



VOLUME 9 ISSUE 3

The Happenings

USA — Canada

JULY 2025



From the Chairman's Desk July 17, 2025

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

These words came to life as I drove home from our last District Council meeting in Spokane, Washington. Fields of wheat almost ready for harvest were spread before me. Then the deep green fields of maturing corn came into view. The boughs of cherry trees bent under the strain of the fruit. Other trees were covered with apples, peaches and apricots in various stages of maturity. Hayfields were lush and green. Cattle grazed in green pastures. The good soil of eastern Washington had bud and was flourishing. The fields, meadows, orchards and vineyards were poised to produce food for the eater and seeds for the sower. The soil did not produce this abundance unassisted. Evidence of the source of eastern Washington's bounty could be seen everywhere: irrigation systems raining water down on thirsty crops. God reveals much with these 71 words from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah: God's words do the same.

A "word" is defined as a speech sound or series of speech sounds that symbolize and communicate a meaning. In this verse, God declares that His words do much more than symbolize a meaning. They are active and creative. They convey a divine purpose and accomplish that purpose. These words reveal a unifying principle in the Bible. The Bible begins with "the beginning," the creation of the planet earth and the universe that surrounds our planet. In the beginning God spoke and water and other primordial elements obeyed. The words that came from God's lips pierced the chaos, the darkness and created light, the atmosphere that surrounds the earth, stars, planets, galaxies, dry land, plants, birds, sea life, animals, all manner of creeping things and finally people. Male and female, He created them forming Adam from the clay and Eve from Adam.

St. John declared that Jesus is the "Word." (John 1:14) God gave words to Moses, Job, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and all the prophets that described the coming of the Messiah. Words from these books described the identity of the Messiah, true man and true God, His Son - His birth, mission, ministry, death and resurrection. The words of the same prophets described the coming of a new creation and immortal people through the works of Messiah. They faithfully wrote down these words. These words from God's lips were communicated to a chosen people. God's words provided lifegiving rain and snow that saturated the hearts and minds, the dirt that God had changed to flesh, and created something: "faith and trust in these words." The faith these words produced has flourished in a righteous remnant in every age. The faith that God created with these words has survived famine, war, persecution, apostasy and unbelief (even among God's chosen people). When the time came, the words of the Old Testament Prophets became flesh in the virgin birth, temptation, preaching, teaching, miracles, false conviction, innocent suffering, and death of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit moved faithful witnesses to record the unfolding of these events.

Chairman's letter continued on next page

LCMC

Northwest District Council

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Pr. Edward Skutshek, Chair

Shelly Hauge, Vice Chair

Pr. Bob Sinclair, Secretary

Karla Kaleva, Treasurer

Council Members

Pr. Carol Ann Buelow

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Pr. Eric Lundberg

Pr. Fred Westerhold

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Webmaster

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The words of the Old and New Testaments continue to saturate hearts and minds and create faith and trust in these words and a budding and flourishing relationship with the “Word made flesh.”

The words of the new covenant give us words that came from Jesus’ lips. He promises that when these words go out into the world they will not return to him empty but will accomplish the purpose for which he sent them. These words are: “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” These words and the water work on the person on whom they are applied - there is a death and resurrection, sins are forgiven, there is a washing of regeneration, and the Holy Spirit is received by that person. The seeds of faith are planted, and a new child of God is named. What a miracle!

When the words of institution are said over bread and the fruit of the vine, Jesus works. He invites us to take the bread and promises to be really present in the bread we eat. He invites us to drink the fruit of the vine and receive the new covenant for which His blood was shed. The shedding of that blood was for the forgiveness of our sin. He says, “Drink it! Receive it!” We receive the forgiveness of our sin. It really happens. What a miracle!

On our journey to the board meeting last Sunday, my wife Deni and I resolved to stop and worship at a church in the state of Washington. We crossed the border at Ferry, Washington and made our way to Trinity Lutheran Church in Republic, Washington. The congregation is small (up to 18 worship regularly), and most were away that Sunday. They were happy we stopped in that day.

