



THE MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2009

A Dreary View of Humanity's Potential

by

President Randall Golter

Blot out my transgressions (Psalm 51:1).



It is important to view yourself by the Holy Spirit's prompting lest you think too much of yourself! As our Lutheran forefathers wrote in *The Book of Concord* (Kolb/Wengert, SD, Art. I, Original Sin, par. 8), "Reason does not recognize and knows nothing about the nature of this inherited defect. Instead, it must be learned and believed on the basis of the revelation of the Scripture."

Consider David's use of three words in Psalm 51 descriptive of his waywardness:

Pasha – The English translation of this Hebrew word is "transgression" (v. 1). It describes a breach of relationship between two parties. The sinner has broken the relationship with God.

Awon – The English translation of this Hebrew word is "iniquity." David confesses that he was "brought forth in iniquity" (v. 5). It describes the crooked behavior or deviant standard that every one of us inherits from Adam through his parents. Parents have never had to tell their children, "Stop being so good!"

Chata – The English translation of this Hebrew word is "sin." David confesses that "my sin is ever before me" (v. 3). It describes a state of continual falling short of

God's standard of righteousness. No sinner—apart from faith in Christ—hits the mark of God's holiness.

David teaches God's people in Psalm 51 that the condition of his "breach of relationship with God," "deviant behavior," and "continual falling short of God's holiness" began at his conception. David does not stand alone in this dreary state; every person conceived by a human mother is this way.

Dr. Charles Gieschen, a professor at the Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, writes: "Sin should not be understood primarily as individual acts of transgression, but as an *enslaved condition* that, in turn, manifests itself in individual acts of transgression" (*Concordia Journal*, vol. 31, no. 4, p. 359).

Now, to be clear, there is only one hope for this world enslaved by sin, Jesus Christ. "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21).



Oh, that Ash Wednesday and Lent teach us the seriousness of sin and the joy of our salvation in Christ Jesus.

Oh, Rocky Mountain District, keep preaching, teaching, and telling the Good News! May God continue to use us to draw sinners unto Himself.

Join our Meeting by cutting and Pasting this link into your browser:
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/661689706>.

Healthy Marriage Workshop

Friday, February 20 ~ 7-9 PM

Saturday, February 21 ~ 8:30AM-3 PM



Mount Olive Lutheran Church
Presenter: Wendy Leu, Therapist from St. John Lutheran

Most couples want their relationship to be happy and healthy—to have everlasting love—but no relationship is perfect. This FREE seminar for couples will help give the tools needed to grow a healthy relationship and life-long partnership.

This is a FREE seminar for couples.

Lunch provided on Saturday and child-care upon request.

RSVP: 303-755-9123 or mrborgs@mtoliveluth.org

Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 11500 East Iliff Avenue

Aurora, CO 80014 mtoliveluth.org

Sponsored by the Healthy Marriage Project of Colorado and Mt.Olive Lutheran Church

Pastor Mike Borgstede
Associate Pastor
Mount Olive Lutheran Church
www.mtoliveluth.org
303-755-9123 office

CHRIST LUTHERAN, DENVER – SERVICE OF INSTALLATION:

You are invited to attend the installation service of Rev. Roger Wohletz as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Denver (2695 S. Franklin Street at Yale) on Sunday, February 22nd, at 3:00 p.m. A reception for the Wohletzs will follow the service. If you can not attend, we ask your prayers for Christ Lutheran and for Pastor Wohletz as he begins his ministry there.

In His service,

Pastor Tom Mroch
Vacancy Pastor

Bill Thieme
Congregational Chairman

Rocky Mountain District LWML Scholarships 2009-2010

Application deadline April 1, 2009

*Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus
in my service to God. Rom 15:17*



Students in the Rocky Mountain District who will enroll or are enrolled at a Concordia University or Seminary studying for full time church work can obtain scholarship applications online at:

www.rmdlwml.org

Contact:
Jeanne Ostermann
jeanneostermann@msn.com
RMD LWML Scholarship Committee
719-275-4231

Cross of Christ Charter Worship Service



On Sunday, January 4, 2009, approximately 50 people attended the charter worship service for **Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Aurora, CO**. After the worship, the group gathered at the Greenfield Club House to share a meal and celebrate. Cross of Christ meets weekly on Sunday mornings at 9 am at Antelope Ridge Elementary School located at 5455 S. Tempe.

