



## 2025 Annual Gathering Northwest District of LCMC May 1-3, 2025

The 2025 Annual Gathering for the Northwest District of LCMC (**NW District**) will take place over three days from May 1st to May 3rd. Information on the gathering can be found below.

### Gathering Theme

“What’s the Story? – Romans 5:8”

***“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” – (Romans 5:8)***

Romans 5:8 is a beautiful and powerful reminder of God’s unconditional love. It speaks of a love that doesn’t wait for us to be perfect, worthy, or “good enough.” Instead, it meets us right where we are—in the depths of our sin, brokenness, and imperfections.

Pastors Jon Anderson and Dave Hall, our keynote speakers, will unpack the facets of this spiritual gem.

We have partnered with Peace Lutheran Church of Belgrade, MT, in convening our annual gathering this year. Members of Peace’s worship band will provide accompaniment for times of praise and worship. Karla Kaleva will lead our district mass choir. The choir will provide special music during closing worship. All those called to sing in the choir will practice on Saturday morning.

Pastor Andrew Young will welcome us and shepherd us through the weekend. He will also preach and preside at closing worship.

For those who are flying in, Peace Lutheran has also graciously offered to provide transportation from the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport in Bozeman to the Camp and then return you to the airport. Carpooling will be available during the weekend for various purposes.



Pastor Julie Smith, Coordinator for Districts and Fellowships of LCMC, will lead us in the opening Bible Study on Titus 3:4-8a and will update us on all that is new at LCMC.



Julie 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

Delegates and visitors will get a chance to talk about how their congregations embody our theme in a townhall session on Saturday.

We will also hear presentations from two local faith-based charities, Love Inc., and ZoeCare. ZoeCare has been designated as the recipient of offerings from our closing worship service. Delegates and visitors can support Love Inc., through donations of products. These tangible offerings will be presented to representatives of Love Inc., on Saturday.

God often called the Old Testament Prophets up the mountain to meet Him. Jesus invited his disciples to climb to a mountaintop with him. They left that mountaintop equipped and ready to serve. Jesus is inviting the people of the NW District of LCMC to come to a mountaintop near Belgrade, Montana, for a time of study, praise, worship and fellowship. We will leave on Sunday morning refreshed, inspired and equipped to serve God in new ways. Come and join us.

### Our Venue

#### Yellowstone Alliance Adventures Camp



District’s gathering will be convened at Yellowstone Alliance Adventures Camp and Christian Retreat Center 13707 Cottonwood Canyon Rd, Bozeman, MT 59718, USA (the **Camp**). The Camp is located about 13 miles from Bozeman’s city center and 19 miles from the Holiday Inn. It takes 20 minutes to drive from the

city center to the camp due to the posted speed limit and the rural character of the road.

## Gathering Spaces



All meetings, keynote presentations, and worship services will be held in the Camp's chapel building. It seats 120.

The Camp's amenities include a game room, yard games such as cornhole, Kubb, ladder toss, hiking trails, volleyball courts and other activities. There will be plenty to do during the scheduled free time.

## Meals



All meals from Thursday night to Sunday morning will be provided by the Camp and will be served in the Camp's Dining Hall. Their meals are described as delicious and generous! Their breads, rolls, and desserts are baked fresh right in the kitchen, and most meals are made from scratch! The kitchen and dining room are cozy and welcoming.



**If you are flying into Bozeman-Yellowstone International Airport of Bozeman, MT, Peace Lutheran will arrange transportation from the airport to the Camp and back to the airport. Carpooling will be available during the weekend for various purposes.**

## Unique opportunity

Not only can delegates and visitors come together for an amazing weekend of worship, fellowship, and inspiration, our annual gathering will be held in one of the most picturesque areas in the US.

Bozemen is located about 80 miles north of Yellowstone National Park. The drive from Bozeman to North Yellowstone is about a 1 hour 30 minute drive via US-89 S. As the North Entrance is the only entrance open year-round, it's one of the most popular routes from Bozeman to Yellowstone. The drive is an ideal prelude to the marvels that lie ahead.

Mammoth Hot springs is the first point of interest encountered after entering the North Entrance. Park headquarters, other sights and Old Faithful are found further south. The Grand Teton National Park is just south of Yellowstone National Park. The area is noted for breathtaking scenery, hiking and whitewater rafting.



