



THE MESSENGER

AUGUST 2009

Submittals of articles for the Messenger are due the 15th of each month for the current month. Please send to: Margery Richter at: m.richter@rm.lcms.org

A Desperate Need
by

President Randall Golter

"Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease" (Mark 5:34).



Jesus never spoke empty words. He cut to the heart of the matter for the spiritual and physical well-being of His listeners.

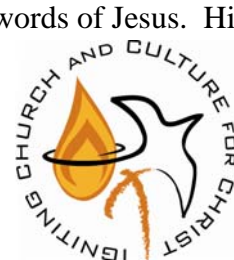
Recently, I spoke with a wife whose husband was dying from liver cancer.

She was angry. She spoke about all the people who say, "Hope things go well," "Oh, we've just been too busy to see you," or "I wish the best for you." She said those words are so empty. They offer nothing.

The recent Rocky Mountain District Convention afforded the delegates the opportunity to discuss many things: the South Africa mission, structure and governance issues, the binding of the churches by the Word of Christ, and more.

What is most clear, though, is this: The world is in desperate need of the words of Jesus. His clear, strong, and direct words offer sinners the certain and solid hope of the Gospel. The world does not need empty words.

The church's conversation of vital issues must never lose sight of those who have no hope. Only Jesus' words offer what is certain, solid, and sure.



The words of the angry wife were nothing other than a plea for substantive words, words that penetrate down to the soul. The church has been given such words from Jesus: "The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63).

2009 Rocky Mountain District Convention

From June 18-20, 2009, nearly 400 pastors and lay delegates gathered at the Doubletree Hotel in Denver for the 48th convention of the Rocky Mountain District, LCMS. "Lift Up Your Eyes" which is based off of John 4:35 was the theme for the convention.

"Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest." – John 4:35

On the Wednesday before the convention, there was a special banquet for Mission: Southern Africa. Pastors, lay delegates, and members from area churches joined together to hear from Rev. David Tswaedi, Bishop of the Lutheran Church in South Africa, and Dr. Wilhelm Weber, President of the Seminary in Pretoria, about the work the Lord is doing in South Africa through the Mission: Southern Africa project.



Bishop Tswaedi preached at the opening worship service on Thursday and served as essayist throughout the convention. He shared insights on Lutheran mission in an African context as well as how the Lutheran church in South Africa has gone from a mission organization to an independent church. Dr. Weber led the convention through a Bible study on the Gospel of John.

A special offering was taken at the opening worship service for Mission: Southern Africa. \$76,432 was collected at the

convention bringing the total amount raised for Mission: Southern Africa to \$456,432!

On Thursday evening, Rev. Randall Golter was re-elected to a third term as district president. Four new members were elected to the district's board of directors. [View Elections Results Here.](#)



One of the highlights of the convention came on Friday at lunchtime as children from three



Denver preschools came and sang for the convention. What a joy it was to see the children from Trinity, St. John's, and St.

Andrews so excited to sing about Jesus!

LCMS President Jerry Kieschnick joined the convention on Saturday afternoon. He gave a presentation of what is going on in the synod-at-large and had a question and answer session. He also delivered the sermon during the closing worship service.

The minutes from the convention as well as speakers' presentations will be placed on the district website as they become available.

We give thanks to God for the work He has done in the past triennium and for the work He will do in the next.

A Meditation from the Spiritual Growth Team

In reply, Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"



Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit." John 3:3-6 (NIV)

I don't know about you, but sometimes I chuckle a little to myself when I read Nicodemus' words. Even though he did not know what type of birth Jesus spoke of, he was well aware it couldn't be a physical re-birth; "Surely he cannot enter..."

Of course, Nicodemus learned, what we profess by faith. Namely, that through Baptism the Holy Spirit connects us with God's ruling love. Our new birth makes us a child of God and a member of His kingdom. Paul says in Titus 3:5, "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Ezekiel prophesied, "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean...I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you...And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees" (36:25-27, NIV).

Luther reminds us to remember our Baptism daily. Why? Because by doing so we remember that through the water and the Word spoken at our Baptism God's grace is extended to each of us as He claims us as His own and makes us a member of His family! Reason enough to celebrate, don't you think? Be mindful, then, and keep your baptism in the forefront of your mind!

A Host Family is Needed for a Foreign Exchange Student Who Will be Attending Denver Lutheran High

This is a wonderful opportunity for a cross-cultural experience that will benefit all. The following should provide some background on the student and what is required of a host family.

14 year old girl from Lleida, Spain who will be attending **Denver Lutheran High School** in the fall. Because this is a private High school there is a small monthly stipend (**\$500**) that is paid to the host family to offset the cost of transportation, etc. The placement is for a full academic year (**10 months**) The basic requirements for the students placement is that:

1. a private bedroom be provided
2. meals
3. all the perks of an experience living with an American family.

