

Rocky Mountain District—
LCMS
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THE MESSENGER

AUGUST 2010



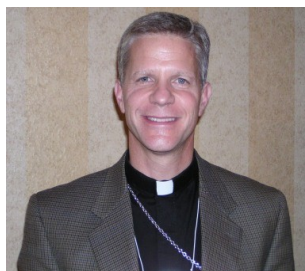
*“Therefore I endure every-
thing for the sake of the
elect, that they also may
obtain the salvation that is
in Christ Jesus with eternal
glory.” 2 Timothy 2:10*



The Church of Faith and Sight

Matthew 4:1, *“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness ...”*

The church at home--around the local altar--and beyond, to wherever Christ has established His church, does not really seem to be the beautiful Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:29). Eyes see only the weaknesses, fractures, and failures.



The way of the church is also that of her Lord. Eyes would never have assessed that the Jewish man walking out into the desert was God’s Son and, indeed, God Himself.

Sight must not override faith. Faith sees Jesus Christ as Lord and it also believes the church is holy, as holy as the One who owns her. She is at the same time the “one holy Christian and apostolic Church” as well as the strife-ridden gathering of God’s church in Corinth.

Faith must rest on God’s Word alone, letting the Spirit guide, comfort, and direct in all churchly matters.

God has given the LCMS a new synodical president, Rev. Matthew Harrison, and many new leaders along with the continuing ones. We thank our Lord for the work He has done through Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, the outgoing president.

Of necessity, we must keep walking by faith, ever trusting in God, letting His Word persuade and empower the whole church to go forward.

Now is an opportune time--as it is in every age--to grasp afresh the moment to repent of our sins and to breathe in anew the very breath of God that enlivens, His forgiveness of our sins.

The saints of the Rocky Mountain District gladly pray for and work with the whole church, called The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. We do see and will see foibles and weaknesses in the saints. But the Lord Jesus Christ is ahead of us, calling us to follow Him. We gladly follow.

Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org



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A Brand New Video: The Ministry of Ysleta Lutheran Mission

Ysleta Lutheran Mission, based in El Paso but also reaching into numerous communities in Mexico with the love of Christ, has been an arm of ministry of the Rocky Mountain District since 1982.

A new eight-minute video tells the story of Ysleta. Learn more about this fruitful ministry by visiting this website: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1a4n9f2ktE>

Opportunities for direct involvement with Ysleta's work may be explored by visiting Ysleta's website at www.ylm.org or by contacting Rev. Thomas Schoech at the Rocky Mountain District office, 303-695-8001.

Consider Adopting a Mission Project!

One of the best ways to encourage a mission mindset in your congregation or school is to adopt a special mission project for direct support. The Rocky Mountain District has many possibilities for consideration:

Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission (BOLM): Dr. George Naeem heads up this Internet ministry, reaching people around the world with the Gospel. Many folks, especially those in Arab countries, have come to know Jesus as their Savior through this outreach. Learn more by visiting their website:

www.biblicalmission.org

Ysleta Lutheran Mission: Rev. Karl Heimer and his staff share the love of Christ in an assortment of ways, including meeting basic human needs such as clothing, food, and shelter. Through Ysleta's ministry, San Pablo Lutheran Church in El Paso has grown in membership, and a number of other congregations in western Texas and northern Mexico have been established. Learn more by visiting their website: www.ylm.org

Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute (LHMI): Established in 2008, LHMI is preparing church workers in our District and beyond for outreach to those of Hispanic language and culture. Rev. Richard Schlak leads this institute that conducts classes on the campus of Ysleta and is reaching remote sites through the use of distance education. Learn more by visiting their website: www.missionaryinstitute.org

Cordero de Dios Lutheran Church: Pastor Juan Hormachea serves as pastor for this congregation as it ministers to Hispanics in the north Denver area and beyond. He also coordinates the Hispanic ministry throughout our Rocky Mountain District.

University Lutheran Chapel: Pastor Dan Burhop serves the pastoral needs of students on the campus of the University of Colorado at Boulder. Learn more by visiting their website: www.ulcboulder.org

Indian-Pakistani Ministry: Immigrants from India and Pakistan are served by Deacon Shakil Nizami in this ministry hosted by University Hills Lutheran Church in Denver.

