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# NORTHWEST LINK

rejoicing in the LORD together!

FROM THE EDITOR

Sometimes our little newsletter reminds me of the fishermen of the Bible. The Lord said to Simon in Luke 5:4, "Put out into the deep water and let down the nets for a catch." Simon protested because they had worked all night and "... haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." We operate on faith. We let down our nets and they fill to bursting. We empty them and behold the gleaming truths spread out before us. The sea of humanity is full of amazing things.

Our LCMC get-together in Kellogg in May was just such a catch. It gave rise to some wonderful things. Our keynote speaker, Pastor Chris Magnell, was one of those gleaming truths.

I have watched the DVD of the get-together a couple of times and was inspired with each viewing. I encourage all to watch it if you haven't already. If you don't have the DVD and you want one just let us know and we'll get one to you. Write to me, Sig Person, at [tsp@blackfoot.net](mailto:tsp@blackfoot.net). It is something I'll keep handy and ready to pop in. Maybe when the Lord says "... and let down the nets for a catch."

The council did good when they proposed the theme 'Celebration and Joy'. Yahoo! We're headed for the Promised Land! Hold on! Now the Capt./Pastor comes back from Iraq and says there's joy and celebration in combat; there's joy in forgiveness and celebration in finding the one out of a hundred who's been lost. And cause for joy and celebration when one comes out of the murkiness of Islam, receives the body and blood of our Lord, and feels clean for the first time in his life.

The next shimmering catch is the upcoming national gathering in Fargo October 4 through October 7...

By the Word' has covered this well but I must throw in a plug or two. I'm so enthused about the national gathering that there is a complete article a couple pages further in this issue of '*the Link*'. If you attend you won't regret it. Unless somewhere around Miles City you run into someone's prize Angus bull. Have fun and see ya there. — ed.

ps — I would encourage you to download the national LCMC newsletter 'By the Word' at <http://www.lcmc.net/news.html>. Larry Lindstrom, the chair of the Board of Trustees, writes about how very long it sometimes takes to be truly awake in the new reality of LCMC. That hit home with me.

Roman Heidemann sends 'Greetings from Yekaterinburg, Russia,' about finding Christ in an otherwise Godless society. There's much more! ... (including the agenda for the national gathering.) It's great to see how God is using LCMC for His ministry around the world.

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## WE HAVE A NAME!!!!!!

Welcome to the second quarter newsletter! Now it is "Northwest Link - rejoicing in the Lord together," or just "The Link," a name that we can refer to from now on into eternity or until we want to change it. At the annual NW District get together in Kellogg in May those present suggested

names and we voted on them. Several times. There were a couple variations on the 'LINK' theme. I know Zara Herwick contributed one of them but I don't know who the other contributors were. Their names either were never there or they got lost in the counting. Also someone else suggested the 'Rejoicer'. There was a tie

vote for the two of them so we combined them. Now we need to know who the other contributors are because there are lovely prizes. No, not ginsu knives. Some of us probably don't even know what they are and some of us are dating ourselves because we do know. Please let us know who you are.  
— .ed.

## Reflections from the Northwest District Gathering

To all my brothers and sisters in Christ in the great Northwest: Thanks for a wonderful time at your annual convention!

As I write this, I'm sitting back in the flatland of Iowa, and catching up with life here. We don't have your mountains (or, for those of you in Washington and Oregon, your ocean), but what brings me joy is the tie we share in Christ.

Like my experiences at LCMC events across the country, it was clear that the Holy Spirit was vibrantly moving in our midst. It began (for me) with a worship service at Grace Lutheran in Paradise, continued on to worship in Kellogg on Friday (thanks to the team from Burien for an uplifting service) and then onto the gathering on Saturday and closing worship with the folks at American Lutheran. It is so good to

put some more names and faces together and to share this time with you.

