

BROTHER'S KEEPER

THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THE PACIFIC
NORTHWEST

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Our Lives. His Heart.

by Brother Brian Herren

Regional Events 2026

- Women's Retreat: April 24-26
- Spring Youth Retreat:
Feb 27 - March 1
- Men's Retreat: May 29-31
- Summer Preaching Series:
June 26-28
- Youth Camp: July 27-31
- Reunion: Aug 3-9
- Priesthood Retreat:
September
- Fall Conference: Oct. 2-4

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In an age too oft defined by the polarized thoughts of men sharply divided, loyalty marked by animosity, and judgment especially reserved for all opposition...the tender voice of a Savior faintly whispers in a tone all but forgotten. It is a voice both familiar and ancient, both unyielding and kind, whispering, inviting all men in firm loving tenor to lay aside the malicious fury that overwhelms the heart, and destroys the peace long purchased in love. It is an invitation to take upon us the heart of the Savior, and view that which lay before us each day in the way that He views it. It is an invitation to exchange the cankered and calloused for the steadfast and compassionate, to inform politics by reason, and qualify judgment by mercy.

The scriptures make clear that the Son of Man was moved by compassion, divinely commissioned and intently expressed in the face of man's worst for the hope of his best. It was not a mockery of judgment nor an assault on reason to suffer the agony of the cross, but the highest possible answer to the demands made by both. The heart of the Lord Jesus Christ is no less just than it is merciful and no less firm than it is gracious. Truly, a heart that is full of every virtue cannot be any less of one than it is of the other, or else it is not full at all, but wants for one while it spoils the other. Fullness of all goodness is surely a fullness of all that is good, leaving no good excluded, nor any impurity within. Should man not now seek the heart of God in himself?

In the Garden of Eden, God gave man his agency, making them free agents forever. These are our lives, and this the first principle of this year's theme. Yet, man was not left to the ultimate savagery that would inevitably arise from those left adrift with only their own hearts to guide them. No, man was summoned to fulfill the measure of His creation through a commitment to the divine purpose in them. They were called to a covenant to live up to the image and likeness wherein they were first made, by choosing God and all that is God's, even His heart. When moved by that which moves Him, they would not only have agency, they would have freedom. Agency alone is no more a guarantee of freedom than bondage. We are free to make choices, but nowhere are we guaranteed freedom from the consequence of those decisions. If we choose good, we are free, but if we choose evil, we are in bondage. Agency is not the same as freedom, but the precursor of freedom to all who would be free, and the right to enslavement to all those so choosing.

If man may choose, should man not choose to be as his Heavenly Father? And is not the substance of the matter found first in his heart? Proverbs 4:3 says, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." All of the issues. It is true that a diversity of gifts and personalities was celebrated by Paul when he likened the church to a body made of many individual members (Corinthians 12). Many members with many individual traits whereby to make the whole better...but just one heart. The body, diverse in constitution by varied ability would still only have one heart in Christ. In Genesis 7, God called his people Zion, in part, because they were...of one heart. Is not the heart of God the preferred exchange for sin? In Mosiah 9:39-41, it is man's willingness to do good that defines his preparedness for baptism. Is not willingness more a function of one's heart than a show of his flesh? Alma concludes, "if this be the desire of your hearts..." emphasizing that the pinnacle of one's preparation would be measured in the genuine vision of one's heart. In Eden, God commanded "that [men] should love one another; and that they should choose me their Father" (Genesis 7:40). Can we choose God without also choosing His heart? Nay, but every step after depends on this first. This very day our observations, experiences, judgments, and conclusions will be innumerable. Will we perceive them all and weigh them each with the same heart by which God perceives and weighs them? Our works will follow our hearts, and His works follow His. May we be one with Him in heart forevermore.

2026 Pacific Northwest Women's Retreat

April 24-26, 2026 - Trout Creek Retreat Center

(37936 SE Gordon Creek Rd., Corbett, OR 97019)

Regional Theme:

“Our Lives. His Heart.”

Friday, Friday, April 24

- 6:15 Dinner
7:15 Welcome Introductions
7:45 Song Service – Dawn & Glenda
8:00 Evening Activity – Do you have a favorite, go to item? Bring one new favorite item you like to use (\$5-\$10), it can be a kitchen gadget, beauty item, etc. Please do not talk to others about your item.

