

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
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LABEL HERE

I get to go on the bus
with Our Saviour's
to the NW District
gathering and
convention! Come
with us!



THE TRIP

... NEWS FROM THE
NORTHWEST DISTRICT OF LCMC

A message from the Editor . . .

Welcome to the 'Celebration and Joy' adventure (get on board)! Now, we're all on the same bus going in the same direction to the same destination: the foot of the cross. We are on a trip, passing through the season of Lent. When I was a kid 'trips' and 'buses' had different connotations. Now we're more literal. Nothing is confused. Nothing is blurred. The 'Merry Pranksters' have gone down the rabbit hole. Our bus is filled with the Holy Spirit and it is "onward and upward..." Hallelujah!

So far I have enjoyed my place here in editorland (ENE of Publisherland between Readerville and Writerton) and in the future I see no reason to feel otherwise, especially because of the cooperation of all concerned. It's been great connecting with you all viz e-mail and phone. I'm looking forward to meeting the faces connected to the

symbols and voices. At the convention. Of course. You are coming, right?.

Now, another important subject. We (the newsletter staff) have been pondering a name change. 'The Newsletter' as a name is kind of generic. Pondering, though, is as far as we've gotten. So I boldly stepped forward and changed it. Don't fret. It's only temporary. We would like all of the readers to participate in the name change. Would you, dear readership, please submit a name that you deem appropriate (or just plain like) to me (tsp@blackfoot.net) between now and April 28? At the NWD Gathering I'll post all entries and then encourage all present to vote. The person whose entry is selected will receive an amazing prize. Ginsu knives??

Till we meet (again)
Sig

10TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK TO BE WRITTEN

The 10th anniversary of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ arrives in 2011. It will be celebrated at the 2011 GATHERING and Convention. To highlight our first ten years, a special book will be written by about 20 contributors. Each will write about a distinct topic that relates to these first ten years. I have been asked to write about "Conflict" in the LCMC. Uff Da!

As you can see, this will not be a sugar-coated nicety but a volume that reflects the many aspects of our real history thus far, warts and all, as a Lutheran family of churches. It is early in the planning stages but this much can be said. It should be available for purchase in bound book form by October 2011, just in time for our anniversary celebration!

— Paul Braafladt

Meet Historic United Lutheran Church of Waterville, Washington



Historic Church at
Douglas, Washington

United Lutheran Church is located in Waterville, Washington, a town of approximately 1,100 people. Waterville is situated on a plateau above the Columbia River in North Central Washington and at 2,622 feet is the highest incorporated city in the state of Washington. Wheat fields surround Waterville in all directions so not surprisingly there are many wheat farmers in our congregation.

The history of United Lutheran begins in 1889 when pioneers in the nearby town of Douglas built a church. Twenty-five years later they needed larger quarters so they built the picturesque St. Paul's Lutheran Church in 1915. By 1935 the demand for a Lutheran church in neighboring Waterville prompted Lutherans there to rent the local Presbyterian Church. Waterville Lutherans bought the church building in 1939 and adopted a constitution in 1942. This new church was named American Lutheran and pastors of St. Paul's continued serving both congregations.

After many years of discussions both churches voted to merge in 1961. They

adopted the name United Lutheran and combined their treasuries. Soon talk turned to building one church instead of continuing in two locations. A building committee was formed and groundbreaking for the new United Lutheran Church was held on March 5, 1967. Congregation members volunteered their time for every construction task imaginable. Using only volunteer labor, the new church took form and was dedicated on October 6, 1968. Under the leadership of Pastor Jim Rogers our congregation voted to leave the ELCA and join the LCMC in 2003.

We currently have 200 members on our roster with an average Sunday worship service attendance of about 60 people. Our call committee is in full swing interviewing candidates to be our next pastor. In the meantime we feel very blessed that Pastor Larry Lystig and his wife Carolyn are serving us on an interim basis. They are a wonderful ministry team.