It was also special being at American Lutheran because of an indirect connection I have through friends. I interned at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines, where Pastor Mike Housholder serves as Senior Pastor. Visiting Kellogg, where his father, former Pastor Tom Housholder, is fondly remembered, was a joy. Tim Housholder, another son, emailed me on Friday and asked if I had heard Sherm Watts' laugh! And, yes, I did! Praise God for all of you.

So I close by saying thanks again. To Kate and Sig (and the dogs): thanks for your hospitality in particular! To all of you in Kellogg: I'm going to have to schedule a vacation there in the winter and ski your mountains someday. To everyone else, I hope to see you in October in Fargo, North Dakota!

In Christ,  
Pastor Chris Magnell  
Zion Lutheran, Des Moines, Iowa




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## Have you seen what I've seen?

USHPIZIN-now you know the reason I've not recommended this movie to more people, I've tried but they always want to know what the name of it is. For some the name USHPIZIN will just roll off the tongue, not me. However, please don't let that get in the way of seeing this movie. These folks are very intent on living their faith. The review here is totally taken from the netflix blurb about the movie. Couldn't add much to it.

"A downtrodden couple finds hope and

good fortune -- amid unexpected house guests -- in this humorous take on religious Jews living in a modern world. Moshe (Shuli Rand) and his wife are given a sum to help prepare for the holy holiday of Succoth and end up hosting two unannounced guests (rather, escaped prisoners). The couple must deal with their boorish visitors, who reveal Moshe's not-so-holy past, while upholding their faith."

*"The Story of the Weeping Camel"* will be reviewed in the next issue. In the mean time, see it.

## Notes from American Lutheran Church of Kellogg, Idaho

As I write this article for the June edition of our newsletter, Pentecost is upon us with all the glorious news that the Lord brings for us to hear. Just as Pentecost approaches many things are changing at American Lutheran.

Sunday school is over till the start of the coming school year, Our High school seniors have graduated, and our children are anxiously looking forward to their summer break. Some of our youth are anticipating the coming summer youth convention in Salt Lake City. Plans are taking shape to attend the LCMC Annual International Gathering in

Fargo, ND.

Summer is a time of fellowship, when many gather with neighbors and old friends over a weekend barbecue or share a weekend camping in the beautiful mountains of North Idaho. But mostly summer is a time of reflection when we get a chance to take stock of our relationship with our Lord. Mountain top vistas and murmuring streams afford us a little time for quiet reflection on our friendship with Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. If you take the time the Lord will come and fill you with his spirit.

This summer is also an uncertain time in our church's future as we begin the search to bring a new younger pastor to our congregation. Pastor Michael Birnbaum's hectic schedule requires him to make frequent trips to keep his mission work on track. He has asked to bring someone younger in to assume the pastoral duties of our congregation. Keep our congregation in your prayers as we search for a new pastor.

As those of you know who live in the Pacific Northwest, summer is short, and I thank you for taking the time to read this article about American Lutheran Church in Kellogg Idaho.

--Gary Truitt, ALC, Kellogg

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### The Pastor's Corner...

*1Cor 16:13-14 Remain alert. Keep standing firm in your faith. Keep on being courageous and strong. Everything you do should be done in love.*

It was great to be part of the Northwest District, LCMC gathering in Kellogg, Idaho last month. I got a chance to meet old friends and new people who have the same appreciation for the Gospel. It has been said many times that we need the Spirit of God to accomplish what we set out to do in our Christian lives.

The last couple of months I have put a book together that talks about "Emmanuel," God being with us. The title of the book is "Getting Acquainted with God over coffee." I ran into a young artist who created pictures that help illustrate the history of God being with us always. He is

associated with Genesis One, a local graphic arts company that works with "Athletes in Action" as well as other Christian organizations. They work with outreach affiliates and churches to help promote the gospel worldwide. They have produced great designs for their projects as well as designing cards and outrageous signs.

They are designing my book to have great bookshelf appeal. They are also looking at making my book into a coffee coaster so those drinking coffee can read the Gospel and know that God is with us as He has promised. It is a different, modern

style on how we present the Gospel. Groups like Young Life and Youth for Christ have expressed an interest in getting my book.

