



## **Report of the Idaho Circuit WELS Pacific Northwest District Convention June 2018**

### **Cross of Christ, Boise**

Pastor John Steinbrenner, Pastor Matthew Zimpelmann, Pastor Kurt Wetzel  
Cross of Christ – Boise Campus

Cross of Christ has much for which to thank and praise the Lord of the Church. At our Boise campus, we recently welcomed a our new members from the last Bible Information Class on the same day our youth confirmands publicly declared their faith in the risen Lord and their trust in his Word. Our summer programs are filled to capacity with most volunteer positions covered. Additionally, a recent parking lot expansion project is now completed. We also continue to reach out to straying members and seek to maintain a clear ministry focus as summer, youth, and outreach programs build. As our community continues to grow around us, we are looking for ways to reach the lost while nurturing the found in Christian community gathering regularly around the means of Grace.

### **Cross of Christ, 2<sup>nd</sup> Site**

Pastor Benjamin Workentine

We are looking forward to celebrating one year since our first worship service in Meridian, ID. We'll celebrate in a big way... by moving! Starting September 9th, we'll worship in a middle school in nearby Star, ID. Our new location will allow us to share the gospel with a smaller community that has a large and growing percentage of people who don't know and don't believe in Jesus as their Savior. The next three months will serve as a transition period. We'll still worship in Meridian up until September. But we'll offer Bible classes and other outreach events in both Star and Meridian with a growing emphasis on the Star community. We pray that God bless our work in our new community. May he bring us to the doors and in contact with those who thirst for living water.

### **Messiah, Nampa**

Pastor Edward Frey

At Messiah, we continue to develop our 3-year ministry plan with focused goals on the following areas:

1) Education/Spiritual growth, 2) Facilities/Properties, 3) Service/Fellowship, 4) Stewardship/Staffing. We recently concluded a congregation-wide survey and a series of cottage meeting, which provided additional feedback as to how to address these identified goals.

Messiah Lutheran is in the midst of a comprehensive "over-haul" in which leadership is asking the critical questions of: 1) what's working, 2) what's isn't working, and 3) why?

Messiah Lutheran is experiencing new growth in the community as well as in the congregation. There have been several new families joining as a result of regular outreach and evangelism efforts which are directly connected to a continuous Bible Information Class.

The congregation continues to develop a harvest strategy within its preschool. The goal for this 2017-18 year was to simply build bridges with the preschool parents with church members. This was accomplished by providing community service projects that Messiah families could join in to complete with prospective preschool families. One example was a Book drive that was conducted with our "preschool partners" and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

The congregation has been working on a partnership with the IDHW in other areas: foster parenting is one of the focus points. Currently, the Women's Ministry (WinGS) is considering the opportunity of making weighted blankets which could be given away as gifts to people in the community who suffer from anxiety, PTSD, etc.

As pastor, I am completing my internship hours in order to receive my State licensure as an LPC in Idaho. I hope to achieve that goal in the fall. The hope is to, in some way, partner with Christian Family Solutions to offer a satellite location in the Nampa/Caldwell area.

Overall, Messiah is a congregation in the midst of its own "reformation." Our over-arching mission is to continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ so we equipped to go and share the hope of Jesus Christ until he returns.

## **Peace In Jesus, Boise**

Pastor Daniel Kramer

Two men from the congregation, Hữu Trung Lê and Tạo Nguyễn have passed the half-way mark of their training in Pastoral Studies Institute from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. This past May, Professor Wordell from PSI came to Boise, instructed the PSI students and guest preached.

Friends of Vietnam has been established and the FOV Board has already transferred to Vietnamese leadership. FOV is the international outreach arm of our congregation, sending individuals to teach English and witness Jesus in private settings. In addition, FOV strives to bring students from Vietnam to study in schools of our fellowship. Our second teacher is going to be placed in Hanoi in late August of this year.

Youth confirmation for two youths was celebrated last month and we look forward to a congregational group summer camp with outdoor worship in Southcentral Idaho during the last weekend of June. In July, the youth group

from Shepherd of the Plains Lutheran Church, Lubbock, TX will come up to participate in a cross-cultural experience, sharing of the gospel and picnic event.

We give thanks and all glory to God for the blessings he has poured out on Peace In Jesus.

### **Praise and Proclaim Ministries**

Staff Minister David Malnes

Praise and Proclaim Ministries rejoices that the Lord has allowed us to partner with thirty-one WELS/ELS congregations in the past two and a half years and train over 500 members in sixteen states to verbally proclaim the gospel. We are privileged at the opportunity to work with WELS Board of Home Missions and provide training for mission congregations along with established congregations. Please pray that our WELS members will continue to take full advantage of opportunities the Lord provides to exercise their training from Praise and Proclaim and verbally proclaim the gospel to friends, neighbors, and strangers at their door.

### **Truth in Love Ministry**

Pastor Mark Cares, Pastor Jonathan Leach

Once again, my apologies for not being with you at District Convention. Our outreach campaign in Utah is again conflicting with the dates of this convention. This year 42 people from around the country will be joining us as we go door to door for two weeks.

The Lord continues to bless us with opportunities to share God's truth with Mormons. He has also blessed us with additional staff. We are especially excited that Pastor Jon Leach has accepted our call as associate missionary. He and his family will be moving to Idaho this month. In addition, we have added another full-time staff person and two additional part-time staff.

Our Utah outreach is only a small aspect of what we do. Our program to witness to Mormon missionaries has experienced rapid growth and abundant blessings. We have also recently embarked on an aggressive year-round social media outreach. The first month alone resulted in over 25,000 views of our videos and over 800 comments left. During the coming year, we are planning on producing two extensive video training courses.

We recently produced an extensive Bible course on the book: God – the Ultimate Humanitarian. Visit [tilm.org](http://tilm.org) for more information and pricing.