

Rocky Mountain District—  
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THE MESSENGER

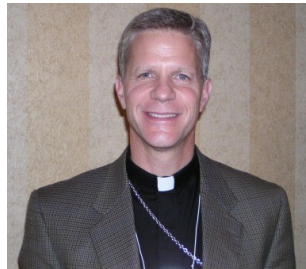
APRIL 2010

## Longing for That Day!

by  
President Randall Golter

*"I believe in the Holy Spirit ... the resurrection of the body"* (Apostle's Creed, Third Article).

*"O blessed death, let it come, O Lord, when You see fit. Amen."*



Such a prayer may sound strange, even a bit morbid. The Christian, however, during this month when the whole Church dies and rises in the crucifixion and resurrection of her Lord, anxiously awaits that day when there will be no more sinning against Jesus.

The Large Catechism (LC, The Creed, par. 57) puts it this way:

Because holiness has begun and is growing daily, we await the time when our flesh will be put to death, will be buried with all its uncleanness, and will come forth gloriously and arise to complete and perfect holiness in a new, eternal life.

The believer's eyes of faith look ahead to what awaits and the heart follows. Eyes that dwell too long on the here and now creep too close to the edge and may lose their way. "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Col. 3:1-2).

The Day of the Resurrection won't be long in coming! Hold on, push forward by faith, tell as many as you can about God's love for them in Jesus so that they also may be saved. Saturate your mind with His Word. Grab your spouse, children, grandchildren, neighbor, whomever! Tell all of them about Jesus.

Soon we will be in that new heaven and new earth! God has promised, and so it will be.



*"Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." 2 Timothy 2:10*



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## Lenten Thought

1 Peter 3:8,9: Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.. NIV In his writings for the *People's Bible Commentary*, Mark A. Jeske states the "sin-sickness in our hearts leads to all kinds of pathologies in Christian congregations: quarrelling, coldness, resentment, pride, control obsession, turf protection, and the desire for revenge." (p.105)

Quite a list, don't you think? Rather than letting your mind quickly identify others you would label guilty, reflect on your own attitude and behaviors. Are there relationships you need to repair? Is someone due an apology from you? In this season of repentance time yet remains to make amends. Go to your brother or sister and confess. If you've been wronged, be quick to forgive as you, too, have been forgiven.

The Apostle Peter encourages us to work the following qualities in our Christian relationship: harmony, sympathy, love, compassion, humility, and gentleness. Oh, to be a people defined by these Spirit-given and nurtured traits. By the grace of God, let it be so.

## April Mission of the Month: University Lutheran Chapel

The spotlight this month is on the University Lutheran Chapel in Boulder, our District's student ministry on the campus of the University of Colorado.

The April *Peaks and Valleys* (insert in the *Lutheran Witness*) will tell of Pastor Dan Burhop's ministry at ULC, along with the story of Sarah Wilson, a student who has benefited from that ministry. A presentation on ULC will appear on our District website,

[www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org](http://www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org).

For use in your congregation, a bulletin/newsletter insert, a prayer for corporate worship, and a PowerPoint presentation, all sent to your congregation via email. (Please notify our District office if you are not receiving this monthly e-mailing.)

To accommodate students' schedules, Sunday worship at ULC is held in the evening, along with a meal. This encourages Christian fellowship among the students. Bible study schedules are flexible in order to maximize student participation.

ULC is a growing ministry, one of the most effective student ministries on the CU campus. It is also one of the few remaining District-sponsored campus ministries in the LCMS focused primarily on the student population. As such, ULC does need strong outside financial support to continue to bring the spiritual nurture of the Gospel to these young people at a critical time in their lives.

One opportunity to support ULC's ministry is through the ULC Mission Society. The Mission Society is a group of congregations and individuals who not only support this ministry through their gifts, but also in helping with building maintenance and repair, preparing Sunday evening meals, and helping with other special projects. To learn more about the ULC Mission Society, contact Pastor Burhop at [pastor@ulcboulder.org](mailto:pastor@ulcboulder.org), or Laura Raben at [laura@rabens.com](mailto:laura@rabens.com).