Preaching and teaching that at the end of our life we need to be right with God might not be a new message but for some people it is. For many faithful Christians it is a refresher and refreshing to know that salvation is a gift given to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. It's exciting to see people's reaction when they discover that God is with them always. Thanks for letting me share information on my project. May God bless you!.

Your Friend in Christ,

Pastor Lerseth  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
Burien, Washington

## Making a “Family Photo Album”

*This article was submitted by Carolyn Lystig at the editor’s request. Carolyn’s husband, Larry, served as interim pastor at United Lutheran Church in Waterville, Washington. Sounds like a great idea, and her instructions are very complete.*

### **The need—**

The church's membership directory was more than 10 years old. I knew that ULC would probably do a new one when the new pastor came. Meanwhile, the town's directory listed phone numbers and postoffice boxes. My husband, Larry, likes to explore and it was hard to figure out where people lived with just mailing addresses to go by. So I thought, as a favor to the new pastor, I would take photos of everyone and make a photo album with 4x6 pictures.

### **The process—**

I had the members fill out 4x6 cards with their names, *street* addresses, phone number, email addresses, names and ages (or grades) of kids, work they were doing or had retired from, etc. The card I gave them had a label with their name and mailing address on them already. If the mailing label said Johnson Family they would print Dick and Jane Johnson, etc. The album has a photo and a card on each page.

I improvised a photography area using a large piece of blue cloth as a back drop and improved lighting, both natural and electric. We used a couple stools for “studio” seating. I put Dad on the my left and Mom on my right, with their bodies angled to their left and their faces tilted just a little to the

right, facing me and my husband's digital camera.

I learned more as we went along and tried to take three shots of each individual or family. My husband downloaded the photos from the camera to a memory stick, which I placed on my Mac computer. Then I used PhotoShop to clean up the pictures, removing shadows, smoothing the background cloth, taking away the bright spots from glasses and teeth.

I created a web site at Shutterfly and uploaded the photos I had taken. I ordered 3 prints (4x8) of each photo and an extra 5x7 of families. One was for the bulletin board, with names typed below each, one for the new pastor's photo album, and one for the subject of the photo. The 5x7 photos went on a different bulletin board, and will go to the families.

People really got excited as they saw the photos increase on the bulletin board and most were eager to have their photos added.

### **Lessons learned—**

I plan to do more with the photos. When I order prints I can crop them online. Some do not appear to have kept that crop. I tried unsuccessfully to combine some folders. That resulted in a few



duplicates. I did not remove enough shadow on the earlier photos. I plan to work on them all again, upload a new folder and erase the old folders.

### **Where to, now—**

But all that will take a few weeks as we travel back to Minnesota for the summer. We live full time in our Winnebago. While in Waterville, during the winter months, we lived in a studio apartment. United Lutheran is a great congregation, Waterville is a wonderful town, and we loved the people there.

We left United Lutheran in Waterville the end of April '09. The new minister, Pastor James Robinson, and his wife Suzanne arrived sometime in May.

The web site with the albums is: <http://unitedlutheranwaterville.shutterfly.com/>

Take a look and see what you think!

Thanks for your interest,  
Carolyn Lystig

## “What’s It All About?”

by Daina Oliver

If the salesman on the other end of the phone is talking faster than you can listen, just say “No!” It just might save you a lot of grief.

This advice applies to so many things that we come up against in our lives, doesn’t it? If only I had just said “No” those many years ago to one of those “fly-by-night” fanatical churches. But I was young and gullible and eventually got involved.

One would think a person could just get up and walk away; you know - chalk it up to experience. But it’s not all that easy. They brain-wash you into thinking that you’ll bring down God’s wrath, or something terrible will happen to your family, if you don’t follow their teachings. It seems silly now, but at the time I was afraid. These kinds of experiences can leave some pretty deep scars. This so-called “Church” left me and my family disillusioned and bitter. My children grew up thinking that all churches and preachers were fakes.

