

Rocky Mountain District—  
LCMS  
14334 E Evans Ave  
Aurora, CO 80014  
Office: (303) 695-8001  
Fax: (303) 695-4047



THE MESSENGER

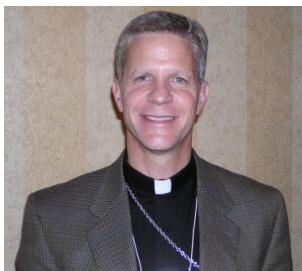
June/July 2010

**Christian Freedom**  
**by**  
**President Randall Golter**

*"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1).*



*"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*



This is an outstanding and often quoted verse in Lutheran circles. The Lutheran Confessions cite this verse to uphold the Christian's freedom if bishops (pastors) attempt to burden consciences with traditions. "There are clear testimonies that prohibit the establishment of traditions for the purpose of appeasing God or as if they were necessary for salvation" (AC, Art. XXVIII, para. 43).

You see, pastors may burden the consciences of the baptized if they insist that a certain rite or form of liturgy is necessary for salvation. Of course, there is freedom in rite or form but there also is limitation. Freedom goes only so far as the voice of Jesus is clearly having its way in the liturgy, sermon, and hymnody as well as in the conversation and consolation among the members of the church.

What is most important for our Lord is that He gets His way, that is, that He alone justifies sinners (Romans 4:5). Therefore, the centrality of the Gospel--God justifies sinners--is the divine necessity and joy in every congregation.

Woe to the Christian who complains that the pastor is preaching the Gospel! And woe even more to the Christian who complains about this or that, when in comparison, it matters little to the central importance of the preaching of the Gospel! Every person should yearn for more Gospel each and every week, for the forgiveness of sins is life.

So, in that particular liturgy or even in the planning and placing of the hymns within that liturgical form, the discerning ear and mind will ask these questions: Does this change let the voice of Jesus sound clearly? Do the hymns and songs clearly express that it is God who justifies and that He is the One really present among His people, showing mercy and kindness to the undeserving? Is the whole flow of the service such that Jesus is having His way with sinners, and those freed sinners rejoice? If not, then the freedom of God in saving is compromised and the church is the poorer.

A church suffers greatly without the pure, sweet Gospel, and so does the Triune God's mission to the lost. The greatest treasure--and motivation--for the church for God's mission is His Gospel. If the Gospel is somehow compromised, then believers live out their vocations without the freedom of a clear conscience, something for which the world yearns.

Christian freedom is letting God do what He does best, saving sinners. It is also letting every one of His believers stand free in that same forgiveness of sins, before God and the neighbor. There is nothing like it in all the world!



# Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

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



## Board of Directors

### President

Rev. Randall Golter

### First Vice President & BD Chairman

Rev. Allen Anderson  
Mt. Zion, Boulder, CO

### Second Vice President

Rev. Roger Schlechte  
Concordia, Lakewood, CO

### Third Vice President

Rev. Douglas Escue  
Immanuel, Santa Fe, NM

### Fourth Vice President

Rev. Gary Trickey  
St. Paul, Ogden, UT

### Secretary

Rev. Robert Harmon

Mrs. Cheryl Olson  
Redeemer, Ft. Collins, CO

Mr. Thomas Berrong  
Christ Our Savior  
Angel Fire, NM

Mr. Ronald Brandhorst  
Trinity, Denver, CO

Mr. Robert Doughty  
Christ, Albuquerque, NM

Mr. James Tuell  
Holy Cross Lutheran  
Highlands Ranch, CO

Mr. Gary Anderson  
Messiah Lutheran  
Grand Junction, CO

Mr. Duane Nyen  
Trinity, St. George, UT

Mr. V. Dale Stoner  
Zion, Holyoke, CO

## Karen Burns Retires

Karen Burns, Administrative Assistant to President Golter, retired at the end of May.



In 1977 Karen was hired as a secretary in the office of what was then the Colorado District under President Ralph Phipps. The Colorado District became the Rocky Mountain District in October 1983. President John Petersen served from 1985-1993, President Roger Krause from 1993-2003, and President Randy Golter since 2003. After 32 years and working with four presidents, she has retired.

