

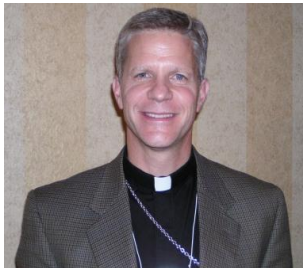
THE MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2010

What a Relief to Confess Your Sins!

by
President Randall Golter

“For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer” (Psalm 32:3-4).



King David of Israel makes it clear why it is such a relief to come clean before our holy God. Keeping silent about your sins, hiding them or covering them up, not only has spiritual but also bodily health consequences. Body, mind, and spirit are not isolated entities!

The church season of Lent is a healthy reminder that silence is deadly, but there is absolute joy in being honest before the holy God. Of course, He already knows the putrid state of your heart, so why lie, why keep silent?

David’s sealed lips did not go unnoticed in heaven. God made his life miserable for a purpose. And God--in His mercy--chased after David, sending His prophet to prick the guilty conscience of the king. With confession came God’s freeing absolution through the prophet Nathan.

Is there anything more freeing than coming clean before the Lord? Is there anything more joyful than being who you are before others, a sinner fully redeemed by the blood of God’s Lamb? In Christ you have a clean conscience. No pretense, no cover-up, just you, free in His forgiveness. Such relief causes one to leap “like calves from the stall” (Malachi 4:2). Joyful freedom!

It is no small wonder that the ministries and churches of the Rocky Mountain District aggressively bind together their intellectual, material, and spiritual resources so that others may

be free as well. This mission work with and on behalf of the Savior is not a burden but pure privilege and delight!

“For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20).

February Mission of the Month: Ysleta Lutheran Mission

The spotlight this month is on the Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, Texas, located one mile from the Mexican border.

The February *Peaks and Valleys* (insert in the *Lutheran Witness*) will feature Ysleta, a mission effort of our district since 1982, led by Pastor Karl Heimer. A presentation on Ysleta will appear on our District website, 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.)

Ysleta seeks to share the love of Christ by meeting a variety of basic human needs (food, clothing, medical, educational), thereby opening the door for sharing the Gospel of salvation. San Pablo Lutheran Church worships on the Ysleta campus, and a number of Lutheran congregations have been established in Texas and south of the border in Mexico as a direct result of Ysleta’s ministry.



One of the most popular and effective ministries of Ysleta is conducted through their Mariachi musical group, a group that not only entertains but also gives a strong Christian witness.

Ysleta provides opportunities for visiting servant teams to assist with their ministry throughout the year. For more information, contact Vicar Stephen Heimer at (915) 858-2588.

To learn how your congregation or school can support Ysleta's ministry, contact Rev. Thomas Schoech at (303) 695-8001.

Lent: A Time for Mission

Lent is a season in which we focus the attention of our people on the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of our forgiveness and salvation. Why not make it a season in which you also help share this message with those who do not yet know the Savior?

Here's one idea for your congregation: Pick a particular missionary or a mission project that you intend to highlight during the season of Lent. Build awareness among your congregation and encourage regular prayer for this mission effort. Follow this up with an opportunity for your members to give special financial support, through the dedication of one or more midweek offerings, a Sunday morning door offering, or the use of a special gift envelope. Give your children an opportunity to learn and give as well, through your Sunday school or your Christian day school.

Our Rocky Mountain District has any number of missionaries and mission efforts that are in need of support. Many of these have already been highlighted through our Mission of the Month emphasis, and others will be featured in the coming months. We will be happy to provide you with suggestions and informational pieces upon request.



Please contact our District development director, Pastor Thomas Schoech, or administrative assistant Margery Richter for more information. The district office number is 303/695-8001.

Fan into Flame

What is *Fan into Flame*? It is the capital fundraising campaign endorsed by the 2004 Synodical Convention with the goal of raising \$100 million in new money for mission work. This campaign is in support of the *Ablaze!* goal of reaching 100 million people with the Gospel by the year 2017.