So, thirty-five years later, I stood in front of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, not knowing whether I should go in or not. Then I thought, “Well, I’ll go once. If I don’t like it I just won’t come back.” I think I was actually looking for an excuse to turn around - but it didn’t happen.

I went there again the next Sunday; and the next. No one was using fear tactics, no one lied to me, no guilt trips. The first time someone handed me a piece of paper, it contained a list of where every penny in this

Church was spent. I wondered: “Who am I to be privy to all the business of the Church?” Then I realized that every member had the same piece of paper. And then I saw the book that outlined what this Church believes in. It was that one with the black leather cover that says “Holy Bible” on the front.

I just don’t know where else one could sit in the midst of a congregation and feel completely alone. I don’t mean abandoned alone. I mean alone with God. It’s just you and God, one-on-one, even though there are other people around you. I’m happy that I’ll never have to “apologize” for being a Christian Lutheran.

It amuses me that all my friends (who wouldn’t set foot in a church) think it’s just “okay” for me to drive those seventeen miles to attend worship each Sunday. That is, once they got over the shock of me going at all. Now I’d better go or I’ll have some explaining to do.

*Daina Oliver lives in Calder, Idaho, where she is active in civic events, is an accomplished artist (painting on saw-blades, canvasses, etc), and she is beginning her first term as President of the St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Council, Saint Maries, ID. The “Church” or “cult” Daina refers to in her article was the Worldwide Church of God founded by Herbert W. & Loma Armstrong, and later headed by his son, Garner Ted Armstrong, until his father booted him out. The State of California eventually brought suit and took receivership of all property and assets.*

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PASTORAL INSTALLATION - On August 9th James Robinson will be installed as pastor of United Lutheran Church in Waterville, Washington. The installation will take place at the 10:00 am worship service, with Rev Paul Braafladt of Seattle, Washington presiding.

Pastor Robinson entered parish ministry serving a three point parish at Hannaford, N Dakota. From there he served in an interim capacity at Big Sandy, Montana, a parish in Visalia, California, then back to Montana for a number of interims, before accepting the call to United.

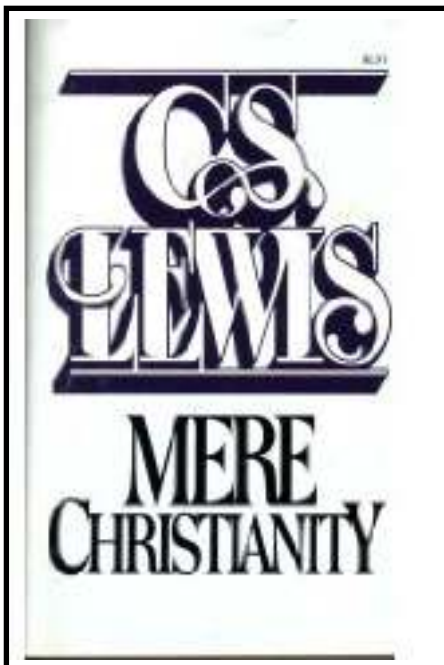
James and his wife, Suzanne, have three grown children and 5 grand-children.

*"The first thing to get clear about Christian morality between man and man is that in this department Christ did not come to preach any brand new morality. The Golden Rule of the New Testament (Do as you would be done by) is a summing up of what every one, at bottom, had always known to be right. Really great moral teachers never do introduce new moralities: it is quacks and cranks who do that. As Dr Johnson said, 'People need to be reminded more often than they need to be instructed.' The real job of every moral teacher is to keep on bringing us back, time after time, to the old simple principles which we are all so anxious not to see; like bringing a horse back and back to the fence it has refused to jump or bringing a child back and back to the bit in its lesson that it wants to shirk." — CS Lewis*

A couple years ago I set out to find and re-read some of the books I had read as a teenager and young adult. Some of those books have gotten to be a little rare. Because of that, I have begun to visit old book stores, book shelves in "used and vintage" shops, and the book tables at yard sales. On a visit to a used book store I came across a paper back edition of *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis, the book quoted above. I had never read this book, but had seen it quoted innumerable times in other writings. I bought it, took it home with me, and began reading it the same night.

