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**THIS IS THE ONLY OFFICIAL
 NEWSLETTER FOR THE LCMC
 NORTHWEST DISTRICT**

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***God Shows Blessings on
 Grace Community Lutheran***
Submitted by Bob Brown

The following is a reprint from LCMC "By The Word" By The Word is the LCMC Newsletter - Spring 2013

In May 2011, future members of Grace Community Lutheran Church left an ELCA congregation in La Grande, Oregon. They agreed to pray, study and research future plans. After a couple of months, 30 committed "founders" met to establish a new church under LCMC. A Constitution and Bylaws were written and approved. A historic vacant church was rented. A search for a more permanent facility found a small congregation in tiny

Cove, OR, willing to share their facility with us, beginning in December 2011.

In May 2012, Grace called, ordained and installed its first pastor, Pastor Carl Serlhoff. We see ourselves as a "royal priesthood of believers" and "called to serve", which is our mission. We are filling a niche to minister to the poor, the rural and un-churched. Patience is difficult, but we see that being rewarded as we plant seeds.

We have adjusted the traditional Lutheran worship service to accommodate varying levels of

Christian understanding. Our members are from various backgrounds, needing a gentle approach for our worship service and education efforts. During Bible studies we acknowledged the Lutheran perspective.

Our congregation is healthy, growing and enjoying our fellowship together. We are financially stable and unafraid to experiment with new missions. A community Bible study and breakfast for men meets weekly.

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IT'S COMING! — 2014 LCMC Northwest District Gathering

Mark you calendars now for April 4th and April 5th, 2014.

Greeting to the LCMC pastors and congregations of the LCMC Northwest District (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Canada).

It is my pleasure to invite you to the **2014 LCMC Northwest District**

Gathering to be hosted by Peace Lutheran Church, 8134 North Meyer Road in Post Falls, Idaho 83854.

Non-Northwest District members are welcome. If you are not yet member of LCMC Northwest District, I encourage you to join your fellow LCMC

brothers and sisters for a great time of worship, education and fellowship.

Once again, the District is offering a pastors and staff leader brunch on Friday morning (April 4th) as a time of Bible study, renewal, and idea exchange. This is a great time to meet and

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The Principle of the Thing

The following is a reprint from HTLC "Tidings" Word in the October 2013 Newsletter of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Spokane, WA.

Written by Pastor Jayman Clark

You used to hear people say this a lot; apparently that's not the case anymore. According to the District Court judge, it is "refreshing" to the ears of the court.

The story goes something like this. It was a regular day to do visitation at the Spokane County jail. I pretty much have the routine down. Because I'm cheap, perhaps 'frugal' sounds better, I usually try to find free parking and just walk but on this particular day all the streets were full and so I went into the county parking lot in search of an unexpired, vacated meter. I found one with 2 minutes on it, bonus! I grabbed the change out of the cup holder and carefully added just the right configuration of quarters, nickels and dimes to get it to the eleven o'clock hour of my departure. My math told me I had till 11:01. No problem, I would leave the jail at 10:45 like clockwork.

I lingered, visiting with a few folks, and was strolling across the parking lot in full view of my Ford Freestyle at 10:56. I was standing by my car checking messages at 10:59. Then I saw it on the windshield waving in the wind. A parking ticket. What? As I read the citation I noted that it was written for an expired meter at 11:00 am. Well that's something because it is 11:00 am and I'm standing here and there isn't a parking lot attendant

anywhere in sight. I knew right there and then that I wasn't paying it.

Mind you, it was only 15 dollars. I "could" pay it, I have the ability to do so, but I can't bring myself to do so because of "the principle of the thing." I check the box that asked for a court hearing. I got my date in the mail—my day in court—so to speak. It was a 55 minute drive early in the morning after working all night, but I wasn't going to no-show because the record needed to be set straight. I sat there in the court feeling a bit sick as it brought back some of the family court pain and suffering. My internal voice kept questioning if it was really worth it. Urging me to pay the 15 dollars and get out of there, feeling like I didn't belong here with the "violators" of every kind. I listened to their "stories" and only one rang true to my ears, a man about my age whose Discovery Pass violation was dismissed because he had the paperwork to prove that he had legitimately paid to park at the State Park. The rest were falling over themselves trying to buy time, change the facts, negotiate and change the charge. Most offered what they believed to be reasons when they were only excuses and lies. It was enlightening and a bit depressing.

The court works with this "let's make a deal" approach to justice in the name of "truth." For example, you sir, were caught speeding and it will

cause your insurance to go up and be another strike towards you losing your license and so we will reduce the charge to a non-moving violation such as failure to buckle up or no turn signal, reduce the fee, collect the negotiated amount and everybody is happy. Why? Because justice was done? Truth was discovered? Or perhaps something much less monumental took place—we came to agreement on what was expedient and acceptable not necessarily what was right and true.

I wish that this was the exception but face it, it has become the rule. This happening in District Court is repeated in many, many venues across this country. This isn't just a law or court behavior, it is quickly becoming our cultural, societal norm. During that last 3 decades we have rapidly lost the normative or the norming norm that was so prevalent and accepted that it functioned invisibly. Now that it is 'virtually' gone it is a struggle for most to identify what has happened, what is missing. For those of us who are in our mid to later years of life we feel at a loss to articulate what all has changed so much as to make it feel as though we live in a culture that has no "normal", no absolute truth, no universal understanding of right and wrong, almost boundariless. We know in our hearts and our gut that we are dancing on the line of anarchy and soon to cross but we are left at a loss for words to explain

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Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart...



have you invited him in?



