



VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2

The Happenings

USA — Canada

MAY 2022



Greetings LCMC Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Hello, my name is Jonathan Davis the father of four boys and married to my beautiful wife of 43 years Georgiann. We reside in the lovely town of Rathdrum, ID and attend Peace Lutheran Church of Post Falls ID. Let me begin by saying what an honor it is to serve alongside of you as your new president of the Northwest District. I'm excited for all the plans God has for our congregations over the next year.

A heartfelt thank you to Faith Lutheran Church for hosting the gathering and all the volunteers that help put together a most memorable event. Personally, I've never have felt more welcome, THANKS AGAIN for all the hard work. A special Thank You to Pr. Ken Waag for letting us all invade his church.

We started off the gathering with an informative meeting with Julie Smith, our LCMC Coordinator for Districts and Fellowships, discussing all aspects of our council and identifying some processes that should be changed over the next year. We found that we need to revisit our by-laws and resolutions and update them. So, in the next year we will be looking into all the needs of our congregation and making the required changes, while keeping you all informed of these changes along the way. The council would like to thank Julie for her great insight and help in these matters.

Then the gathering kicked off on the 13th with a star-studded line up of Pr. Mark Vander Tuig. Pastor Mark had a great message that made us all laugh and cry.

The council and congregations would like to thank Pr. Mark for his great message and his time that he spent with us.

Next up was Pr. David Breidenbach, Executive Director of Spiritual Orphans Network (SON), who gave insight into the happening in Ukraine along with a powerful message that struck the hearts of the Northwest District. Later, at our NW District business meeting, we voted to donate \$20,000 to SON to help support their ministry in the Ukraine, as well as other former communist and Soviet-bloc nations in Central and Eastern Europe! Thank you, Pr. David, for your inspiration.

Pr. Julie Smith was a great inspiration to our District and congregation with her insight, wisdom, and overall blessing to the congregations within our district. Our Lord has placed her in the right position to help us succeed. Thank you, Pr. Julie, for your commitment to the Northwest District!

Jim McCormick, Executive Director at the Great Falls Rescue Mission, gave us a great look into the work that the mission is doing in the Great Falls area and his commitment to make life better for all of God's children. Thank you, Pastor Jim, for your commitment. The NW IMAPACT youth group also was there to serve the meal one evening.

Thank You to the Northwest District Gathering committee for an awesome gathering filled with friends and great speakers! I look forward to seeing everyone next year at Lutherhaven.

As your President, I can't reiterate the importance of communication and staying connected to one another. Please contact me if you have any question or concerns. It's my honor to serve as your President of the Northwest LCMC District Council and I look forward to meeting you all over the next year. 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,

Jonathan Davis

LCMC

Northwest District Council

Executive Committee

Jonathan Davis, Chair

Pr. Craig Nissen, Vice Chair

Carol Ann Buelow, Secretary

Mot Hedges, Treasurer

Council Members

Ken Olson

Pr. Travis Powers

Sherry Tempel

Pr. Fred Westerhold

Pr. Greg Wightman

Pr. Donna Zipp

District Coordinator

Pr. Horacio Castillo

Pr. Drew Nelson

Webmaster

Steve Hurza

The Happenings is a publication of the Northwest District of LCMC. We welcome comments, suggestions for stories and submissions from our members.

To submit an article for publication, please contact Carol Ann Buelow at buelow@aol.com.

The deadline to submit articles for our next edition is: July 18, 2022



NW District LCMC
Annual Gathering
God's Vision, God's Mission
May 13-14, 2022

Faith Lutheran Church
Great Falls, MT





More Annual Gathering Highlights

What a blessing it has been to experience our Northwest District Annual Gathering once again. The joy of worship, singing, laughing, serving and just being together really cannot be matched!



Women of the Word gathered for faith and fellowship!



IMPACT Youth Gathering 2022



Pr. Mark Vander Tuig



Pr. Julie Smith



Northwest District Council 2022-2023



Blessed be the ties that bind!



