

Church Simple: Solidarity with others

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2).

Last month I titled my article “No Solo Practitioners,” arguing against a type of church that sees itself as all-sufficient, as if the gathering of believers does not need the whole body of Christ. Such isolationism is not found in either the Old or the New Testament.

What one finds in both Testaments is solidarity, first with God Himself and then with those with whom Christ is bound. The one God owns the people by His one sacrifice on the cross. The blood of Christ works the many into one. Yes, there are individual believers, and each is precious in His sight. But for the Lord and those He owns, there is one community. “There is one body and one Spirit ... one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all” (Eph. 4:4-6b).

This unity with God the Father through the Son by the Spirit’s work through the Word causes a solidarity with others who are drenched by His blood. This blood of God’s Son brings life out of death, a resurrected life; it causes the sons and daughters of God to bear each other’s burdens. They bear them as if they are their own, for in reality, they are.

No “solo practitioner” or “independent franchise” practice here. No understanding that each person is some kind of isolated atom without any connection to the other.

How else can one understand Jesus’ own preaching where He states, “Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh” (Luke 6:21). One surely does not weep merely for himself but also for those who require his compassion. Paul puts it this way: “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep” (Rom. 12:15).

By the Spirit’s merciful push or draw, each one bears the needs of others. And, therefore, no child of God is ever really alone. When too weak to pray, others take up the petitions and make them their own. And when

one sins, the others with whom this one is bound by blood also bears the sin, as if it were his own. And in this way, the community of



one bears, weeps and rejoices.

Luther sees it this way:

Thus others bear my burden, and their strength is my strength. The faith of the church comes to the aid of my fearfulness; the chastity of others endures the temptation of my flesh; the fastings of others are my gain; the prayer of another pleads for me (*Luther’s Works*, American Edition, 42:161).

Can we not then see how terrible it is when the one—whether individual or church—isolates itself from the rest of God’s people? They actually lose the comfort of the communion of the saints. They lose the burden-bearers; therefore, the burden can become too heavy to bear. Satan loves this kind of isolation, for he desires nothing more than isolated sinners or churches who think they can do it all by themselves.

Can you foresee a Zion, Mount Calvary or Immanuel actually owning each other’s burdens, joys and delights, not only in prayers but in words and deeds? How damaging, though, is the opposite—when pastors or God’s people ignore or even bad-mouth the church down the street?

God has put churches here for the sake of all others, each one for everyone else. When one suffers, so do the rest; when one forgets to pray, the others then lift their voices in prayer. When God is growing the Kingdom in one place, all grow, for the one church grows.

We act, live and breathe communally, in solidarity with Christ as our living brother.

This is the resurrected life made possible by the Christ who was once dead but is now alive, seated at the right hand of God the Father.

*Rev. Randall Golter
District President*



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June-July issue deadline: April 15

*When possible, send photos digitally,
in JPEG format, 300 dpi.*

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Trinity recognizes staff anniversaries



Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Franktown, Colo., recognized three staff members who celebrated significant ministry anniversaries this year. Pictured are Holly Sander, Dr. Ken Palmreuter and Jennifer Finley.

On March 13, the Sunday after National Lutheran Schools Week, Trinity Lutheran Church and School recognized the anniversaries in ministry of three of its staff members: Holly Sander, school administrative assistant (10 years at Trinity); Dr. Ken Palmreuter, interim principal (50 years in ministry); and Jennifer Finley, teacher (10 years at Trinity and in ministry).

Holly Sander is in her 10th year as administrative assistant at Trinity, currently in the school office. She also has served as a church organist at Trinity for the last 15 years. She and her husband, Jerry, have four children, three granddaughters and a grandson.

Holly has a great love of and respect for Lutheran education. "My four children attended Lutheran schools from elementary through college. Not only did they receive a wonderful education, I always knew their teachers and staff sincerely cared about them and helped each one grow in their faith. They now are on the other side and, as teachers, they can share their love for the Lord with their students." Holly will retire at the end of this school year. She looks forward to having more time to enjoy her love of the land and her animals on their farm.

Dr. Ken Palmreuter began his ministry in Illinois at Grace Lutheran School, River Forest, Ill. After one year, he was called to the Detroit area, serving both as a teacher and administrator at Calvary in Lincoln Park and as principal at Detroit Lutheran High School West. After 25 years in Detroit, he accepted a call to serve as executive director and principal at Denver Lutheran High School where he continued to serve through 2002.

During his 50 years in Lutheran schools, he has

served in district and Synod leadership positions. Three of his schools were recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as "Blue Ribbon" schools. Since his retirement in 2002, he has been called upon to serve Lutheran elementary schools along the Front Range as their interim principal. He is married to Martha, also a teacher, and they have three children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Jennifer Finley came to Trinity Lutheran School right after her graduation from Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn. She has taught second and third grades and has the most experience of any member of Trinity's faculty.