Mile High Project: Rev. Paul Roggow is engaged in an innovative church-planting project in the greater Denver area, seeking to establish a "reproducing" mission congregation that will also serve as a training center for similar mission launches. Learn more by visiting their website: www.milehighproject.com

Ethiopian Immigrant Ministry: Vicar Tomas Bayou, a native of Ethiopia preparing for LCMS ministry, will soon launch a new outreach to the 25,000 Ethiopian immigrants who have settled in the greater Aurora area.

Navajo Ministry: Mother and son, Louise and David Lee, conduct an ongoing outreach to the Navajo nation in northwest New Mexico.

Each of these ministries is in need of prayer and financial support. Some also present opportunities for "hands on" involvement by interested partners.

Other opportunities to partner with new mission congregations and outreach efforts also exist. To learn more how your church or school could partner in any of these in this coming year, please contact the Rocky Mountain District Director of Development, Rev. Thomas Schoech, at 303-695-8001, or Thomas.Schoech@rm.lcms.org

Circuit Counselors

DNE (Denver Northeast)
Rev. Dean Boernke
Zion, Brighton, CO

DNW (Denver Northwest)
Rev. James Knapp
Wheat Ridge, Wheat Ridge, CO

DSE (Denver Southeast)
Rev. Jeff Shearier
Mt. Olive, Aurora, CO

DSW (Denver Southwest)
Rev. Bruce Skelton
Holy Cross, Highlands Ranch, CO

EHP (Eastern High Plains)
Rev. Donald Schulz
Trinity, Genoa, CO

FOU (Four Corners)
Rev. Monte Gusewelle
St. Paul, Durango, CO

LON (Longs Peak)
Rev. Al Schroeder
Immanuel, Loveland, CO

PEC (Pecos)
Rev. Gary Piepkorn
Faith in Christ, Portales, NM

NOR (Northeastern)
Rev. Dave Loeschke
Immanuel, Haxtun, CO

PIK (Pikes Peak)
Rev. Dennis Lucero
Immanuel, Colorado Springs, CO

RIO (Rio Grande)
Rev. Donovan Heithold
Trinity, Alamogordo, NM

ROC (Rocky Flats)
Rev. Ryan Oakes
Risen Savior,
Broomfield, CO

SAN (Sandia North)
Rev. Ed Mass
Good Shepherd, Edgewood, NM

SAS (Sandia South)
Rev. Donald Neidigk
Calvary, Rio Rancho, NM

Sange de Cristo
Rev. Randy Bolt
Trinity, Pueblo, CO

UTA (Utah)
Rev. Bror Erickson
First Evang., Tooele, UT

WES (Western)
Rev. Gary Buss
Messiah, Grand Junction, CO

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Igniting Church and Culture for Christ To Help Fund Mission: Southern Africa

Training men to be preachers of the one, alone saving Gospel in their countries of Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, yet alone South Africa, was not in the initial vision of God's people of the Rocky Mountain District. But such a vision was in the Lord's heart, and He is making it happen.

Right now there are 33 students at the Tshwane Lutheran Seminary in Pretoria, South Africa. God is bringing students from vast areas of the huge continent of Africa so that His Word might go forth to the Gentiles. I am impressed with these men, men who have been pressed by the Spirit to leave their families and villages in order to learn and preach the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As it is the privilege of God's people to have eyes to see the harvest (John 4:35) right on our doorstep, the opportunity to help His church causes an awareness that God's mission covers the whole world (2 Cor. 5:19). Looking beyond, even as the RMD aggressively works His mission near, is a mark of a healthy church. "O Lord, use us as You see fit to extend Your kingdom through the proclamation of Your Word. in Christ, Amen."

The special fundraising campaign being conducted by the Rocky Mountain District through *Igniting Church and Culture for Christ* will help fund this important Gospel work of preparing workers to go into the harvest fields of Africa.

Join Us for Pastor's Anniversary

Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs, CO invites you to come and help celebrate the 50th anniversary of Rev. David Schneider's ordination and commissioning as a Lutheran pastor and missionary of the LCMS.



The event will be held on Sunday, August 15, at FOC, located at 675 Baptist Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80921.

Schedule for the day:

8 am. and 10:45 am. Worship services, in which David and Darlene and their work will be recognized in a short ceremony of prayer and praise to God.

2 pm. A reception in the congregations' café area, including a short slide-show of highlights in the Schneiders' ministry, as well as a display of flags, artifacts, and still pictures of their work throughout the 50 years in various countries of the world. Refreshments will be served.