IMPACT Youth Gathering - Future Leaders!

Special thanks to IMPACT Youth Leaders April Johnson, Sherry Tempel & Dave Cunningham for igniting hearts for service!



The gift of community



Pastor Joe Beal shares devotions



Pastor David and Angela Breidenbach



Ken McCormick



IMPACT Youth Gathering Highlights:

The LCMC Northwest District Gathering in Great Falls, MT had a new addition this year, the IMPACT Youth Gathering. IMPACT Youth is a new ministry for youth groups in the LCMC Northwest District. The mission is to host events throughout the year for youth, ages 6th to 12th grade, to learn and grow together in Christ.

The kickoff event at the LCMC NW District Gathering was a wonderful experience for all that attended. There were 15 youth from 4 different cities who attended the event. The schedule for Saturday morning followed the regular agenda. The youth listened to speakers Pr. Mark Vander Tuig and Pr. David Breidenbach give inspiring speeches on missions and outreach.

After a lunch break, the youth got straight to work with hands-on mission events. They started out by putting together blessing bags. Blessing bags are a wonderful item for churches to have on hand to give out to people in need. Items in the bags included: shelf stable snacks, toiletries, socks, washcloths and water bottles. All of these items were donated and brought to the gathering from churches in the NW district. Working as a team the youth were able to make over 300 blessing bags for our communities. The bags were distributed to attendees of the district gathering to take back to their home church to distribute to people in need.

After completing the blessing bags the youth divided into 3 groups and did a kindness scavenger hunt. They were given 25 items to complete within 1 hour. The goal was to go around town and get as many items done as they could. Some of the items included were: thank you cards to emergency workers, handing out kindness bookmarks, helping sweep a store front, handing out flowers to people in town, thanking a restaurant worker, collecting shopping carts and giving out water bottles to brighten people's day. The youth had such remarkable stories to share when they all gathered back together on how small acts of kindness can change a person's day. Simple kindness brings so much joy to people and I hope the youth will continue to find ways in their own communities to spread kindness and joy.

Following the scavenger hunt the youth headed to the Great Falls Rescue mission to help with chores and serve meals. The director, Lynn, gave the group a tour of the facility and answered questions we had. She was so wonderful, and I want to say a big thank you to the rescue mission for allowing our youth to come help and showing them the facility. The youth helped with chores and then split into two groups to serve meals – one group at the men's shelter and one group at the family/women's shelter. It was an extremely rewarding and humbling experience for everyone.

After all their hard work helping others the youth got a chance to unwind and have fellowship time together at KABOOM, where they enjoyed a ninja course, bouncy houses and an arcade.

Working together and playing together makes lasting friendships and really benefits our youth. The LCMC NW district is planning more events and hoping that the IMPACT Youth keeps growing over the years.

Blessings,
April Johnson
Christian Education Director
Peace Lutheran Church in Belgrade, MT



Joyful News:



Congratulations and best wishes to Pastor Dylan Curtis who was ordained and installed as Lead Pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Whitefish, Montana on May 22. We celebrate what God is doing at Christ Lutheran and pray God's blessing Pastor Dylan and his wife Hannah as they start this new chapter in life! We welcome them both to our NW District LCMC family!



Pastor Drew Nelson was installed at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Absarokee, MT on March 13, 2022. Pastor Mike Bradley, LCMC Service Director, officiated and Pastor Julie Smith, LCMC Coordinator for Districts and Fellowships, also participated in the service celebrating this joyous occasion. We pray God's richest blessings upon Pastor Drew and his family. We also give thanks to God for Immanuel Lutheran Church and warmly welcome them to the LCMC!



Church Spotlight

St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Ledger, MT



St. Olaf Lutheran could be the most remote church in Northern Montana. It is over 40 miles from Conrad and over 30 miles from Chester. It is the only church that can be found on the Bootlegger trail which runs from Great Falls into Canada. St. Olaf Lutheran serves residents of Toole, Pondera, Chouteau and Liberty Counties.