The church is being planted to serve the rapidly growing southeast Aurora, eastern Centennial, and northern Parker suburbs of the Denver area. In 2007 the congregation was awarded an Ablaze grant as well as a grant from the Rocky Mountain District. They are currently involved in the call process for a full-time pastor/ mission planter.

We rejoice and give thanks to God for leading Rev. Dustin Lappe of Gilbert, Arizona to accept the call on Jan. 26 to be Mission Planter/ Pastor. Pastor Lappe and the team at Cross of Christ will work under the Large Start Model to re-launch the mission during the course of 2009. We hope you will join us welcoming Pastor, his wife, Trudi and their daughters at the installation service after they move to Aurora.

Monique Hjalmquist

A RMD Mission Re-start

Whether it is church planting, revitalization, or re-starting, a lot of "behind the scenes" meetings that deal with directional issues need to take place. Some of those issues are boring to report, but they are crucial to the development of any congregation. Shepherd of the Hills in Rio Rancho, NM is classified as a re-start. I have been a part of the re-start effort since mid-August. We now have some information that we can report to you so that you are aware of how your mission dollars sent to the District are paying off.

1.) January 25, we celebrated the reception of 16 new members at Shepherd of the Hills.



2) We have scheduled a "kick-off" event for either late May or early June at which we expect to be able to show-case our ministry philosophy (goals, visions, etc.) for the future as well as the pre-school effort we continue to develop.

3) God has added some significant ingredients to our family mix in new members who come ready to be resource partners in ministry. It is good to know that God is truly ready to bless His church in ways we cannot perceive.

4) Although our financial obstacles are great, we have put our focus on following good stewardship principles that will have long-term benefits. You have to have money to function, but being faithful in even the little things shows people who visit that we have faith that God will bless His ministry among us when we put His will first. It also shows everyone involved that it is better to be "relationship-focused" first and "dollar-driven" second. Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness and the other things will be added later.

Rev. Kenneth DeSoto



***Rocky Mountain District
2009 Youth Gathering***

Dates: July 5-8

Place: Colorado Convention Center, Down Town Denver

Registration Cost: Early Registration Payment of \$139.00

(early bird deposit, post marked February 15, 2009)

Regular Registration Payment of \$149.00 per registrant

(Regular bird deposit, post marked March 15, 2009 or earlier)

Late Registration payment of \$169.00 per registrant

(late bird deposit, post marked by June 15, 2009)

Registration fee covers all program coats and materials. Hotel and meals are not included in registration price.

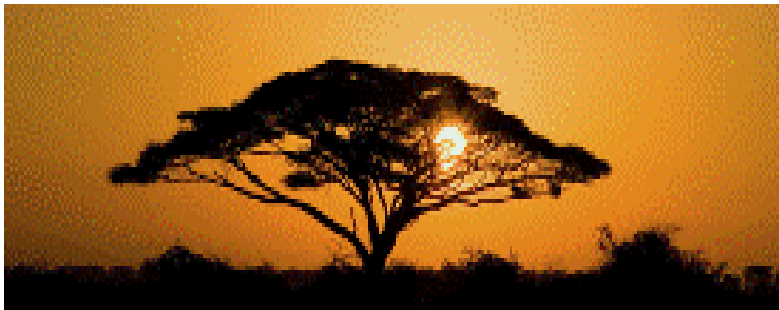
Gathering Band and Speakers: We welcome Micah Parker and Rev. Bill Yonker along with Colorado's very own Roughdraft as our Gathering Band.

Gathering Housing: Hyatt Regency at Colorado Convention Center.

Go to: <http://www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org/index.html> and view the "News/Events" page for more information.

Questions? Please Contact
Ryan Meyer
ryan@redeemer-lutheran.org
970.225.9020

Southern Africa Mission: ...A Challenge and an Opportunity



Last month we were reminded that the 2009 Rocky Mountain District Convention presents all of us with a challenge and an opportunity to support **MISSION: Southern**

Africa. The convention signals the deadline by which the fund drive is to be completed. So, we all have some work ahead of us.

In order to assist congregations, schools, organizations, and individual members to reach the District's goal of \$500,000, this month's article and several to follow will present suggested ways that might be useful in meeting your congregation's goal.

