

+ GEODUCK CIRCUIT REPORT +

2015 PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT DELEGATE CONFERENCE

Christ the King, Bremerton WA – Pastor Andy Schwartz

The Lord has been keeping CTK busy over the past year! Pastor Ted Lambert has retired and is enjoying the "easy life" of helping his wife Deb around the house and volunteering at church. A month after Ted's party, Principal Bruce Babler and his wife Beth decided that they would move to the Midwest as her skills in her medical field landed her a job in SE WI. Since then, Bruce has received a call to teach at Friedens in Kenosha. At the writing, he is still deliberating that call. The Lord in His wisdom led Chris Hintz and his wife Nikki, son Kaden (3rd gd.), daughter Kirsten (2nd gd.) and Logan (8 mths.) to join our church family from Emmaus of Phoenix, AZ. They'll settle in at the end of June and are eager to get to work with us in the fertile mission field of Kitsap County.

CTK faces interesting opportunities and challenges with their stewardship and the growing pains of transition with called workers. By God's grace, worship attendance has increased, the Lord has blessed us with a whole lot of babies to families that are staying in the area. Young people, as well as wiser folks, are active in service at the church and school. We just bought and installed two new church signs, new parking lot lighting, a permanent power point solution in our sanctuary, are restoring our baseball field and paying off our property loan. We look forward to some new faces in our school with joy in our hearts and praise on our lips! Over all, we're grateful to God for blessing us with the ability to continue in His Word and sacraments. We trust in Him as we continue down the road to the Day preaching, teaching, and witnessing him to all! God bless our journey of faith together. Please keep us in your prayers as we will you in ours!

Living Hope, Redmond WA – Pastor Todd Goldschmidt

Living Hope and its members continue to serve the Savior in Redmond, WA. We've been blessed with several new members this past year, including one who lives on a sailboat and a retired couple by profession of faith and young newlyweds by transfer from the Midwest. Our Preschool is finishing its 6th year of operation with three a.m. classes staffed by three fulltime teachers and three aides with over 50 children. Praise the Lord! Challenges include the fact that LHLC is a commuter congregation. We are currently exploring ways to reach out to the surrounding neighborhoods with the good news so that we can develop an identity as a church that meets the needs of our local community.

Calvary, Bellevue, WA – Pastor Noah Herrmann

After 30+ years with one shepherd at the helm (Pastor Doug Weiser), Calvary installed its new pastor, Noah Herrmann, on August 3, 2014. Pastor Weiser accepted a two-year call to serve as the non-resident WELS Missionary to Nigeria. Pastor Herrmann's wife, Beth, is a "trip leader" with Backroads Active Travel. She leads hiking and groups in various places such as Vermont, the San Juan Islands, WA and Costa Rica. Prior to serving at Calvary, Pastor Herrmann served for two years as a tutor at Luther Prep in Watertown, WI. Calvary's Preschool and Kindergarten has been running at capacity (between 20-25 students) with prospective students on a waiting list. Calvary praises God for the opportunity to reach out to their surrounding neighbors with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Finally, with a year of parish ministry under his belt, Pastor Herrmann looks forward to building even stronger relationship with the members of Calvary and serving them, and the surrounding community, with the gospel!

Grace, Seattle, WA – Pastor Thomas Gumm

The congregation continues its outreach to the autism community, as well as to the children and families of a public preschool that rents space from the church. The men of Grace host a monthly “Grill Kings” barbeque and Bible study. They also conduct a monthly Saturday morning Bible School for neighborhood children. Grace is in the process of remodeling the front landscaping in the front of the church.

Beautiful Savior, S. Everett – Pastor Fred Schleg

Pastor Schleg has furnished the following report:

1. If we can get ahead of our budget, we will begin important renovations on the church – new chairs, paint, flooring, etc. on a pay as you go basis.
2. Summit Summer Camp, a new all day summer camp outreach effort, was postponed for one year. We did not get enough campers, but will continue planning and promotion in hopes that the Lord is just telling us "Summer 2016".
3. Debt retirement continues at a steady pace and the 5 year goal is well within reach saving us thousands of dollars in mortgage interest.
4. We have 10 people signed up for "Please Open the Door", an outreach to Mormon missionaries. It has been a very positive experience so far.
5. We are very grateful for all of the BSLC volunteers who make our ministry possible. With a tight budget we depend on people-power make things go.

Saviour of the Nations – Vancouver, B.C., Canada – Pastor Geoff Cortright; David Sigrist, Pastoral Assistant

Saviour of the Nations has been entrusted with much, and is now being faithful with this trust. After months of strategic planning and meeting with synodical mission counselors, we are now implementing our plans and letting the Spirit of Christ bless us how he wills. We are renting space at Wilson Heights United Church for at least the next couple of years. Our contract includes permanent, professional signage, an office, and teaching and worship space. We have a new website and social media presence. Our various "come" and "go" events include several Bible studies during the week, small groups around the city, ESL activities, concerts, and fellowship activities for moms, teens, and more. Our worship attendance continues to grow and local leaders are being trained, especially among the Chinese community.

Salem, Edmond, WA – Pastor Thomas Gumm

Salem sold its parsonage for \$469,950 and sent a check for \$147,171 to LACE to pay off the mortgage, leaving \$283,689. They congregation used \$110,462.05 for expenses related to getting the parsonage ready for sale (including utility payments, loan closing cost, lot line adjustment, and monthly loan payments), leaving \$39,538 unspent from the original loan. We also have \$5,802 in the roof fund. Add up the numbers (sale proceeds + unspent loan amount + roof fund) and Salem has \$329,028.31 for use on "fixing the church roof" (as a start). Pastor Gumm's normal salary has been restored. The other big news at Salem is the fact that they are working with the District Mission Board on a two-year plan of outreach to the community of Edmonds. One area of outreach that Salem has embarked on is “Salem Lutheran Community Garden” (check it out on Facebook).

Respectfully submitted by Todd Goldschmidt, Geoduck Circuit Pastor