



VOLUME 8 ISSUE 4

The Happenings

USA — Canada

OCTOBER 2024



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation (Psalm 146:3).

Psalm 146 is the first of the final five hallelujah or praise psalms. The closing chapters of the book of psalms conclude with promises of the LORD setting the prisoner free, the LORD healing the brokenhearted, and the extolling of the LORD who made heaven and earth, sun and moon and shining stars. In psalm 146, there are also words of warning to mankind who have a habit of putting our trust in the wrong places. The chief commandment is the first commandment and the words of warning expose our misplaced trust. This is then followed by lavish words of promise of what the LORD has done, does, and will continue doing to deal with sinners and our wayward hearts.

Inevitably, following the general election cycle in our nation, people will begin to post on social media platforms, “Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation” (Psalm 146:3). In a cursory observation, this is most commonly posted by those who’s candidate lost. Maybe it is a way to lick one’s wounds. Or maybe such a loss has the effect of repenting one back to the one true LORD in whom we find our hope, help, and salvation. It reveals that one had put their hope in a human being to help improve their life and their nation. Should we not have put our trust in the LORD for all things *before* the election? Should this not be a word to those whose candidate won even more so than to those whose candidate lost? Indeed, this is a word to all of us who vote. We all have fallen short of the first commandment and our particular political desires disclose that we had less trust in God regarding our earthly life and believed that some human being will at least make up the difference.

In an eschatological turn of verse 5, the LORD blesses us who demonstrate that we do not fear, love, and trust God above anything else. In mercy, he has come to us who need help and salvation. He who made the heaven and earth and sea, promises “keeps faith forever.” We do not keep faith; we give up faith in the LORD by putting our trust in anyone who we believe will open the door to financial and political freedom. We cannot by our own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ that he alone has, is, and shall keep us in true faith forever. This belief in Christ is the work worked in us by the Holy Spirit alone.

Before his ascension, Jesus Christ told us that even the psalms are written about him (Luke 24:44). This psalm declares the end of all earthly regimes and political winners and losers. Jesus Christ is exposing the reality that we are all imprisoned by the fact that we have put our trust in our politics. But our LORD Jesus Christ is king of a kingdom not of this world, for it is a kingdom ruled by the gospel apart from the law. He is the only one who has the power to keep us in true faith and to set the prisoners free. While the earthly rulers perish one after another, the Lord will reign forever. In Christ alone do we have our life and salvation.

Blessings of the crucified and risen Jesus Christ,
Rev. Dr. Marney Fritts, Chair

LCMC

Northwest District Council

Executive Committee

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Pr. Edward Skutshek, Vice Chair

Pr. Carol Ann Buelow, Secretary

Karla Kaleva, Treasurer

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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 on Sept 29, 2024 in Marion, Iowa. Here are the highlights from our latest council meetings:

- The resignation of District Council member Pastor Grant Crichton was accepted with regret. Pastor Dave Hall and Moe Bessey have indicated that they are unable to serve additional terms.
- Council members were asked to encourage our LCMC brothers and sisters in Christ to participate in the NW District, and specifically invite participation through service on the Northwest District Council or as a member of the District Coordination Team. We have three council openings, and two district coordination team positions available.
- New NW District brochures have been printed and board members are encouraged to use them as a communication tool when talking with congregations they pray for. Julie Smith, LCMC Coordinator for Districts and Fellowships, has also provided a PowerPoint that presents what LCMC is, how it is structured, etc. This will be another helpful communication tool.
- The Board approved the use of a NW District debit card to be used by the treasurer. This will enable the district to purchase a Zoom link which can be used for Sub Committee meetings.
- A new Giving tab is now available on the NW District website.
- A new job description for the District Coordination function will be available in January.
- The Youth Impact team is making final preparations for the upcoming SAVED event at Shoshone Mountain Retreat. We currently have more than 50 youth, and 65 registrants signed up!
- Accepted Pastor Robert and Debra Sinclair (Nampa, Idaho) as new individual members.
- The next NW District Annual Gathering will now be held at Yellowstone Alliance Adventure Camp near Belgrade, MT. Shelly Hauge has agreed to chair the sub-committee.
- The NW District hosted a hospitality hour at the LCMC Annual Gathering in Marion on Sept, 29th.

Something New!

We have now added a giving tab on our website! <https://lcmc-nw.com/> making it easier for congregations and individuals to make donations and register for district gatherings and youth events. We rely on the financial support of our member congregations, individuals, and chapters to carry out the work of the Northwest District. If your congregation does not already do so, please consider adding the Northwest District to this next year's budget with either monthly, quarterly, or annual contributions.