Pastor Ken Schauer preached and presided at the Lord’s Table. He like me has failed “retirement” and, while in his 80s, faithfully serves this little flock that cannot afford a pastor. The congregation has a deacon in training (Deacon Lutz). He was away preaching in a little church in Grand Forks, British Columbia, Canada which is not far away. Pastor Ken and Deacon Lutz share preaching duties at Grand Forks, BC. This Canadian church is served every Sunday and the sick and shut in are regularly visited by them.

Pastor Ken watered us with the word in his sermon. Then he spoke the words that came from Jesus’ lips more than two thousand years ago as he blessed the bread and the wine. He gave me the bread and said: “Take and eat. This is my body given for you” ..then ... “Take and drink. This is blood of Christ shed for you and the forgiveness of your sin.” I received and I was forgiven. The words of the sermon and the Sacrament did their work and my faith was strengthened. After service, we were invited to share in their monthly potluck. We broke bread together. It was beautiful. I could feel the love!

Like the wheat, corn, grass and fruit trees, Trinity Lutheran Church in Republic, Washington, is evidence of the proclamation of the words that came from God’s lips, and from Jesus’ lips. The Holy Spirit used God’s word to create faith in a group of people. They became a congregation and built that building as a place to hear the word, receive the sacraments and respond with prayer, praise, love, tithes and offerings. I thought of all the parched fields that were hunkering down in the homes that surrounded God’s embassy in Republic, Washington. I prayed that God would create an insatiable thirst in them and the inspiration to come and drink from Christ’s living water at Trinity Lutheran. I prayed that God would use Pastor Schauer and Deacon Lutz to water those parched souls in Republic and Grand Forks and that those buildings would teem with people. God can do this, not because Pastor Ken and Deacon Lutz are gifted, but because God has given them and their members a powerful word that can satisfy spiritual thirst and create a harvest of faith in each person that makes eastern Washington’s agricultural harvest a mere pittance. I pray the same for all God’s embassies in the Northwest District. Amen.



LCMC 25th Annual Gathering and Convention

OCTOBER 5-8, 2025

HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH

LAKEVILLE, MN



Christ Lutheran 100 Anniversary:

Christ Lutheran Church (CLC) began in 1919 with a group of ladies who had a dream. By 1925, the First Lutheran Church of Whitefish was organized, and its mission has virtually remained constant and unchanging for over 100 years. Through the Great Depression, WWII, a few name changes, and many other challenges, this body of believers has steadfastly proclaimed the gospel to a hurting world, following the Great Commission in Matthew 28, to “make disciples of all nations.”

Currently CLC’s ministries include numerous Bible Studies, strong programs for youth from age 4 through High School, a community-supported Vacation Bible School known throughout the Flathead Valley, and active programs for our valued senior folks. We are also home to a Preschool & Childcare Center, and have a strong heart for mission.

Our hope is to continue to joyfully proclaim the Gospel within and outside the walls of our church in word, deed, and action as we move into the future. With the influx of people moving to this area, the harvest is plentiful! Psalm 100:5 says: “For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” God’s faithfulness over the past 100 years serves as a reminder that God is with us, inspiring us to continue taking the Light of Christ into the world for the next 100 years and beyond!

Historical Photo below: 1925

Current Photo: 2025



YOU ARE INVITED!
AUGUST 10, 2025
10AM WORSHIP SERVICE
FOLLOWED BY A
COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

We are excited to celebrate our 100th Birthday! Join us for our service and stay for delicious food, exciting yard games, and fellowship with friends old and new.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
5150 RIVER LAKES PARKWAY
WHITEFISH, MT 59937

Greetings from the Northwest District Impact Youth Team!

We are excited to announce our Second Annual Impact Youth Retreat being held this October at Shoshone Mountain Retreat in Wallace Idaho. This is an amazing time for 7th-12th graders to gather for an event that is constructed just for them. Retreat like this one are so important to the developing relationship that our youth are building with the Body of Christ, the Church, and one another. It is a great opportunity to step out of the comfort of their home church and gather with other young people from across the district to worship, grow and build relationships.

Last fall we gathered almost 60 youths and 25 adults together for an unforgettable weekend. The Shoshone retreat venue is tucked away in the Idaho Panhandle Forest and creates a unique and secluded environment where teenagers can relax, enjoy nature, the presence of God and one another. Food, fun and fellowship is provided, and safety is our top concern.