The Projects Committee asks that your congregation consider the following fund raising activities:

First. Conduct a Mission Sunday, a Sunday during which we are reminded of Christ's command. A Mission Sunday can be very successful. One congregation held a Mission Sunday in October and raised nearly \$9,000 for **MISSION: Southern Africa.**

Second. Families or individuals should consider having a dinner, brunch, or reception for selected interested individuals from your congregation. A family or an individual sponsoring a by-invitation-only event can raise significant dollars. The host can present information available from the District Committee or request a presentation on behalf of the projects.

Third. Work with your Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Congregational Coordinators. The *Care in Congregations*® program provides funding and other resources for chapter members who want to help meet a need in their Lutheran congregation or related Lutheran institutions. Your Thrivent Financial Congregational Coordinators can provide details.

Fourth. PRAY

Assistance for any one of the above can be obtained by contacting the Southern Africa Projects Committee through Doug Ullmann at the District office. His email address is: doug.ullmann@rm.lcms.org

District Disaster Response Plan



This plan establishes the basic protocol for a coordinated and collaborated response to disasters on the local, district, and regional levels. The plan, upon implementation, empowers and enables districts, congregations, and LCMS World Relief and Human Care (WRHC) to respond to disasters in a more efficient and effective manner using a congregation-based disaster response program. The plan allows for such variables as working cooperatively with governmental and non-governmental agencies as well as with other faith-based and social service organizations. The plan mandates clear communication and connection between congregations and districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and other disaster response entities through the use of District Disaster Response Coordinators (DDRC).

In order to fully implement this plan, the protocol calls for each district of the LCMS to appoint a District Disaster Response Coordinator in accordance with each district's bylaws and guidelines. Districts may choose to appoint co-coordinators as deemed necessary and appropriate. Each district is ultimately responsible for adopting a working job description for the District Disaster Response Coordinator as well as an operational disaster response budget as deemed necessary and essential.

After appointment, the District's Disaster Response Coordinator will oversee disaster response within his district or region in accordance with his job description and by deploying the District Disaster Response Team (DDRT) as necessary.

The basics of the plan call for District Disaster Response Coordinators to respond to disasters within his district by conducting initial on-site assessments, by contacting affected pastors and congregations, by informing his district office of the situation and needs, by writing necessary grant requests, and by filing reports with the District Office and with the Director of Disaster Response.

The members of the District Disaster Response Team are recommended by the District Disaster Response Coordinator and appointed by the District President or District Board of Directors, in keeping with the bylaws of each District. Districts may choose to appoint more than one team due to design (bylaws/guidelines) or necessity (geographic size or non-geographic districts).

The District Disaster Response Team is deployed by the District Disaster Response Coordinator according to district protocol for disaster response. The District Disaster Response Team provides ongoing preparedness training to all participating congregations, assesses the congregational needs after a disaster, recommends the appropriate response, facilitates immediate assistance, and assists in the implementation of a recovery plan. In addition, the team oversees the evaluation and fulfillment of unmet needs of the congregation following a disaster and keeps detailed records of each response, demonstrating the action and activity of the team and providing a final report to the District Disaster Response Coordinator.

The organizational diagram for a congregation-based district disaster response program is fully dependant on voluntary congregational participation and training. The disaster response organizational diagram outlines the relationship between congregations, disaster teams, disaster coordinators, and districts. (The diagram is included with this document.)

This plan is intentionally designed to provide congregational disaster preparedness and early response training, to provide leadership training for congregational disaster outreach ministries, to provide procedures for obtaining grants and other funding assistance, and to provide a connection to a comprehensive network of disaster response partners.

While state and national relief efforts are being mobilized, the local congregation and the District have an opportunity to reach out and minister to those in need—whether Lutherans or non-Lutherans; Christian, or non-Christians.

The Church's response to a disaster is a commitment and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ to assist those affected by the disaster by providing immediate relief and long-term recovery assistance through ...

- ✓ *On Site Needs Assessment*
- ✓ *Emergency Disaster Relief Grants*
- ✓ *Spiritual Care for professional church workers and church members*
- ✓ *Debriefing for professional church workers, DDRCs, and DDRTs*

This disaster response initiative supplements relief provided by Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), the American Red Cross (ARC), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other local, state, and national organizations.