Fellow Pastors and Congregations of the Northwest District LCMC:

Greetings from your LCMC Northwest District Chair.

Welcome to our email newsletter of the LCMC Northwest District: "The Happenings". We have received many great comments about the flow of information being provided to all church's and individual members within the LCMC Northwest District (Montana, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska and Canada) and to what resources are available to you at the local level.

Many benefits come with your FREE membership to the LCMC Northwest District. Not only do you have access to our website: www.lcmc-nw.com, but you can update information (Advent, Lent, Easter, summer schedule) to your congregation web page. If your church is not already a member of the Northwest District, simply apply for membership at www.lcmc-nw.com/application-congregational-membership/; www.lcmc-nw.com/application-individual-membership/ www.lcmc-nw.com/application-chapter-membership/.

FREE—Organ



IT'S COMING! 2014 LCMC Northwest District Gathering

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reacquaint yourself with other church leaders in our area.

Pat Woods
Chair, LCMC Northwest District

Note: If you need a place for your RV during the Gathering—there is room behind the church building.

(DRY CAMPING ONLY)

In Case You Missed the LCMC 2013 Northwest District Gathering



God Shows Blessings on Grace Community Lutheran

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Sunday Bible classes for adults and children and 12 mission projects are underway. Community basketball clinics have been conducted.

We had no building of our own, but had a strong desire for Biblical worship and for sharing the

Gospel. We had no permanent minister, but had many dedicated people from Oregon and Washington willing to furnish our pastoral needs. Small churches take heed—with God's help, establishing a new church can be done joyously!



Zion Lutheran Church - Deary Idaho has a **FREE** Organ they are giving away. Contact Pastor Murray Stanton at 208-877-1248 (church) or email stantonfarmdeary@gmail.com as soon as possible if interested.

This is the only official newsletter for
the LCMC northwest district



Your Northwest District Council:

Pat Woods—Chair - (Executive Committee)
Murray Stanton—Vice Chair —(Executive Committee)
Barbara Fagley—Secretary—(Executive Committee)
Kathy Nita —Treasurer -(Executive Committee)
Denel Ingraham
Bill McLean
Lon Roberts
Suzanne Robinson
Maureen (Moe) Bessey—District Coordinator

Pat Woods,
Chair LCMC Northwest District

If you or your church would like
to have information added to the
next LCMC Northwest District
"The Happenings" please submit
to: lcmc-nw.com/contact/

The Principle of the Thing

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it, reasons to assign to it and no clear, acceptable defense. We can't quite "deal with it" because making a deal wasn't how we were making a deal wasn't how we were raised. We used to with humor remark that certain actions would be "making a deal with the Devil?" But then nobody talks that way anymore either.

When faith lost it's central pivot in our culture and the institutional churches began conforming to this world not being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, well, more was lost the just "what to do with your Sunday morning." Going to church used to be not only acceptable but expected, now it is suspect. Christians of all kinds were assumed to be the honest, upright people in the country now they are suspect and even hated. The norming voice of 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you' has fallen to the ultimate individualistic cry of 'its my life and I'll do with it what I choose, who are you telling me what to do or not to do?'

The sooner we come to terms with our reversed cultural context, the sooner we will realize that the Word of God is our only navigational tool, our compass and our anchor. Its eternal truth that is absolute, will stand the test of time, even these, until we all get our day in court, so to speak. The Word of God, and Jesus—God's Living Word—is not up for sale to the highest bidder. He can't be bargained with or reformed or made to conform to the time, this place and these standards, or lack thereof. He isn't going to make you a 'deal' and negotiate your charges or fees owed. He doesn't have to, not because it is 'the principle of the thing' but because He is the Principle of all things. Period. Always has been, always be.

So back to District court, I swore to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. I apologized for what appeared to be a waste of the court's time, contesting a \$15 dollar parking ticket. I explained the situation and the facts I mentioned above. The judge asked about my

visitation at the jail.. I explained that I go and visit people who need a pastor to come and pray, read scripture and hear their confession. He asked if it was my "job" and I said no, I am a pastor in the area but I do this because Jesus reminded us of our call to do this for our neighbor and as we do we visit Him prison, feed Him, clothe Him and give Him a drink.

The judge dismissed the charges and then he took off his glasses, looked me in the eye and thanked me for my service noting, "What you are doing does make a difference." One person at a time it does. That day it was to more than one, as the court fell silent for a moment's time as I walked out and I knew then that the true Principal of all things was present and accounted for in a simple witness to the truth. A witness made to "violation" of all kinds, including me, for all have sinned and fallen short to the glory of God.

To Him be the glory.



"The Happenings"

Newsletter

Editor: Keith Aderhold

Contributors:

Pastor Jaynan Clark, Bob Brown, Pat Woods, Pastor Murray Stanton, 2014 Northwest District Gathering Committee

Published By: LCMC Northwest District
240 118th St

Orofino, ID 83864

Website: lcmc-nw.com (contact form is included on website)

"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9