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## **Igniting Church and Culture for Christ Amounts Set for Special Appeal**

As preparations continue for the special appeal to be conducted throughout the Rocky Mountain District in 2010, the following amounts have been set as a goal for this endeavor:

### **International Mission Work - \$765,000**

New Ministries: \$465,000

Healthier ministries: \$100,000

Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute: \$200,000

### **National Mission Work - \$765,000**

Mission: Southern Africa: \$170,000

Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission: \$170,000

LCMS World Mission Unrestricted: \$425,000

Exciting things are happening right here in the Rocky Mountain District! Information will soon be coming to each congregation regarding marvelous opportunities to share the precious Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Another exciting component of *the Igniting Church and Culture for Christ* campaign is that 15% of the funds raised by congregations will be returned to them for mission outreach in their local communities. Our prayer is that congregations will be inspired and encouraged to reach out in new ways to the unsaved in their midst.

Additional information regarding these ministries and how you can be involved will be coming soon to your congregation.

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## LLL Region 11 Conference

Supporters of the Int'l Lutheran Laymen's League and its Lutheran Hour Ministries will meet April 16-18 in Estes Park for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Int'l LLL Region 11 Conference. The Holiday Inn – Rocky Mountain Inn & Conference Center is the event venue. Region 11 is comprised of the Int'l LLL's Wyoming and Rocky Mountain Districts, which includes Colorado, New Mexico and El Paso, Texas.

The lodging and conference registration deadline is April 9. Registration information was included in the Spring-Summer 2010 issue of the RMD LLL's newsletter, *Mile Hi Notes*, mailed to all LCMS congregations in the LLL's Rocky Mountain District.

Rich Cohrs, LHM's Manager of District and Congregational Relations, is the Int'l LLL's representative to this year's conference. He was one of the presenters at last year's Conversations of Grace Conference in Albuquerque.

The conference will focus on the exciting things Lutheran Hour Ministries is doing for "Bringing Christ to the Nations--and the Nations to the Church." In addition to keynote presentations from Mr. Cohrs, information will be provided on the proposed restructuring of the Int'l LLL and its initiatives to engage more laity in LHM's vital ministries. Saturday night's banquet will include a freewill offering to benefit each District's scholarship program. Banquet-only participation is offered.

## RMD SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE WELCOMES APPLICANTS FOR 2010-2011 ACADEMIC YEAR

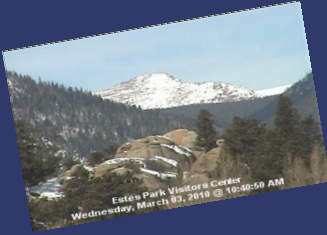
The RMD has funds available to support the educational needs of students entering into full-time church work study (Lutheran teacher, DCE, DCO, youth ministry, lay ministry, pre-seminary, pastor, parish music, etc.). If you will be enrolled in one of these programs at an LCMS college, university, or seminary this fall, you are encouraged to apply. All grants are awarded on the basis of proportion of total need and total funds available. For an application, please visit <http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=5101>. Fill out the application and turn it in to your school's Financial Aid Department. If you have further questions, please contact Pastor Chris Matthis, chairman of the committee, at 303-781-5887 or [csmatthis81@hotmail.com](mailto:csmatthis81@hotmail.com). The deadline to apply is May 31st, 2010.

## Concordia Seminary Workshop in Cedar Crest, NM

Concordia Seminary is coming to you! Dr. David Wollenburg is coming to your area July 12-14 to lead a workshop entitled "Pastoral and Professional Decision Making: Can We Think Gracefully?" at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Cedar Crest, NM, hosted by Rev. Devon Woodyard. This is a two-day workshop from Monday at 1:00 to Wednesday at noon.