The history of St. Olaf Lutheran is somewhat complicated. In 1913 there were three Lutheran churches in the area. They were the Pondera Norsk Evangelist Lutherish Kirke, West St. Olaf Kirke and St. Olaf Norsk Evangelish Luthersh Menighed. The services at all three churches were conducted in Norwegian and all records were kept in Norwegian. In 1916 all three became members of the Hauge Synod. In 1918 the area was hit hard by influenza as well as a severe drought. By 1921 the three churches became inactive. In 1928 the three churches re-organized into one church. They bought English hymn books and hired an English speaking pastor. The new church was called Saint Olaf Norwegian Church of America. The doors have been open every year since then.

In the early years a pastor was shared with Devon but when Tiber Dam was built the road to Devon stopped at Tiber Lake.. This led St. Olaf to become a member of the Chester/Joplin parish. In 1958 a new church building was built and is still in use today. Since 2010 St. Olaf has been a member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. It is served by Pastor Travis Powers and his wife Kim. If you ever find yourself lost on the Bootlegger trail, look for a beautiful white church on the prairie. Services are held every Sunday (weather permitting) at 8:15 am and all are welcome! Services are now in English although you will still find a Norwegian flag on display.

Council Highlights

By: Carol Ann Buelow

The NW District Council met in Great Falls, MT on May 14, 2022. Here are the highlights of that meeting:

- Board members shared reflections and reviewed the 2022 Annual Gathering evaluations forms.
- All council members were assigned to their respective positions and duties.
- Discussed and approved a second district coordinator to provide better coverage across the Northwest District. Pastor Horacio Castillo has agreed to accept this position.
- Approved Trinity Lutheran Church for membership in the Northwest District LCMC
- A Communications Committee has been formed to create a communication package and a new brochure that clearly articulates the purpose and value of the Northwest District.



Meet Our Newest Member!

Our Savior's Lutheran Church – Chester, Montana

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is located in north-central Montana on Highway 2. Our Savior's was organized in the

Fall of 1910 in Grand Hotel by four gentlemen, 2 married couple and 1 family. Church members met in the upstairs of the hotel above the saloon.

The first building purchased for the church was a converted butcher shop. The cornerstone of the present church was laid in

in October of 1950. We have a congregation membership of 330. We are a small town in a farming community.

Some of the activities of our church are an adult bible study group, quilting group (provides quilts to LWR, local rescue mission, and Hi-Line Help for Abused Spouses). Members volunteers to help distribute food from our local food bank. Our Savior's hosts a Wednesday School for k-6th grade school students

Outside community involvements include hosting the Red Cross Blood Drawings for our community, A Tuesday morning community Men's Bible Study group and Vacation Bible School for all k-6th grade children in our community.

Leadership of the church is by a nine (9) member church council. With council members having the duties of president, vice president and secretary.

We have been blessed in the past year to have welcomed Pastor Travis Powers and family.

IN LOVING
memory



Pastor Rodney Mruk went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on March 17, 2022. He was the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hermiston, Oregon, and formerly pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church in Havre, Montana. Please hold his wife Linda, his five children and their families in your prayers. We give thanks for Pastor Rodney's faithful service. Blessed be his memory.



OCT. 2-5, 2022 | HOSANNA CHURCH

LAKEVILLE, MN

THEME: FOLLOWING CHRIST IN A COMPLICATED WORLD

For more information, go to LCMC's website at: <https://www.lcmc.net/>



Make plans to attend the 2023 LCMC Northwest Gathering at Lutherhaven in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Your Gathering Committee includes:

Carol Ann Buelow, Jonathan Davis, Mot Hedges, and Donna Zipp.

Planning the upcoming gathering is hard work. There are numerous decisions to make concerning theme, agenda and speakers –to name a few! Please join us in praying for guidance and wisdom as this team undertakes their work. As things come together, we'll keep you updated through this quarterly newsletter and the Northwest District LCMC website.