If you are unable to attend, we invite you to send letters of celebration to the Schneiders, including pictures and stories, as you wish, to be made into a book of memories and given to David and Darlene.

Please address your postal letters to Wendy DeMotto, Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 675 Baptist Road, Colorado Springs, 80921. Or email Wendy at info@foccs.net.

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Personal Evangelism and Outreach Team

“Renewed and ignited hearts can’t help but work for and tell of Him. We can’t sit around and do nothing. His Spirit must not be quenched! (1 Thess.5:19) May the Lord have His way with us as He reaches sinners with His Good News through His Church!” (Rev. Randall Golter, President, Rocky Mountain District)

Greetings from the **Personal Evangelism and Outreach Team** (aka Rocky Mountain District Evangelism Outreach Team) During our July meeting we reviewed the team’s purpose and the goals that were originally identified within the Critical Target called “*A Culture of Personal Evangelism.*”

We are pleased to report that the team’s purpose will continue to be focused on inspiring and equipping the congregations of the Rocky Mountain District to introduce people to Jesus Christ for an eternal relationship with Him. In support of this purpose we will continue to focus our time and resources on the following goals:

- *A culture of personal evangelism that frequently shares the love of Christ in “Conversations of Grace”
- *Encourage, assist, and equip fellow saints to joyfully witness their faith in Christ and His Good News
- *Provide a growing enthusiasm and commitment to evangelism and outreach
- *Provide effective witness resources that support outreach and will cross cultural and linguistic barriers
- *Engage in and encourage fellow saints to constantly pray for the lost

As we continue to develop the plans that will support and fulfill these goals, please watch for future news regarding a new and improved “Conversations of Grace” website and future Outreach/Conversations of Grace Conferences. If the **Personal Evangelism and Outreach Team** can be of any assistance to your congregation, please contact Margery Richter at the District office. One of our team members will follow-up with you.

God’s blessings to you and may our conversations always be full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that we may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:6)

- **Mark your Calendars!**

RMD LCMS Evangelism Team is partnering with Lutheran Hour Ministries to host a Conversations of Grace Conference on November 5-6, 2011. [The theme is “Conversations of Grace at the ROCK!”](#)

It will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO. Wonderful speakers and terrific workshops are being planned.

This will be a much bigger event than our past conferences, so you won’t want to miss it. Watch for more information as we get closer to the date.



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Another Way To Love Your Neighborhood

A few years ago I shared with you about how our congregation rejoiced that a new family joined our church and was baptized as a result of our door-to-door prayer canvas of our neighborhood. At that time we went out two by two to visit residences in our neighborhood and offered to pray for our neighbors' needs and concerns, similar to Jesus' commissioning of the 72 in Luke 10.

Now I want to share with you a new outreach effort I am beginning to use. A few weeks ago I visited the five businesses closest to my church. I introduced myself as the pastor from the Lutheran church. I asked how our congregation could be a better neighbor to them and offered to pray for them. While one business was closed and one seemed confused by my offer, I received a favorable response from the other three. At one business, the receptionist told me she had just found out that a member of her family was diagnosed with cancer, and she allowed me to pray with her. Another business owner told me that our church was already a great neighbor and asked me to pray for the homeless people in Englewood. A third business turned out to be a Christian organization that trains missionaries to serve our U.S. military personnel overseas. We spent time praying for each other's ministries, and I offered for them to use our church parking lot when their training sessions are going on.

This approach may or may not result in direct attendance at my church, but it may help our community to know that our church cares about them and loves them. I recently preached on these words from Jeremiah: "But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare" (Jer. 29:7 ESV). The Hebrew word for "welfare" here is *shalom*, which means "peace, wholeness, health, and well-being." More and more I am challenging my members to seek the *shalom* of our community by loving the people in it. But to this end, I myself must model this love and concern for Englewood and Littleton.

In addition to visiting your commercial neighbors, I encourage you to try to meet with the mayor or city council members of your city, to visit with your local police and fire department, and to learn what the needs of your community are and how your congregation can partner with the city to meet those needs. Please pray for me and Immanuel as we begin to carry out this kind of living and loving in our city. And I will pray the same for you!

by Pastor Chris Matthis, Immanuel, Englewood

How About You?