In this workshop participants will work together to identify and implement a foundation for response to the questions that pastoral ministry faces in our day. At a time when values, Scriptural exhortations, and personal perceptions collide on an almost daily basis, individuals and pastors alike need to step back, reexamine the foundations of their values and evaluate their responses to new questions and old questions in newer forms. The presentations and sharing attempt to prepare today's pastors to minister evangelically in a world where precepts of the Law set the agenda and the Gospel is misunderstood and turned into Law. Case studies, personal reflections, and active discussion will assist participants to discover the basis for ethical ministry under Christ as they come to view ethical decision making from a new view point.

To register, contact our office at [ce@cs1.edu](mailto:ce@cs1.edu) or call Linda at 314.505.7486. For information about the host location, contact Rev. Woodyard at [woodyard3@gmail.com](mailto:woodyard3@gmail.com) or 505.281.2430. You will be able to download a registration form at our website [www.cs1.edu](http://www.cs1.edu) in the next few weeks. If we can serve you in some other capacity of continuing education, please let us know.



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## Summit of Peace Lutheran Church, Thornton, CO, Installation

On April 11th at 2:00 p.m., Summit of Peace Lutheran Church, Thornton, CO will be installing their new Associate Pastor, Jeremy Jacoby. Pastors who will be participating in the rite of installation are asked to bring their red stoles. We pray that you will be able to celebrate with us.

Debbie Stutzman  
303.452.0448  
<http://www.summitofpeace.org>

## LACHAIM GROUP EQUIPS PASTORS TO BE LEADERS

By Rev. Chris Matthis, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Englewood, CO

The first Lachaim alumni group met on February 11, 2010, for prayer, study, fellowship, and encouraging discussion about church leadership skills. The group engaged in discussion of Paul Borden's book, *Assaulting the Gates: Aiming All God's People at the Mission Field*. Pastor John Thieme shared his joys and struggles in ministry and life. Pastor Chris Matthis shared a recommended reading list focused on evangelism and devotion. Lachaim is a Learning Community initiated by the Rocky Mountain District's Healthier Ministries team in order to "equip leaders of our churches and schools with healthy biblical principles and coach them in a process of becoming healthier communities." The group is led by Rev. Dr. Michael Eckelkamp, the senior pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church and School, Denver, CO.

Pastor Michael has led the group since February 2008 and urges pastors, principals, and staff to become leaders who make loving the lost their number one priority—just as it was for Christ. Through monthly book discussions, sharing of personal faith journeys, and instruction in Natural Church Development (NCD), Lachaim helps churches and schools to experience deep, transformational change so that they can look outward instead of inward. Strong personal and professional ties are built among participants, who encourage one another through the Word and prayer both inside and outside the monthly meetings. Honesty and transparency help to forge an authentic, open community that stresses church health—not necessarily church growth. Many church and staff leaders have experienced personal and spiritual growth as well as a renewed sense of urgency for the proclamation of the Gospel in their communities.

Pastor Michael is currently working to establish a new Lachaim Learning Community in Salt Lake City, Utah. If you are interested in finding out more about the potential opportunities for your area, please contact Pastor Michael at 303-733-3777.



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## Roster Reports

### CALLS EXTENDED

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Evansville, IN to Rev. Charles Ransdell, Jr, Father, Centennial, CO as Associate Pastor.

Peace, Hewitt, TX to Brian Horning, Grace, Sandy, UT

Lutheran High School, Parker, CO to Daniel Cattau, Candidate, Concordia, Seward, NE

