



VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2

The Happenings

USA — Canada

MAY 2025



Pentecost – Reversing the Curse.

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

Sunday June 8th is Pentecost Sunday. We remember a miracle that happened some 2,000 years ago. It was a wonderful outpouring of speech inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:5-6 explains that on that day there were Jews in Jerusalem from all the nations under heaven. They heard the disciples speak in their mother tongue. They

couldn't believe that these simple men could speak so eloquently their native languages. This miraculous outpouring of the languages points us back to the Old Testament; Chapter 11 of the Book of Genesis.

Genesis chapters 8 and 9 describe the flood that judged the whole earth. God told Noah that his wife, their three sons, and their three wives, and all the animals on the ark would be fruitful and multiply and populate the earth.

Noah's descendants were fertile, and they multiplied. They moved from the region of Mt. Ararat to the fertile crescent bounded by the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. They came to the plains of Shinar. They moved as a single unit. They all spoke the same language. The people, who spoke with one voice, embraced a common vision, to build a city. At the center of the city would be a tower. The city and the tower would be signs and symbols of their unity in language and purpose. They declared that without these symbols of unity they would be in danger of being scattered all over the earth. (Genesis 11:4) By their words and deeds they defied God's command to go out and populate the earth. "As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it." (Genesis 9:7)

God was grieved by their attitude. Their failure and refusal to move out into the world was sheer rebellion and revealed a petulance that was breathtaking. In response, God performed a miracle. God spoke: "Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." God's word worked and communication between people was severely compromised.

God's miracle was itself breathtaking in its scope and depth. Speech Therapists tell us that human brain that God created is wired to learn language. The human mouth, lips and tongue were crafted to produce sounds and words. Human ears are perfect receptors for the sounds produced. After 23 weeks, a baby in its mother's womb can hear sounds from the outside world, most notably its mother's voice. When the child is born it babbles the sounds necessary to speak every language on the face of the earth. As the baby interacts with its family and others it is encouraged to make the sounds necessary to speak the baby's mother tongue. The child's brain is wired to learn to speak. First, we learn our name and then learn to label people and things. Then we learn to make sentences. Cognition arises and we learn to think and reason. This process consumes the first and second decades of our lives.

What normally took decades, God accomplished in an instant. He had rewired each brain so that it thought and expressed itself in a language it had never heard before. Language was meant to make possible and foster communication between people and between these people and God. This miracle was a curse. It separated people from one another. New languages were a punishment from God aimed at exacting compliance with his words to move out and fill the world through coercion and not obedience. What a dark time. What a dark world. Who would save us from their bodies consigned to death?

LCMC

Northwest District Council

Executive Committee

Pr. Edward Skutshek, Chair

Shelly Hauge, Vice Chair

Pr. Bob Sinclair, Secretary

Karla Kaleva, Treasurer

Council Members

Carol Ann Buelow

Jonathan Davis

Pr. Eric Lundberg

Pr. Fred Westerhold

Pr. Greg Wightman

District Coordination Team

Maureen "Moe" Bessey

Pr. Horacio Castillo

Webmaster

Steve Hruza

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God spoke again in Genesis Chapter 22. He had called Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, a miracle baby. Just before Abraham's the sacrificial knife found its mark, God spoke: "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me." (Genesis 22:15, 18)

The Gospel of John declares that Jesus was the promised seed, God's one and only Son, who had come into the world. His light fell on people who were in the shadow of death. Jesus came to undo the curse of Eden. Unlike Adam and Eve, Jesus lived a perfect life. He was tempted by the devil with every temptation possible, did not give into the temptations. Jesus obeyed all of God's commandments. In this way, he loved God with all his heart, mind, soul, and strength, and loved his neighbor as himself. By his innocent suffering and death on the cross, he paid for our sins and our petulant and rebellious nature. By His resurrection from the dead, Jesus opened the gates of heaven and eternal life to all who believe in Him. The risen Jesus gave his disciples a Great Commission to go into the world, to baptize people in the name of the Trinity, and to make disciples of all nations.