This year marks Rocky Mountain District's participation in *Fan into Flame*. Our involvement was postponed until 2010 because of our previous three year special appeal for Mission: Southern Africa which raised \$504,000. What a wonderful accomplishment!



Pastor Roger Schlechte has been appointed to chair the District Steering Committee for the *Fan into Flame* campaign. Since 1991, Pastor Schlechte served Emmaus Lutheran Church, Denver, for 15 years, followed by two Intentional Interim Pastorates in the metro area. He has served on the District Board of Directors since June, 2003.

As the District Steering Committee for *Fan into Flame* begins its work, the Committee will incorporate two 2009 Rocky Mountain District Convention resolutions:

- To continue financial support for Mission: Southern Africa (2009-02-01a).
- To continue raising funds by special appeal to support missions in two categories: International Missions and National Missions (2009-02-05).

When the *Fan into Flame* campaign is completed at the end of this year, the Steering Committee intends to have in place an organization that will continue the District's wishes as expressed by the District Convention.

Every congregation will be invited to participate in *Fan into Flame*. Funds raised by your congregation through this campaign will be utilized in three ways: (1) for Synodical mission work, (2) for our district mission initiatives, and (3) for your congregation for funding local mission projects designed to reach out to the lost in your community with the good news of Jesus.

More information will be coming to your congregation in the months ahead. As we thank the Lord of the harvest for the blessings He bestowed through Mission: Southern Africa, we also pray that He would bless our continuing work to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Outside the Walls of Churches

We began to notice before the confession was made public. "I'm pregnant," she announced one day at work, "The father lives in Texas." We remembered a recent trip she had taken to visit family there. "I'll pray for you," I offered ... and did, going about my work in a local hotel.

Ever notice how the work place wants to be free of spiritual matters? Trouble is, these can't be checked at the door. People in every walk of life bring real concerns and issues into the work place every day. While we live in a world that hopes to isolate itself from our God by working hard to keep Him within the walls

of churches, He cannot be removed from the world He made.

Several weeks went by before this "new mother" sat down in my office at work and asked, "What should I do?" This was followed by a flurry of reasons why this pregnancy was not a good idea, how it wasn't going to work, and what she was going to do to end it. However, before that happened, she wanted to talk with me about it. Her tears confirmed the struggle she was having. So we talked.

One of the qualities of our God that I increasingly appreciate is His tenderness. We know He is in the still, small Voice as opposed to the more impressive ways Elijah witnessed. He offers and invites rather than bullies and imposes. He wants my response out of love apart from force. He provides me everything I need and lets me choose my response, always loving.

I offered a tender response to my co-worker's concern, inviting her to reflect upon the various issues we talked about, making myself available as she needed. "I trust you'll make a good decision," was my final comment as she left. She smiled, still torn. I was laid off before I knew the rest of the story.

Today, my friend is the proud mother of a healthy baby girl!

Craig W. Henningfield, M.Div., D.Min.

Church Without Walls

Missionary - Coach

303-725-6760



Lutheran Family Services of Colorado

Presents

Amy Grant in Concert

Friday, February 26 – 8 p.m.

Paramount Theatre, Denver, Colorado

Buy tickets at www.tickethorse.com or by calling 1.866.461.6556

Tickets: \$40 - \$150

(\$150 are limited tickets that include a dessert reception with Amy Grant.)

Concert benefits the programs and services of Lutheran Family Services of Colorado

www.lfsco.org

100th Anniversary Celebration – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Amherst, CO

Come celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Amherst, CO.

Special services with a noon dinner will be held on April 11th, 2010. Guest speakers for the services will be Rev. John Larson and Rev. George Hesse.

Jay Dean Krueger

jajoykrueger@pctelcom.coop

Rocky Mountain District LWML Convention

June 11-13, 2010

DoubleTree Hotel

Grand Junction, Colorado

This year’s Rocky Mountain District LWML Convention is in Grand Junction, CO. Come celebrate your baptism!

