

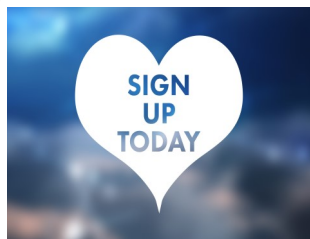


VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1

The Happenings

USA — Canada

MARCH 2023



Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I hope this finds you all well. It has been a crazy few months with everything that is happening.

Our NW Gathering council members have been hard at work preparing for this year's gathering and from the looks of the materials, guest speakers and vendors we should have a fun time. We have also established archive policies and have started to digitize our meeting records and other records of historical significance to the Northwest District. This will make it easier to find and store them, as well as transition them when positions on the District Council change. Many thanks to Carol Ann for her determination to complete this task.

We have also reviewed and approved a series of updates to District Council job descriptions. The new descriptions have more detailed essential functions when needed, as well as processes that help us do our jobs in a more orderly fashion. We are slowly getting them put together for the next council members to use.

Please plan to attend the Northwest LCMC Gathering that will be held May 19-21, 2023 at Camp Lutherhaven in Coeur D' Alene, Idaho.

Northwest LCMC members remember to **BE ON YOUR GUARD; STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH; BE COURAGOUS; BE STRONG; AND DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE. GOD BLESS YOU ALL!**

In His Service,

Jon

Snack Sign-up!

It's the little things that make our Annual Gatherings a success. Is your church able to provide drinks and snacks for our Annual NW Gathering? We are looking for three to four churches to help us out by bringing drinks and snacks for our breaks and social times. If you can be of assistance in this area, please send Carol Ann an email at: buelow@aol.com



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 Hruza

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: May 29, 2023



Do you know of a youth leader, volunteer, or member in your congregation who is passionate about youth ministry? Mark your calendar to join free LCMC Youth Leader Webinars on the third Thursday of each month (except December and July) at 12:00 CST

Sign up for the emails: <https://mailchi.mp/75a65006d3ae/youth-leader-webinars>

Like the LCMC Youth Ministry Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LCMCYouthMinistry>



OH SING TO THE LORD!!!

You're invited to join the Mass Choir in singing at the Opening and Closing Worship Services for our NW District Gathering at Lutherhaven in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (May 19-21, 2023).

Our rehearsal is scheduled for Friday afternoon at 1:00, May 19th prior to the official start of our Annual Gathering. Here's your chance to serve the Lord with gladness and singing!



Pastor Carol Ann Buelow

Emmanuel Lutheran
Walla Walla, WA

If you would like to join the choir, please note your interest on the registration form by writing the word **"Choir"** so we can ensure we have enough music available. There is no fee for participation.

"You shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept, and gladness of heart, as when one sets out to the sound of the flute to go to the mountain of the Lord, to the Rock of Israel. And the Lord will cause his majestic voice to be heard." – Isaiah 30.29-30



Encourage one another and build each other up!

1 Thessalonians 5.11



Meet Our Newest Northwest Mission Start – Tahoma Lutheran Church



About a year and a half ago, my husband and I resigned our respective calls. Like many pastors who have resigned or retired, or simply left the ministry altogether in the past two or three years, this was partly having to do with the pandemic and the way in which we responded to it. However, there were also unacknowledged internal church troubles, particular to our congregation, for which the pandemic provided an opportune time for matters to fester and flourish. We resigned without a call-in-hand to any other church.

Over the next several months we participated in online and in-person worship services in our local vicinity. Eventually, we started meeting with another family a couple times a month for dinner at each other's homes or at our neighborhood pub. They, too, had become Lutherans without a church. We met to talk theology, read scripture, and to hear each other's confessions and give each other the absolution. Forgiveness among friends is a blessed gift from Christ. This is the gospel through the conversation and consolation of Christians that Luther's *Smalcald Articles* mentions.

In January of 2022, it became clear to us that the Holy Spirit had started to gather an embryonic house church amongst our families in our little neighborhood in Maple Valley, WA. While there are several other Lutheran churches in our city, there were no LCMC congregations. That is, until the Holy Spirit raised a few of his forgiven sinners out of the ashes and rubble of sin and death of the pandemic. Tahoma Lutheran Church was established to strengthen and nourish the faith which was first given us in baptism through the weekly preaching of the Word and sacraments. Our first worship service was conducted at a member's house with 11 people between three families.

