

Rocky Mountain District—
LCMS
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THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2010

by
President Randall Golter

"To those who are elect exiles ..." (1 Peter 1:1).



It was a delightful time in the middle of August in El Paso. "But President Golter, it surely was too hot to say it was delightful!" Yes, it was hot, but that did not detract from the delight of the two meetings, Wednesday through Friday.

The first meeting, called *Frontera* (border), consisted of representatives of three districts: Pacific Southwest, Texas, and Rocky Mountain. These districts have met for a number of years, focusing on missionary work to the Hispanics along the U.S./Mexico border. Each of these districts has training centers for men and women to be missionaries to their Hispanic friends and neighbors. The RMD originated the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute in El Paso. You may not realize that the LCMS has not done the best at outreach to this ever growing group.

In fact, it was said at the meeting that for every Anglo death there is a corresponding birth; for Hispanics, however, the rate is drastically different. For every death of a Hispanic person, nine babies are born Hispanic! Does this not tell us something about where we should be focusing our outreach efforts?

Then on Thursday and Friday mornings, Rev. Juan Hormachea (RMD Hispanic Coordinator) and I met with some eighteen people to discuss the present and future work of the Triune God among Hispanics in the RMD. It was delightful: brainstorming, challenging, praying, dreaming, disagreeing, and thinking deeply.

Pastor Luzano of *Reye de Reyes* (King of Kings, Las Cruces, NM, a mission start of Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces) said that he had requests from Redeemer, Deming, NM about starting Hispanic work. I told the group of the RMD's Northeastern Circuit's current plan to call a Hispanic pastor this spring. The work will be centered at Trinity, Sterling, CO. San Pablo, El Paso, currently is doing Gospel and human care work at Sparks, TX (east El Paso).

Vicar Stephen Heimer of San Pablo, El Paso, will expand his vicarage work to Zion, El Paso. The saints there desire to start a Hispanic outreach effort under Rev. Howard Patton's leadership.

We need Gospel proclamation to the Hispanics in the southwest quadrant of Albuquerque, and in Salt Lake City. We need at least three more Hispanic churches in the Denver area besides *Cordero de Dios* (pastored by Juan Hormachea).



"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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Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org



The proposed new mission model for the RMD is called the **GGP**, the Gospel Gap Paradigm. This model is based on the cell-phone coverage metaphor in that there are cell-phone coverage gaps when calls are dropped.

There are Gospel gaps in the RMD, where the Gospel is not reaching people either geographically or demographically. The Hispanics are a major gap in our Gospel proclamation.

Many thanks to the Lord that He did not drop His Gospel coverage toward you and me. Through someone--either a pastor or a layman--the words of life were spoken into our ears. In baptism we were buried with Jesus into His death that we too might walk in the newness of life (Rom. 6:4), the life of the Spirit.

The Lord of the Church is seeking more sinners to worship Him "in Spirit and truth" (John 4:24). The Triune God uses His Church as His vehicle of mission, seeking and saving the lost.

The Lord is bringing Hispanic people right to our front door. What are we going to do? Complain, ignore, or are we going to hear the voice of Jesus calling for workers to work for Him?

Let us pray, dream, work, believe, study, tell, and intentionally plan to fill in the Gospel Gaps where God has placed us and, in particular, to the Hispanic friends right in our midst. We are all "elect pilgrims" heading toward the new heaven and earth, rejoicing in God's calling us to faith and pulling every one along with us.

ICCC endeavors to help fulfill Christ's commission to His Church, to go make disciples of all nations.

[A few thoughts for meditation: Worry no More](#)

"An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheer him up." Proverbs 12:25

- *What's causing you stress right now? How are you handling it? How well do others think you're handling stress? (Have you asked them?) What does your doctor say about your stress? Who do you know that needs to hear a kind word from you? How/When will you share it?*

"You can learn to overcome the worry of anticipation. After you begin to experience more and more the ready success of divine grace upon all circumstances and occasions, you will not worry about things before they happen... -Brother Lawrence

"Cast all your cares upon the Lord and He will sustain you." Psalm 55:22a

Recall about a specific time when God sustained you though a difficult time or situation. Take a few minutes to ponder God's mercy and grace, and then offer a prayer of thanksgiving!