If you find yourself in Waterville, please come worship with us Sunday mornings at 10:00AM.

— Garth Hinderer



United Lutheran Church
Waterville, Washington

the Pastor's corner . . .

Pastor Larry Lystig and his wife Carolyn are full time RVers, and so literally follow the Lord's lead in their ministry. He served as a Navy Chaplain for many years and is now the interim pastor at United Lutheran in Waterville Washington.



We have a treasure to share with others. Of course we have the gospel. The apostle Paul writes while referring to the gospel: "We bear this treasure in earthen vessels." Besides the gospel we have another treasure to share with the rest of the Christian world.

That treasure is Luther's Catechism. Actually there are two Catechisms. Most of us know of the small Catechism. At least some of us were instructed in it when we attended Confirmation classes. But Luther also wrote a Large Catechism. He intended that work to be used by those who were to teach the Small Catechism.

Perhaps we are tempted to treat either work as a jewel, and they are. But jewels are often put in a box for safe keeping, only rarely to be taken out and used. We are tempted to treat the Catechism in the same way; to take it out, if at all, only rarely.

Luther was of a different mind. He writes in the Large Catechism: "...I implore all Christians, especially pastors and preachers, not to try to be doctors

prematurely and to imagine that they know everything. Vain imaginations, like new cloth, suffer shrinkage! Let all Christians exercise themselves in the Catechism daily, and constantly put it into practice, guarding themselves with the greatest care and diligence against the poisonous infection of such security or vanity. Let them continue to read and teach, to learn and meditate and ponder....Then in due time they themselves will make the noble confession that the longer they work with the Catechism, the less they know of it and the more they have to learn."

In our Midweek Service this Lenten Season we have been taking a brief look at the five parts of the Small Catechism. Luther is right! There is much to learn and meditate upon in it.

It is one thing to learn the Catechism as a youth. Then we should know it by heart and be able to repeat back its contents correctly word by word.

But as we grow and mature we need to keep on learning and relearning what God's word is saying to us in our present situation.

Then this jewel will become polished by our constant use of it. And this jewel can reflect back to us God's loving purpose for and protection of our life in His care.

Pastor Lawrence Lystig

Greetings and God's blessings from Grace Lutheran, Plains/Paradise, Montana

A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

On April 30, 2009, the day before the NW District get-together starts in Kellogg, we will be having a worship service here in Paradise led by Pastor Chris Magnell from Zion Lutheran in Des Moines Iowa. Pastor Magnell is the keynote speaker for the NW District get-together On May 1st & 2nd in Kellogg. We will have a pot-luck type meal about 5 pm and worship at 7pm. You might want to head out to Quinn's Hot Springs for a soak after the worship. If you can make it please come and worship with us in Paradise.

On February 22, 2009 we celebrated our second worship service as Grace Lutheran, led by Gary Truitt from Kellogg, Idaho.

As a fledgling congregation, we are most thankful for the support of St. Paul's Lutheran in Saint Maries, ID and American Lutheran, in Kellogg, ID. They most graciously have provided music and a pastor, whose devotion to our small congregation's hunger for God's word, has filled us with grace. Following our worship service a soup and bread fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Though we do not have a "house of God" of our own we enjoy the comfort of our Lord through the Methodist Church in Paradise, MT. Our notification of worship time through flyers, letters of invitation and "word of mouth" seems to be paying off.

Our worship service is the fourth Sunday of the month at 3:00 pm, followed by "soup supper" fellowship. Come worship with us when you're able.

Grace Lutheran has several ministries in the making; Bible study, prayer group and donations to charitable organizations. Because we are "new" a few things need to be ironed out, such as: "children's time, a satisfactory worship bulletin and advertising. Though we would like all these things accomplished immediately, they will take time and patience to complete. We will keep you updated.

Yours in Christ
Grace Lutheran
Plains/Paradise, MT

submitted by Charlotte Slider

HAVE YOU SEEN WHAT I'VE SEEN?

