early years. Networkers go out and connect one another. That is exactly what Peter was tasked to do and he did it! He

went and fished for men, connecting them to the one and only life line - Jesus Christ!

Brothers and sisters in Christ, our purpose is to GO and make disciples of all nations. Be "networkers!" We have been given a command by our Lord to go out, cast our nets and become fishers of men just as Peter did. You, brothers and sisters have an EXCELLENT opportunity coming up, to do some "networking." It is my hope and prayer that you not only consider coming to our NW LCMC District Gathering - God's Vision, God's Mission in Great Falls, MT on May 13th & 14th but it is invite a friend or a neighbor. Maybe God has already placed someone on your heart that you want to bring to the Gathering. This is yet another opportunity to connect to one another as a body of Christ. Too many connections have been disrupted in this upside-down world but I encourage you as Christians - Don't hang up your net! I pray we do the opposite. Let us keep casting our nets out for Jesus and keep bringing in His beautiful creation.

Please join us for the LCMC NW District Gathering and IMPACT Youth Gathering for youth in 6<sup>th</sup> to 12th grades on May 13th & 14th in Great Falls, MT. I look forward to seeing you all there! A link to the registration is found on our NW District LCMC web page at <https://lcmc-nw.com/>

GO FISHING and may the love and grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you all!

Pastor Travis

**LCMC  
Northwest District  
Council**

**Executive Committee**  
Pr. Travis Powers, President  
Pr. Craig Nissen, Vice Pres.  
Carol Ann Buelow, Secretary  
Mot Hedges, Treasurer

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Bruce Grohn  
Pr. Joe Beal  
Pr. Donna Zipp  
Jon Davis  
Pr Horacio Castillo

**District Coordinator**  
Pr. Drew Nelson

**Webmaster**  
Steve Hurza



Farewell to Elvin Borg, Bruce Grohn and Joe Beal who have each served one term on the

board. We have appreciated their insight and ideas, their dedication to the NW LCMC and their love for our Lord Jesus Christ. From the NW District Council and the whole association, a heartfelt "THANK YOU" for your faithful service!

# LCMC-NW District Gathering

## May 13-14, 2022

### Faith Lutheran Church, Great Falls, MT

*Theme: "God's Vision, God's Mission"*

*And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am, send me!" Isaiah 6.8*

 <p>Mark Vander Tuig Ministry Coordinator Lutheran Asian Ministries</p>	 <p>Julie Smith LCMC Coordinator for Districts and Fellowships</p>	 <p>Pr David Breidenbach Executive Director Spiritual Orphans Network</p>
		

Make sure to set aside these dates for our NW Gathering and join together with others for a time of encouragement, inspiration and service as we continue to kindle the flame for Lutheran congregations in mission for Christ! Registration begins at 12:00 noon with the main event starting at 2:00 PM.

Mission Great Falls Service Track!  
Available for Grades 6-12  
Day Care available for younger children

Additional Breakout Tracks  
&  
ROC (Reach Out and Care) Wheels  
Mission & Service Opportunity



Please register for the conference early - by April 15<sup>th</sup> - to enjoy the lowest rate for the LCMC-NW District Gathering. We need final numbers as soon as possible to prepare food and supplies for the event. For more information about the event, see the NW District LCMC website at: <https://lcmc-nw.com/> Registration and on-line payment processed via Richland Lutheran Church at: <http://richlandlutheran.org/index.html>

Cheers from Great Falls Montana!



We are beyond excited to host the annual NW District LCMC conference in our wonderful city!

Great Falls, also known as The Electric City, is nick-named after our dams which are scattered along the mighty Missouri River. Our city has much to offer our guests!

Our population is around 55,000 with 5,000 being members of the Air Force and Air National Guard. We are located on the historic Lewis & Clark Trail and have a wonderful interpretive center. Great Falls is home to several museums including the History Museum; the Charlie Russell Western Art Museum; the Paris Gibson Museum of Contemporary Art; the Malmstrom Air Force Base Museum; and the Children's Museum of Montana. If you like to walk or bike, we have over 55 miles of paved Rivers Edge Trail and several beautiful parks. If you like to shop, our historic downtown offers unique clothing boutiques, as well as a candy store, toy store, tea shop, specialty kitchen store, Western Shop, and numerous coffee shops and restaurants.

Great Falls is centrally located with its own international airport which makes it the ideal gateway for your Montana experience. We are only 2.5 hours from Glacier National Park. Unfortunately, the park will not be open in May but that doesn't mean there isn't plenty to do in the area! We are approximately 4.5 hours from Yellowstone National Park and only an hour's drive to several mountain ranges if you enjoy hiking and camping!