Do you have a creative idea for outreach for your community? Has your congregation discovered an effective way to personally touch lives with the love of Christ and share His Gospel with those in your neighborhood? Please share your ideas with others in the Rocky Mountain District by sending them to Margery Richer at m.richter@rm.lcms.org. Where possible, we will include them in the monthly Messenger and on our district website.



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Vernal, UT, Our Saviour Lutheran to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Vernal, Utah, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on August 28-29, 2010, with services on Saturday at 6:00 pm and Sunday at 11:15 am. Guest speakers will be Revs. Michawl Bailey, Ron Pederson, and Daniel Praeuner. Contact the church office for further information (435) 789-1421.

Rev. Jonathan Schultz

“De-Mystifying Hospice” Seminar at Risen Savior Lutheran Church

Do you have questions about end of life care? So many people miss out on the benefits hospice can provide because they don't know what hospice care is and who is eligible for it. One misconception is that hospice is a place to go die, when actually it is about living life to the fullest during the time you have left. The most common comment we get from patients and families is “I wish we had known about hospice sooner.” The best time to learn about hospice care is before you or your loved ones actually need it. Presented by Risen Savior's Stephen Ministry program, Porter Hospice and St. Anthony Hospice on Saturday, August 28 at 9:00 a.m. at Risen Savior Lutheran Church, 3031 W. 144th Ave, Broomfield. The presentation is free, but pre-registration is recommended. RSVP to stephenmin@rslc.org or call the church office at 303-469-3521.

Marriage Workshop, St. John's, Denver, CO

Can you imagine some persons buying a car, thinking they'll never have to do anything but drive it, and expecting it to last forever? They never change the oil or the tires, never take it in for service, never replace the hoses, belts, or plugs. They just assume it will last a lifetime without any care. Ridiculous assumption, isn't it? Yet, the majority of couples adopt that attitude about their marriages. A husband and wife think they can drive their relationship right out of the altar, never do any maintenance on it, and it will last forever. The same logic that tells us a car won't last under the above conditions should tell us a marriage won't either. Sad to say, though, many of us take better care of our cars than our marriages. Maybe it is just that we need to change our "spark" plugs; perhaps we have been noticing our communication has been "missing." It could be that the marriage needs a major overhaul. Most wives might even be quick to say his "block" is cracked!

Whatever tweaking needs to be done, all marriages need it. We will focus on re-tuning our relationships around money, power, communication, sex, parenting, and faith.

We will be meeting at St. John's Lutheran Church from September 8, 2010, through October 13, 2010. We will share a simple meal from 5:30 to 6:00 pm with classes running from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

Marriage
TUNE UP

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Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem Conference

The Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Palestine, will be in Denver September 21 - 24 for the Bright Stars of Bethlehem National Conference. Several opportunities to hear Pastor Raheb will be available during this time.

Bright Stars of Bethlehem was founded and registered as a 501 c 3 agency in 2003 with a mission of seeding and providing support for Christmas Lutheran Church ministries in Bethlehem. These serve the educational, medical, professional, and spiritual development needs of people living in Christ's birthplace. A basic need is to strengthen the Christian population which is rapidly disappearing from the Holy Land.

Pastor Raheb is a Palestinian Christian, born in Bethlehem. He received his theological education and doctorate in Germany. He returned to Bethlehem in 1988 and became pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church. He has since founded a number of projects and institutions serving the spiritual and social needs of Palestinians living in the Bethlehem area. In 2003 Concordia University in River Forest granted him an Honorary Doctor of Letters.

He is the author of a number of books including *Bethlehem Besieged: Stories of Hope in Times of Trouble*.

On Tuesday evening, September 21, at 7:00 p.m. a community interfaith forum will be held at Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church in Denver where Pastor Raheb will give a presentation on "Keys to Understanding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict."

On Wednesday morning, the 22nd at 9:00 a.m. Pastor Raheb will lead clergy in a discussion of the *Kairos Palestine Document*, written by Palestinian Christians "from the heart of Palestinian suffering" as "a prayerful call to end the occupation." This gathering will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church, 4500 E. Hampden Avenue, Denver. Each of these presentations is open to all.

On Thursday evening, September 23rd, Pastor Raheb will lead a presentation of the ministries sponsored by the Lutheran Church in Bethlehem which include the College, a Wellness Center, a parish/mosque nurse program, and others. This will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the conference hotel, the Double-Tree, in the Denver Tech Center. A number of these ministries are staffed by Palestinians who have earned Masters Degrees at the Concordias. Those interested in the Lutheran ministries are invited to attend.