Donations may also continue to be made by sending a check to

Northwest District-LCMC
Karla Kaleva, Treasurer
400 Circle Drive
Cut Bank, MT 59427

Do you know everything your District does for you and where your contributions go? Here are just a few: Planning and Hosting the Annual Gathering, Serving as a resource for calls, missions, or projects, Providing mentoring and advice, Financial Support for your concerns and mission projects, Planning and Hosting Youth Events, and much more!!

We pray God's blessings upon Pastor Chuck Solum and his wife Heather who supports and shares His ministry. Pastor Chuck was installed on August 25th, 2024 in a wonderfully joyous worship service at Grace Community Lutheran Church in La Grande, Oregon.

May the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord bless you and keep you, fill your life with His joy and sustain you by His grace.



Pastor Chuck and his wife Heather are pictured with Pastor David Sorenson and members of 'sending church' Community of Faith Lutheran Church in West Linn, Oregon as they affirm and support Pastor Chuck's call to serve.



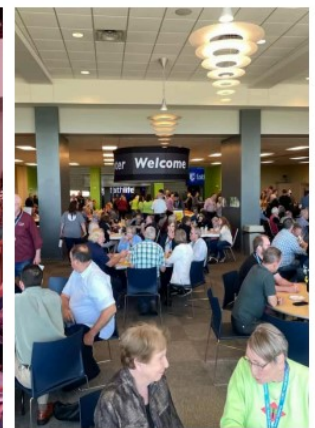
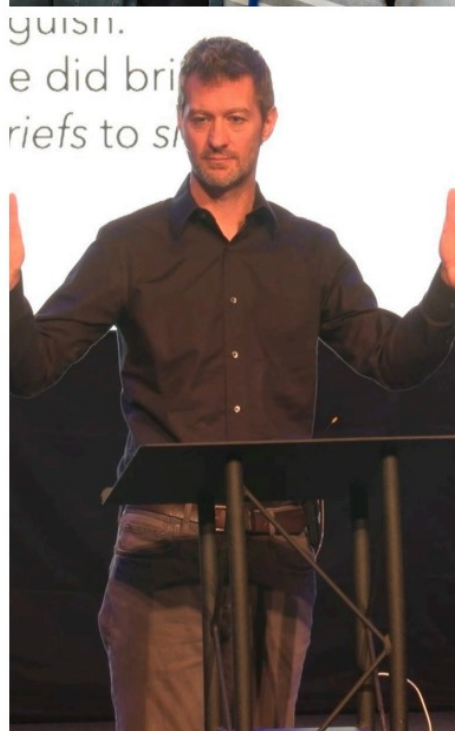
Pastor Roger Melheim
Melville, MT
1946-2024

Pastor Alan Daugherty
Spokane Valley, WA

Heavenly Father, with heavy hearts we remember these brothers in Christ giving thanks for their lives and contributions to your kingdom. Bring comfort and peace to all who mourn their loss, and may they find hope in your loving presence and the promise of eternal life. Amen.



LCMC ANNUAL GATHERING Marion 2024 Iowa



24th Annual Gathering & Convention Recap



Dear LCMC NW District Family,

The LCMC Annual Gathering is a wonderful time! From September 29 to October 2, 646 people gathered at FaithLife Church in Marion, IA, for Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ's 24th Annual Gathering and Convention.

How Can One Describe the LCMC Annual Gathering?

Trinity Lutheran Lewiston's congregational president, Arlan Matchey, created an Information Station in the Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday, October 6th, to briefly overview our LCMC Annual Gathering 2024 experience. This station was a testament to the importance of our congregation's connection to a larger, supportive association of churches within the LCMC community. Your presence and participation are integral to our shared mission as members of an association of congregations and as individuals who are free in Christ, accountable to one another, rooted in scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and working to fulfill Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations.

Next time you see Arlan Matchey, the congregational president of Trinity Lutheran in Lewiston, ask him about his first Annual Gathering experience:

"Before I attended the gathering, I was unaware and lacked understanding. As a new congregational president, I gained the confidence, resources, and information I needed to serve my congregation better. I found the atmosphere to be very non-judgmental."

We learned from keynote speakers, participated in worship and daily Bible study, visited with our LCMC Ministry Partners about new partnership opportunities, and gleaned innovative ideas from breakout sessions. Especially helpful for us was FOUNDATIONS FOR HEALTHY AND EFFECTIVE CHURCH COUNCILS – In this breakout, Michael Faust helped us examine how we can be intentional in helping church council members become healthier as persons and more effective in the role they've been called to serve on the church council. This combination of health as persons and effectiveness in our roles is a key aspect of enabling church council members, along with their pastors, to see and embrace the cultural moments before them in their churches and in our communities.

The Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) is not just a static entity but a living, growing community. Currently, there are 1001 congregations, including 813 in the US, 39 in various states and territories, and 16 in different countries. This growth is a testament to our shared commitment and faith.

Whether a long-time member or new to LCMC, you will make new friends and reunite with old ones. You can always expect to engage in topics and leave equipped to face the cultural challenges the local church faces.

Once again, I return feeling informed, refreshed, renewed, and spiritually reinvigorated for ministry. I pray that every member congregation of the LCMC Northwest District is stirred to action and will avail themselves of the upcoming opportunities to be more closely connected.



Trinity council president Arlan, Pastor Donna, and our WMPL ministry partner

I can only imagine how, together as a district, we can fulfill Christ's Great Commission in new and creative ways.

If you could not view the live streams of the amazing worship, bible study, and keynote sessions from the Annual Gathering, videos will soon be available on the LCMC website under Events/[Annual Gathering](#)/Annual Gathering Videos.

For now, visit both the [LCMC](#) and the [LCMC Northwest District](#) websites, and do not hesitate to ask President Arlan from Trinity or me any questions you may have. We will continue to share information and answer your questions about our larger association and our great LCMC NW District. We would love to tell you more. Please track us down at the upcoming Annual Gathering on May 1-3, 2025, at Yellowstone Alliance Adventures Camp in Beautiful Belgrade, Montana. See you there!

In Christ,
Pastor Donna Zipp
LCMC Northwest District Board Member

SAVE THE DATES!

We hope to see you for the **LCMC NW DISTRICT GATHERING on May 1-3, 2025** at [Yellowstone Alliance Adventures](#) in beautiful Belgrade, Montana!

The **2025 LCMC ANNUAL GATHERING & CONVENTION - September 29 - October 1, 2025**, at Hosanna Lutheran Church, Lakeville, MN.



Is God Calling You to Serve?

LCMC Northwest District
Council Membership
Nomination Information Form

NAME: _____

Must be over the age of 17 years

Address: _____

City: _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

Congregation Name: _____

City: _____ St. _____

Skills & Strengths _____

The LCMC Northwest District Council is in need of two council members. The council is comprised of lay and clergy members. The District Council meets at various locations during the year; therefore, some travel may be needed.

Please be in attendance at the LCMC Northwest District's annual gathering so the council can confirm your Nomination Request and desire to serve.

The Northwest District is in need of several District Coordinators. A new District Coordinator Job Description and Roles / Responsibilities for the position will be available in January 2025.

Members interested in serving as a NW District Coordinator covering a geographic area should complete the above information and indicate their willingness to serve below:

Mail form to:

LCMC Northwest District

Secretary: c/o Carol Ann Buelow

840 Fern Ct

Walla Walla, WA 99362

or: Present form at the LCMC Northwest Annual Gathering



Winter Retreat in Concan, TX



LCMC LeaderCare Retreat - One Another is a Relational Formation Retreat held in beautiful Concan, Texas. Registration is open and **space is limited!** This retreat is **for pastors, seminarians, ministry staff, congregational leaders, and spouses all across LCMC**. Early bird cost is just \$120 per person and includes meals and lodging. See below for a schedule of events. Our hope is that participants will be equipped, refreshed, and recharged for all that God has in store.

This year participants can choose from two teaching tracks: Leadership, presented by Christian Huntley, LCMC Coordinator for Leadership and Pastoral Development, and Devotional, presented by LCMC Texas District Council member Barbara Hoover.

There are two retreat opportunities. All are welcome but space is limited! Choose which dates work best for you: Sunday through Tuesday, February 2-4; or Wednesday through Friday, February 5-7.

****Each retreat is limited to just 45 attendees and can accommodate up to 11 married couples in private queen bedrooms.**

For full details and registration information, see: <https://www.lcmctexas.org/winter-retreat/>

For questions: call 512-942-7776 or email info@lcmctexas.org

13TH ANNUAL THREE DAYS OF PRAYER - #LCMC3DOP

January 7-9, 2025

Prayer was a holy habit practiced by Jesus Himself (see Mark 1:35; Luke 11:1). The disciples who walked alongside Him witnessed a connection between His public life and ministry, and this habit of prayer. It was a connection so significant, that they asked Jesus to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1).

LCMC's Three Days of Prayer is an opportunity for us to follow the Lord's example and come together across the association with a shared purpose: to pray.