There will be a opening service on Friday afternoon, Bible studies to expand on the theme throughout the weekend, enrichment sessions led by gifted speakers (highlighted below) on Saturday, Jan Struck, humorist/keynote speaker will entertain us at Saturday’s banquet, and an inspirational worship service will close the convention on Sunday. All these great events are wrapped in fellowship and service with Lutheran Women in Mission.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT SATURDAY'S BANQUET

Struck with Laughter



Jan Struck's earliest memories revolve around her church home in Indianapolis, Indiana, where she experienced her elementary education in a two-room Lutheran school. Her strong Christian background led her to Valparaiso University where she received her theater degree. Her ministry is the blessing of serving the Lord as a popular speaker leading Bible studies, workshops, and women's retreats. Her involvement with LWML has enabled her to bring the gift of laughter to numerous district and national conventions. Her trust and faith in Christ is her reason to make a

"joyful noise unto God"!!

ENRICHMENT SESSION LEADERS

Cathy Rossilli - Made Holy: A Life-Transforming Faith

Ida Mall - Who Me? Witness?

Eloise Kuhlmann - Developing Servant Leaders

Julie Lemke - Technology, LWML and You!

Make your plans and complete the registration forms found in the January *Tidings* or on the website at www.rmdlwml.org (conventions)

Small Church Conference

June 21-23, 2010

LaJunta, Colorado

Contact Rev. Dwight Hellmers for more information at 303-986-7155 or dwighthellmers@yahoo.com

Rev. Doug May /Publicity Director

Tax Relief for Working Families ---- The Piton Foundation Can Help

During these tough economic times, families are struggling more than ever to make ends meet. The good news is that there is “tax relief for working families” in the form of tax credits from the government. *Plus*, there are more tax credits available: the Child Tax Credit, Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, Savers Credit, Hope and Lifetime Learning credits and *new credits* in 2009: the Making Work Pay Credit and the First Time Homebuyer Credit.



Unfortunately, many families are not receiving these valuable tax credits because they are not aware of them, they do not know they are eligible, or do not know how to apply. What’s more, too many families are paying exorbitant tax preparation fees – **the Piton Foundation is here to help**. We want families to save Money if they go to a paid tax preparer and about *free* alternatives to going to commercial preparers.

Here is how the Piton Foundation can help you:

Free posters for your church: The artwork is available electronically, in pdf format at:

<http://www.piton.org/2009TaxYearPromotionalMaterials>

Include a word about the Earned Income Tax Credit and free tax preparation services in your announcements.

Additional materials are available: call 303-825-6246 x350 or dhadley@piton.org . All materials are *FREE*, available in English and Spanish. Download able from the web site at www.piton.org/eitc .

The web site also includes a statewide list of sites providing free tax preparations.



Mission Lutheran School in Las Cruces, NM

The Christmas Tree was decorated with hats and mittens for the homeless children's shelter, Jardin de los ninos here in Las Cruces. I showed the children two movies each Friday afternoon in December. Movies were shown

until 5 p.m. so parents could shop (or nap!). Children were served lemonade and popcorn and Christmas cookies. The price of admission was a pair of mitten, sock or a hat for children under age three. We collected lots!!!! Enough to decorate a 7 1/2 ft. tree!



The PTO playground project was offered by the PTO. Equipment was sanded and stained in bright colors. It is beautiful. A real act of love. (And I can see it from the office...an extra special treat)

Christmas Eve at Light of the Valley

Our tradition (now that we've done it twice it's a tradition – right?) on Christmas Eve service is to celebrate a “Hanging of the Greens” service where we receive gifts from God in Word and sing praises to Him in traditional Christmas Carols. Eighty four people took part in the service this year and we really had a good time! The pictures show what a great time was had by all.