The Rocky Mountain District has initiated a Disaster Response Team and has appointed the Rev. Dr. Dennis F. Lucero as District Disaster Response Team Coordinator (DDRTC). In addition, the Rev. Douglas May is the New Mexico coordinator and the Rev. Robert Schrank is the Utah coordinator. It is now the prayer, hope, and plan of the coordinators to complete a District Response Team and to encourage congregations to develop Disaster Response Teams within their membership.

All interested persons, especially those trained as first responders, incident command, police, firefighters, medical, etc., are asked to contact the District Response Team Coordinators through the District office to set up a complete District Response Team to assist members and the community in the event of a disaster.

Pastor Dennis F. Lucero /// (pastor_lucero@ilc-cos.org)
Immanuel Lutheran Church /// Colorado Springs, Colorado

AND HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER?



In November, income from the Debt Assistance Endowment Fund plus gifts directed for current use, was enough to give \$15,983 to 28 pastors to help them repay their educational debt. In total, that is a lot of money. Divided among 28 pastors, it does not seem so much. And, when compared to their total educational debt of \$940,000, the grants are less than 2% of that total debt.

The Debt Assistance Program is now ten years old. Has it been worth the effort? The cash cost to the Rocky mountain District of running the program is small, mostly postage for a few mailings each year...District employees do not spend many hours on the administration and accounting. And, in ten years, 51 pastors have received \$125,000 in grants. Our RMD is one of very few of Synod's Districts making an effort with this problem. Of course, we have made no progress toward the secondary goal of helping teachers and other called workers with their educational debt.

Please pray for all our pastor's, and called workers. Please consider a gift to the Debt Assistance program, either for current use, or to the endowment fund.
Call, or email, Paul Gutknecht at 303.465.1236, or phgutknecht@aol.com
with any questions.

SCIENCE FUN!



A hands-on science training session was hosted by Bethlehem Lutheran School in Lakewood, Colorado, on Friday, January 16th. Dr. Michael Schulteis, a science professor at Concordia University in Irvine, California, presented a day-long seminar for metro-area Lutheran school teachers. Energy

was high as teachers explored various modes of instruction while implementing them through experimentation. Among the many experiments presented, the favorites were creating a cloud in a bottle, burning a hand which didn't burn, pulling eggs into bottles, igniting flour, and the overall favorite—how to TP a house in a jiffy (which was really based on Bernoulli's principle—blowing air above and below the curve of the toilet paper roll creates different pressure which changes the air speed). By the end of the day, participants realized that a great science class engages all students, stimulates thought, explores the world that God created, and promotes curiosity for taking learning further.



Worship Arts Leadership Program, Concordia Irvine

Concordia University Irvine is pleased to announce the approval of a new Worship Arts Leadership program, and we would like to get the word out to pastors and church leaders in the Rocky Mountain District.

Worship Arts Leadership Program Approved at Concordia University Irvine In response to the growing need for training in contemporary worship arts and leadership in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Concordia University Irvine recently approved a minor in Worship Arts Leadership. The program addresses contemporary and traditional approaches to worship and provides training in a range of worship styles, the use of technology and media in worship, service planning, and the use of drama and visual arts. This will help give students the skills to evaluate, plan, and implement services. The minor will be offered by Christ College (School of Theology), in conjunction with the University's fine arts departments. To find out more about Worship Arts Leadership at Concordia University Irvine, contact Jon Jordening at Jon.Jordening@cui.edu or 949.854.8002, x 1550.

In His Service,

Ann Ashmon
Director of Public Relations
Concordia University Irvine
Ph: 949.854-8002, ext. 1840

Concordia University Irvine. . . Commissioned by Christ, developing wise, honorable, and cultivated citizens.

Young Adults in Ministry



Young adults in their 20's / 30's from Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Aurora, and St. John Lutheran,

Denver, enjoyed a weekend outing on the MLK weekend. *Young Adults in Ministry* at St. John's has made this an annual outing to enjoy skiing, snow shoeing, sledding, ice skating, and some fine dining while making some new connections.