### CALLS DECLINED

William Busacker, Grace, Sandy, UT to Holy Cross, Wichita, KS

Corey Brandenburger, Christ, Murray, UT to St. Paul, McAllen, TX

### CHANGE OF STATUS

Mary Bergman, Christ the King, Los Lunas, NM to Emeritus

David Meineke, Beautiful Savior, Broomfield, CO to Candidate Status

Rev. Richard Holz, Candidate Status to Emeritus

Greta McClendon, Immanuel, Loveland, CO to Candidate Status

Philip Schult, Candidate Status to Non-Candidate Status

Russell Brockmeier, Candidate Status to Non-Candidate Status

Daryl Bierbaum, Candidate Status to Non-Candidate Status

Laurie Parton, Trinity, Franktown, CO to Non-Candidate Status

### RESIGNED FROM ROSTER

Darcy Schipporeit, Non-Candidate Status

## Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

### April

2 Good Friday—office closed

4 Easter Blessings to all from RMD office

13-15 NM Area Spring Pastors' Conference, Bonita Park Camp and Conference Center

16 RMD LLL Board of Directors Meeting, Estes Park, CO

19 School Ministry Meeting at RMD

20-22 Southern Spring Pastors' Conference

### May

13 L'achaim Meeting at St. John's Lutheran Church, Denver, CO

17 Board of Directors Meeting

### June

11-13 Rocky Mountain Dist. LWML Convention, Grand Junction, CO

### July

8-17 LCMS Synodical Convention, Houston, TX

### August

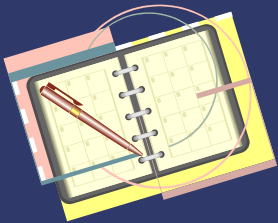
9-10 RMD Board of Directors' Meeting

### September

14-16 Rocky Mountain District Older Adult Gathering Theme: "Cultural Challenges for Christians"

### October

6-8 Professional Worker's Conference



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## A Nurse with a Mission

On January 9, Vera Loose, a registered nurse from Paonia, made a commitment to join a Mercy Medical Mission Trip, scheduled to arrive in Haiti in March. The purpose of this mission trip was to set up a clinic in one of the many small, poverty stricken villages, where medical care was not available.

Then the earthquake hit Haiti on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Even prior to the earthquake, most people in Haiti did not have reliable access to food, education, and medical care. The earthquake simply made everything so much worse.

Lutheran World Relief and Human Care responded immediately to the disaster, helping supply needed food, water, and shelter. They also shipped health kits, quilts, and layettes. Several Emergency Medical Teams have responded, setting up make-shift clinics and providing medical care and medications for earthquake survivors. They report that Haitians are very appreciative of the help and encouragement provided.

Vera left March 11<sup>th</sup> for Port au Prince. As this is being written, she is in Haiti, where she has joined 23 other health professionals who will provide ongoing care for the survivors of the January earthquake.

She requests prayers for the safety and success of this Mercy Medical Mission Trip as well as future endeavors of the Lutheran World Relief and Human Care to bring hope to the people in need in all parts of the world.

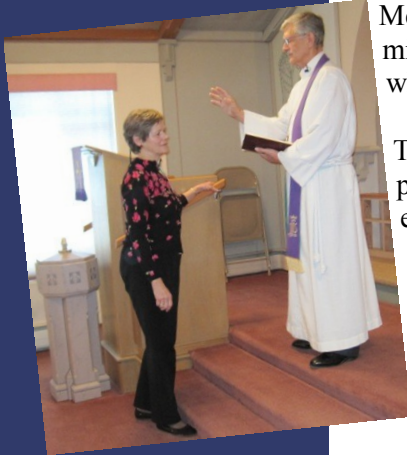
Rev. Rod Loose  
Immanuel Lutheran  
Paonia, CO



Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM), [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org), is an outreach ministry supporting The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, Lutheran Church--Canada, and churches worldwide through media, congregational equipping, and a variety of other means. LHM's flagship ministry, **The Lutheran Hour**, is the world's longest-running Christ-centered radio program. Internationally, LHM produces and distributes radio, Internet and television programming through ministry centers in more than 30 nations. Lutheran Hour Ministries is also known as the International Lutheran Laymen's League.

## Christian Satellite Network

CSN International's estimated 2 to 3 million listeners nationwide will hear **The Lutheran Hour** over the network's 24 full-time FM stations and more than 350 FM relay stations known as translators. CSN has broadcast Christian programming via satellite since April 1995 and is owned by Christian Broadcasters of Idaho. Station KAWZ-FM, Twin Falls, Idaho serves as the network's satellite uplink.



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## Light of the Valley Hosts Mardi Gras Event

Light of the Valley Lutheran Church in Riverton, UT hosted a very successful social event to celebrate Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday (February 16, 2010). The “Cajun Boil”, a mixture of sausage, shrimp, crab, potatoes, corn on the cob, and onions was served “Cajun style” directly on the tables so guests could eat their fill by peeling the shrimp and crab with their fingers and enjoying the spicy delicacy. Over 100 people from the Salt Lake City area enjoyed the celebration so much that the members of Light of the Valley plan to make this an annual affair.

