



VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3

# The Happenings

## USA — Canada

JULY 2024



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord and savior, Jesus Christ!

*I believe I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him.* When we take the time to pause on Luther's opening line to his explanation of the third article of the Apostle's Creed, it causes us to notice a few things. The first thing we might notice is how uncomfortable this makes us feel. It is contrary to everything we hear and learn about applying ourselves,

asserting our wills, and actualize our potential as human beings. While we all have individual talents that we make efforts cultivate and we each have specific callings in life that require the gaining of knowledge and understanding, belief in Jesus Christ, the Christian faith, is not one of those things. Just think how contrary this is popular American theology that teaches belief in Jesus Christ is "my personal acceptance" or "my personal commitment." In fact, belief in Jesus Christ is not my work at all, but "This is the work of God that you believe in him whom he has sent" (John 6:29).

This second thing we may notice is that the Holy Spirit is not looking for the cooperation of the human will to create belief. The reality is the default position of the human will is unbelief and rebellion against God. The climax of this rebellion is on display nowhere more than our crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The confession that belief in Christ is the work of the Holy Spirit alone is simultaneously a confession against our will when it comes to God and our salvation. Many of us confess this truth weekly in the Brief Order and Confession, "We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves." And yet, despite our rebellion which led to the crucifixion of the Son of God and our delusions that we have some part to play in our redemption, God has found a way to reconcile us to himself all by himself. Despite our presumption of righteousness, Christ has mercy on us, announcing the forgiveness of our sin which is our life and salvation.

And lastly, our ears notice what a great promise the new creature is given in the explanation to the third article of the Creed. What once is heard as an uncomfortable, even threatening, word to the old Adam and Eve in us—that there are limits to our efforts and understandings, most specifically *to believe in Jesus Christ my Lord and come to him*—has become pure gospel. It is not me accepting, committing, or coming to Jesus Christ, *but it is the Holy Spirit who has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in true faith.* Thanks be to God! This is most certainly true! ~ Rev. Dr. Marney Fritts

### LCMC

#### Northwest District Council

#### Executive Committee

Pr. Marney Fritts, Chair  
Pr. Edward Skutshek, Vice Chair  
Pr. Carol Ann Buelow, Secretary  
Karla Kaleva, Treasurer

#### Council Members

Pr. Grant Crichton  
Jonathan Davis  
Pr. Dave Hall  
Pr. Travis Powers  
Pr. Donna Zipp  
Pr. Fred Westerhold  
Pr. Greg Wightman

#### District Coordinator

Maureen "Moe" Bessey  
Pr. Horacio Castillo

#### Webmaster

Steve Hruza

### **Council Highlights: By Carol Ann Buelow Secretary, NW District LCMC**

The NW District Council met in Kalispell, MT on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Here are the highlights of the meeting:

- All council members received prayer assignments based upon geographic clusters.
- Member congregations are encouraged to utilize scholarship funds available for attendance at the National Gathering in Marion, Iowa (Sept. 29 – Oct. 2).
- The NW District will host a hospitality room at the Hampton Inn during the National Gathering.
- Exploring online payment and event registration capabilities utilizing the Tithe.ly platform.
- The chaplaincy bylaw change has been unanimously approved by district members.
- Approved resolution outlining the governance framework for the Youth Impact Sub-Committee
- Reviewed and approved the Youth Impact registration forms and the contract with Shoshone Mountain Retreat in Wallace, ID.
- The District Coordinators are seeking congregations that successfully completed the Call Process using the LCMC Call Packet and are willing to serve as references to calling congregations.
- The theme for the Annual Gathering in Medicine Hat, Alberta will be “What’s the Story?”
- Julie Smith, LCMC Coordinator for Districts and Fellowships, has challenged board members to have a joint worship service, gathering and picnic for each NW geographic cluster.

**ORDAINED!!** Congratulations to Pastor Travis Powers who was ordained on June 14<sup>th</sup> at Christ Lutheran Church in Odessa, WA. Your ordination marks a beautiful chapter in your spiritual journey. May your shining light never falter. May your ministry bring immeasurable blessings to you and to all you serve!

