



VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3

# The Happenings

## USA — Canada

SEPTEMBER 2022



Greetings and good will to all, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!

I pray that this letter finds all Northwest District members well. I'm looking forward to all the exciting plans and meetings we have ahead of us this year. We serve a very large district and with GOD'S guidance we will accomplish many tasks. We serve an AMAZING GOD. AMEN!

Our Northwest District Council met on July 11<sup>th</sup> in Post Falls, Idaho with wonderful attendance. We started off with an up-lifting devotional address from Pastor Donna Zipp. Coming off an inspirational NW LCMC Annual Gathering in Great Falls, MT, we are ready to start the wheels rolling for next year! This year we have made a commitment to build up some of our internal documentation and processes. One goal is to update job descriptions for each position on the board. Carol Ann put together her job description as secretary and this has given us some great guidance as we hope to have the others completed by the time our NW District Council meets at the LCMC Annual Gathering. One change to the secretary position is we are hoping to implement some electronic records management as we have been storing all NW LCMC records in paper format since the formation of our district. The council is also working on a communication plan for our members that will include information about the mission of the NW District, guidance on becoming a member and the benefits of joining a membership with a MISSION IN CHRIST!

Remember that we now have two District Coordinators for the NW LCMC District, Pastor Drew Nelson, and Pastor Horacio Castillo. They are here to help NW LCMC congregation in any way they can. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has blessed us with these two great individuals so please use their expertise to help guide your congregation to new heights.

The Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ is making preparations for our church wide Annual Gathering in Lakeville, Minnesota, October 2-5, 2022. As I make plans to travel to Minnesota to attend this gathering with other members of the Northwest District Council, would you pray us? The focus of this year's conference is discipleship and I look forward to learning and meeting other members of our Northwest District!

While I'm on the topic of gatherings, save the date for our upcoming Northwest LCMC Annual Gathering at Camp Lutherhaven in Coeur d' Alene, ID, May 19-21, 2023. This is going to be a great family event featuring outstanding speakers, great food and fellowship along with singing around the campfire praising our most gracious LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. I hope I don't let the cat out of the bag but this year's key note speaker will be LCMC Pastor and author Greg Finke, who launched Dwelling 1.14 in 2011. He's trained tens of thousands of everyday missionaries to join Jesus on His mission as part of everyday life and then show their family and friends how to do the same. I encourage you to bring all your family members, young and old!

In closing, this is the time to come together in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Reach out to others as Jesus commanded us to do by lending a helping hand wherever you can.

May God continue to bless you and keep you in His grace.

Jonathan Davis  
LCMC NW District Chair

### 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](mailto:buelow@aol.com). The deadline to submit articles for our next edition is: First week of December 2022

## “The Call”

Almost every question for consultation concerning our LCMC congregations recently has been about “the call”. Specifically, we are talking about the process of calling a pastor to the local congregation. The first inquiry is usually, “Does the LCMC have enough pastors to fill the pulpits?” Decidedly, yes, if we are only relying on mathematics. There are more pastors than congregations. Yet, the solution is not that simple.

This call is not issued through arithmetic, rather it consists of several parts. To oversimplify it we could ask two questions to begin the discussion: Who calls the pastor? What is the pastor called to? Starting with the first, the answer needs to be in two parts. This is because the call of a pastor is both inward and outward. Pastors are called both by the Holy Spirit and the local congregation. Considering what pastors are called to then would be the proper distribution of Word and Sacrament. Every congregation would benefit from having a conversation about what the call to their church is, but also what is the call that God has placed on each of us.

The LCMC gives freedom here. A congregation can call any person they wish for this ministry to them. Even you may be asked to step to proclaim the Good News one Sunday morning. Yet, we do not want to rush in as fools do. We know that it is good for a person to be educated and examined before serving others in ordination. This is what we often call the certification process. Others are called by contract. Both are distinct from ordination but connected. The difference here though is not in the validity of the call, but instead the qualifications of each candidate and the means they are called by. The distinction we have made is for the purpose of clarity and transparency so that congregations have firmer grasp of who they are calling. “There is no legitimate or ordinary call to the ministry except from God...” Martin Chemnitz lists five reasons in his book *Ministry, Word, and Sacrament: An Enchiridion* for why we must treat this topic with all seriousness and sincerity:

1. Because God Himself deals with us in the church through the ministry as through the ordinary means and instrument. For it is He Himself that speaks, exhorts, absolves, baptizes, etc.
2. Very many and necessary gifts are required for ministry.
3. The chief thing of the ministry is that God wants to be present in it with His Spirit, grace, and gifts to work effectively through it.
4. The assurance of divine call stirs up ministers of the Word, so that each one, in his or her station, in the fear of God, performs his or her functions with greater faith, diligence, and eagerness, without weariness.
5. Finally, on the basis of the hearers are stirred up to true reverence and obedience toward the ministry...