On the first Pentecost Sunday, the Great Commission began with a great miracle and wonderful outpouring. In an instant God rewired the disciples brains so that they could speak in languages they had never known. God used these different languages to proclaim a single message: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his first and only son, is that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

On that day, the languages God had used to divide people and to force compliance with his desire and intent (to fill the world), became a conduit for the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The first Pentecost was a foretaste of what is happening all over the world today. Today, faithful Christians who learned their language and other language in the way God first intended translate the Holy Scriptures into the languages which are spoken all over the earth. Every day the Holy Spirit of God's living Word, the Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed in every language, to convict people of their sin and call them to repent. The gospel seeds are sown in the hearts and minds of many. The seeds take root and ripen into a living faith in a living God. Jesus promised: "Truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him, who sent me eternal life, and is not judged, but has crossed from death to life."

God uses our many languages to declare one Lord Jesus and one baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Through this baptism our sins are forgiven, we receive the Holy Spirit and are made members of the one Body of Christ, the Church. In the middle of God's community of faith there is one tower His one and only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. We take refuge in him.

God calls Christ's church to continue to work on the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all languages spoken on the face of the earth.

My prayer is that God continue bless the congregations of the North West District of LCMC as we continue to fulfill the Great Commission through the proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our language and to support the translation and propagation of the Gospel in other languages. I pray that in the pursuit of these goals, the Lord God will bless us with:

Job's patience in our suffering for Christ; Samson's strength; Martha's heart and desire to serve Christ in a concrete way; Mary's heart and desire to sit at the feet of Jesus and be fed by him; David's love and heart for God; Solomon's Wisdom; and above all the love of Christ in our hearts. Amen.

Pastor Ed Skutshek, Northwest District LCMC Chair



LCMC 25th Annual Gathering and Convention

OCTOBER 5-8, 2025

HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH

LAKEVILLE, MN





Gathering Recap

This year's NW District's gathering was 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.

All meetings, keynote presentations, and worship services were held in the Camp's chapel building.

The gathering began on Friday morning with praise and worship led by musicians from Peace Lutheran Church, Belgrade, followed

by an excellent Bible Study led by Pastor Julie Smith on Titus 3.

The youth impact committee gave an excellent presentation on the 2024 Youth Impact Gathering and the gathering slated for October 2025.

Following lunch, and more praise and worship by the Peace Lutheran musicians, the first business session was opened by Pastor Ed Skutshek, NW District Council chair.

Secretary Carol Ann Buelow confirmed a quorum was present for conducting business with 48 delegates and 5 guests present. Delegates passed without objection, the minutes of the 2024 NW District annual gathering and the financial statements for the 2024 fiscal year for our District presented by Karla Kaleva, Treasurer.

Following an excellent presentation by District Coordinator, Moe Bessy, the delegates approved the creation of a paid position for District Coordinator. Moe has agreed to stay on to facilitate a smooth transition. See the article on this new position on page 9.

The delegates approved without objection, the 2025 budget as presented by Karla Kaleva. See the article on the budget on page 10.

Elections: Three (3) three-year term positions on the District Council were vacant. In addition, resignations during the past year left four partial terms. Two (2) two-year terms by reason of the resignation of Pastor Marney Fritts (new job with the Augustana District of LCMC) and Pastor Grant Crichton (Victory Lutheran's withdrawal). Two (2) one-year terms by reason of the resignation of Pastor Travis Powers (personal reasons) and Pastor Donna Zipp (moved to Texas).

The following candidates let their names stand: Shelly Hauge, Pastor Eric Lundberg, Pastor Robert Sinclair and Pastor Fred Westerhold. The meeting was declared in recess until the next day, Saturday May 3rd.

The business meeting was followed by the first part of Pastor Dave Hall's keynote address. Please read more about his presentations on page 5. The keynote address was followed by free time, then supper and time around the campfire singing praises to the Lord.

Saturday began with praise and worship led by the Peace Lutheran musicians, followed by Pastor Dave Hall's second keynote presentation. Pastor Julie Smith gave an update from LCMC national office. Her report spoke of the implications of her recent appointment as the "Service Coordinator" of LCMC. She was thanked for her service as LCMC's District Coordinator and congratulated on her new role. Prayer were offered for her and her new ministry among us.

Following lunch, and inspiring music from the Peace Lutheran worship band, the business meeting was re-convened. Pastor Greg Wightman's name was added to the slate of candidates. This slate of five candidates was approved without objection, with the candidates and District Council to determine who will take the three year and two-year terms.