Pictured with Pr. Travis Powers from left to right are:

Pr. Ken Waag, Pr. Julie Smith,  
Pr. Donna Zipp, Pr. Carol Ann Buelow,  
Rev. Timothy Swenson &  
Pr. Mark Koonz



Pastor Travis Powers with his family



## Greetings LCMC Family!

My name is Eric Lundberg and I am the Lead Pastor at Living Word in Graham, Washington. I am taking this opportunity to inform and invite you to our Northwest District youth retreat we named: IMPACT. This is a great opportunity to invest in the discipleship and community of the teenagers in our district.

This retreat will be equal parts discipleship, worship, and fun. We strongly encourage you to discuss this with the families in your church community and present this opportunity to them.

I feel we have a massive responsibility to our youth to invest in their spiritual development and retreats like this will leave a lasting impression on them. The culture is doing all they can to detour our youth from God's plan and purpose for their lives and put as many wedges between them and the Lord as possible. I believe we are in an urgent season with our youth and must support them in any way we can.

The Holy Spirit is alive in youth around the world and My prayer is we will see a move of God in and through the youth of LCMC.

Blessings and peace, Eric Lundberg

Living Word, Senior Pastor 253-370-4651



# SAVED

## YOUTH RETREAT



What are we saved FROM?

Romans 6:23

What are we saved FOR?

**OCT 18th - 20th, 2024**

**Shoshone Mountain Retreat Wallace, ID**

**IMPACT WEEKENDS ARE DESIGNED  
WITH HIGH ENERGY GAMES,  
FELLOWSHIP, AND GROWING IN FAITH  
FOR YOUTH TO  
HAVE A FUN-FILLED EXPERIENCE!  
7TH TO 12TH GRADERS WELCOME!**



**COST: \$50.00 PER YOUTH/CHAPARONE**

This includes 2 nights of lodging and all meals



**REGISTRATION BEGINS JUNE 23RD, 2024**

Forms and additional information will be emailed

**Contact us :**

**[peacechristianed@gmail.com](mailto:peacechristianed@gmail.com)**



**LCMC NW District IMPACT Youth Retreat 2024**  
**Shoshone Mountain Retreat Wallace, ID**  
**October 18th to 20th**

**Friday, October 18th**

6:30p - 7:15p Registration

7:15p – 9:30p Welcome: Worship, Message, Icebreakers and Games

9:30p – 11:00p Small Group time. Lights out at 11:00pm

**Saturday October 19th**

7:30a – 8:30a Morning Walk (Optional)

8:30a – 9:30a Breakfast

9:30a – 10:30a Opening Worship and Message

10:30a – 11:00a Small Group

11:15a – 12:15p Games/Activities

12:15p – 1:15p Lunch

1:15p - 2:45p Service Project/Team Building

2:45p – 3:00p Small Group Time

3:00p – 5:00p Free Time (Snack available)

5:00p – 5:15p Camp Photo

5:15p – 6:15p Dinner

6:30p – 7:30p Worship and Message

7:30p – 8:30p Open Mic and Prayers

8:45p – 9:45p Campfire

9:45p – 11:00p Small Group time. Lights out at 11:00p

**Sunday October 20th**

8:15a – 9:15a Morning Walk (optional)

9:15a – 10:15a Brunch

10:15a – 11:15a Worship Service

11:15a – 11:45a Clean up cabins, pack up (Snacks available)

11:45a – 12:30p Final Gathering

## LCMC IMPACT Youth Retreat Registration Form

### Youth Information

Full Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: Male / Female (circle one)      Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_      Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent Information

Parent/Guardian Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(List the church group you are coming with even if that is not your home church)

Church Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Chaperone Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form and make check to:

Registration Fee: \$50/person

Northwest District LCMC

\_\_\_\_\_ My check is enclosed

400 Circle Dr.

\_\_\_\_\_ Fee paid by the church

Cut Bank, MT 59427

\*\*\*Due to a generous donation from the LCMC NW District our registration fees have been discounted.