*What, then, is the office or work of the ministry of the church?* Chemnitz goes on to conclude about the call by saying, “The office of a minister of the church therefore is, that he diligently study the Holy Scriptures and give himself to reading them, moreover that he labor in Word and doctrine, that he feed the flock of Christ and the church of God, that is, he is to serve the church with the preaching of the Word and administration of the Sacraments and use of the keys.” If your congregation needs assistance with the call process or would like a to schedule a workshop surrounding these topics or others, please contact myself, Pastor Drew Nelson, or other NW District Board Members.

***Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” + Matthew 9:37-38***

In Christ, Pastor Drew Nelson (*Immanuel Lutheran Church, Absarokee, MT/ NW Dist. Coordinator LCMC*)



## Meet our new Council Members!



Howdy from Lebanon, Oregon! Greetings in the name of Jesus our Lord!

I am Fred Westerhold, pastor of Christ Community in Lebanon, Oregon. It is a privilege and honor to be on the Council. I look forward to serving our district to assist in updating documents and be active in finding ways we can better connect with our Canadian pastors and congregations. Additionally, I would like to help find ways to increase our ability to support the

smaller, struggling congregations in our District. Pray that God will grant us wisdom and creativity in all things relative to our ministry together.

Originally from California, I was ordained in 1981 and have served in nine parishes: Torquay, Saskatchewan; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Twin Falls, Idaho; Jackson Hole, Wyoming (a mission start); Shoshone, Idaho (a mission start); Walhalla, North Dakota; Harvey North Dakota; Harvey, North Dakota (a newly formed congregation in 2010) and presently in Lebanon, Oregon.

My wife's name is Sheryl and we have been married for fifty-one years (we started dating when we were sixteen) and have two grown children, Paul and Sara.

Spare time activities and hobbies include flower gardening, mechanics, reading, singing and playing guitar – but not necessarily in that order.

There are two Scripture passages that are my “go to” coping-with-ministry verses: Psalm 139 (God's love and care) and 2 Timothy 1:6-7 (what God expects of me).

God bless you all!



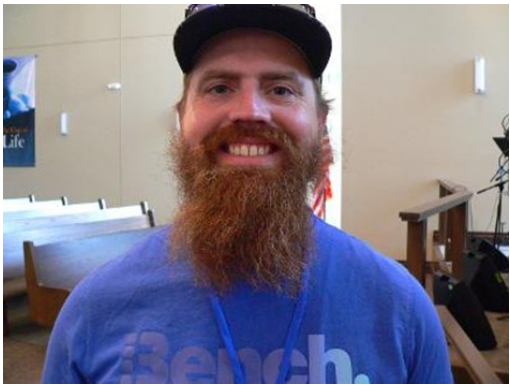
My name is Sherry Tempel. I am happy to serve on the LCMC-NW council and I am looking forward to meeting everyone.

I have been married to my high school sweetheart, Robert, for 35 years. We have 3 boys, 2 daughters-in-law, and 3 grandchildren. I own an Accounting/ Bookkeeping company. I have over 24 years of experience in this field from bookkeeper to controller. I have a BS in Business with a Minor in Accounting.

I am very involved with the youth ministry in our church here at Faith Lutheran in Great Falls. I have been a member of this church since I was 12 years old. I am also very involved in other areas of the church. I am on the church council, as secretary, the education team, the personnel team, the worship and music team, and the transition team.

Thank you for your confidence in electing me to the board. I look forward to working with everyone.





Greetings! My name is Ken Olson and I live in Alberta, Canada. I am a director of a horse camp called Wilderness Ranch near Claresholm, Alberta. I have been the director of Wilderness Ranch for 6 years. I met my wife at Wilderness Ranch 15 years ago when we were both working as summer staff.

My wife's name is Shelly. We have four kids Haaken (10), Eli (8), Solveigh (6), and Aksel (3). I like hiking, hunting, and horseback riding in the summer, in winter I love to ski (both downhill and cross country), and of course like a

good Canadian I like playing hockey. I also like playing music, building and fixing things, and making delicious food usually on a BBQ.

As a Council member, I plan to visit our LCMC churches in Canada to both promote Wilderness Ranch and our LCMC Northwest District. I have absolutely loved being involved with the LCMC especially south of the border. It is encouraging to see so many Lutherans who are passionate about the mission of Jesus Christ.