These opportunities are vital to the spiritual growth of our teens as the Holy Spirit seems to do something very special in their hearts and minds in this type of environment. It is so important that we invest as much as we can in this next generation. With the world around our teens moving further and further from God, we need to gather around our youth and help them anchor their lives in the truth of God's Word and resist the seduction of culture. We must realize that if our churches are going to remain, we must invest in the youth that will someday take our place.

As the Impact Team, we strongly believe that the next harvest of pastors and church leaders is our youth. We need to make conscious efforts to keep them engaged in the work of God and events like this help to serve that very mission.

Please mark your calendars, notify your congregations, and let the Impact Team know if you have any questions.

Online registration begins August 1st on our Northwest District Website at: <https://lcmc-nw.com/>

We are here to serve you and your congregations. Our mission is to build a generation of authentic followers of Jesus!

Registration: Opens August 1st – Closes October 1st

IMPACT

Youth Retreat

IMPACT Weekends are designed for 7th to 12th graders to engage in high-energy games, fellowship, and spiritual growth in a fun-filled environment!



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS**

October 17th-19th



**Shoshone
Mountain Retreat,
Wallace Idaho**

Cost ~\$90

Covers meals & lodging.



Don't miss out on this exciting weekend!

For questions and more details email: impactyouth.lcmc@gmail.com

An update from the Secretary – Pr Bob Sinclair

The Council met on July 14th at Holy Trinity Lutheran in Spokane Vally for our first meeting as a new quorum. In addition to our getting to know each other a little better the following was discussed:

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. A contract was approved for Lutherhaven to be the host camp. 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. Online registration will begin on Aug 1. A link will be made available on the district website to be able to access all the needed forms and materials for this great event.

NW District Coordination: Much of the discussion was focused on what the role of a new coordinator will take, as well as the method of hiring that person. At our NW District Annual Gathering, district members approved making the District Coordinator Team Leader a paid consultant position accountable to the board. To that end, plans are being implemented to begin this process. The board has now approved the applicant form.

Annual Gathering Preparations: Yes, the council begins this as soon as the last event has finished. Tentative dates are for next April 23-26th at Lutherhaven. As always, the council encourages the folks from the District to attend as this builds up this body of believers.

On a personal note, it's an honor to begin to serve this District as Secretary. I pray that I may serve you in this capacity to the best of my abilities.



Exciting News for Our District Members!



Are you eager to attend the upcoming National Gathering or Impact Youth event but facing financial hurdles? We've got you covered! The District Council is excited to announce the availability of scholarships designed to help you join us for these enriching experiences.



Scholarship Details:

- **Adult Scholarships:** 5 scholarships of \$500 each (totaling \$2500) for the National Gathering in Lakeville, MN.

Impact Youth Scholarships: 15 scholarships of \$50 each (maximum \$200 per family) for the Northwest Impact Youth event at the Shoshone Mountain Retreat in Wallace, ID.

To apply, pastors can submit a written request on behalf of themselves or individuals in need to our treasurer. Remember, scholarships will be awarded on a **first come, first serve** basis, so don't wait!

We look forward to seeing you there!!

LCMC Churches Help Texas Flood Victims

In the early morning hours of July 4, 2025, torrential rains in the Hill Country of Texas unleashed a catastrophic flash flood along the Guadalupe River. Significant rains continue to fall in other areas of the Texas Hill Country. This has become a mass casualty event with over 130 fatalities and still unaccounted for individuals. The loss of property is anticipated to be enormous.

Hardest hit were the communities of Hunt, Ingram, and Kerrville in Kerr County, Texas. Zion Lutheran Church, an LCMC congregation in Kerrville is well connected to the entire region and is organizing to assist their community as it begins to recover.

As the body of Christ seeks to care for those impacted by the flooding, the LCMC Texas District is receiving donations. Those who wish to support this effort may send checks to LCMC Texas District, PO Box 58, Hon-do, TX 78861. Please write "Flood Recovery" on the memo line.