### Release & Waiver of Liability Agreement/Medical & Media Release Form

I give my permission for this child to participate in all aspects of the retreat program except as noted above. I understand that it is my responsibility to bring any special concerns, medical or otherwise, about my child to the attention of the chaperone before or at the time of time of registration. In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give permission to camp staff and/or chaperone to secure and administer treatment, including hospitalization, ordering injections, anesthesia, x-ray or surgery as deemed necessary for my child named above. I accept responsibility for payment of such services. I will in no way hold Shoshone staff members, LCMC Board Members, retreat leaders or chaperones liable. I understand choosing to send this child to this retreat may increase their risk of being exposed to communicable diseases such as flu or COVID. For the safety of other campers and leaders, I agree to not send this child if I suspect they are ill. I give my permission for any picture or video taken of my child to be used for promotional purposes unless I note otherwise. BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT I acknowledge these policies and affirm that I am the legal parent and/ or guardian of the camper listed above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# LCMC IMPACT Youth Retreat Registration Form

## MEDICAL INFORMATION

Please complete, sign, and return with registration form. Must be filled out & signed by the custodial parent/guardian.

Camper's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: Male / Female (circle one) Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Are Immunizations Current? Yes / No (circle one) Date of last tetanus shot: (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/Asthma/Other Concerns: (Indicate if allergy is airborne, touch, or ingested exposure)

Food Allergy? \_\_\_\_\_ Severity: \_\_\_\_\_

Insect Allergy? \_\_\_\_\_ Severity: \_\_\_\_\_

Other/Medication Allergies? \_\_\_\_\_ Severity: \_\_\_\_\_

Has this camper ever experienced asthma (exercise induced or otherwise): Y / N

Camper needs an: ☐ EpiPen ☐ Inhaler Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any physical medical conditions (Diabetes, Heart Condition, mobility, etc.) Please Give Details:

Please list any current mental health diagnosis (ex: ADHD, depression, anxiety, etc.):

Please list past medical treatments, surgeries or injuries (which may affect camp life or emergency care):

Please list all medications, including OTC and vitamins, the camper will be taking at camp.

Be specific and add additional pages as needed for instructions and additional items.

Medication	Dose	When is it taken?	Why is it taken?

If needed, can designated staff administer acetaminophen/ibuprofen according to dosage guidelines? Y / N

Please label all inhalers, EpiPens, medications with the camper's name in permanent marker. All items will be held and administer by staff. Please communicate medication needs with your chaperone upon registration.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION: List at least one contact, must be someone OTHER than a parent.

Full Name	Phone Number	Relationship

CAMPER'S MEDICAL INSURANCE INFORMATION:

Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_

Group #: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Holders Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

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# LCMC IMPACT Youth Retreat Registration Form

## STUDENT CONDUCT FORM - IMPACT RETREAT 2024

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chaperone Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Student Behavior:

1. Students and chaperones are expected to conduct themselves according to these guidelines for the duration of the trip (from the time your group begins the journey to the camp to the very end of the trip when your group is reunited with their families).
2. **Appropriate displays of affection** may include side hugs, shoulder-to-shoulder hugs, pats on the head, shoulder or back, handshakes, high-fives, arms around shoulders and touching hands, faces, shoulders and arms.
3. **Inappropriate displays of affection:** Even if in fun or as "horseplay" it is not acceptable for adults to engage with youth or youth to engage with one another in full frontal hugs, kisses on the mouth, touching bottoms, chests or private areas, showing affection in isolated areas of a building, touching knees or legs, wrestling, piggyback rides, tickling, massage or any form of affection unwanted by a youth.
4. **Appropriate Verbal Interaction** -includes positive reinforcement, appropriate jokes, encouragement and praise.
5. **Inappropriate Verbal Interaction** - Avoid any form of name calling, sexually oriented conversations with and between teens, involving youth in the personal problems of leaders, having secret elements of any relationship with youth, compliments related to physique or body development, cursing, off-color or sexual jokes, shaming, belittling, derogatory remarks or harsh language that may frighten, threaten or humiliate.
6. **Safe Media, Internet and Social Media Guidelines** – The youth and their chaperones shall not watch restricted, adult or age-inappropriate movies videos. The sharing of inappropriate or unsupervised internet access and texting between adult leaders and youth under 16 without parental permission is not allowed. Cell phones may be collected by retreat leaders and safely stored for the duration of the trip. With permission from a chaperon and event leader a youth may be given their cell phone to contact their parents for relevant matters.
7. If a student observes the injury of a fellow student or chaperone, inappropriate behavior or behavior that violates these guidelines by students and other emergencies should be immediately reported to a chaperone. If the chaperone is involved in inappropriate behavior, it should be reported to the camp leaders.
8. Students are expected to dress appropriately. Shorts must be of a modest length, no "short shorts" are allowed. Shirts and tops should not display offensive language or pictures (language and pictures that do not reflect a Christian's high calling in Christ). Shirts and tops should cover the midriff.
9. Students must be in their assigned cabin at the conclusion of the last scheduled evening activity. Students must not leave their room or have anyone enter their room past the designated curfew time for that evening. Students should only leave in case of an emergency and must notify the chaperone.
10. If a youth engages in activities in contravention of these guidelines and is asked to stop and refuses, the youth should be removed. The youth's parents or guardians should be contacted, and the situation explained, and a request made for the parent/guardian to come and remove the youth immediately.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name - Print