Why the name Tahoma Lutheran Church? Our families are rooted in densely populated neighborhoods filled with sinners of all ages in need of the hearing of the forgiveness of their sins in Christ Jesus. TLC meets in a house deep in a neighborhood of Maple Valley from where Mt. Rainier is visible to the south when the cloak of clouds unfurls from its granite dome for a few months of the year. Mt. Rainier previously bore the Native American Indian name, Tahoma, which means "that frozen

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Mt. Rainier previously bore the Native American Indian name, Tahoma, which means “that frozen water” and is a name used commonly in our city. For example, Tahoma High School is the city’s sole and very large (2,700+ students) high school where the church’s children either already attend or will in a few short years. Our school district is also called Tahoma. It seemed more than appropriate to name this new congregation Tahoma Lutheran Church.

We have much to be thankful for and much to pray for at Tahoma Lutheran Church, but we have the main thing: the pure preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the right administration of the sacraments by which the Holy Spirit is calling, gathering, enlightening, and sanctifying sinners in Maple Valley in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. *Soli Deo gloria.*

In Christ alone,
Rev. Dr. Marney Fritts
tahomalutheranchurch@gmail.com



FREE TO A GOOD HOME!

Christ Lutheran Church in Odessa, WA is offering a collection of brass candlelighters with bell snuffers at no charge. Note that the two in the middle are matching. If you have questions or are interested in acquiring them, please contact Laura Estes at (509) 988-0942, text or call. If you are coming to the Northwest District LCMC Annual Gathering at Lutherhaven, they can be delivered there or they can be mailed.



God Matters Workshop:

When we look for God in life it is amazing how often we find Him helping us. Pastor Jeff Milsten enjoys offering a 4-6 hour workshop sharing examples of how God matters in our lives today. National and international examples, individual life changing examples, daily often unnoticed examples of God in our lives are shared. These examples include a few from the last 2,000 years yet most are from the last 50 years. If you are interested in having him share this information at your church, you may contact Pastor Jeff at: pastor-jeffmilsten@gmail.com (509) 386-6250. His address is: 210 West Patit Avenue in Dayton, WA 99328.

LCMC NW District Annual Gathering

May 19-21, 2022

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

Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” Mark 1:17 (NIV)

Greg Finke is the 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 non-profit ministry which helps leaders disciple people to join Jesus on his mission in the places they already live, work and go to school.

The name Dwelling 1:14 refers to John 1:14 and the incarnational, missional nature both of Jesus and those who would follow him into the world. Greg offers consulting and training experiences for congregations and their leaders in discipling, living missionally, and multiplying missional community environments.

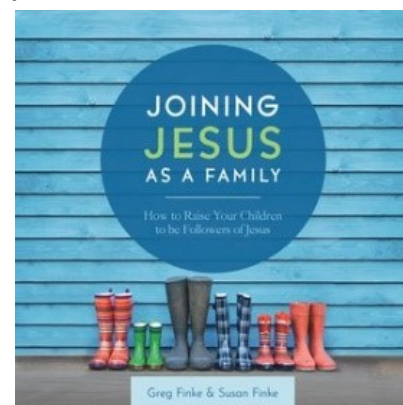
Greg will be delivering a series of keynote sessions throughout the course of our *Come Follow Me* gathering. Often times people simply look at the cross through the lens of personal salvation and live life primarily on the sidelines of God’s activity in the world. But Greg will show us how Jesus’ atoning sacrifice on the cross not only saves us, but also gives us a mission and compels us to live on the frontlines of God’s Kingdom building activity in our own communities. Using a scriptural foundation, Greg will educate and inspire us toward an exciting new way of living as everyday missionaries in our local communities.

Greg is a graduate of Concordia University, Chicago and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Before founding Dwelling 1:14, he served as pastor of two congregations in Michigan and Texas for 21 years. Greg and his wife, Susan, have three daughters and enjoyed life as neighborhood missionaries in League City, Texas before God’s call to begin Dwelling 1:14.

