

King of Kings Lutheran – Kennewick, WA

Blessings:

- After two-and-a-half years on the market, we have finally sold our church building. We needed to short plat the parsonage off of the church property in order to do so, but in the end, it seems like this will be to our benefit. Our sale will close at the end of June.
- Our Easter outreach and Easter for Kids program had a great response this year. Our Easter for Kids was attended by over 150 children and between that and the many visitors to our Easter worship, we have had many opportunities for further follow-up.

Challenges:

- As we get close to completing our construction documents for our new church building, the matter of securing financing, planning repayment, and reconciling the various design opinions within our membership is a constant and necessary struggle for our leadership.
- We are in the process of reviewing and renewing our short and long term ministry plan which is forcing our congregation to evaluate itself and think outside of our comfort zone.

Please pray:

- That the Lord would send the right buyer at the right time to purchase our parsonage.
- That the Lord would bless the plans we are developing for a brand new (to us) Early Childhood Ministry in our new building.

Trinity Lutheran – Omak, WA

Trinity Lutheran in Omak has been blessed this year with Gospel harmony and a congregation that continues to work together in many ways using their gifts to the glory of God. Coming up we have VBS which looks like it may be a big attendance year. And we are also replacing the front steps of our church that have not been safe and are crumbling. God has blessed us with a reasonable bid and a good contractor and that work may be starting at the end of this month. Challenges remain pretty constant. Visitors to our church picked up a little around Easter but have not been that great since. Finances are always pretty hard in our part of Washington, the mill has closed (again) and great jobs are few and far between. Pastor Schnake returned his second call in as many years this January.

Redeemer Lutheran – Yakima, WA

The one thing that comes to mind for Redeemer-Yakima is both a challenge and a blessing: helping cover the vacancy at Grace across town. It's a new opportunity for our two congregations to strengthen their connection and build a ministry mindset that thinks of the valley as one mission field.

Our Savior's Lutheran – Wenatchee, WA

Our attempts to connect more strongly to the children of our congregation in order to minimize the growing trend of attrition among our young people is underway. We are presently offering them opportunities to grow in their relationship with their Lord through Bible study, service and fellowship. We were also blessed with some new faces whom we are asking to help us in evaluating our ministries and ways of outreach. We hope a newer perspective might add some beneficial perspective.

Since we are a more senior based congregation we are addressing ways of using that as a strength in our ministry efforts with programs designed for the seniors in our community.

We are continuing to evaluate and search for our niche in the Lord's kingdom in order to best serve our members and our community.

Good Hope – Ellensburg, WA

Good Hope in Ellensburg is holding its own after the loss of five members in 2015. Presently, there is a Bible Information Class in progress and had a family travel from Moses Lake for an infant baptism. I will follow up with the family that had the baptism on my return. I am keeping the PNWDMB in the loop of any potential in Moses Lake since the existing LC-MS church property has put on the market to sell. Lord's blessings on the conference!

The Vine – Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

What is “The Vine”?

The Vine is a new church plant and a second site for St. Matthew in Spokane, which is about 45 minutes away in the state of Washington. Even though we started The Vine with no members and no core group, 24 members of St Matthew agreed to serve as a temporary “launch team” to help start the second site. So far, the Lord has blessed us with 10 people who are committed to being a part of The Vine and 255 prospects who have expressed some interest in us. While we have not yet officially started Sunday worship services, we do meet for Bible studies in my home twice a week leading up to the start of services in the fall (d.v.).

Canvassing

Our launch team has been doing a lot of door-to-door canvassing and proclaiming the gospel for the past 8 months and introducing people to The Vine. We've met some wonderful neighbors, some of whom have expressed interest in our new mission. We've also been doing follow up contacts and looking forward to building relationships with these prospects. Since starting in August 2016, we have contacted over 2,500 homes, and the Lord has blessed us with 255 prospects. Our goal is to canvass 3,500 homes before we launch worship services on October 1st.

Building Permits are Booming

In a recent issue of the Coeur d'Alene Press newspaper, there was an article about the fast pace that houses are being built in the Coeur d'Alene/Rathdrum/Post Falls area in 2017:

“Our area is on pace to hammer records for building permits on new homes. This year’s early sizzling construction activity comes despite the long winter of heavy snowfall. We are on pace for building records after a bustling 2016. We’re definitely on track to beat last year, which was a record year.”

This is great news for our mission work in Coeur d'Alene. As our city and surrounding areas expand, it will provide us with more opportunities to reach even more people for Jesus.

Coeur d'Alene Family Fair

In May we set up a booth at a local mall for the Coeur d'Alene Family Fair in order to introduce ourselves to the community and meet our neighbors. There were over 1,000 families who attended this event. It was a great opportunity for us to be involved in the community and tell more people about their Savior and invite them to The Vine. We also have a soccer camp and a VBS scheduled for this summer.

Caddie Master at CDA Resort

The Vine is all about building relationships. We look for every way we possibly can to meet people and try to build relationships with them. One of those ways is by volunteering at the Coeur d'Alene Resort Golf Course as a "caddie manager" for a few hours once a week. The cool thing about this is that each day I get to meet 80-100 golfers and build good relationships with them.

Rental Facilities for Starting Worship Services

We're currently experiencing some challenges finding a facility we can rent for starting worship services this coming fall. Most facilities are either unavailable or they don't want to rent to churches. Pray that God would open up doors in the Coeur d'Alene area that are not currently opened where we can meet for worship.

I've Been Wondering

This past school year, I've been volunteering at a local elementary school to help students who are struggling with reading. Over that time, I've gotten to know some of the teachers and office staff at the school. Last month, I received an email from the teacher whose classroom I'm helping in. She wrote, *"When you came to our school earlier this school year and offered to help, I didn't know you at all. Now that I've come to know you better, I've been wondering if you could tell me more about your church. I've been looking for a church for a long time, but I've not yet been able to find one that I like."* A few days later I had coffee with this teacher, shared more about The Vine with her, and then invited her to attend one of our Bible studies. She agreed. What a blessing from God! This is just one of the many joys and blessings God has given us on this journey of church-planting in Coeur d'Alene. Please keep The Vine in your prayers.