Bozeman itself has a world-renowned Dinosaur Museum, Planetarium, and great shopping. Historic Virginia City and Nevada City also are close by. What an opportunity to add a couple of days of sightseeing to a weekend spent with brothers and sisters in Christ.



## Accommodations

Accommodation will be available at the Camp, and at the Holiday Inn and in Belgrade (about 19 miles from the Camp).

### Accommodations at the Camp

There are three lodges with 4 rooms in each lodge and RV spaces.

#### #1 Upper Canyon Lodge:

- Upper Canyon Lodge
- Fully accommodated with bathrooms and showers
- 4 rooms (1 -2 bunks & 1 queen bed)
- Handicap accessible



#### #2 Lower Canyon Lodge:

- Fully accommodated with bathrooms and showers
- 4 rooms (2 rooms have a queen bed and bunks & 2 rooms have 4 bunks)
- Handicap accessible



#### #3 Bunkhouse:

- Fully accommodated with bathrooms and showers
- 4 rooms 12-14 people/room (5 or 6 bunks)
- Handicap accessible



**Guests must bring their own bedding (linens) and towels.**

**# 4 RV Spots - Full service  
6 RV Hookup Spots at \$150 each (3 nights)**

## Offsite Accommodations

### Holiday Inn Express – Belgrade Montana



**Address:** 309 West Madison Avenue, Belgrade, MT 59714. **Tel:** 406-388-7100. You must call the Hotel directly to reserve.

A block of 10 rooms (double Queen beds) has been reserved for participants in NW District Gathering 2025 at the rate of \$200.00 per night plus taxes. Rooms are available for Friday Night May 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday night May 3<sup>rd</sup>. **These rooms must be booked by March 18<sup>th</sup>.** Each person would register for Option #3 below.

## Registration Fees

### Option #1: At Camp – All-Inclusive \$350.00 per person

**Accommodation:** A room in either the Upper Canyon Lodge or Lower Canyon Lodge or the Bunkhouse.

**Occupancy:** at least double occupancy in each room.

**Check-in:** Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup>

**Check-out:** Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>

**Meals:** Supper Thursday; breakfast, lunch and supper on Friday & Saturday; and breakfast on Sunday.

**Linens:** Bring your own.

Rooms will be assigned by members of the NW District Gathering Committee.

### Option #2: Commuter – 3 Day \$230.00 per person

**Accommodation:** You book your own room at Holiday Inn or another hotel.

This registration fee includes a camp use fee for Thursday, Friday and Saturday and covers the following meals:

**Meals:** Supper Thursday; breakfast, lunch and supper on Friday & Saturday; and breakfast on Sunday.

### Option #3: Commuter – 2 Day

**\$170.00 per person**

**Accommodation:** You book your own room at Holiday Inn or another hotel.

This registration fee includes a camp use fee for Friday and Saturday and covers the following meals:

**Meals:** Breakfast, lunch and supper on Friday & Saturday; and breakfast on Sunday.

### RV Spot

**\$150.00**

This fee covers RV pad rental for Thursday, Friday and Saturday night.

Each occupant of the RV must also register for Option 2 or Option 3 depending on the number of days the occupants will be at the Camp.

## Our Presenters

### Pastor Jon Anderson.



Jon is the pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Post Falls, Idaho. He received his bachelor's degree from Texas Tech in Social Welfare, working as a Social Worker before later earning a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological

Seminary and responding to the call to be a pastor. He also holds a Doctoral Degree from Western Theological Seminary. He has served on the Board of Trustees within LCMC, among many other committees, missions and ministries. He is also a talented musician. He enjoys Starburst candies and remains unsure about most Jello dishes... He and his lovely wife Chris have three children and enjoy spending time together as a family.

### Pastor Dave Hall



Dave is the pastor of Joy Lutheran Church of Billings Montana. He was born in Colorado Springs and spent most of his growing up years there while also living in Wesel, Germany and Lawton, OK.

Dave earned a BA in Communication/Theater Arts from Concordia University in Seward, NE and a M. Div.

from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. He has served congregations in Kansas and Colorado. He and his wife Stacy are blessed with two adult children, who live in Pueblo and Ft. Collins, CO.