Saturday, April 25

- 8:00 Breakfast
8:45 Song Service – Puyallup Ladies
9:00 Morning Worship Service - Salem Ladies
9:30 Class - Priesthood
10:30 Break
10:45 Class - Priesthood
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Class - Priesthood
2:15 Free time – rest/visiting/recreation/play pool, air hockey, walking
4:45 Group photo
5:00 Dinner
6:00 Song Service - Sharon & Beverly
6:15 Evening Worship Service - Vancouver Ladies
6:45 Prayer & Testimony Service

Sunday, April 26

- 8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Morning Worship Service - Salem Ladies
9:30-10:30 Communion
10:30 Break quietly – Please be mindful/respectful of the hour
10:45 Preaching Service
12:00 Goodbyes and Departures

Registration Information

Please send \$125 to: Travis Clark
4701 Rawhide Ct. NE, Salem, Oregon, 97305
Make checks out to: NWRRC

2026 Pacific Northwest Men's Retreat

May 29-31, 2026 - Trout Creek Retreat Center

(37936 SE Gordon Creek Rd., Corbett, OR 97019)

Regional Theme:

“Our Lives. His Heart.”

Friday, May 29

- 6:30 Dinner
7:30 Song Service - Brother Michael Livingston
8:00 Evening preaching - Brother Jim Clark

Saturday, May 30

- 8:00 Breakfast
8:45 - 9:15 Morning Worship: Brother Ron Herren
9:20 Class: Brother Travis Clark
Class: Brother Michael Livingston
Afterward Lunch
1:30 Class: Brother Gary Jones
5:00 Dinner
6:00 Evening Worship: Brother Amos Johnson
Afterward Prayer and Testimony Service: Brother Mitch Arndt

Sunday, May 31

- 8:00 Breakfast
9:00 - 9:30 Morning Worship - Brother Jacob Pressler
9:30 - 10:15 Communion Service - Brother Gary Livingston
Break
10:20 Parting Charge - Brother Kevin Herren

Registration Information

Please send \$125 to: Travis Clark
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Summer Preaching Series 2026

by Brother Brian Herren

The Pacific Northwest Summer Preaching Series will be held during the weekend of June 26-28, 2026 in Vancouver and Salem. The series opens Friday evening at 6:45 pm at the Vancouver Restoration Branch. The series will continue Saturday evening at 6:45 pm in Vancouver, and conclude Sunday morning near Salem, Oregon. Sunday services will be held at Willamette Mission Park, beginning at 10:30 am, with a potluck to follow: 10991 Wheatland Road NE Gervais, OR 97026. Your fellowship is deeply appreciated. All of the Saints, near and far, are encouraged to attend the series. The Lord is sure to bless us as we come together in one heart and seek to worship Him. This year, Elder Mark Bendorf has been invited to preach the series. I wanted to provide some biographical information here so that we can get to know a little more about Brother Mark before he arrives in June. The following was prepared by his wife, Jamie:

Mark Bendorf is an ordained elder of seven years in the Church of Jesus Christ, was an ordained teacher for twelve years prior, and has been a member of Christ's church for thirty years. He was born and raised on the outskirts of the Center Place in the city of Warrensburg, Missouri. Today, Mark and his family are members of the Warrensburg Restoration Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ, where they have continued to grow with the saints. Mark served as the branch treasurer for twelve years and Presiding Elder for three years following.

Mark with his wife of twelve years, Jamie, and children Emily (8), Molly (6) and Luke (4), live on a plot of land in the rural community of Kingsville, MO. He thoroughly enjoys staffing youth camps and retreats and finds fulfillment in teaching youth and adult classes. He finds that some of the most precious moments of daily life are in the early morning before the rays of the sun even kiss the ground and he can find his knees in prayer and study the word of God. One of his favorite scriptures comes from Helaman 2:74-75.

Mark enjoys the chance to sit and visit with the saints and break bread – especially if it includes a bowl of ice cream, as he grew up hand cranking the ice cream freezer and attending the church ice cream socials. God has blessed this nation with an amazing natural beauty which draws Mark and his family to view the more natural parts of this land through hiking, backpacking and camping. For those who know Mark or will come to meet him face to face, his height is 6'-5" and he only played basketball through middle school (in case the question ever crosses your mind). It's with fondness that he recalls being with the saints at the Pacific Northwest Reunion nearly 9 years ago and he looks forward to another chance to worship and honor the Lord together.



“And now my sons, remember, remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation...”

- Helaman 2:74