Some fifty Bright Star representatives from throughout the United States will gather on the 23rd and 24th for their annual conference. For further information go to www.brightstarsbethlehem.org or contact Pastor Arnie Voigt at arnievoigt@msn.com or 303.798.7887.



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Servant Leader Workshop

Sponsored by KINDLE: Fostering and Multiplying Servant Leaders
Saturday, September 18, 2010
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Aurora, Colorado
8:30 a.m. Registration (Cost is \$30)

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Workshop
(Lunch included)
Participants will...

- Understand better the concept of servant leadership,
 - Continue growing to be a more effective servant leader,
 - Assess strengths in one's leadership of groups, and
- Challenge growth in a selected area of leadership, resulting in strengthened group leading skills.

Please register by September 8 at www.kindleservantleaders.org

For more information contact Linda Olsen at 303-779-1332 or lolsen@oflc.net



What is DAP?...



The Debt Assistance Program (DAP) was formed by resolution of the Rocky Mountain District (RMD) at its District Convention in 1997. Those attending had the foresight to recognize a growing trend in synodically trained pastors: These men were graduating with increasing educational debt loads. To help pastors in the RMD, the resolution was adopted that authorized a debt assistance fund. From this beginning, an endowment fund was formed that would allow bequests and gifts to be contributed and managed by a committee with oversight by the RMD Board of Directors. Initial contributions to the Endowment Fund and the first grants were administered in 1999. Today the RMD DAP is one of the most successful of similar programs in Synod.

The trend that the 1997 Convention recognized has since mushroomed. The cost of higher education has increased faster than every other component of the cost of living, except perhaps for medical care. Universities, and now the federal government, make borrowing easy. So each year, more and more men complete their eight years of undergraduate and seminary education with higher and higher educational debt. The problem of repayment is then compounded by the new pastor's salary being paid at the low end of the suggested scale.

The District's Debt Assistance Program exists to help our pastors repay debt incurred for their education. Please consider a gift to the RMD Debt Assistance Program, either for current use or for investment in the endowment fund for future use. To make a contribution just contact the District office at 303.695.8001 and someone will be glad to assist you. Even if you cannot give, please above all pray for all of our pastors and the work they have to do.

"But how are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?" Romans 10:14

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Messiah Lutheran School, Longmont, Colorado

“Walking Side by Side in the Light” is the theme for the school which is in its 11th year. It began in the fall of 1999 when a kindergarten class was added to the then 10-year-old preschool. Today, 60 students attend. Its “school families” worship in 15 different congregations representing eight Christian denominations across the greater Longmont community.

The mission of Messiah Lutheran Preschool and School, as stated in the school’s handbook, is to proclaim God’s grace to touch lives with Christ’s redeeming love and to empower children with learning skills for the development of moral character and spiritual gifts.

The principle notes that two concerns are sometimes raised when parents consider Messiah, or any smaller school. First, whether their child will be able to make friends, and secondly, whether a small school can provide what their child needs to succeed at the next level.

He believes the personal nurturing each child receives helps them develop a sense of security and enables them to get to know not only their classmates, but students of all ages. “Not only does Messiah provide for the academic, emotional, and social development of children in a safe, secure environment, it provides the most important element in developing responsible adults—a solid Christian education in the Lutheran tradition.”

Touching lives, sharing truth, witnessing through service is the mission of the school,” says Pastor Kent Schegelberger. “Today as much as before, the love of Christ needs to be shared with every child we are privileged to serve. It is about partnering with church, school, and

home to provide a meaningful education while focusing on each child as a gift from God.”

Visitors are welcome at Messiah Lutheran School at any time. Visits can be arranged through the school office.

A typical day at Messiah can be accessed at their website www.mlcslongmont.org or call 303-778-3466.

<http://messiahlc.ctsmemberconnect.net/home-ctrl.do>





Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

August

- 4 Lachaim— Grace Lutheran Church, Sandy, UT
- 9 RMD Board of Directors' Meeting
- 10-12 Circuit Counselor's Conference, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 11500 E Iliff, Aurora, CO
- 18-19 Frontera Meeting, El Paso, TX
- 19 Lachaim—St. John's Lutheran Church, Denver, CO 9:30 am to 2:30 pm
- 26 Evangelism Committee Meeting at RMD 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

September

- 14-16 Rocky Mountain District Older Adult Gathering Theme: *"Cultural Challenges for Christians"*
- 18 Servant Leader Workshop, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

October

- 5 Administrative Conference
- 6-8 Professional Worker's Conference in Breckenridge, CO
- 24 The Annual Joint Reformation service will be held at Peace LC, located 5675 Field St, Arvada, CO. at 4pm.