Following the elections, the delegates and guests participated in a townhall meeting moderated by our chair. Many shared what their congregations were doing to get the story out in their community and abroad. We were all inspired and awed by the initiatives and programs that were described. The townhall was amazing! The townhall was followed by an activity break. Then, we heard presentations from ZoeCare and Love Inc. (see page). These presentations were followed by a closing worship service which included Holy Communion. Pastor Andrew Young preached an inspiring message and presided at Holy Communion. The Peace Lutheran band provided music leadership. A mass choir directed by Karla Kaleva provided two anthems (they were amazing!). Supper was followed by more praise and worship around the campfire.

Amen! Thank you, Lord Jesus, for our 2025 annual gathering!!!



Northwest District Annual Gathering 2025





What's the Story? - Keynote Presentations

Keynote speaker Pastor Dave Hall of Church of Joy Lutheran Church, Billings Montana, led two excellent presentations, one on Friday May 2 and the other Saturday May 3.

Our theme verse for our gathering was: *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:8).

His presentation began with a survey of his own life. The Fall of humanity reached across the generations to his own family. The presentation continued with a survey which began in Eden and the fall of Adam and Eve. God's judgement pronounced on the Serpent included the coming of a promised seed who would come from Eve who would defeat sin, death and the devil. Pastor Dave took us on a journey through

Scripture from Adam to Jesus the promised seed.

His second presentation declared that not only are we sinners, but we are totally lost and need to be found. It is God who finds us. He revealed God's attitude toward the lost in Luke 15:1-32 (The parables of the "lost sheep," lost coin," and the "prodigal son."

The parables teach us that Jesus our Good Shepherd seeks us out. Jesus values us like the woman who lost her coin and the shepherd who lost his sheep. Our heavenly Father is always waiting with arms wide open when we've been out wandering.

Jesus seeks lost sinners through the proclamation of the Gospel. He finds and chooses sinners through that proclamation. He uses us to tell the story. He reminded us that someone has proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ to us. To enflesh that truth, he asked us to break up into small groups and discuss these questions.

- Tell a story of what your life was like before you trusted Jesus and what life is like now.
- Why do you trust and follow Jesus? Tell a story of why you believe?
- Tell the story of when your faith became real to you. Where were you? What happened?
- Tell the story of when you needed hope and Jesus gave you hope.
- If you have always known the love and forgiveness of Jesus, that's your story. Don't underestimate your Jesus-story or how the Holy Spirit can use it to help your neighbor.

We should all reflect on these questions, answer them and make a written record of our answers. The twists and turns of our own faith journeys may help, inspire and encourage a lost sheep, coin or prodigal child to hear "the Gospel story."



Called
TO SERVE

The NW District Council is dedicated to expanding our ability to serve our Lord Jesus Christ and our member congregations. Pictured is the 2025-2026 Northwest District Council from left to right in the front - Pr. Carol Ann Buelow; Moe Bessey, Interim District Coordinator; Shelly Hauge; Karla Kaleva. Back row from left to right - Pr. Ed Skutshek; Pr. Greg Wightman; Pr. Fred Westerhold; Pr. Eric Lundberg; & Pr. Bob Sinclair. Absent: Jon Davis.

Presentations by Local Ministries

Visitors and delegates heard presentations from two local Montana ministries, ZoeCare and Love Inc.



ZoeCare is a pregnancy and sexual health clinic located in Bozeman, 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.

During the presentation some exciting new ideas for the clinic and the antiabortion movements were revealed. Central to these new ideas was preemptive education for young people. This education will be aimed at young people discovering that God made them male and female and celebrate the wonder of God's creation and God's most passionate desire for men and women.

An offering of \$850 was collected for ZoeCare at closing worship.

If you want to know more about ZoeCare you can visit their website: <https://www.gotozoe.org/>



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 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.

Our host congregation Peace Lutheran Church, Belgrade, MT, has partnered with this charity. The Peace Lutheran serves as a center where people can receive personal care items and other necessities. Delegates and guests stocked Peace Lutheran's pantry with shampoo and conditioner sets, razors, body wash, dish and laundry detergents, deodorant for women and men, feminine hygiene and baby products. Cash donations totaling \$500.00 were also collected.