Our goal is to find the right family and one within the Lutheran community would be an added bonus, as the philosophy of school and home life would be consistent. However, this by no means is any limitation for a potential placement should you know of anyone in other networks that might be interested.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that this is a bit of an emergent placement, as the student must secure a host family before she can obtain her visa from US Embassy. School is scheduled to begin **August 19th** at Denver Lutheran. That said, we will consider a temporary or "welcoming "host family for a period of **6-8 weeks** until a permanent placement is secured.

Please have any members of your congregation with an expressed interest contact me directly for questions or additional information. Information about the placement agency and program can also be found at www.cetusa.org

Christine Cannan
CETUSA Foreign Exchange Coordinator- Denver Area
Private High School Exchange Program
Mobile: 720 323 6860
c_cannan@hotmail.com *

*c_(underscore)



Conversations of Grace 2009 Evangelism Conference

**Friday Nov. 6 – Saturday Nov. 7
Albuquerque, NM**

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

Friday, Nov. 6: Registration begins 4:00 PM; Reception 5:00 PM; Program 6:00 PM

Saturday, Nov. 7: All day; ends approx. 6:15 PM after Divine Worship Service

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- † **Dr. Phil Bickel** — “Freelance Outreach Encourager;” Missions Pastor at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church in Bloomington, MN; CEO of Roller Coaster Press; and Adjunct Professor at Concordia–St. Paul; nationally-known speaker and teacher on motivated and effective Christian outreach.
- † **Rev. Scott Snow** — Director of Outreach–LCMS; served 22 years in the Northern Illinois District as a parish pastor and district executive; tasked with developing the Synod’s national outreach program, including the Ablaze! Movement.
- † **Rev. Ken Behnken** — Ethnic Ministry Consultant to the Pacific Southwest District; previously Administrative Assistant to the President in Missions for that district, helping to plant 153 new congregations (78 culture-specific).
- † **Rev. Shin-Hwan (David) Kim** — Mission Director, Lutheran Inter-City Network Coalition (LINC), Houston, TX; previously a church planter and missionary in Ecuador and founder of several Bible Institutes and an elementary school.
- † **Susan Roberts** — Director of Christian Outreach (called), Christ Lutheran Church and School, Murray, Utah; Executive Director, Utah Lutheran Mission Outreach; Director of Sudanese Ministry at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Salt Lake City; MA graduate of the Oswald Hoffman School of Christian Outreach.

HISPANIC OUTREACH PROGRAM – IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH – TENTATIVE TOPICS INCLUDE:

- † The Missional Church: Evangelism in our DNA in All We Do
- † Holistic Ministry: Outreach by Serving the Needs of the Whole Person
- † Cross-Cultural Evangelism
- † Outreach Through Music Ministry

OTHER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- † Special Programs for Youth
- † Free Child Care
- † Divine Worship Service (Saturday afternoon) and other Devotions

Special musical performances by *Mariachi San Pablo*, from San Pablo Lutheran Church / Ysleta Lutheran Mission, El Paso, TX

Registration Fees (*We’ve kept fees at or below 2006 conference levels!*):

Adult \$45 / Youth (Grades 6-12) \$20 / Child (Age 3-Grade 5) \$10

Special maximum rate for whole family (incl. spouses, youth, children): \$90

(Registration is not complete until payment is received)

For more information: Call Damon or Carol Tobias at 505-286-5778 or 505-321-4366

Or e-mail us at cog-abq@hotmail.com; or send us a fax at 505-286-5778

Hotel Registration Information:

Conference Rate: \$89 per room, up to 4 persons per room

Reserve room by Friday, October 23 to guarantee rate (Identify this Conference)

To Reserve: Call Radisson at 800.333.3333 or 505.888.3311

Location: 2500 Carlisle Blvd., NE (I-40 and Carlisle), Albuquerque, NM 87110

Rural and Small Town Pastors and Lay Leaders Conference

You are cordially invited to participate in the third conference that helps us share common ministry experiences and embrace change toward being in mission to our rural and small town communities.

Arbor Lodge Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, Neb. Thursday Nov. 5 – Sat. Nov. 7, 2009

Working through districts, we are committed to encouraging, equipping, and inspiring professional church workers and lay leaders while reinforcing rural and small town congregations serving as a mission outpost in their communities.