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name - Print

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# **LCMC IMPACT Youth Retreat Registration Form**

## **CHAPERONE FORM IMPACT RETREAT 2024**

Chaperone Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chaperone Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of all youth attending with you: \_\_\_\_\_

### Chaperone Agreement Form IMPACT Youth Retreat October 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>

Chaperones must understand that by agreeing to be a chaperone they will temporarily be assuming complete responsibility for the students within their group. Chaperones must be at least 21 years or older and have a current background check.

#### Chaperones must be capable of fulfilling all duties required:

1. Be responsible for supervision, management, and discipline of all students at all times and assist students to follow directions, including frequent and regular room checks up to and beyond the designated curfew.
2. Always set a good example for students to emulate. Chaperones specifically agree to abide by the guidelines set forth in Paragraphs 2 to 6, inclusive in the Student Conduct Form relating to appropriate and inappropriate behavior and language and safe media.
3. Follow ALL emergency procedures and take immediate action in the event of any situation (medical or otherwise).
4. Be positive and enthusiastic to add to the student's experience.
5. Chaperones are expected to attend all activities with their group.
6. Dress appropriately. Shorts must be of a modest length, no "short shorts" are allowed. Shirts and t-shirts should not display offensive language or pictures (language and pictures that do not reflect a Christian's high calling in Christ). Shirts and tops should cover the midriff.
7. For the duration of the trip/event, chaperones are strictly prohibited from: Consuming alcoholic beverages, smoking, using smokeless tobacco and/or vaping, or using controlled/illegal substances.
8. Enforce restrictions, rules, and quiet hours.
9. The "Two Adult" Rule. Our goal is to have at least two chaperones present when interacting with one or more teens, whether at the event, or during some other off-premises activity, event or mentoring program. These adults should not be related.
10. When adults are needed to drive youth to and from the camp every effort should be made to have two adult chaperones with one or more minors as passengers. Avoid having one young person and one adult in the car alone. If you have any unplanned extra stops, attempt to notify parents if possible.
11. Adequate Leader-to-Youth Ratios - Subject to the "two adult" rule minimum, any sponsored youth event should always have a leader-to-youth ratio of no less than one leader to eight youth, particularly if it is outside, near public roads or off-premises. However, the higher the risk, the greater the supervision required. For example, wilderness hiking may require a 1:4 ratio, or if you have any special needs persons in your care. Every effort will be made to have a male and female chaperone and/or leader on every coed event.