I have a challenge for you. During these next few months until we reunite once again at beautiful **Camp Lutherhaven** on **Lake Coeur D’Alene**, to be sure and check out Greg’s Blog and the Dwelling 1:14 website. I particularly want to encourage you to order a copy of Greg and his wife Susan’s newest book, *Joining Jesus as a Family* (Get your copies [HERE](#)). So far, about 1000 copies have gone out to families who want to intentionally raise their children to be followers of Jesus! And, make sure to read [Greg’s Blog entry from September 19, 2022](#)

"What Does It Mean to 'Disciple' My Child?" Pastors and congregational members will recall why **every** member of the congregation has a stake in raising the children of the congregation. “It takes a village to raise Jesus-Followers” (Chapter 17), don’t you know?

This year’s gathering will take on an intergenerational look, There will be times for all ages to gather together for worship and learning as well as a parallel YOUTH track...so encourage your youth and families to attend this gathering at “Camp.”



Pastors Pre-gathering Session, Friday, May 19th ~ 10:00 am



Julie Smith, LCMC's Coordinator for Districts and Fellowship Groups will be joining us not only to report on happenings across the wide spectrum of our association but also looks forward to facilitate this year's Friday morning **Pre-gathering Session for Pastors**.

Smith is a life-long Lutheran and became a pastor in 1998. She has served congregations in Clarkfield, Bock, and Springfield (all in Minnesota). In addition, she served for several years as a Bible camp director. She is also a co-founder of St. Paul Lutheran Seminary.

Julie's main hobby is running around to whatever activities her seven nieces and nephews are involved in. She is a sports fan, and while high school football is a favorite, NBA games featuring any former Minnesota Timberwolves are a close second. Like all Minnesotans, Julie believes as many summer days as possible should be spent at the lake, with the Twins on the radio. Please don't ask her about the Vikings.

Julie is a graduate of Luther Seminary and loves any opportunity to teach, whether that's leading silly Bible skits with first graders or giving seminary students some pointers in preaching. She has previously served on the LCMC Board of Trustees and has worked with the Augustana and Epiphany Districts of LCMC.

Registration is now open. Sign-up using the registration form in this newsletter or sign-up online at: <http://richlandlutheran.org/nw-district-registration.html>



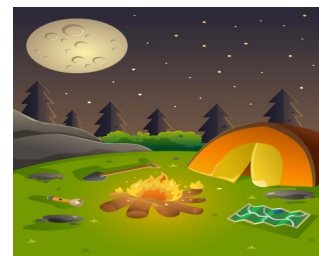
On behalf of the NW District Gathering Planning team, I look forward to seeing you there!
Pastor Donna Zipp, Trinity Lutheran Church, Lewiston Idaho

IMPACT Youth Gathering @ the LCMC Northwest District Annual Gathering

Join us May 19th to 21st, 2023 for the IMPACT Youth Gathering at Lutherhaven Camp in Coeur d' Alene, ID. Our theme is "Come, Follow Me!" and we will be learning about how we can follow Jesus and apply it to our everyday lives by serving others in many different ways. Our keynote Speaker is Greg Finke who has written many wonderful books including "Joining Jesus as a Family". This is a wonderful weekend to grow in faith, serve others and have fun together in fellowship with youth from all over the Northwest. Our outdoor camp activities will include archery, campfires, canoeing, high ropes, zip-lining, and more. This is for youth ages 6th to 12th grade. Sign-up today!

Youth Impact leaders 2022:

April Johnson, Peace Lutheran Church, Belgrade Montana
Ken Olson, Wilderness Ranch Camp, Alberta, Canada



Pastoral Installations and Ordinations:



Congratulations to Roland Weisbrot (Lead Pastor) and Grant Crichton (Associate Pastor) who were installed at Victory Lutheran Church in Medicine Hat, Alberta on Sunday January 29, 2023. They are pictured with former Pastor Jim Bredeson who presided over the joint installation service.

Please extend your prayers and best wishes to them!

Steven Hagler was ordained and installed at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Spokane Valley, WA on Feb 11, 2023. A former teacher and member of the LCMC Board of Trustees, Steve has now been called into pastoral ministry and presently serves as the Interim Pastor there. Steve says that his favorite part of the worship service is the absolution where God pronounces the forgiveness of sin.

We pray God's grace and blessings upon your ministry!