Secretary's Update - Pastor Carol Ann Buelow Pre-Gathering Meeting Highlights (May 1, 2025)

- **Chairman's Report:** Ed led a discussion focused on two key areas:
 - 1) Leadership Development: Emphasis on training leaders within our congregations to address the pastoral shortage.
 - 2) Cultural Engagement: Discussion on how to engage with non-Christian worldviews and the necessity of church outreach.
- **IMPACT Youth Event:** The theme for this year's October event is "Follower – Living an Authentic Faith" with the theme verse being Matt. 16:24. Reservations have been made at Shoshone Mountain Retreat. The cost is \$90 per attendee, with plans for \$50 scholarships and special consideration for families sending more than three youth to support youth attendance. We are praying for at least 100 kids across the Northwest will attend.
- **NW District Coordination:** Materials were reviewed in preparation for the Annual Gathering, with discussion around the transition to a paid District Coordinator position and the qualities sought in potential candidates.
- **Annual Gathering Preparations:** Task assignments for the gathering were reviewed, including vendor arrangements and registration logistics.
- **Annual Gathering Financials:** While specific financials were not available, projections indicated a budget-friendly outcome with registration revenues and anticipated expenditures.

Post-Gathering Meeting Highlights (May 3, 2025)

The board met following the Annual Gathering to elect the new executive committee and make committee assignments. The NW District Council meeting times and locations were also determined.

On a personal note, it's been such a pleasure and an honor to be your NW District Secretary. I recently took on a new role as a chaplain at Providence St. Mary's in Walla Walla, and for the sake of keeping things running smoothly, I think it's time for me to step back from this position. May the blessings of Christ be upon you all.

Thanks to Pastor Andrew and Peace Lutheran Church, Belgrade, Montana



Victory Lutheran Church of Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, was scheduled to host and convene our 2025 annual gathering. After prayerful consideration, Victory Lutheran asked to be released from hosting and convening our gathering. Our District Council released Victory and immediately sought an alternative venue.

Pastor Andrew Young and the people of Peace Lutheran stepped in and agreed to partner with our District in convening our annual gathering. Pastor Andrew suggested that the facilities of Yellowstone Alliance Adventure Christian Camp and Retreat Center would be a great venue for our gathering. With Pastor Andrew's guidance, we secured the camp and additional housing in a retreat center just above the Yellowstone Alliance Adventure camp.

Pastor Andrew was present with us for the entire gathering. During our free time he led groups on hikes in and around the area. He truly was our shepherd for the weekend. The ladies of Peace provided great treats for refreshment breaks. Members of Peace's worship band provided accompaniment for times of praise and worship. They were amazing. He also preached and presided at closing worship on Saturday.

God bless Pastor Andrew and the people of Peace Lutheran Church for your help in making this gathering a success!

If you want to know more about Peace Lutheran you can visit their website: <https://peace2you.org/>

Pastor Alsen Wenzel installed at Faith Lutheran Church in Great Falls, MT



Faith Lutheran Church in Great Falls welcomed Pastor Alsen Wenzel, his wife Susan, and son Zachery to Montana on Christmas Eve 2024. What a wonderful gift to our church and community. We had prayed for a new pastor for quite a while. Pastor Alsen's installation took place on Sunday, January 29, 2025, with Pastor Ken Waag presiding.

Pastor Alsen was born in Houston, TX on November 15, 1968. He and Susan have been married for 13 years. He is the father of three: Elisabeth (27), who is married to Lane Gibbs and parents to four-year-old grandson Otto, Matthew (24), who graduated from Angelo State University in San Angelo, TX in December with a Music Education Degree and Zachary (18) now a senior at CM Russell High School in Great Falls. Susan is teaching at CM Russell High School in Great Falls.

Pastor Alsen's desire is to help people of all ages and comfort them with the Word of God. Whether he is teaching a Bible class or preaching on Sunday those in attendance are learning to apply God's Word to everyday life. Before and after services Pastor Alsen is mingling with the people of Faith greeting, asking about their week, sharing a laugh, or comforting a hurting heart. His hobbies include singing, reading, softball, golf, collecting die-cast metal airplanes and enjoying the outdoors in general.