Karen and her husband, Rod have two children—Doug and Shelley—retirement will give them time to travel and visit their families.

May our gracious Lord, who blessed Karen with the abilities and talents to serve His workers for these many years, now bless Karen and Rod with contentment and safe travel in their years of retirement.

Karen's [rmdkaren@aol.com](mailto:rmdkaren@aol.com) will be replaced by [monique@rm.lcms.org](mailto:monique@rm.lcms.org)

## Ordination and Installation July 18 for Pastor Gary Timm, Gethsemane, Northglenn, CO



Gethsemane Lutheran Church cordially invites you to the Ordination and Installation service for Pastor Gary Timm on Sunday, July 18th at 3:00 p.m. The service will be held at Gethsemane Lutheran Church located at 10675 Washington St., Northglenn. Reception to follow. 303.451.6895

## NEW LOW COST SMALL GROUP RETREAT CENTER IN ASPEN!



"We have found the Messiah."  
—John 1:41

Messiah Lutheran church is undergoing a remodel to include a new small group retreat center for groups of 20 or smaller. We are now taking reservations starting July 1, 2010. Dates for Thanksgiving and Christmas break will go fast, so plan ahead. Prices are as low as \$100.00 per person for an entire week! We will be offering two dorm-style rooms with bunk beds, showers, full kitchen, meeting room, and chapel. Discounts on ski rentals and rafting are available through one of our members.

**For reservations call 970-925-7725.**



## Something to think about...



Without student financial aid, most students could not afford to attend college. According to recent US Department of Education estimates, 80% of all full-time undergraduate students receive some type of financial aid. These students face average costs of attendance close to \$22,000 per year and average close to \$13,000 per year in aid.

In addition a MDiv student will attend for three years plus the vicarage year. The vicarage year should not cost the student anything. According to Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN for the 2010-2011 school year, most students will receive between 40 and 50% of the tuition as gift aid directly from the seminary. Tuition, books, and supplies, room/board, and health insurance will cost about \$34,700. Even considering a 50% gift aid for tuition, that still leaves the student with a \$23,700 obligation per year. This is assuming that the pastoral candidate is single. If he is married with one or more children, which many candidates are today, the cost can go up another \$5,000 to \$8,000 per year.

A portion of these obligations can be reduced by scholarships, grants, etc.

With figures like those stated above, it should be easy to see how today anyone completing a Masters degree can end up with quite a substantial educational debt. The District's Debt Assistance Program exists to help our pastors repay debt incurred for their educations. Please consider a gift to the RMD Debt Assistance Program, either for current use or for investment in the endowment fund for future use. Even if you cannot give, please above all pray for all of our pastors and the work they do.

*"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?  
And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?  
And how shall they hear without a preacher?" Romans 10:14.*

# Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

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



## Congratulations!

In May of 2010, Pastor Michael Eckelkamp completed the Governance Executive Training module of the Pastoral Leadership Institute. This certification process is in place to give tools and skills that help connect people to Jesus.

Since 1999 the Pastoral Leadership Institute has nurtured pastoral leaders through a four-year process involving congregation-based learning, mentoring, and study experiences within the framework of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Overwhelmingly, PLI participants report their experiences have given them hope, courage, and skill toward a common purpose in ministry. The Governance Executive Training module is an additional two-year program.

That common purpose is “connecting people to Jesus” in response to His Great Commission to “make disciples of all nations.” Already, congregations led by PLI pastors are growing spiritually as reflected in increased Bible study attendance, significant increases in worship attendance, and growth in membership.

As graduates of LCMS seminaries, pastors are already prepared with a sound education in theology. Their theological training significantly influences and shapes the way they lead and contributes to the way their congregations function. PLI seeks to encourage a missional mindset to “seek and save the lost.”



## Art Exhibit by Rev. Scott Blazek

Rev. Scott R. Blazek of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Clovis, NM at the reception for his art exhibit entitled "Give Me Shelter," held March 11.