Rev. Russ Sommerfeld, Chair, National RST Task Force; Rev. Dr. Ray Mirly, Chair, Personnel Committee; Dr. Ralph Geisler, SPIFE and National RST Catalyst Coordinator



Rev. Russ Sommerfeld
Nebraska District President



Rev. Dr. Ray Mirly
Missouri District President



Dr. Ralph Geisler
SPIFE and National
Catalyst Coordinator

Facilitators will provide practical learning groups through congregational stories on:

- Future Rural Cultural Values – Dr. Randy Cantrell, University of Nebraska School of Agriculture
- Christ-centered Education for Children and Youth in Rural and Small Town Settings – Rev. Bob Riggert, Iowa West District Executive and Terry Schmidt, LCMS Associate Director of Schools
- Transforming Rural and Small Churches – Rev. Richard Boring, Nebraska District Executive and Rev. Dr. Terry Tieman, Transforming Churches Network Director
- Regional Ministry Partnership – Rev. Tim Renstrom, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Appleton, MN and Rev. Gary Griffin, Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lockwood, MO
- Outreach/Church Planting – Rev. Scott Snow, LCMS Director of Outreach
- Biblical, Personal, and Congregational Stewardship – Rev. Dr. Stuart Brassie, Missouri District Executive

Cost per participant: \$325 double occupancy; add \$65 for single occupancy (includes two nights lodging, six meals, banquet, and all materials) Participation limited to the first 130 registrants, deadline October 2, 2009. To register call toll free (888) 463-5127.

Dr. Ralph Geisler
Saint Paul Institute for Education & National Catalyst Coordinator
Website: www.spife.org

Rocky Mountain District Youth Gathering

*“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, **ROOTED** and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” – Colossians 2:6-7*



ROOTED, the 2009 Rocky Mountain District Youth Gathering, brought together nearly 300 youth from throughout the district. For nearly four days the youth gathered together for Bible study and fellowship. The gathering theme, “Rooted,” was based on Colossians 2:6-7. Youth were encouraged to remain rooted in Christ as they live out their day to day lives.

Dr. Micah Parker and Rev. Bill Yonker were the main presenters at the gathering.

On Tuesday, the youth of the district participated in a service project near Sanchez Park in Denver. The project was part of the Extreme Community Makeover by Confluence Ministries. Our district’s youth completed 35 projects on 10 city blocks. Projects included building a fence in a cancer patient’s yard, painting houses, and yard work.

The work day was featured on Denver’s Channel 9 News. You can view the

story online at:

<http://www.9news.com/life/programming/shows/4p/article.aspx?storyid=119030&catid=164>

The work day transformed many of the houses in the neighborhood. Cathy, the owner of one of the houses painted by the youth, called the youth an answer to her prayers.

Overall, the youth gathering was a great experience for all who participated. The youth left excited and ready to go back and live their lives rooted in Christ.



AND HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER?

Martin Luther wrote, “Lord Jesus, during Your earthly ministry You called men to be Your apostles, and still today You call men to be pastors in Your church – to proclaim the Gospel of forgiveness of sins, to baptize, to nourish your people with your Holy Supper, and to minister in countless ways to your flock.”



The Joint Seminary Fund uses this quotation to emphasize the importance of our pastors to us present day Lutheran Christians. That fund provides tuition assistance money to men studying for the ministry at the seminaries.

The Debt Assistance Fund of our Rocky Mountain District is like the other side of the coin – it provides money to help pastors (and their families) repay the educational debt incurred while studying. Student loans are taken out to pay tuition, fees, living expenses, and perhaps a family to support.

Please pray for your pastor, and all pastors. Please consider making a gift to the Debt Assistance Program – either for year 2009 grants, or for investment in the endowment fund. Please call Paul Gutknecht with any questions at 303.465.1236, or email him at phgutknecht@aol.com.

A Restart Kickoff at Shepherd of the Hills, Rio Rancho, NM

We had our restart kickoff June 6. The community health fair and open house was successful even though a somewhat windy affair. We plan on making this (or something similar) an annual event. Mission plans for three, five, and ten years are being developed to help us continue to focus on being a congregation that seeks to be a good community neighbor. We are gaining new members at present. A lot of time has been spent reorganizing the preschool and hiring a new preschool director. Our worship schedule has changed to include a contemporary service on Sunday. This gives an added dimension to our Sunday because the sermon and the theme of the service is completely different from the liturgical service. On the financial front, we have had a couple events to help with the obligations incurred before the restart effort. Three residential plots donated to the church have been sold, and we are moving forward with plans to sell tumble weeds. Yes, people do buy tumble weeds.

Rev. Ken DeSoto

King of Kings – Kent Family Fundraiser

August 30, 2009 11:30 am

The Rev. Thomas Kent (emeritus) family had the worst news a parent can imagine when their youngest son was diagnosed with Leukemia. If that was not enough, the second week in July, their older son was in an ATV accident that caused serious brain injuries. Both boys are doing well, but there is a long road for these boys in their recovery and treatment.

PLEASE JOIN US IN HELPING THIS FAMILY 8/30/09 @ 11:30am!