I would like to start a book and movie review section. I need all to participate in this. So if you have favorites that you think others would enjoy please let me know. All topics are welcome. Fiction, non-fiction, documentary, entertainment, Please include a line or two about content.

I'll start it off. Most of our viewing is via 'netflixes.' A recent acquisition is entitled: 'The Last Sin Eater.' A symbolic and primitive display of a clash between myth and reality. When the Welsh colonized the backwoods of Appalachia they brought with them superstitions that were woven into their Christianity. 'The Last Sin Eater' was directed by Michael Landon Jr.

What's God up to at Our Saviour's in Burien?

John 12:20-33: people sought Jesus by going to his disciples. Together they went to Jesus. Jesus told two stories: one about himself and another about a grain of wheat. Then the thunder came.

People are still seeking Jesus, only I notice that many of them are not from Europe or Minnesota or even Lutheran. Together we can bring people to Jesus...and then the thunder.

You already know a bit about "Wednesdays Together." Now Pastor Lerseth has introduced "Empower Youth." This is a program for all ages that gets us together to sing, eat, play, and share the Gospel. We even have a personal

trainer, Kimi for the adults and high-school folk who want to learn some easy and effective exercises. Kimi has also begun a fitness class for us really old adults. Empower Youth had a busload of kids the first week.

A Wii station has been installed as well as a jump-castle. Both are well used. And this summer we are planning "Butterflies plot revenge" but more of these later.

It is exciting to be the children of God in this place. It is even more exciting that God allows us to bring people to Jesus.

Then the thunder comes.

Greetings from American Lutheran Church in Kellogg, Idaho

With the Lenten season upon us, our thoughts turn to Easter and the spring season. We're in our third week of our 40 Days of Purpose which our congregation has decided to study to coincide with the 40 days of Lent. I heartily recommend the book "The 40 Days of Purpose" By Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback church in California. It will change the way you view your existence.

I'm really excited to let you know about our new Men's fellowship gatherings that began in February. We're involved in the planning and construction of a new façade for the north side of our church. What makes this such an exciting project is that all the construction will be accomplished using timber framing methods without the use of power tools. Our director for this project will be Robin Lake who brought samples of the construction techniques to our first meeting. We are also reading the book "Wild at Heart" by John Eldredge, exploring the secret's of a man's soul. Pastor Michael will be directing this study and we all are looking forward to sharing this book and the camaraderie of learning new skills.

The women of our church are getting ready for their annual retreat which takes place the weekend of March 27-29th at the Luther Haven retreat site.

Our teenagers have been raising funds to go to the national convention in Salt Lake City this summer. They have done an excellent job with their fund raising efforts and our congregation is very proud of them.

As you can tell there is a lot going on at ALC, and we are continuing to find ways to serve the community and our congregation.

Any time you're passing through the Silver Valley on a Sunday stop by for worship and fellowship. Worship services begin at 10:00 am, Pacific time. Hope to see you there.

— Gary Truitt



the 2009



gathering



And the angel said unto them, Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people. Luke 2:10

My Friends across the Northwest District of LCMC -

Good Tidings of Great Joy - that is the theme of the 2009 Gathering and Convention of Northwest District of LCMC.

It is late March as I write. Snow is still falling. Spring is here on the calendar, but not yet quite here on the ground. Another year has come and gone, and another Gathering is on the horizon. It has been a year of challenges, to say the least. Challenges within our nation, our churches, and for many, in our own lives. But, here we are, on the other side of that year. And we look forward with Great Joy to an opportunity to make new friends and to renew old friendships.

This year, in recognition of those challenges, the council is sending the convention mailing out with the district newsletter ...

... or maybe we are including a copy of the newsletter with the convention mailing.

Either way, it is an opportunity to place both newsletter and news of the Gathering into the hands a wider group of people for each.