By signing below, I accept the responsibility as a chaperone and the supervision of students under my care.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name - Print



## LCMC 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering & Convention

Sept. 29 – Oct. 2, 2024

St. Mark's Lutheran Church – Marion Iowa

### 24<sup>th</sup> Annual National Gathering Scholarships Available

The Northwest District has ten (10) adult scholarships of \$500 each, maximum \$5000, available to help with Annual National Gathering registration costs and expenses. Requests are on a first come, first serve basis. To obtain a scholarship, please contact: Karla Kaleva at: [karlakaleva12@gmail.com](mailto:karlakaleva12@gmail.com) or send your request to:

Karla Kaleva  
400 Circle Drive  
Cut Bank, MT 59427



Did you know? Karla Kaleva has agreed to serve as our new NW District LCMC treasurer. We believe this is God's call and wish her every blessing as she steps into this role!

All future donations, reimbursement requests, and treasurer correspondence should be directed to the following address:

Karla Kaleva  
LCMC – NW District Treasurer  
400 Circle Drive  
Cut Bank, MT 59427



If you or your congregation would like to include information in our next LCMC Northwest District newsletter, please submit it to Carol Ann Buelow at: [buelow@aol.com](mailto:buelow@aol.com)

News for "The Happenings"



I want to apologize for inadvertently neglecting to acknowledge and thank Alice, Elvin, and Melvin Borg who gave of their gifts and talents at our District gathering this past April in Lebanon, OR. Thank you to Elvin for preaching the gospel in the opening sermon, Melvin for his inspiring preaching of the Sermon on the Mount from memory, and Alice for her leading the gathering with her talented piano play!  
~ Rev. Dr. Marney Fritts



## Church Spotlight – New Hope Lutheran Church (NHLC) – Circle, Montana

NHLC is a new church plant in a small agricultural town, located in central Montana. The congregation was formed, after a failed church vote to leave the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). With the support of neighboring congregations, these faithful Christians left their lifetime church home, to explore other options for worship and mission.

NHLC gathered for the first time as a new congregation, on November 10, 2019. They were welcomed in by local congregation, Salem Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), to share and utilize their facility worship space and resources. Without hesitation, the leadership of the WELS congregation greeted NHLC with the statement: “Here’s a set of keys, and the Communion wine is in the fridge downstairs. Make yourselves at home!”

In the infancy stages of the church plant, the membership stepped up to lead worship services from within, as well as calling on other faithful servants in the region. Lutheran Brethren, North American Lutheran Church (NALC), Christian Missionary Alliance, Assembly of God, Presbyterian and former ELCA ordained and lay pastors provided pulpit supply for NHLC.

In August, 2020, NHLC voted to affiliate with NALC, solidifying their governing docs, placing members into leadership roles, and approving their official name, of New Hope Lutheran Church. They conducted their first Annual Meeting in February, 2021, where a full council was elected, and a constitution and an annual budget were ratified.

During this season of the church plant, the congregation was receiving the majority of it’s pulpit supply, from a nearby businessman, and seminary student, Blayne Watts, who had gone through Pastoral Ministry Certificate program at the Institute of Lutheran Theology in Brookings, SD, and was enrolled in the Master of Divinity (MDiv) program as well.

In the spring of 2023, at their annual meeting, NHLC voted to also affiliate with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). With several congregations in the region associated with the LCMC, this was a natural fit for the congregation, furthering their networking and support in the larger church family.



On March 12th of 2023, NHLC entered into a contract call with Blayne Watts, ordaining and installing him on the same day. Pastor Blayne continues to be a bi-vocational servant, while perusing his MDiv degree through ILT, and being mentored by pastors of the NALC and Northwest District of the LCMC.

**Pastor Blayne Watts with Pastor Paul Landeraaen on his ordination day**

NHLC has begun to flourish as a congregation, maturing the membership in their faith walk, with Catechesis Sundays with both adult and youth programs, vacation bible school, and several local mission programs supporting their neighbors and community.

The relationship with Salem Lutheran Church has been maintained and nurtured as well, with the goal of someday owning the facility outright. In the meantime, the two healthy congregations, have been able to revitalize the sanctuary and building, offering a bright and welcoming church home to the local community.

NHLC has taken this church plant as an opportunity to mature in their faith, while reviewing and reconciling church traditions, while keeping Christ and His mission the priority of the church. A new church plant, was something the members of NHLC never thought they were capable of, but by the will of God, here they stand. A healthy, flourishing body of believers, making disciples, and glorifying the Trinity.