*Mere Christianity* had its origins in a series of radio addresses given in England in 1943 by Lewis. The addresses were slightly reworked into a written, rather than spoken, format to form the book. Lewis' intended audience were Methodists, Presbyterians, Anglicans and Roman Catholics. These were the four main Christian denominations of war-time England. A fifth element of his intended audience, and some have said, the real intended audience, were men and women who were almost persuaded by what they already knew about Christianity. That is, people who were on the threshold of accepting Jesus Christ as Savior, but needed a little more convincing. In these addresses, and the book that resulted from them, Professor Lewis did a masterful job of setting forth those final persuasions.

The book starts out about as fundamentally as possible. The first sub-section is entitled "Right and Wrong as a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe." Yes, Lewis asserts, even at that level there is evidence that humanity belongs to God. Creator and created. Impressed upon every heart is the knowledge of right and wrong. From there Lewis goes on to write about "What Christians



Believe," what is "Christian Behavior," and very credibly lays the foundation for an understanding of the Triune God, and our relationship to Him.

Of course, there is a hiddenness to Christianity for those who "will not see." If this were not so, church pews would be full to overflowing every Sunday morning. We are called to believe because of our faith, not by signs nor works nor wonders in the sky. As it says in Second Corinthians (5:7), "for we walk by faith, not by sight." *Mere Christianity* does a very good job of engendering and bolstering faith that may not yet be able to stand on its' own two feet.

Another thing about this book that has intrigued me is the use of the word "mere" in the title. Often, when hearing the word "mere" used it conveys almost a diminutive nature to the word it modifies, such as "a mere lad" being interchangeable for "a little boy." That is not the sense in which Lewis here uses the word. One of the definitions that the online Webster's Dictionary gives for "mere" is "having no admixture : pure." I believe this is the intended meaning of "mere" in this context, which results effectively in "Pure Christianity."

This book is still in print after more than 65 years. Amazon.com has them starting at \$1.80, for a used edition, all the way up to \$16.45 for a hard cover edition. *Mere Christianity* is a good read, for "seekers," for newly-minted Christians, and even for us old-timers. If you have read it in the past, it is worth a re-read. If you haven't, stop by an old book store and see if they have a copy.

Robin Lake  
American Lutheran Church  
Kellogg, Idaho

## NW DISTRICT COUNCIL INTRODUCTIONS AND ACTIONS

First of all, THANK YOU to Juli LeMaster and Pat Ryan for serving on the council! Your work for the ministry of LCMC in the Northwest is certainly appreciated.

For those of you who are just finding out that there is a council some introductions are in order.

Candy Pugh ([teacup@smgazette.com](mailto:teacup@smgazette.com)) is the treasurer. Candy is part of Spikes great little flock in St. Maries. 344 - 9th St, St. Maries, ID 83861. 208-245-3672.

David Herwick ([pastor@herwick.com](mailto:pastor@herwick.com)) secretary, David is a pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran in Burien. 158 S. 168th St., Burien, WA 98148 206-595-4969.

Kate Person ([aperson@blackfoot.net](mailto:aperson@blackfoot.net)) is part of Grace Lutheran in Paradise, Montana and married to the editor of the newsletter, Sig. Box 26, Paradise Montana 59856 406-826-5570.

Randy Hill is the new kid on the block. WELCOME Randy. Randy is also part of the ministry of American Lutheran in Kellogg. 1447 Big Creek Road Kellogg, ID 83837.

Robin Lake ([robin.lake@verizon.net](mailto:robin.lake@verizon.net)) is the current chairman. A layman in American Lutheran in Kellogg he has been with LCMC from the jump. He attended the birth of the North West District so if you have history questions, ask Robin. PO Box 357, Kingston, Idaho 83839 208-682-4244.