Roster Reports

PLACEMENTS

Michelle Griedl Luevano, Concordia Seward, NE to Christ, Albuquerque, NM
Jenna Lindeman, Concordia, to Trinity Lutheran School, Pueblo, CO

CALLS EXTENDED

Trinity Lutheran Church, Garden City, Kansas to Jim Nash, Trinity LC, Sterling, CO
Christ Lutheran School, Albuquerque, NM to Matt Luevano, of St Peters, MO

CALLS ACCEPTED

Kristine Marlatt, of Sandy, UT to Grace Lutheran School, Sandy, UT
Lyn Stennett, of Sandy, UT to Grace Lutheran School, Sandy, UT

CALLS DECLINED

William Busacker, Grace, Sandy, UT to Messiah Lutheran School, Longmont, CO

CHANGE OF STATUS

Rachel Bredow, St John, Denver, CO to Candidate Status
Melinda Crow, Christ, Albuquerque, NM to Candidate Status
Lisa Matthis, Peace with Christ, Aurora, CO to Candidate Status

REMOVED/RESIGNED FROM ROSTER

Rev. Mark Gabbert, Resignation





We Encourage your Prayers

Jesus, our Great Physician, we bring before Your throne of grace these people who are in need of renewed strength as their health problems are addressed. May the Holy Spirit enable their loved ones to be a blessing to them. Amen.

Josiah Ahlman (six-year-old son of **Rev. David** and **Beth Ahlman**, Peace, Arvada, CO) as he continues recovering from the brain injury he sustained in a car accident in Iowa on June 19.

Judy Arnold, long-time active member of LWML, as she waits for the stem cell transplant to be accepted by her body.

Trudy Chittick, wife of **Rev. Barr Chittick**, Trinity, Cortex, Co, has tumors attached to her spine.

Eileen Marting, teacher, Redeemer, Salt Lake City, UT, has been diagnosed with cancer.

Heavenly Father, hear us when we turn to You on behalf of the family, friends, and colleagues of **Sandy Lawson** (teacher, Christ, Murray, UT) who was killed in a car accident in western Iowa on June 19. How we long to be in the heavenly realms, beyond which we cannot be hurt by the pain of separation from those we love. But that is not to be. Continue to bring to the remembrance of those who loved Sandy, especially the Lawson and Ahlman families, the love You have for them in Jesus even in this time of trial. In the name of Jesus, who is Life. Amen.

(Sandy Lawson was the mother-in-law of Ruth Ahlman Lawson and the mother of Rev. Tim Lawson.)

Merciful God, You have said to us through our Lord Jesus Christ: "Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send laborers into the harvest." We pray that You will richly bless these pastors who accepted calls to churches in the Rocky Mountain District: **Elisha Lietzau**, Faith in Christ, Albuquerque, NM; **Mario Lozano**, Hispanic Ministry missionary, Mission, Las Cruces, NM; **Dan Mueche**, Faith, Buena Vista, CO, and **Gary Timm**, Gethsemane, Northglenn, CO. May Your Spirit also bless the partnership of pastor and people as these undershepherds work to share Your love for us in Jesus throughout the communities in which they live and work. Amen.

Lord of the Church, grant an awareness of Your presence to **Rev. Matthew Harrison** who was elected president of the LCMS and to these men who were elected as vice presidents: **Rev. Herb Mueller**, **Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe**, **Rev. Dr. Paul Maier**, **Rev. Dr. Dan Preus**, and **Rev. Scott Murray**. May these men as well as those who were elected to fill positions on various boards and committees be empowered to turn to Your Word as they make decisions in the administration of their responsibilities. Grant unity of purpose to the leaders of our Synod. Amen.

Lord God, we thank You for the work and efforts of **Dr. Gerald Kieschnick** who served as president of the LCMS for the past nine years. Grant him and, indeed, all those who completed their terms a sense of accomplishment and peace so that they trust that Your hand of blessing will continue to guide their lives. Amen.