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.

Cast all your anxiety upon Him because He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

Meditate on this "invitation."

Consider the truth that God cares for everyone- your "friends", "enemies" and even the spiritually "lost" in your midst.

*Consider the reality that God cares for **you!** When the burden, worries, and stressors of everyday life seem to pile up, remember GOD Himself cares for you! Rest in His strong arms!*

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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New Ministries Will Be Developed through *Igniting Church and Culture for Christ*.

A significant portion of the special appeal, *Igniting Church and Culture for Christ*, will be utilized for funding new ministries in growing and under-served areas of the District including ethnic and cross-cultural ministries. Local congregations and circuits play a significant role in this work as they identify these “gospel gaps” in their areas.

The Rocky Mountain District will partner with congregations and circuits in one or more of the following ways to provide the establishment of ministry in these “gospel gap” areas:

- Training
- Demographic studies
- Financial grants to local initiatives

Congregations and circuits would:

- Identify the “gospel gap” area(s) and prioritize them
- Identify core members for a mission start
- Identify financial resources in circuit congregations as well as any other financial resources
- Develop a ministry and a business plan with guidance from the District

The goal would be to continue the development of new Anglo congregations in both urban and rural areas of the District. In addition, there would be a goal of developing new ethnic and cross-cultural ministries where they are most needed, including among Hispanic, Ethiopian, Mormon, and other people groups.

The goal of \$465,000 for new ministries through the special appeal, *Igniting Church and Culture for Christ*, would provide start-up monies for an ongoing revolving mission fund. It would help to fulfill the mission that Jesus has given to His Church. The Good Shepherd has told us that He has other sheep that He wants brought into His fold (John 10:16).

The Lord has blessed His Church in the Rocky Mountain District in so many ways. The special fund appeal, *Igniting Church and Culture for Christ*, gives the opportunity to be a part of this exciting work!

Igniting Church and Culture for Christ

The special appeal for raising \$2 million for national and international missions through *Igniting Church and Culture for Christ* is well underway. All congregations in the District have been invited to participate in this endeavor being conducted throughout the Rocky Mountain District.

Congregations are free to choose their own means of participation. So far, those who have chosen to participate are doing so in a variety of ways:

- through special Sunday morning offerings
- conducting a special campaign within the congregation
- tithing on a portion of a capital campaign
- choosing a special project in conjunction with LCMS World Mission.
- pledging 10% of their congregational budget to be given over a period of five years

Congregations and/or individuals may participate by means of a onetime gift or they may make a pledge during which contributions may be made over a five year time period. For more information contact your local congregation, visit the District website, www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org, or call the District Office at 303-695-8001.



Especially for Teachers and School Administrators

Looking for a mission project or two for your school to promote and support this new school year? Our Rocky Mountain District office stands ready to connect you with some exciting possibilities. Among the opportunities:

The Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission (BOLM): This Internet ministry is reaching Arabic-speaking people around the world with the Gospel. BOLM has some truly dramatic, inspiring stories to tell of people, including many former Muslims, who have been led to faith in Christ.

Ysleta Lutheran Mission: Based in El Paso, Texas, Ysleta reaches out through a variety of human care ministries, primarily to those of Hispanic background on both sides of the Mexican border. Ysleta has been instrumental in developing a number of Lutheran congregations, many of which have vibrant children's ministries of their own. You might want to consider a "pen pal" partnership with those Latino children.

The Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute (LHMI): Less than three years old, this school in El Paso is preparing future church workers for ministry among Hispanic folks in both Mexico and the United States. LHMI is extending its reach through the use of distance education via satellite and the Internet.

New Mission Congregations: Every year the Rocky Mountain District seeks to establish new congregations, both Anglo and cross-cultural in character. These congregations start small and seek to grow. By partnering, your students will learn how new churches get started.

International Mission Work: The Rocky Mountain District is a partner with the wider Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to people in 88 countries worldwide. By adopting a mission project in a particular country or area of the world, your students will come to appreciate what it means to be a Christian in a foreign land.