Link to my blog? <http://lovlc-newsandevents.blogspot.com/2010/01/christmas-eve-at-light-of-valley.html>

Rev. Al Borchert

Roster Reports

Corection: Rev. Earnest Hengst, Immanuel/Immuel, Las Vegas/ Springer, NM did not accept the call to Immanuel, Paonia, CO

ACCEPTED

Eric Anderson, Candidate, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, to Faith, Johnstown, CO

CALLS EXTENDED

Faith, Buena Vista, CO to Rev. Carl Seeger, St. John's, Edgerton, WI

CHANGE OF STATUS

Nancy Fenton, Candidate Status, to Emeritus Status

Rev. Allen Yount, St. John's, Yuma, CO to Non-Candidate Status
Teckla Coerber, Candidate Status, Windsor, CO to Non-Candidate Status

TRANSFERS

Kathleen Lock, Non Candidate Status, Indiana Dist. to RMD
Jeremy Winter, Candidate Status to Mid South Dist.

RESIGNED/REMOVED FROM LCMS ROSTER

Kenneth, O'Brien, Non-Candidate Status, Salt Lake City, UT,
Berlyn Clear, Non-Candidate Status, Kersey, CO
Rev. Steve Wadle, Candidate Status, Brighton, CO
Rev. Henry Corcoran, Christ Triumphant, Denver, CO
Karen O'Brien, Non-Candidate Status, Arvada, CO



Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

February

- 1-3 Utah/Western Circuit Conference
- 11 L'achaim Quarterly gathering, St. John's, Denver, CO
- 20 Older Adults seminar, Bethlehem, Lakewood, CO

March

- 1 Nurturing the Faith at Christ Lutheran, Albuquerque, NM
- 7 -13 Lutheran Schools Week

Nurturing the Faith Week

- 1 Christ Lutheran, Albuquerque, NM
- 16 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Loveland, CO

- 18 Lutheran High School Parker, CO
19 St. Paul Lutheran Church – Ogden, UT

April

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

May

- 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"

November

- 1-2 RMD Board of Directors Meeting

We Encourage your Prayers



We thank You, heavenly Father, that You watch over and guide us all the days of our lives. You give meaning to our times—learning in youth, laboring in adulthood,

leading in maturity.

Grant to **Rev. Gary Trickey** continued opportunities to share the wisdom he has gained through life and the joy he has received from You as he enters retirement. You gave strength to him and purpose to his days as he served in Your kingdom as a teacher and then as a pastor.

Thank You for covering his weaknesses with Your strength so that over these past years Pastor Trickey had Your eyes to see the needs of others, Your heart to be more compassionate, and Your wisdom to discern where to go, what to say, and what to do as he fulfilled his responsibilities in his work in Your kingdom. In Jesus' name. Amen. (Rev. Trickey was a teacher before becoming a pastor. He retired January 31, 2010, as pastor of St. Paul, Ogden, Utah. He is currently the fourth vice president of the District.)

O Lord of the church, Your Spirit has designated some men to be ministers of the Gospel, to serve as undershepherds in Your kingdom. Thank You for those men on whom You have placed an additional burden, that of serving in the District as **circuit counselors**. May Your Spirit enable these men to rely on You for the power, love, and self-discipline needed for them to fulfill these responsibilities. May their daily recourse to Your Word give them the direction, courage, and strength to rightly divide Your Word as the situation warrants so that all involved trust that Your hand of blessing is guiding the action that needs to be taken in "problem solving" situations. Be present in Your Spirit, Lord God, at any meetings these circuit counselors are involved in, especially where/when discussions/conversations/decisions may become contentious. Keep them mindful of the truth that You always act for the good of Your children. Thank You, O God, that Jesus blesses our journey through life. Amen.

O Lord of all mercies, hear our prayer that as Your servant **Randall Golter** exercises his office as president of the Rocky Mountain District, You will continue to work in him Your will. Remind him that "the hand of the Lord his God is upon him" just as it was for Ezra so that President Golter is empowered to trust that You will work through him as he talks to and works with fellow church workers and lay people in Your kingdom. May Your Spirit cause him to turn to You during the "ordinary situations/circumstances" in his work as president of the District as well as when he is in the midst of complexities for which he cannot immediately see a way clear as to how to deal with them. Keep President Golter's heart at peace so that he can rest secure in the knowledge that You will work out everything for Your glory and his good. Amen.