The special guest of the evening was District President Randall Golter. George Argyle, a member of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Provo, UT provided entertainment by singing country songs. Men from several other Lutheran Churches in the area enjoyed fellowship in a dart ball tournament.

The event was a fund raiser to assist Light of the Valley in raising funds to pursue working with the Open Arms Institute in developing a day care and early childhood education facility on the site where Light of the Valley is operating currently. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans contributed by matching \$1 for each \$2 raised up to \$1,500. Praise God for the great celebration that was shared by this group of joyful Lutherans.



## All Thanks and Praise to God!

**Alexa Hering**, two-and-one-half year old granddaughter of **Rev. and Mrs. Kurt Hering**, Trinity, Layton, UT, was diagnosed early in January 2010 with a cancerous ependymoma in her brain the size of a popcan. The lead surgeon declared the removal of the entire tumor a success. Alexa has completed almost all of the 33 localized radiation treatments needed to make sure that no leftover cancer cells remain in the peripheral areas.

You can read more about Alexa’s adventure, view some pictures and videos of this amazing little child of God, or find information as to how you can help contribute to her medical expenses at

<http://bumpaslittlesweetie.wordpress.com/>.



Alex shows her CT scan



Alex and Bumpa think bald is beautiful

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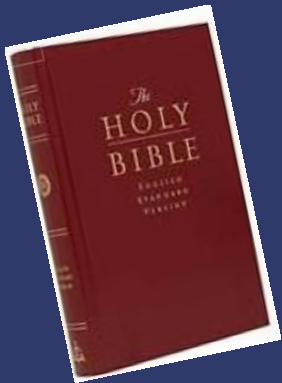
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## We Encourage your Prayers



*“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:7-8*



Almighty God, grant Your blessings on our two seminaries so that they remain faithful to Your Word and continue to be places where men are equipped for service in Your church. We entrust to Your care those men who will be placed as vicars or as first-year pastors by the end of April. Hear also our prayer that the members of the congregations they will serve are eager and welcoming to have these men serve as Your undershepherds. Amen.

Dear Lord Jesus, destroy the power of every evil force which works against the Gospel. Remove every hindrance to the swift movement of salvation’s message throughout the world. Help us to see our personal responsibility to support the work done by our missionaries as they plant the seed of Your Word, often in foreign cultures. Give us generous hearts to pour out abundantly of our earthly means for their support. Remind us to pray diligently for Your blessing on the message proclaimed by faithful workers in the mission field. Amen.

O Lord Jesus, as You travel, strongly urged by evening; the day is You to “stay with” fulfills a commitment to provide ongoing group of workers as Lutheran World Relief help and hope to so



eled the road to Emmaus, You were two travelers to “stay with us, for it is almost over” (Luke 24:29). We ask **Vera Loose** in the days ahead as she with the Mercy Medical Mission Trip care for survivors of the January earthquake and success to this current well as to future endeavors of the and Human Care to continue providing many poverty-stricken and hurt people in Haiti. May Your Spirit strengthen all relief workers so that they and their work is a blessing to those they are helping. Amen. (Vera is the wife of Pastor Rod Loose, Immanuel, Paonia, Colorado.)

O heavenly Father, You are ever with us, an ever-present help in every time of trouble, worry, and need. Thank You for Your merciful goodness in providing care for Alexa through the First Article gifts of medical personnel and technology and the Third Article gifts of Baptism and prayer in Your holy Christian church. Thank You for using tender loving care and support of the people of Trinity, Layton, the pastors and congregations of the Utah Circuit of the RMD, and all those who lifted Alexa in prayer to strengthen, encourage, and keep the members of the Hering family safe from the evil one in this time of trial and tribulation. Thank You for providing for the needs of Kevin Hering (son of Pastor Hering) and his family in Your time and in Your way. Amen.