ZoeCare is a pregnancy and sexual health clinic located in Bozemen, Montana, offering free compassionate medical care. They are staffed by three doctors, three nurses, a social worker, and other professionals and volunteers. Their mission is to serve and answer questions clients may have about pregnancy, abortion procedures, adoption, parenting, and sexually transmitted infections. ZoeCare does not perform or refer for abortions.



Established in Bozeman, Montana in 1995, Gallatin County Love INC (Love In the Name of Christ) is a beacon of hope where volunteers, driven by their faith, come together to meet the needs of their community. This ministry unites 54 local Christian churches, who come together in a unified effort to act as Christ's hands and feet in our community.

Love INC is where people in need can come to find hope in the darkness, solutions to their tangible needs, and the powerful support and lasting relationships that only exist in the eternal kingdom of God. Gallatin County Love INC is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and offers the following services free of charge: trauma recovery classes, life skills classes, home repairs, car repairs, high-quality clothing, personal care products, furniture, linens, and so much more.

Below please find a list of items and products for the tangible offering to Love, Inc.

- ❖ Shampoo & Conditioner sets
- ❖ Razors
- ❖ Body Wash
- ❖ Deodorant for women & men
- ❖ Feminine hygiene products (pads, liners, tampons)
- ❖ Dish & Laundry Detergents

## Gathering Schedule

### Thursday, May 1st

- Noon-3:00 pm - Board meeting and setup
- 3:00-5:00 pm - Check-in
- 6:00-7:00 pm – Supper
- Campfire and Singing

### Friday, May 2nd

- 9:00 am to Noon – Registration
- 9:00-10:00 - Breakfast
- 10:30 -10:45 am - Opening Music - with Peace Lutheran musicians
- 10:45-11:30 am - Bible Study Pastor Julie Smith (Titus 3)
- 11:30-noon - Pastor Ed Skutshek - Introduces Exhibitors
- Noon – 1:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00-1:30pm - Opening Worship and Welcome
- 1:30-2:30pm - Call to Order of the Business Meeting of the NW District
  - Welcome to YAAC - Pastor Andrew Young (Peace Lutheran Church - Belgrade)
  - Welcome by Pastor Ed Skutshek (Chair)
  - Approval of 2024 minutes from Annual Meeting- Pastor Carol Ann Buelow (Secretary)
  - Approval of 2024 Financial Report - Karla Kaleva (Treasurer)
  - Review and approval of 2025 Budget Proposal - Karla Kaleva (Treasurer)
  - Recognition of outgoing council members/Current council members
  - District Coordinators Report
  - Recognition of Nominees and nominations from the floor
  - New Business
- 2:30-2:45 pm - Break
- 2:45-3:30 pm - Keynote #1 Pastor Dave Hall
- 3:30-6:00 pm - Camp Activities and Free Time or Something (Hiking with Pastor Andrew Young and other Free Activities)
- 6:00-7:00 pm – Supper
- 7:00-9:00 pm - Campfire and Singing

### Saturday, May 3rd

- 8:00-9:30 am – Breakfast
- 9:00-9:30 am - Choir Rehearsal

- 9:30-10:00 am - Opening Music with Peace Lutheran musicians
- 10:00-10:45 am - Keynote #2 Pastor Jon Anderson
- 10:45 am – Break
- 11:00 am to Noon - LCMC update from Pastor Julie Smith
- Noon – Lunch
- 1:00-1:15 pm Elections
- 1:15 pm-2:00 pm - “What’s Your Story?” (sharing time from our congregations)
- 2:00-4:00 pm - Camp Activities and Free Time or Something (Hiking with Pastor Andrew Young and other Free Activities)
- 4:00-4:30 pm - “What’s Their Story?” Love Inc. & Zoe Care
- 4:30-5:30 pm Closing Worship with Communion - Pastor Andrew Young preaching (monetary offerings go to Love Inc.)
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm Supper
- 7:00 PM New council meets for pictures, election of officers, establish board meeting times, etc.
- 7:00-9:00 pm Campfire and Singing

### Sunday, May 4th

- 7:30-9:00 am - Breakfast
- 9:00-10:00 am checkout
- Worship at Peace-Belgrade 9:00 am - 203 Jackrabbit Lane, Belgrade, MT