Other possibilities exist as well. By adopting one or more mission projects, you will not only be a partner in bringing the Gospel to people who do not yet know Christ as their Savior, but you will also help your students develop a lifelong passion for mission work.

Printed materials are available. Contact Rev. Thomas Schoech, Rocky Mountain District Director of Development, for more information. Phone: (303) 695-8001. Email: Thomas.Schoech@rm.lcms.org.

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

RETREAT CENTER IN ASPEN WILL BE DEDICATED SEPTEMBER 26



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

Messiah Lutheran church has completed its new 20 bed retreat center. We are now taking reservations. 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, chapel, and free wi-fi internet connection. Discounts on ski rentals and rafting are available through one of our members.

For reservations call 970-925-7725 or Email reservations@mlcaspen.org for more information, pictures, activities etc.

Finally, Aspen made affordable! (Pastors and their families may stay for free when space is available.)



Pastor Lietzau Ordained and Installed



Pastors of the Sandia north and south circuits (northern New Mexico) gathered on Sunday afternoon, July 11, 2010, at Faith in Christ Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM for the ordination and installation of candidate **Elisha Lietzau** as pastor of Faith in Christ. RMD Regional Vice President Rev. Doug Escue conducted the Rite of Ordination; Sandia North Circuit Counselor Rev. Ed Maas officiated over the Rite of Installation. Pastor Lietzau is a Spring 2010 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN.

Pastors shown (left to right):

John Raess, Randy Walquist, Doug Escue, Andrew Byars, Elisha Lietzau,

Warren Graff, Ed Maas, Doug May, Alan Coleman, John Heffelfinger.
(pastors not shown but present): Phillip Spomer, John Plump

Seminar at St. Luke's, Golden, CO

A SEMINAR ON EVANGELISM, OUTREACH, AND ASSIMILATION will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Golden,



Colorado, on Saturday, September 11, from 10:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. (Registration begins at 9:00 A.M.) Everybody in the LCMS needs to be interested in Confessional church growth through the process of evangelism and outreach, and retention of new members through good assimilation practices. Our goal will be to learn how these three important topics fit together in unison to meet the mission of the church (Matthew 28:19-20) and spiritual growth (John 8:31). The cost (which covers materials and lunch) is \$12.50 per person if received by September 4 (\$15.00 at the

door). For a registration form or more information contact Pastor Dwight Hellmers at 303-233-5658 or e-mail stlukeslcms@qwestoffice.net.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Leadville, CO



The pictures include the float we built for the Boom Days Parade (6-8 August) and the Cookie Fundraiser we did for the Leadville 100 Bike Race and Bike Fest (13-14 Aug).

Vicar Chad Potts





“Pastor, Thank You!!”...

Such words are good words. They are spoken to our pastor following a funeral, a wedding or a counseling session. Every once in a while they are spoken following a sermon that he preached that spoke wonderfully to you. It is a timely event when you can express thanks to the man that God has called to serve in His name in your congregation.



October has been designated as “Pastor Appreciation Month.” We on the Debt Assistance Committee of our District encourage you to voice or show your appreciation to your Pastor or Pastors during this coming month.

We even have another way to suggest to you to show your appreciation to them – make a gift in honor of them to the Debt Assistance Program. A gift in honor of them will be given to other pastors who are assisted by the Debt Assistance Program. The Debt Assistance Program of our District makes annual gifts to Pastors who serve within our District who carry educational debt. Dozens of Pastors within our District annually have some of their debt reduced because of the generosity of others. This reduction of debt is a blessing to them and to their families.

If you are so led, and so blessed, please send a check to the Rocky Mountain District for the Debt Assistance Program. Let us know that this is being done in appreciation for your Pastor and we will contact him letting him know that other Pastors in the District are also being blessed by his ministry through this gift in honor of him.

Gifts should be sent to the Rocky Mountain District LC-MS, 14334 E. Evans Ave., Aurora, CO 80014, (Attention DAP) Please tell us who your Pastor or Pastors are!! Funds received in this special appeal will be distributed this year to help our Pastors to reduce their educational debt.

