

WORLD'S BEST INTERN

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the LCMC Heartland District Gathering, where I enjoyed a weekend of learning, fellowship, and encouragement alongside pastors and church leaders from across the district. It was a blessing to meet many new pastors and reconnect with one of my professors, Dr. Leon Miles, in person. I also attended an informational training about LCMC that explained who we are as an association, the resources available to congregations, and the process for churches interested in joining LCMC.

One of the sessions I found especially meaningful was led by Julie Smith, LCMC's Service Coordinator, who spoke about the identity and values of LCMC. Her presentation centered on the basics of what it means to be Lutheran, emphasizing Luther's *Small Catechism* as a lifelong guide for Christian living rather than simply a confirmation resource. She encouraged us to keep the Catechism close to heart, allowing its faithful summary of God's Word to shape our daily lives. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend this gathering and look forward to sharing what I learned as we continue growing together in faith and service to Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Jared Walters