King of Kings is hosting a fundraiser Picnic/BBQ on the lawn after Sunday services at the Kent's church, with LIVE MUSIC, Silent Auction, & old fashioned picnic games. (Single Sunday service begins at 9:30am that day.)

For further details, please contact King of Kings at:

**8300 Pomona Drive
Arvada, CO 80005
303-425-7096**

CALLS EXTENDED

First, Salida, CO to Rev. Kevin Froelich, Loves Park, IL
Trinity, Alamosa, to Candidate Courtney Eaton, Concordia, Portland, OR
Lutheran High School-Parker, CO to Candidate Bradford Hueske, Concordia, Seward, NE
Our Savior's, Pueblo West, CO to Rev. Matthew Larson, Candidate status, Oklahoma Dist.

CALLS ACCEPTED

Candidate Andrew Hulke, Concordia, Mequon, WI to Redeemer, Denver, CO
David Meineke, Gethsemane, Northglenn, CO to Beautiful Savior, Broomfield, CO
Rev. Timothy Davis, Christ, Sioux Falls SD to Calvary, Wray, CO
Candidate Lesley Holle, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN to Grace, Albuquerque, as
Deaconess
Kari Ann Samuels, Trinity, Greeley, CO to Immanuel, Polk, NE
Tessa Miller, Luth. Church of the Cross/Sunbeams Lutheran School, Kent, WA to Messiah, Grand
Junction, CO
Abigail Reed, Saginaw Valley LHS, Saginaw, MI to Vail Christian High School, Edwards, CO
Mark Angel, WI to Immanuel, Albuquerque, NM as principal
Rev. Kevin Froelich, Loves Park, IL to First, Salida, CO

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Ted Moeller, Vancouver, WA, to Faith Woodland Park, CO
Rev. Wayne Riddering, Hope, Westcliffe, CO to First, Salida, CO

DEATHS

Rev. Wilbur Klattenhoff, Emeritus, Albuquerque, NM
Glen Kirch, Commissioned Minister, Emeritus, Denver, CO
Joel Stahlecker, Licensed Deacon, Buena Vista, CO

TRANSFERS

Tamara Stecker, Non-Candidate, North Wisconsin Dist. to RMD
Trudi Lappe, Non-Candidate, Pacific Southwest Dist. to RMD
Jenna Maanum, Non-Candidate, MO District to RMD
Abby Einsphar, Candidate Status, CNH Dist. to RMD
Kimberly MacDonald, Candidate Status, Minnesota South District to the RMD

CHANGE OF STATUS

Dawn Rose, Gethsemane, Northglenn, CO Non-Candidate Status
Kimberly Burke, Immanuel, Colorado Springs, CO to Candidate Status
Ruth Robinson, Immanuel, Colorado Springs, CO to Non-Candidate Status



Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

August

- 3-5 Workshop - “The book of Revelation and the End Times” Prince of Peace, Cedar Crest, NM
- 13 Conversations of Grace Web Meeting
- 17-18 RMD Board of Directors Meeting

September

- 11- 13 Older Adult Ministry Gathering at Glen Eyrie in Colorado Springs, CO
- 15 Articles for the Messenger due
- 19-21 National Lutheran School Funding Academy, Denver, CO

October

- 1-2 Professional Workers Conference - Breckenridge, CO

November

- 6-7 Conversations of Grace Conference – Radisson, Albuquerque, NM

We Encourage your Prayers

Almighty God, thank You for teaching us to recognize the opportunities You give us to glorify You. We offer a prayer of thanksgiving with **Rev. Al Borchert**, Light of the Valley, Riverton, UT, and his wife for the gift of a son Jackson Thomas, born June 30. May You ever bless the Borchert family with Your love and peace. Amen.



O Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, You destroyed death by Your death. Your resurrection merited for us a blessed resurrection to life. Assure those who mourn the deaths of these saints that Your grace will free their hearts from the burden of grief just as Your gracious hands will wipe away their tears.

Amen.

Glen Kirch, retired teacher from Denver Lutheran High School, died Thursday, June 18. A memorial service was held Tuesday, June 30, at 11 a.m., at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Denver.

Rev. Wilbur Klattenhoff, Albuquerque, NM, died Tuesday June 9, he was a member of Christ/Alb., NM which was his last pastorate.

The mother of **Ken Palmreuter**, Trinity, Franktown, died in June.

Army **Sgt. Joshua W. Soto** died June 16 in Baghdad, Iraq, when a land mine exploded the vehicle in which he was on patrol. He is survived by his wife **Thelma** and their infant son. Thelma is a member of Cordero de Dios in Denver. Joel attended with her.

Joel Stahlecker, licensed deacon serving Faith Lutheran in Buena Vista, died in an accident in the mountains. A veterinarian, he participated in the Rocky Mountain Theological Institute and had been installed March 15. Services for Deacon Stahlecker were June 10 in Buena Vista.