In the center of the photo is his wife Margaret, speaking with a fellow faculty member (Chris Harrell) from the Arts Academy of Bella Vista, Clovis. Blazek is in the foreground to the right. The exhibit was held at the Eula Mae Edwards Gallery/Museum, Clovis Community College, throughout the months of March and April. Blazek's exhibit included over 40 works in acrylic, pen and ink, pencil, and mixed media as well as children's book illustrations, besides an extensive display on coin/medallion design and production. Some works were large (4'x6'); others were miniature (4"x6"), and many in between. These works were an accumulation of endeavors from over 40 years. Works included themes with a Law/Gospel message. Along with the 85+ in attendance at the



reception were Rev. Gary Piepkorn of Portales, NM and Rev. Michael Erickson of Pampa, TX (previously served Hobbs, NM). To view some of the art work, visit [www.scottblazek.com](http://www.scottblazek.com) and link to "exhibit."

# Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

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



## SERVANT LEADER WORKSHOP

The first of six nationwide Servant Leader Workshops will be offered in the Denver area on September 18, 2010. The workshop, which begins at 8:30 and runs through 4 pm, will be held at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Aurora. Professional workers and those with whom they work are invited. These gatherings are events that deepen a congregational lay person's commitment to be a servant leader. These weekend gatherings focus on inspiring and equipping laity to see themselves as difference makers in their spheres of influence. You may register online at <http://kindleservantleaders.org>. The workshop will help participants:

- Understand better the concept of servant leadership
- Continue growing to be a more effective servant leader
- Assess strengths in one's leadership of groups
- Challenge growth in a selected area of leadership

Servant Leader Workshops are developed by KINDLE and are part of several initiatives made available through a generous grant from Thrivent to celebrate ten years of KINDLE's mission of developing servant leaders.

## Lutheran Hour Ministries Offers Tools for Spanish-language Outreach

Listeners to **The Lutheran Hour**<sup>®</sup> in English have a powerful resource to use in sharing the Gospel with their Spanish-speaking neighbors: **Para el Camino**.

**Para el Camino** is a Spanish-language version of **The Lutheran Hour** designed to serve the growing number of Spanish-speaking people in the United States. **Para el Camino** (translation: *For the Journey*) features the strong Gospel

message heard on **The Lutheran Hour** in contexts suited to a multicultural audience.

Seventeen radio stations carry **Para el Camino** in the United States, and the program is also heard on radio in Peru and Costa Rica. As with **The Lutheran Hour**, **Para el Camino** can be heard anytime wherever the Internet can be found, via streamed audio or podcast at [www.paraelcamino.com](http://www.paraelcamino.com) --or via three Spanish-language Websites in Ecuador and Spain.

When you invite your Spanish-speaking friends to listen to the weekly Gospel-driven messages on **Para el Camino**, you can also recommend *Alimento Diario*, Lutheran Hour Ministries' **Daily Devotions**, which are written by Rev. Ken Klaus, speaker of **The Lutheran Hour**, and translated into Spanish. You can find all the information you need about *Alimento Diario* at the **Para el Camino** Website.



# Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

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



## Roster Reports

### PLACEMENTS

Daniel Vanderhyde, Concordia Irvine, CA to Denver LHS, Denver, CO

Michelle Fischer, Concordia Portland, OR to Bethlehem Lutheran School, Lakewood, CO

### CALL EXTENDED

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

Trinity Lutheran Church, Garden City, Kansas to Jim Nash, Trinity LC, Sterling, CO

St. Luke's Lutheran School, Santa Rosa, CA to Michael Glowinski, Northglenn, CO

Grace Lutheran School, Sandy, UT to Kristine Marlatt, Sandy, UT

Grace Lutheran School, Sandy, UT to Lyn Stennett, Sandy, UT

### CALLS ACCEPTED

Lisa O'Brien, Christ, Murray, UT to Shepherd of the Desert, Scottsdale, AZ

Matthew Frick, Salt Lake LHS, Salt Lake City, UT to Lutheran Central School,  
Brownstown, IN