Our speaker will be Pr Chris Magnell. Many of you will remember Pr Magnell from . . . well, from before LCMC was formed. His was one of many voices that contributed to the discussion that led up to the formation of our association. Chris currently serves Zion Lutheran in Des Moines, Iowa, and is now a Chaplain with the US Army Reserve. Take a look at his picture and the few words about him elsewhere in this mailing.

Also, this year, the pre-registration cost of the Gathering and Convention is only \$20. A little more, at \$25, for those who pay at the door. Hopefully, this lower cost will help defray the overall cost of attending.

We have a small amount of business to conduct. You can find two resolutions included with this mailing. Please look them over. We will be voting on both of them. Three council terms expire at this convention, and the council members will need to be replaced. The council members are David Herwick, Juli LeMaster and Pat Ryan.

Until we meet at the Gathering, God bless you and all you hold dear. Travel safely, and we look forward to a seeing you again this May 1st and 2nd!

Robin Lake
for the
Northwest District Council



Northwest District - LCMC





the 2009



gathering



“Celebration and Joy”

The 2009 Gathering of Northwest District, LCMC
American Lutheran Church, Kellogg, Idaho
May 1st and 2nd, 2009

Check One: LCMC congregation or chapter member () Visitor ()

Name(s): _____.

Address: _____.

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____.

Home Congregation: _____.

Registration: \$20 per person in advance; \$25 per person at the door. Please use a check for payment. This fee includes refreshments Friday night, a continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday, beverages and snacks during the convention.

Please make your check or money order payable to Northwest District, LCMC, and mail it along with this registration form to: Lawanna Watts, Registrar, PO Box 150, Pinehurst, ID 83850. Questions? Give Robin a call at (208) 682-4244, or Lawanna a call at (208) 682-2153.

See you in Kellogg!



A quick look at the weekends' activities

Check in for the convention will start at 7:00pm Friday, May 1, 2009, followed by the opening worship service, conducted by Pr Peter Lerseth of Our Saviour's LC of Burien, Washington. At 8:30 pm until we all get sleepy there will be a time to get reacquainted over refreshments.

Saturday morning will start with late check in and registration off the street. Some convention business, a time for Bible study, and the first opportunity to hear from Pr Magnell on the subject of 'Celebration and Joy in War.'

The afternoon will include lunch, a second opportunity with Pr Magnell, the wrap-up of our business and a chance to hear from LCMC Board of Trustee members.

Our time together will conclude with a Worship Service and Communion after which we can all head for home.



Northwest District - LCMC





Pastor Chris Magnell, Keynote Speaker, 2009 Gathering and Convention



Pastor Chris Magnell has served at Zion Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Iowa, since October 2007. Prior to that, He served Lutheran Church of the Cross, in Altoona, Iowa, from 2001-2007.

Chris was born and raised in Minnesota and southern California and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he majored in Economics and History. He received his Masters of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota in May 2001.

Pastor Chris is also a Captain in the United States Army Reserve and was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq from August 2006 through August 2007 as a Chaplain in Operation Iraqi Freedom. While in Iraq he was assigned to the 3-67 Armored Battalion, and, later, to the 1st Cavalry Division HQ.

Chris is married to Mary Ann Magnell, and they have three kids: Calvin, Wesley and Margaret.