For the NW LCMC Annual Gathering, we have reserved a block of rooms at the Heritage Inn, based on a first come first serve reservation (use special event code: Northwest district LCMC). There are also many other alternative lodging options including: the Hampton Inn; the Hilton Garden Inn; the Holiday Inn; the Lewis & Clark O'Haire Motor Inn and the historic Hotel Arvon, which are both located downtown. Hotel Arvon is attached to an Irish Pub while the O'Haire Motor Inn is world famous for their mermaids. Yep, you heard correctly, mermaids!

Again, we can't wait to see you all in May!

Sue Ferrin

The NW LCMC gives thanks for Sheryl Westerhold. After 4 years of faithful service, Sheryl is stepping down from her position as newsletter editor for "The Happenings." Thank you Sheryl for your time, your patience, your friendship and your commitment to the LCMC NW District. May the Lord bless and keep you...make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you...and give you peace!



News for "The Happenings"

We would love to hear what you are up to! If you or your congregation would like to include information in the next LCMC Northwest District newsletter, The Happenings, please submit to Carol Ann Buelow. Her email address is: [buelow@aol.com](mailto:buelow@aol.com)

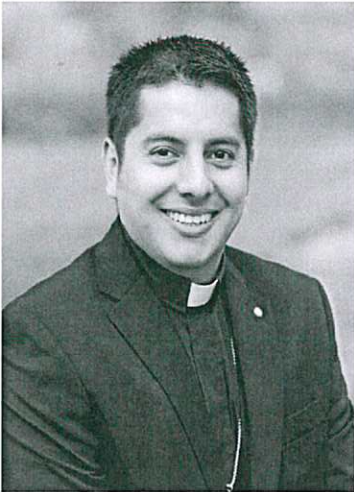


**LCMC 22nd Annual Gathering and Convention**  
**OCTOBER 2-5, 2022**  
**HOSANNA CHURCH**  
**LAKEVILLE, MN**

For additional information on the Annual Gathering go to website [www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net).



# Welcome



Being an interim pastor in Eastern Washington was not something I ever planned to do. It had never been my intention or my childhood dream to even be a pastor! I was born and raised in Guatemala City. Both my parents were pastors and founded the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala in 1991. My plan was to support the ministry of the church in any way I could as I pursued my dreams to become an entrepreneur or a lawyer but never a pastor. But, as you might relate, God not only has plans for His children but also has a sense of humor even when we might not find it very humorous. I was trained by my father and ordained into Word and Sacrament Ministry in the Lutheran Church of Guatemala, and as I began my ministry in 2004, I also met my future wife. Amanda had graduated from Luther Seminary and she was the recipient of the Preaching Fellowship which is granted to one graduating student every year. We met and one year and six months later we were married. God has blessed us with two wonderful children, Abigail (13) and Joaquin (10).

Amanda was ordained into Word and Sacrament Ministry in 2007 in the Guatemalan Lutheran Church. God called us to serve the Lutheran Church of Guatemala together for ten years. In addition to serving two churches in Guatemala City on a regular basis, we also pastored 15 other churches throughout the country along with a pastoral team. We became part of the seminary faculty training lay leaders and pastors to equip them to serve more effectively the growing church in the different rural regions of Guatemala. We moved to Minnesota, Amanda's home state, in 2013. We settled in the Twin Cities for six and a half years, serving in separate churches while we lived there. As I had never served a church in the United States, I attended Luther Seminary while also serving as an associate pastor at a church north of the Twin Cities. At Luther, I pursued and obtained my M.A. in Systematic Theology in 2016. At the end of 2017, God blessed us with a call to serve as part of the teaching faculty at St. Paul Lutheran Seminary for the international program and we have been enjoying it ever since.

In 2019, God called us to the state of Washington when my wife accepted a call to Creator Lutheran Church. We moved trusting God would provide me with a call in Word and Sacrament Ministry. Since then I have covered pulpit supply in Western Washington where we live. During the week, I work at a non-profit in Enumclaw, and I have been serving as the interim pastor at United Lutheran Church in Waterville, WA every Sunday since September of 2021. When the passes are not closed due to snow storms I am there in person, and if travel becomes challenging due to the weather, technology allows for remote connection. In his faithfulness to His children our good Lord provides communities of faith and in May 2021 I was invited to attend the NW District's Annual Gathering. As a result, a few months later, I was blessed to be received as an individual member of this District and later a member of the District's Council. I rejoice in God's faithfulness as I continue to be drawn to be part of the LCMC in different capacities and roles. God is indeed good and blesses us richly when we least expect it! I look forward to continuing to get to know more of you and to serve in the District in any way that is needed.

In Christ's service,  
Pastor Horacio Castillo  
Interim at United Lutheran Church, Waterville, WA



**Board Members Needed:** The NW LCMC is in need of several talented and conscientious volunteer board members. 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 presently meet 3 times per year in varying locations and our January meeting is held via Zoom, so no travel is required in the winter. If you can contribute your time, thoughtfulness and leadership, please contact any board member.