Pastor Alsen joins the Faith Lutheran Staff: Colleen Palmer, Outreach Coordinator, Annette Hocker, Youth & Family Coordinator, Cindy Fowell, Secretary/Office Manager, Robin Western, Bookkeeper, Bob Palmer, Facility Manager, and John Plank, IT Manager in making disciples of Christ and growing the Kingdom of God.

WELCOME ON BOARD

Meet the three newest District Council members elected at the business meeting of the Northwest District



I am Shelly Hauge and I'm from Odessa, WA. I have lived in Odessa for the past 23 years and attend Christ Lutheran Church. I bring to the NW District Council many years of experience. I have served 2 prior terms, including 3 years on the Annual Gathering planning team and 2 years as Chair of the NW District. I currently serve as the Annual Gathering Chair. I am excited about getting back on council and feel my leadership skills will be helpful.



I am Eric Lundberg, pastor of Living Word Lutheran Church in Graham, WA. I presently serve on the IMPACT Youth committee and recently joined the council to fill a vacancy. I have a Bachelors degree in church organization and leadership. I am a visionary leader who holds the Word of God as the highest standard of Truth. I love my church and it is an honor to serve the NW District. I pray the Holy Spirit can use my limited experience to help shape the future of the NW District so we might grow this movement and share the Good News of Jesus!!!



I am Rev. Robert Sinclair, a retired LCMC pastor. My wife Debra and I recently moved to Nampa, Idaho following my retirement as pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Athol, Kansas. While serving there, I was actively involved with the Heartland District before joining the NW District last Sept. While I am retired from full-time ministry, I am eager to continue serving the Lord and it would be an honor to serve the NW District. My strengths include good listening and organizational skills.

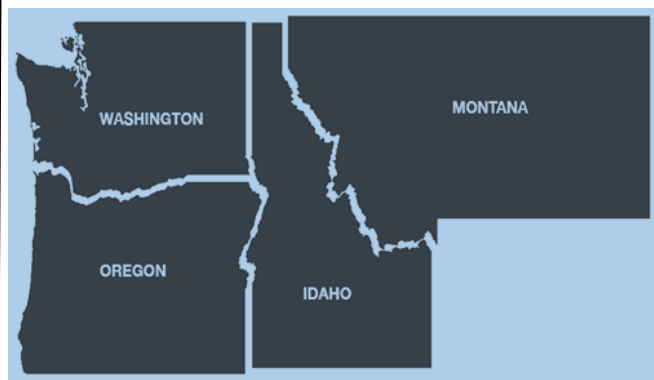
Rev. Cassandra Langr installed as Associate Pastor of Richland Lutheran Church



Joyous praise filled the sanctuary as Rev. Cassandra Langr was installed as Associate Pastor at Richland Lutheran Church in Richland, WA on May 18, 2025. Please pray for Pastor Cassandra, Pastor Steve Ernst and the members of Richland Lutheran as they look forward to all that the Lord will do in this new season of ministry. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



New District Coordinator Position



The Northwest District (the *District*) is composed of congregations, chapters, and individuals in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Canada. The sixty-four (64) LCMC congregations, two fellowships and a group of individual associate members are spread across a vast area that crosses an international border.

The mission of the District, includes aiding our member congregations in interviewing and calling pastors, aiding pastors in obtaining calls in our District, and with connecting congregations. In the fulfillment of these

mandates, the District appointed two volunteer district coordinators, Maureen (Moe) Bessey and Pastor Horacio Castillo. In addition to these duties Moe Bessey, acted as liaison with LCMC's District Coordinator, which included attending an annual gathering of District Coordinators.

LCMC is in the process of reorganizing its organizational structure. We believe that this reorganization will shift more responsibility to districts in the call process and resources for conflict resolution for congregations. To this end, our District proposed significant changes to the office of our district coordinator.

Our Vision: To have three district coordinators who will each serve a specified geographic region of our District. One of the coordinators will be designated the "Team Leader." The Team Leader will coordinate and oversee the activities of the other District Coordinators.

Responsibilities of District Coordinators.