Spike Shine ([shinedavid@smgazette.com](mailto:shinedavid@smgazette.com)) our very capable vice-chair. Spike is the pastor of a great congregation (St. Paul's) in St. Maries, Idaho. David "Spike" Shine, 130 S. 10th Street, Saint Maries, ID83861, (208) 245-5420

Sherm Watts ([wattse@usamedia.tv](mailto:wattse@usamedia.tv)) Sherm is also from American and has a lot of history tucked away as well. He is back on council after taking a year off. PO Box 150, Pinehurst, Idaho 83850

The offering taken at the NW District get-together in May was sent to the Fisher House. That is like the Ronald McDonald house for the military. The offering was \$251, the council voted to almost double that by making it \$500 using district funds.

At the NW District council meeting immediately after the NW District get-together we enthusiastically agreed that Pastor Chris Magnell was an excellent choice as our keynote speaker. We also voted to pay bills associated with the District get-together. We decided to provide a DVD of the get-together to those who attended and others who are interested in learning more about us. The DVD's were recorded and copied by Susie Smith of Helena, Montana. Susie attended the get-together to record it, and meet Chris Magnell. Her son, Clint, recently returned to Iraq for his second tour there and she sent a copy of the discs to him, along with hand-written messages and prayers from the attendees at the get-together.

If you have any questions or comments for the council please contact any of us and we will try to help. We're happy you're involved in LCMC and the NW District and remember, we're your council.

--Kate Person, Grace Lutheran, Paradise, Montana

## Fargo '09

From all a r o u n d the world, m e m b e r s , friends and the curious will gather from October 4th — 7th at Atonement Lutheran Church in Fargo, North Dakota, for the 9th Annual Gathering of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.

The theme for this year's gathering is "The Invitation." The theme verse is Isaiah 55:1 — "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost." However, during the four days of the event we will explore all of Isaiah 55.

On Monday, October 5th, we will look at "God's Invitation to Receive." The Bible study that morning on Isaiah 55:1-5 will be led by Rev. Mark Vander Tuig from Lutheran Church of the Cross in Altoona, Iowa.

The keynote speaker on Monday will be Rev. Walt Wangerin, University Research Professor at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana. Walt is a noted author and was the speaker for the radio program Lutheran Vespers from 1994 to 2005.

The theme for Tuesday, October 6th, will be "God's Invitation to Return." Isaiah 55:6-11 will be the Bible study text used by Rev. Renee Kowlessar, the chaplain at Commons on Marice in Eagan, Minnesota.

Rev. Tony Campolo, prolific author and Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania, will be our keynote speaker. The final day of the gathering, October 7th will have as its

theme, "God's Invitation to Rejoice." Rev. Gib Botten, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Fremont, Nebraska, will lead us in a study of Isaiah 55:12-13.

Rev. Walt Kallestad, author and Sr. Pastor at Community Church of Joy in Glendale, Arizona, will be our featured speaker. Preaching at our opening worship service on Sunday evening, October 4th will be Rev. Dale Wolf, Sr. Pastor at Atonement Lutheran, our host congregation.

Rev. Paul Braafladt, retired pastor and vice chair of the LCMC Board of Trustees, will preach at the closing worship service on Wednesday morning.

Other highlights will include 30 breakout sessions on a host of topics, ample time for fellowship and networking, opportunity for districts to gather together, and a night out in Fargo. In addition, elections will be held in three areas for members of the LCMC Board of Trustees.

Registration cost for the event will be \$95.00. However, those who register by August 31 will save \$15.00 on the registration fee. Online registration, along with hotel information and the Gathering agenda is available at the LCMC website: [www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net)

The people of Atonement are busy preparing for this wonderful event, open to anyone who wants to come and join us. We hope you will accept "The Invitation" to be with us in October. ♦

*Reprinted from the Second Quarter '09  
By the Word, the national LCMC newsletter.*

*Thought for  
the day:*

*"God is love, but love is not God."*