Rebekah Dorn, Appleton, WI to Immanuel Lutheran School, Albuquerque, NM

Rev. Dan Muecke, Dearborn, MI to Faith, Buena Vista, CO

Michael Glowinski, Northglenn, CO to St. Luke's Lutheran School, Santa Rosa, CA

### CHANGE OF STATUS

Margaret Hinchey, Our Father, Centennial, CO to Candidate Status

Rev. Dr. Donald Hinchey, Our Father, Centennial, CO to Emeritus

Robbin Kitashima, Denver, CO from Candidate to Non-Candidate

Emilie Meyer, Albuquerque, NM, from Active to Non-Candidate status

## Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

### July

7 Evangelism Committee meeting 10:00 a.m.

8 Older Adult Committee meeting at Risen Savior, Broomfield, CO at 10:00 a.m.

15 Lachaim Meeting at St. John's Lutheran Church, 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

8-17 LCMS Synodical Convention, Houston, TX

18 Ordination and Installation, Gethsemane, Northglenn, CO at 3:00 p.m.

### August

9 RMD Board of Directors' Meeting

10-12 Circuit Counselor's Conference, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 11500 E Iliff,  
Aurora, CO

### 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.





## Summer Mission Focus

### History of the Lutheran Church in Ethiopia

Ethiopia was one of the first Christian countries in the world, having adopted Christianity as the state religion in the fourth century. At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Ethiopian Christians began proclaiming the Gospel with the help of Lutheran and Presbyterian missionaries in Ethiopia. From these joint efforts the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) was instituted as a national church in January of 1959. EECMY is the largest Lutheran church in Africa, and the second largest in the world, with over 6,600 congregations and over 5,000,000 members.

Between 1974 and 1991 the communist-controlled government closed every Christian church with the exception of the Lutheran Mekane Yesus (“House of God”). Mekane Yesus was spared because of its emphasis on education of the young. Many of the churches that were closed went underground and began to be re-established once the communist rule fell.

### Tomas Bayou

Tomas Bayou is a young dedicated Ethiopian immigrant Christian who has sensed God’s call to ministry. His great-great-grandfather was one of the founders of the Christian mission movement in Ethiopia. Although his father was a communist, through the faithful influence of his mother Tomas was raised as a Lutheran Christian. In his late teenage years, through the sponsorship of his uncle living in Irvine, California, Tomas had the opportunity to leave his third world country and to attend school in America. He became a naturalized citizen in his senior year of college. However, in time it became apparent that his uncle’s household was not a good place for him spiritually. So Tomas traveled to San Jose, and there was introduced to an Ethiopian (non-Lutheran) church and pastor. While at San Jose, his pastor



discussed with Tomas his possible calling to serve the church. (This senior pastor eventually converted to the Lutheran faith and left to attend Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.)

Meanwhile, Tomas was called by the Ethiopian Evangelical Church (a non-Lutheran church) in Denver to serve as a youth pastor. During the months he served there, he recognized that something was missing in the church’s theology, particularly regarding Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. At this time he reconnected with his Lutheran roots, and with the encouragement of his Lutheran pastor friend, he decided to return to Irvine to attend Concordia University in order to study for the Lutheran ministry in a special program conducted in partnership with Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Continued on next page.....

# Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

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



## **A new Ethiopian Ministry in Aurora**

Two years later, Tomas returned to the Denver area and met with Rev. Mark Larsen, then Mission Executive for Rocky Mountain District, to discuss the need for Lutheran Ethiopian Immigrant Ministry. There are many reasons to establish such a ministry in Aurora, the most compelling being that the Ethiopian population in the Aurora area numbers around 25,000. Many of these immigrants, who are well-acquainted with Lutheranism from their homeland, first settled on the east and west coasts where their sponsors were located. A second generation of Ethiopians lives within the Ethiopian immigrant culture but speak English. Job opportunities and lower cost of living have made the greater Denver area a more desirable place to live than either of the coasts. Today Denver joins Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Houston, and Atlanta, as the fastest growth areas of Ethiopian population. Ethiopian Lutheran churches have been established in Washington, Minneapolis, San Jose, and Long Beach.

Tomas is currently in the third year of his four-year program of study, one especially designed as an alternative route to ministry that equips candidates for cross-cultural church planting. He attends two 10-day classes each summer in Irvine, and through Distance Education, takes 12 credit hours of classes each semester through the remainder of the year. At the end of the four years, he will have his Master of Arts in Theology and a certification for ordination. This will make him eligible to become a rostered LCMS pastor.