Congratulations to Carol Ann Buelow who was installed for service as an Associate Pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Walla Walla, WA on January 8, 2023. A graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary, Carol Ann is particularly interested in how digital technology and social media are utilized to share the Gospel. She is pictured with Pastor Mark Koonz and her husband Steve.

We glorify God for the great things He is doing in Walla Walla!

LCMC NW District Annual Gathering May 19-21, 2022

“Come, follow me!” Gospel: Mark 1:14-18 (NIV)
With Keynote Speaker: Pastor Greg Finke

***IMPACT Youth Schedule in blue**

FRIDAY

9:00 AM: NW Gathering Event Registration/Check-In for Lutherhaven Cabins

10 AM: Pastor’s Session

12:00 – 2:30 Fellowship Time

12:30 Lunch

1:00 Mass Choir

2:30 – 2:45 Welcome and Opening Worship.

2:45 – 3:45 Opening Devotion and Prayer/Call to Order NW District Business

***2:45 – 5:30 IMPACT Youth- Connect**

3:45 – 4:15 Break

4:15 – 5:30 Keynote 1 - How to Join Jesus on His Mission Every Day

5:30 – 6:30 Supper

6:30 – Lutherhaven Overview - Charity Presentation / Open Mic

7:15 Intergenerational Campfire – Worship / Praise

***8:00 – 9:00 IMPACT Youth- Night Life**

SATURDAY

8:00 – 9:30 Registration

8:30 – 9:30 Breakfast

9:30 – 9:50 Opening Prayer/Devotion/Intergenerational Worship

9:50 – 11:00 Keynote 2 - What is Discipleship and How Do We Participate in It?

***9:50– 12:30 IMPACT Youth-Serve the Lord**

11:00 – Break/Social Time

11:15 – 12:30 - Keynote 3 - Joining Jesus as a Family: Part 1

12:30- Lunch

1:00 – 3:15 Free Time to enjoy Lutherhaven / Socialize

3:15 – 4:00 Julie Smith – LCMC Updates / Business Meeting

***3:15– 5:30 IMPACT Youth- Join Jesus. Speaker: Greg Finke**

4:00 – 5:15 Keynote 4 - Joining Jesus as a Family: Part 2

5:30 – 6:30 Supper

6:30 Intergenerational Worship around Campfire

***7:30 – 9:00 IMPACT Youth- Games and Goodbyes**

SUNDAY

8:30 – 9:30 Closing Worship Service with Communion

9:30 – 10:30 Sunday Brunch

11:00 Must be checked out of rooms



LCMC NW Gathering/Family Camp Registration

May 19 - 21, 2023 • Camp Lutherhaven, Coeur D'Alene, ID

Bring your family and experience the joy and beauty of Lutherhaven! Participate in the LCMC NW Gathering and feed your soul while your children enjoy a variety of programs and activities. Childcare available for children 1-5.

Registration for families staying at Lutherhaven, Registration ends May 5th or when cabins are full. (Bring your own bedding & towels.) **Note:** May have to share a cabin.

2 nights (Fri - Sat), 5 meals:

\$184/adult, No. attending: _____
 \$152/ youth 13-17, No. attending _____
 \$108/child 4-12, No. Attending _____
 Childcare needed, No. Attending _____
 Total submitted: \$ _____

3 nights (Thurs – Sat), 8 meals:

\$278/adult, No. attending: _____
 \$229/youth 13-17, No. attending: _____
 \$160/Child 4-12, No. attending: _____
 Childcare needed, No. Attending _____
 Total submitted: \$ _____

For those attending but not staying at Lutherhaven, Registration ends May 12th. (Use of facility & 5 meals)
 \$117/person, No. attending: _____ Total Submitted: \$ _____

Food Restrictions or Allergies: Gluten Dairy Nuts Other (please specify) _____

Registration Submittal:

- I prefer to register and pay online at www.richlandlutheran.org.
- I prefer to print my registration form and pay by check payable to: **LCMC NW District.**

Submit registration form and check to:
 Mot Hedges
 Richland Lutheran Church
 901 Van Giesen Street
 Richland, WA 99354.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ Church: _____

NAMES OF OTHER ATTENDEES & Age of Youth:

Name: _____ Name: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____