Volunteer Transcriptionist Needed

Rev. Dr. Henry "Pastor Hank" Corcoran, Ph.D., pastor of Christ Triumphant, Denver, is currently conducting a study of adult faith development with a small grant from the North American Professors of Christian Education. In the fall, he interviewed 29 developing leaders in the Church, ranging in age from 23 to 56 years. He used a life review interview protocol to see how each uses biblical narratives as a resource for making sense of her or his own life experiences. In order to better use the interview data, he needs to transform the interviews (of 1 ½ to 2 hours) into manuscript form. If you would be willing to help (as a volunteer transcriptionist), please call Pastor Hank (cell: 720.217.9637).

The Piton Foundation

Dial 211[it's a free call] to learn about tax credits for working families and to find help filing your taxes

If you make less than about \$42,000 and have children at home the Earned Income Tax Credit can help you keep more of the money you work so hard to earn. If you qualify, you owe less in taxes and may even get hundreds or thousands of dollars back. Plus, there are more tax credits available for saving for retirement and for college.

Keep more of your refund: Don't pay more than you have to for filing your taxes!

- If you use a paid preparer, don't be tempted by "instant refunds."
You're paying way too much to borrow your own money!
- Have your taxes done at a free tax preparation site near you.
- Prepare and e-file your own tax return free online.

A community service of The Piton Foundation and 211 Colorado
www.piton.org/eitc

CALLS Accepted:

Rev. Dustin Lappe, Christ Greenfield, Gilbert, AZ to Cross of Christ, Aurora, CO
Rev. Larry Ziegler, Mt. Zion, Castle Rock, CO/Christ Our Savior, Elizabeth, CO to Mt. Zion, Castle Rock, CO

CALLS Extended

Faith, Denver, CO to Rev. Rev. Kevin Vogts, Holy Cross, Dakota Dunes, SD

CALLS Declined

Rev. Alan Kornacki, Jr, Candidate Status, Morgan City, IA to Grace, El Paso, TX

Transfers

Rev. Robert Sharp, Zion, Maryland Heights, MO to RMD on Candidate Status

Rev. Andrew Loesel, Emeritus, to Michigan District
Elizabeth Binder, Candidate Status, Southeastern Dist. to RMD
Barbara Helmkamp, Candidate Status, Texas Dist. to RMD

Change of Status

Rebekah Ptacnik, Candidate Status to Non-Candidate Status



Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

February

- 12 Conversations of Grace Web-Meeting--- Host --- Rev. Scott Snow
- 12 Southern Africa Mission Meeting at RMD Office
- 19 -22 District Stewardship Conference in Tempe, AZ, Sponsored by Michigan District
- 27 Spiritual Growth Team Meeting at RMD 10:30 -3:30

March

- 2-3 RMD Board of Directors Meeting
- 12 Conversations of Grace Web-Meeting

Nurturing the Faith Workshops

- 9 New Mexico
- 10 North Denver
- 12 South Denver
- 13 Utah

- 19 Older Adult Ministry Committee Meeting at Risen Savior Lutheran Church

June

- 18-20 Rocky Mountain District Convention - DoubleTree Hotel, Denver, CO

July

- 5-8 Rocky Mountain District Youth Gathering

September- October

30- 1 & 2 Professional Workers Conference – Breckenridge, CO

November

6-7 Conversations of Grace Conference –Albuquerque, NM

We Encourage your Prayers



Dear Jesus, our Great Physician, look with favor and compassion on these people who have serious health concerns. May they and their loved ones trust that what lies ahead is in Your gracious hands so that their hearts are at peace and their minds are free from worry. Amen.

Sylvia Diaz, wife of Board of Directors member Al Diaz, is recovering from the abdominal surgery she had on Friday, January 30. May Sylvia have continued healing with no complications.

Joe Grein, son of LCEF vice-president Kevin Grein in charge of loans. Joe's cancer is now in remission. May Joe have continued healing with no more complications.

Andi Kachelmeier, wife of Rev. Brian Kachelmeier, Los Alamos, NM, as she continues her pregnancy. May Andi be able to carry their baby full term.

Rev. Gary Trickey, St. Paul, Ogden, Utah, as he continues to recuperate from recent knee surgery. May he have healing with no complications.

Gracious Father, bless the children and young people in our Lutheran schools with true wisdom and with love for You. May Your Spirit grace the teachers in these schools with a deep insight into Your saving Word. Make them effective witnesses for You and wise counselors to the immature. Help students and teachers to see all knowledge in relation to You, dear

Father, so that they have joy in You and in the salvation they have in Jesus Christ.
Amen.