- To assist District congregations in calling pastors and assisting pastors in receiving calls from our District congregations.
- To direct congregations to appropriate resources and organizations in responses to inquiries regarding congregational conflict, intentional interim ministry, certified calls and contract calls.
- To assist congregations in reporting specified information to LCMC and the District.
- To establish contact with maintain a relationship with congregations in the coordinator's designated area through in-person and virtual meetings.
- Report monthly on activities undertaken as District Coordinator.

Responsibilities of the Team Leader.

- To identify and describe the three regions within the District's geographic area over which each coordinator will have responsibility (District Council to approve).
- To define more clearly the job descriptions of the District Coordinators.
- To assist in the training of the new District Coordinators.
- Fundraise for the Team Leader position and two other positions.
- Developing and implementing a program for reach out to congregations in our geographic area but are not yet members of the District.
- To function as District Coordinator for the entire district and when the vision is realized the geographic area assigned to the Team Leader.
- To report monthly to the District Council on operations undertaken.
- To attend District Council meetings and the annual district gathering and give a report as to operations undertaken.
- To act as liaison with LCMC, including attendance at annual district coordinators event.
- To assist the NW District Council in strategic planning as required.

Compensation: a maximum of \$10,000.00 per year, plus reimbursement of travel expenses.

Term: One year, renewable.

Applications: A link to the text of the job description approved by the delegates at our 2025 annual gathering and an online application position will soon be available on our website.

District Finances and Budget for 2025:

Expense	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	2025 Budget
Insurance	\$1,540.00	\$1,720.00	\$1,972.20
Web Site Support	\$1,800.00	\$3,300.00	\$1,800.00
Bank Fees	\$ 72.00	\$40.00	\$0.00
Newsletter/Postage	\$600.00	\$456.00	\$600.00
Archival of Data	\$ 280.00	\$0.00	\$280.00
District Coordinator	\$3,500.00	\$2,730.00	\$10,000.00
Quarterly Meeting			
Travel \$250/Board member	\$1,250.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,250.00
Meals	\$300.00	\$123.00	\$300.00
State of WA annual Registration Fee	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Annual District Gathering	\$10,000.00	\$2,167.00	\$10,000.00
National Gathering			
Scholarships for Lay Members (\$500/person) *	\$5,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00
Scholarships for Board Members (\$1000/person) *	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Hospitality Room (Food/Bev:\$270 Room: \$701)	\$300.00	\$971.00	\$750.00
Benevolence for NW Member Congregations	\$7,500.00	\$500.00	\$4,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$300.00	\$335.00	\$300.00
Youth *	\$3,000.00	\$5,787.00	\$5,500.00
Other			
Total expenses	\$40,457.00	\$25,149.00	\$44,772.20

Financial Summary for 2024: The 2024 financial summary and treasurer's report were brought forward by Treasurer Karla Kaleva. There was a beginning balance of \$23,306.84 as of January 1/1/2024. On December 31, 2024, we ended the year with a balance of \$28,690.58 after income and expenses were accounted for. Karla noted that within the 12 months, income was \$39,316.41 and expenses were \$33,932.67. Budgeted versus actual expenditures were reviewed and Karla pointed out that there is a \$7,000 benevolence fund for member congregations to utilize when they encounter an unanticipated expense and need assistance.

2025 Budget: The Treasurer's budget presentation began with a comparison between Jan 1 and May 1, 2024 and the same period in 2025. She shared that Richland Lutheran generously provides the majority of our NW District giving but it was encouraging to see 3 new congregations that have begun to support the work of the NW District.

She then addressed a common misunderstanding: The NW District does not receive any funding from LCMC. She stressed that giving to both is important. Some district members have found creative ways to address giving including a percentage of benevolence received, a one-time gift, or a special offering. The NW District website has a giving tab available on the Give tab to make financial donations, as well as register for district events.

Karla presented the budget for 2025 and reviewed it by line item. Items of note include \$10,000 has been allocated for the District Coordination Team Leader (see article on page 9) and an increase in Impact Youth budget which will now include 15 scholarships for youth to attend Impact Youth events. The Impact Youth team has been challenged to look at how they might also offer reduced rates for families sending more than 3 youth.

District members were encouraged to use the lay scholarships that have been established for the LCMC Annual Gathering. All it requires is for a pastor to send an email and make the request.

The budget for 2025 was unanimously passed.