Tomas serves as vicar at Peace With Christ Lutheran Church in Aurora under the supervision of Pastor Michael Hiller. While on his vicarage, he is already working to connect with people and plan his future ministry in Aurora. He is also meeting once a week in Boulder with a growing group of CU students from Ethiopia for a Bible study at the University Lutheran Chapel.

Upon completion of his vicarage in this coming year, Tomas will need new sources of financial support. It is his desire to begin his ministry by establishing an early childhood center that will welcome all but focus especially on the Ethiopian immigrant population of Aurora. Tomas would minister to all the families who come to the center, both addressing their felt need for safe and affordable child care as well as filling their even greater need to hear the Christian Gospel.

Please keep Tomas and his ministry in your prayers. He is ready and willing to speak at district congregations about this open door of mission opportunity. He can be reached at Peace With Christ in Aurora. Specifically-designated gifts of financial support can be directed to the attention of Rev. Thomas Schoech, Development Director, at the Rocky Mountain District, 14334 E. Evans Avenue, Aurora, CO 80014.



## We Encourage your Prayers

Almighty Lord, the warfare and strife in our world remain as constant reminders of our sinfulness. We yearn for peace, dear Savior, as we journey to heaven. Protect those who defend our nation and keep them safe in Your care. Assure them that they are never alone, for You watch over them. Strengthen their families with Your love as they await the safe return of loved ones. Bless our nation and keep it strong that we may be always free to worship You. Amen.

“The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by Him” (Deuteronomy 33:12a). Merciful Lord, may this beautiful promise bring solace and peace to the hearts of those who loved **Kevin Hayne** (recent graduate from Lutheran High School-Parker) who died June 15 in a climbing accident. May those who knew and loved Kevin be assured that all who sleep in Jesus will awaken in the resurrection to everlasting life. May Your Spirit grant a measure of Your peace to the students, parents, and teachers of LHS-Parker as they mourn this tragic accident in their midst. Amen.

(Eighteen-year-old Kevin had climbed 40 of Colorado fourteeners. He was the valedictorian of his graduating class and intended to enroll at Biola University in California. Kevin is survived by his father Lynn, his mother Beth, and a sister Alyssa.)

Dear Jesus, thank You for walking with **Sandy Lawson** (teacher, Christ, Murray, UT) through the valley of the shadow of death into life—life eternal in the heavenly realms. May those who knew and loved Sandy trust that You have “put death’s dark shadows to flight” so that they have solace for their loss and heartache. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your presence that is with us each and every day. May Your hand of blessing continue to bring healing to **Josiah Ahlman** (six-year-old son of **Rev. Dave** and **Beth Ahlman**, Peace, Arvada, Co). Grant Your peace to those who love Josiah, and bless the doctors’ efforts as they use the skills You have bestowed on them to enhance Josiah’s return to health. Amen.

(Josiah was injured in a car accident in western Iowa on Saturday, June 19. Sandy Lawson was killed in the same accident. She was the mother-in-law of Ruth Ahlman Lawson and the mother of Rev. Tim Lawson. By June 30 Josiah had improved enough so that he could be transferred to the Children’s Hospital in Aurora. May our Lord’s gracious presence be with the Ahlman and Lawson families in the days to come. May they be strengthened in knowing that our times are in His hands.)

Dear Jesus, You have compassion on us in all of our difficulties. By Your Spirit enable the following people to not lose heart as their serious health problems are addressed. Assure them that You will be with them in the future as You have been in the past so that their hearts are at peace. Amen.

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

**Mario Lozano**, husband of **Sue Lozano**, Lutheran Hispanic Mission Institute in El Paso, TX, was diagnosed with cancer.

**Rev. Paul Rohde**, Eternal Savior, Lafayette, CO, was hospitalized in late June with an infection.

O heavenly Father, help us to live and trust in the sure hope that every sorrow finds its joy in Jesus. May the Holy Spirit comfort those who mourn the death on June 14 of the brother of **Rev. Gary Trickey**, em., St. Paul, Ogden UT. Grant that Rev. Trickey and those in the Lord who loved his brother in the Lord look forward to that joyful reunion in heaven where illness and death are no more. Amen.