Thank you for remembering the one who leads you faithfully into the hands of your Savior, Jesus.

“How then shall they call on Him I 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



Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

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.

November

1-2 RMD Board of Directors Meeting at RMD office

2011

November

5-6 “Conversations of Grace at the Roc!” conference, Colorado Springs, CO

Roster Reports

PLACEMENTS

Elizabeth Schanbacher, Concordia River Forest, to Immanuel, Roswell, NM

Jenny DiGiorgio, Concordia Seward, to Immanuel, Loveland, CO

CALL EXTENDED

Ascension, El Paso, TX to Rev. Vernon Schindler, Zion, Sioux Falls, SD

Immanuel, Paonia, CO to Rev. Duane Daeke from Reedsburg, Wisconsin

Trinity, St George, UT to Fred Jesgarz, Trinity-Manistee, Michigan

CALLS ACCEPTED

Fred Jesgarz, Trinity, Manistee, MI to Trinity, St. George, UT

Josh Keithley, Family of Christ, Colorado Springs, CO to Beautiful Savior, La Vista, NE

Mari (Buss) Koester, St John, Napa, CA to St John, Denver, CO

Matthew Luevano, Child of God, St Peters, MO to Christ, Albuquerque, NM

Rev. Duane Daeke from Reedsburg, Wisconsin to Immanuel, Paonia, CO

Rev. Vernon Schindler, Zion, Sioux Falls, SD to Ascension, El Paso, TX

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Jim Kretzmann of Taylor, TX to Sangre de Cristo, Taos, NM, and Christ our Savior
Lutheran Church, Angel Fire, NM

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

CHANGE OF STATUS

Bethany Steiner, Grace, Sandy, UT to Candidate Status

REMOVED/RESIGNED FROM ROSTER

Deborah Gehhardt, Non-Candidate Status, Sandy, UT

TRANSFERS

Rev. Norman Laesch, Emeritus, RMD to Pacific Southwest District





We Encourage your Prayers

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for Your faithfulness to us; we treasure it in those times when we experience injury, illness, pain, and suffering. We entreat You to keep these Your undershepherds in Your care in the days ahead as their health concerns are addressed so that they and their loved ones know Your peace and strength. Thank You in the name of our beloved Savior Jesus. Amen.

Rev. Elisha Lietzau, installed as pastor of Faith in Christ, Albuquerque, NM on July 11, was hospitalized in late August. He is recovering from an appendectomy and awaiting results from tests for an infectious disease. Continue to bring him, his wife Joy, and his mother Margery before our Lord in prayer.

Rev. David Loeschke, Immanuel, Haxtun, CO and vacancy pastor at St. John, Yuma, CO was involved in a major car accident on Thursday, August 19. He is recuperating at home. Please keep him, his wife Carol, and their family in your prayers.

Lord God, we thank You for the men who proclaim Your Word to thirsting souls. Throughout the ages You have called men to serve in Your kingdom. Bless the work of the men who serve as pastors in the Rocky Mountain District. Grant them good health and sound minds so that they may continue to reach many through the preaching and teaching of Your Word of Law and Gospel. Thank You for these men who provide us with food for our spiritual well-being. Amen.

O gracious God, enable **Rev. Matt Harrison** to trust that You will guide and strengthen him for the work You would have him do as president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by blessing his time in reading, studying, and meditating on the Scriptures. Amen.

Dear Jesus, gracious Teacher, at the beginning of this new school year, bless those who lead classrooms in our District. Strengthen teachers as they impart knowledge of the past and wisdom for the future. Help all principals, teachers, and aides in our Lutheran schools to look to You for strength and wisdom so that they are enabled to deal in love and compassion with those in their care. Amen.

Lord our Father, make our schools safe halls of learning so that children and young people can grow into the people You want them to be: people with a zeal for learning, adults who accomplish the fruitful service You have stored up for them. As they grow into strong citizens of the world, keep their hearts and minds focused on You, their Father, because of the work of Your Son Jesus. Amen.