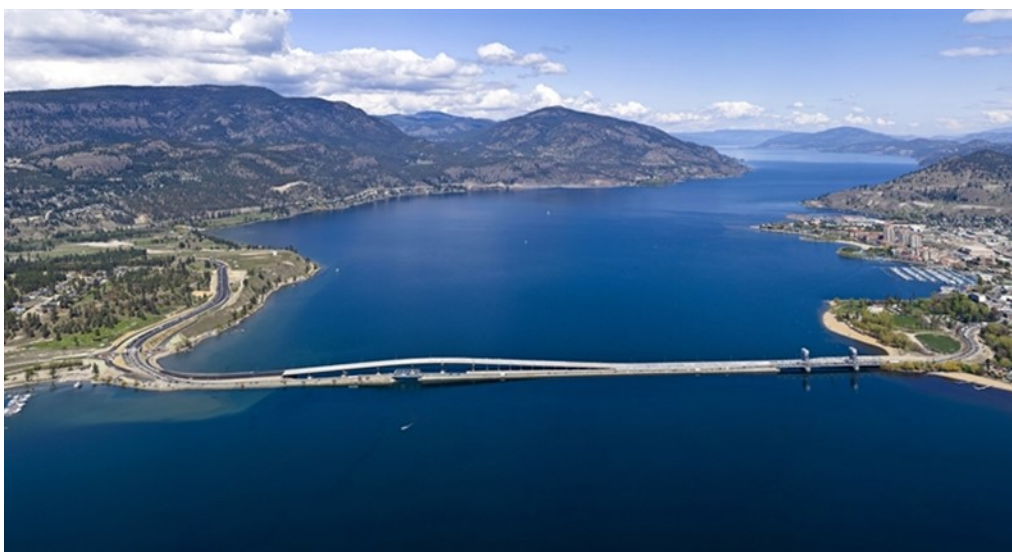
For more information, see: info@lcmctexas.org.

Church Spotlight: Grace Lutheran Church – West Kelowna, BC, Canada

Grace Lutheran Church is a member congregation of LCMC, the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations (CALC) and now the Northwest District (as of May of this year).



The congregation was organized in 1978. Grace Lutheran is located on the west bank of Okanagan Lake opposite the city of Kelowna, BC. Kelowna is on the east bank of the lake. The community is officially known as the Municipal District of West Kelowna. A mile long floating concrete bridge joins the two communities. The fledgling congregation initially met in the home of Pastor Leonard McFarlane, the congregation's mission developer, then in another church in our community, followed by the gym of a local high school and finally in the building pictured above which was erected by its members in 1982. Members of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kelowna, BC, were charter members of Grace Lutheran. Some of these charter members still worship with us. A building addition, which included a sanctuary that can sit 250 and a large walkout basement, was completed in 1996.



Worship life at Grace Lutheran is rich and varied. We gather for worship on Sundays for two services, a contemporary service and a traditional service. Music for the contemporary worship service is led by a praise band which includes keyboard, guitars, bass, violin, drums and vocals. The traditional service is led by a vocal ensemble that undergirds congregational hymns. Special music is provided by our four-part choir.

see next page

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Pastor David Wunderlich is the pastor of Grace Lutheran. The congregation is also served by Pastor Ed Skutshek as “emeritus pastor” (also NW District Council chair).

Grace Lutheran Church has a history of reaching out to the community surrounding the church. Grace Lutheran organized a daycare in 1997. Staff members provided care for infants and toddlers. Later, an afterschool program was organized to accommodate children from the elementary school across the road. Weekly chapel services were organized for the children of the daycare and afterschool programs. Sadly, these programs are no longer offered by our congregation. Thankfully, the space continues to be used as a Preschool and Daycare organized and operated by Christian women.

Grace Lutheran has the longest continuously running Vacation Bible School (VBS) in West Kelowna. During the pandemic, our VBS popped up online. The theme for this year’s VBS was “Camp Chaos.” Through fun skits and God’s word, campers learned how God always brings order from chaos, most often chaos of our own making.

For more than a decade, Grace Lutheran published paper sermons monthly in a local newspaper. Many in the community looked forward to the next edition and some visited the church. As a result, some stayed.