Motel Accommodations in Kellogg



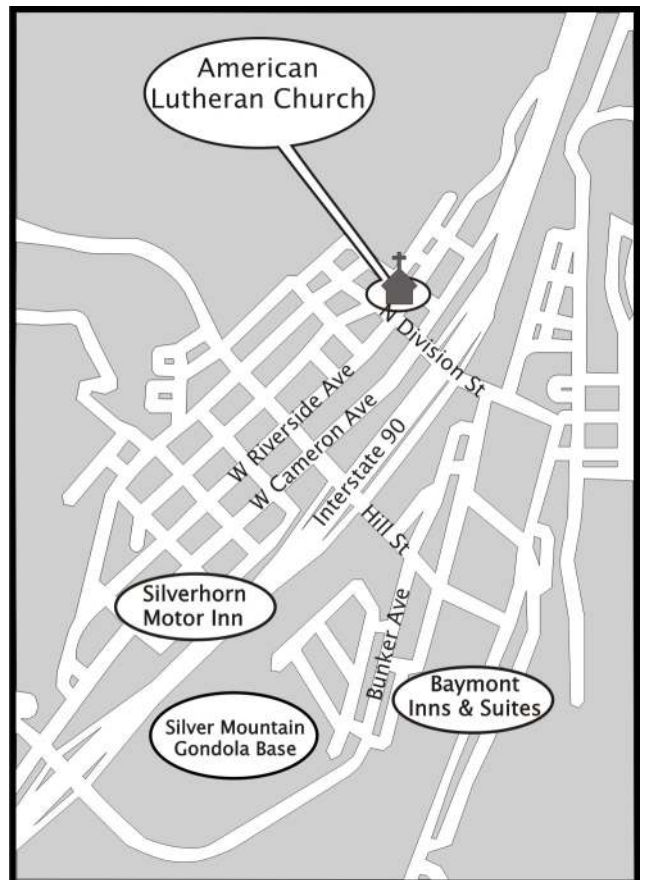
Sunshine Inn Restaurant, Lounge and Motel
301 West Cameron Avenue
Kellogg, Idaho
(208)784-1186



Silverhorn Motor Inn & Silver Spoon
Restaurant
699 West Cameron Avenue
Kellogg, Idaho
(208) 783-1151



Baymont Inn & Suites
611 Bunker Avenue
Kellogg, Idaho
(208) 783-1234





An Amendment to the Constitution of Northwest District, LCMC, to provide that future amendments may originate with the District Council

At the request of the Council of Northwest District, LCMC, the Council of American Lutheran Church, Kellogg, Idaho, moved to forward the following resolution to the 2009 District Convention.

WHEREAS: Paragraph 6.01 of the Constitution of Northwest states, in part, that “An amendment to this constitution may be proposed in writing by any member congregation.”, and;

WHEREAS: The Council of Northwest District, LCMC, has determined some amendments may best originate with the District Council, and;

WHEREAS: The District Council has asked the Council of American Lutheran Church, Kellogg, Idaho, to initiate a change that would allow the District Council to propose amendments to the Constitution, now:

THEREFORE: The Council of American Lutheran urges passage of the following amendment to the Constitution of Northwest District, LCMC.

That the words “or the District Council” be inserted at the end of the first sentence of Paragraph 6.01, resulting in the following revision:

6.01. An amendment to this constitution may be proposed in writing by any member congregation or the District Council.

Paragraph 6.01, in its entirety:

6.01. An amendment to this constitution may be proposed in writing by any member congregation (or the District Council). The adoption of an amendment shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present and voting at the convention or

meeting, provided that such amendment shall not become effective unless it is ratified in accordance with Section 6.02 below.

An Amendment to the Constitution of Northwest District, LCMC, to provide for incorporation within any state of the District

At the request of the Council of Northwest District, LCMC, the Council of American Lutheran Church, Kellogg, Idaho, moved to forward the following resolution to the 2009 District Convention.

WHEREAS: Paragraph 1.03 of the Constitution of Northwest states that “Northwest shall be incorporated and its Articles of Incorporation will be filed under the laws of the State of Washington.”, and;

WHEREAS: The Council of Northwest District, LCMC, has determined that it would be beneficial to incorporate in any state within which a congregation of the District is located, and;

WHEREAS: The District Council has asked the Council of American Lutheran Church, Kellogg, Idaho, to initiate a change that would allow incorporation in any such state, now:

THEREFORE: The Council of American Lutheran urges passage of the following amendment to the Constitution of Northwest District, LCMC.

That the last two words of Paragraph 1.03 “of Washington” be struck and that “in which it is incorporated” be substituted, resulting in the following revision:

1.03. Northwest shall be incorporated and its Articles of Incorporation will be filed under the laws of the State in which it is incorporated.