One of my favorite bible verses is Philippians 1:6 "He who began a good work in you will carry it unto completion." Be encouraged, God isn't done with you yet!

Peace, eh! Ken Olson



Greetings, I'm Pastor Greg Wightman. I grew up in Kent, Washington and attended Kent Lutheran Church there. I am a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University where I met my wife Lauren. After graduating, I attended Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa where I was joined by Lauren. We both graduated in 1988 and were ordained together in my home church, Kent Lutheran.

Our first calls were together at Grace Lutheran Church and Bethel Lutheran in Northeastern Minnesota. After 8 ½ years of joint ministry there, the opportunity arose to return to the Pacific Northwest, serving at Saint Mark's Lutheran Church in Rochester Washington. We joined LCMC in

2010 along with our congregations. We served together at Saint Mark's for 15 years until I entered into partial retirement and Lauren transitioned to full time at Saint Mark's.

During my retirement, I have been serving in a limited basis at Central Lutheran Church in Morton, Washington. We have a son John, and a daughter, Lina-Maria, and two beautiful grandchildren. I enjoy outdoor activities, kayaking, sailing, and cycling in the summer and snowshoeing and cross country skiing in the winter.

I am looking forward to serving on the district board and helping the congregations of the Northwest District with the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ in our region.

# Called to Serve!

Pastor Donna Zipp was installed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lewiston, Idaho on Sunday, June 26, 2022. A dinner/ reception was held following the worship service to celebrate this special day and welcome Pastor Donna and her husband, Rodney, to the Lewiston area. We pray God's continued grace in your life and the ministry that God has placed in your hands. Congratulations!!!



**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/>**



## Northwest District LCMC Annual Gathering

**May 19-21, 2023**

Camp Lutherhaven, 3258 W Lutherhaven Rd, Coeur d'Alene, ID

Join LCMC congregations across the Northwest for our 2023 Northwest District LCMC Annual Gathering! It's an event you will not want to miss. The featured speaker will be Rev. Greg Finke, founder and Executive Director of Dwelling 1:14 and author of books, *Joining Jesus on His Mission: How to Be an Everyday Missionary* and, *Joining Jesus – Show Me How: How to Disciple Everyday Missionaries*. Dwelling 1:14 is a ministry which focuses on helping leader's disciple their people to discover simple and practical ways to be everyday missionaries.

Mark your calendars and watch future newsletters and the Northwest District LCMC website for additional information as it becomes available.

### **Your Gathering Committee includes:**

Donna Zipp (Chair), Carol Ann Buelow, Jonathan Davis, Mot Hedges, Fred Westerhold.



## Meet Our Newest Member!

### Trinity Lutheran Church – Lewiston, Idaho



Trinity Lutheran Church is located in the heart of Lewiston, Idaho. While the organization of Trinity Lutheran Church was not completed until May 1920, the history of Lutheran church work in Lewiston goes back as far as 1907. In 1926, Trinity Lutheran Church members of the former Zion Lutheran church transferred to Trinity and the former Zion church was purchased. The present sanctuary and the east wing were built and dedicated on June 20, 1948. In 1956 the west wing was added to the church, containing twelve classrooms, three assembly rooms, and two offices.

In the 2010/2011 timeframe, Trinity Lutheran Church left the ELCA and joined the NALC and chose to dual roster with the LCMC in 2021. We praise God that the transition went smoothly.

We seek to be God's hands and feet. One of our many long-standing ministries is our Trinity Lutheran Preschool which has served Lewiston for more than 50 years. Members of our congregation are actively involved with Valley Meals On Wheels, the Community Action Partnership Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity and we prepare meals for the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen and the Snake River Medical Clinic. We are grateful for our ongoing relationship with all these ministry partners. In 2010, we launched our Family Promise Shelter program opening our church facility to support temporary housing programs for adults with children who are working to find employment and permanent housing solutions.

In June 2020, we surpassed the century mark. Due to COVID, we were unable to celebrate but we are looking forward to a belated church anniversary celebration on Trinity Sunday of 2023.

On June 1, Pastor Donna Zipp was called to serve the congregation and was installed on June 26, 2022. Pastor Donna and Rodney, along with the congregation of Trinity give thanks to God for His past provision and look forward to serving Him together into the future!

Blessings in Christ, Denise Walk, Council President



Congratulations to Pastor Ken Waag - Senior Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Great Falls, MT - on his recent retirement. Thank you for faithfully sharing God's love, not only through Word and Sacrament, but also with your life. May God's grace be with you as you start a new chapter in life!