Our pastors and lay people have and continue to be vitally involved in serving four care homes in our community. We, and other churches, take turns leading weekly worship services. In addition to worship, our congregation is committed to Christian education. Various Bible study groups meet weekly in person and online. Grace Lutheran men gather monthly for a devotion and discussion filled breakfast. During Advent, Grace Lutheran opens their doors to the public and hosts an annual Christmas Joy concert which showcases and reveals the gifts God has given our congregants.

Beginning in September 2022, the congregation hosted one family from the Ukraine. They drove out of the occupied part of Ukraine to Portugal in their family car following a Red Cross convoy to safety in Western Ukraine and then Poland. Others who tried the same route did not make it. Over the months that followed, Grace Lutheran has received other families from the Ukraine who came to Canada under three-year CUAET visas. Congregational support includes providing short term housing, assisting in job searches and apartment hunting and helping them access government benefits. The congregation provided rent guarantees so that these Ukrainian families could rent apartments and be helped in many other ways.

Many of these families worship with us. You will often see them in the pews holding their cell phone slightly up and their eyes fixed on the screen during the sermon and readings. They are using Google Translate to get a running transcript which helps them understand the message. The pastors must remember to slow their delivery down to accommodate our Ukrainian brothers and sisters who now join in many church activities. They have also started a Uranian language service.

On the church website, we have a tab entitled Who We Are. It says the following: Grace Lutheran Church continues to be a community of friendly, Christian friends who are focused on the Bible and wish to continue learning from the Words of Jesus. We are all loved by God and dedicated to sharing God’s Love with our community.

Northwest District of LCMC Seeks District Coordinator – Team Leader

The Northwest District Coordinator - Team Leader will serve as a consultant and report directly to the Northwest District Council. Initially the Team Leader's primary responsibility will be working with the District Council in refining, developing and implementing our district's vision of deploying a total of three District Coordinators who will each serve a specified geographic region of our district. The Team Leader would serve one such geographic area and coordinate and oversee the activities of the two other District Coordinators. Duties also include networking as necessary with other Districts, including the monthly Zoom meetings arranged by the Coordinator for District and Fellowships.

The Northwest District of LCMC is composed of congregations, fellowships, 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.

A job application will soon be available on our NW District LCMC website. Please visit our Northwest District website at: <https://lcmc-nw.com/> and stay updated by checking our Facebook posts for further announcements.

Northwest District Coordinator Team Leader - Job Description

The Northwest District Coordinator Team Leader is a Consultant position and directly reports to the Northwest District Council. The term is one (1) year with an annual review and will include changes to the areas of responsibility and compensation package as the role is developed. Applicant must be familiar with LCMC structure, DNA and support the tenants of LCMC.

Development of Northwest District Coordination Team to include three (3) regions to better serve the District. Fundraising to support the position of District Coordinator Team Leader.

Be proficient at assisting congregations in the Call Committee Process. There is training available through LCMC.

Be proficient at networking and researching areas of responsibilities to assist congregations with Conflict Resolution, (Intentional) Interim Pastor and Contract and Certified Pastoral coverage.

Assist congregations in accurately reporting information regarding the congregation to LCMC secretary (National) and secretary of the NW District for current information about the congregation.

Create an outreach program for all congregations in the Northwest District that may not currently be a member of the District.

Support the existing congregations with an onsite or virtual visit to all district congregations during the first-year consulting position.

Attend all Council meetings and submit written reports for each.

Give verbal and written update of District activity at the Northwest District and National Gatherings.

Be physically present at all Gatherings and network as necessary with other Districts via the monthly Zoom meetings arranged by the Coordinator for District and Fellowships.

The consultant will assume the role of Team Leader and will create areas of responsibility for a job description for the other two (2) coordinators to be added to the District Coordination Team including, but not limited to, compensation, regional responsibilities, proficiency in areas of Call Committee, Conflict Resolution, and Pastoral Assistance.

Submit monthly status reports on spending, Coordination Team creation, Churches visited, and revenue generation to support the Team Leader and Regional events.

Be responsible for creating three (3) geographic regions with the other two (2) coordinators, once a team is developed.

Assist the Northwest District Council with vision casting and mission development as needed.

Assist National Staff as needed.

This position will replace any existing district coordinator positions.

Maximum Compensation of 10,000.00 per calendar year, which does not include compensation for travel and expenses.