Of her teaching, Jennifer comments, "I like seeing the 'light' turn on in my students' minds when they learn something new. We try to prepare them for the future by giving them a solid foundation of God's love and by helping them learn from God's people of the past. It is important that the students respect others for who they are and that they become the best they can be by using the gifts God gave them." Jennifer is married to Don, and they have two young children.

Immanuel serves community

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School of Loveland, Colo., has many members who volunteer their time serving lunches at Loveland's Community Kitchen. It is a wonderful gift to serve those in need, and the gift returns to the giver many times over.

On Feb. 28, the chancel choir from Immanuel offered another gift to the Loveland Community Kitchen—the gift of music. Martin Luther once said, "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to us that we should proclaim the Word of God in music." The chancel choir sang God's Word to members of the community who came for lunch that day.

Special thanks are extended to the choir director, Pastor Al Schroeder, and guitar accompanists Scott Dennis and Jay Newkirk.



The chancel choir from Immanuel sings God's Word to those enjoying lunch at Loveland's Community Kitchen.



Rev. Randall Golter (left), president of the Rocky Mountain District, preached the sermon and officiated at the installation of Pastor Thomas Schoech (right). The elders of the congregation also participated in the service.

Shepherd of the Hills welcomes new pastor

Members and friends at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Ruidoso, N.M., welcomed their new pastor, Rev. Thomas Schoech, at his installation service Jan. 30.

Schoech is a graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. His first pastoral call was to St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Ann Arbor, Mich., where he served as associate pastor for 20 years. During those years, he led in the planting of a mission congregation, Peace Lutheran Church in Scio Township, west of Ann Arbor.

He later served on the staff of the LCMS Foundation, working as a major gifts officer of LCMS World Mission. In 2007-08, he served as the vacancy senior pastor at St. John Lutheran Church and then as interim campus chaplain at Concordia University, both in Seward, Neb. He joined the staff of the Rocky Mountain District as director of development in 2008. In November 2010, he entered the Intentional Interim Ministry program, a program designed to help congregations through periods of major transition. His first call as intentional interim pastor is to Shepherd of the Hills, Ruidoso.

Schoech will serve Shepherd of the Hills as full-time pastor. In his role as intentional interim pastor, he will work with the congregation as an adviser, helping the congregation work through its past and make plans for the future. Schoech looks forward to serving as an interim pastor for approximately 12 months at Shepherd of the Hills, helping lead the congregation to a renewal of its mission and ministry. The congregation is excited to start this new chapter in service to the Lord and to its community.

District Older Adult Seminar

Submitted by Dr. Norbert Kleidon

The District Older Adult Ministry one-day seminar, held Feb. 12 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lakewood, Colo., experienced a double blessing—the weather was wonderful and the speakers were excellent.

The first of four presentations was given by Dr. Thomas Maier. He spoke about dental care related to seniors. He emphasized flossing and daily brushing and also extolled dental implants as opposed to dentures.

The second presentation was by Russell E. Carparelli, a judge in the Colorado Court of Appeals. Since it was Abraham Lincoln's birthday, his topic on the life of Lincoln was most appropriate. Many in attendance were touched as he spoke about freedom and quoted words from the Declaration of Independence. Judge Carparelli said that Lincoln's main goal was to save the Union, which he did even at a tremendously high cost in human lives.

After lunch, Larry Cerrillo spoke about conflict resolution. As a mediator, he has worked on more than 100 cases in family and neighborly conflicts. Seniors, especially grandparents, can be instrumental in healing family disputes.

Closing the seminar was singer/musician John Kohl. John is a member of Peace, Arvada. His program consisted of some 1940s music, along with some music from the '60s and '70s. It was a real toe-tapping event.

Plans are already under way for the fall gathering to be held Sept. 13-15 at the new, beautiful lodge of the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colo. The keynote speaker will be the former president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick. Dr. Kieschnick also will deliver the sermon at the closing worship service. The gathering theme is "Loving the Lord with All Your Heart and Mind." Program and registration forms will be mailed in April.



Seniors enjoyed the beautiful weather and the excellent speakers at this year's one-day seminar.

DISTRICT NEWS

Parish nurse honored

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School of Loveland, Colo., recently recognized its parish nurse, MarJean Carpenter, upon her retirement from this position. MarJean has been a pioneer in the Parish Nurse Ministry among The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations, especially within the Rocky Mountain District.

In 1999, Immanuel began a core ministry called Human Care. An integral and vital part of this ministry soon became the parish nurse position and MarJean volunteered. She initially began providing monthly blood pressure checks and very soon determined that there were many health and spiritual issues she could help with.



MarJean shows off the beautiful cake decorated for her and enjoyed by those who gathered to honor her as she retires from the parish nurse position at Immanuel.

grew. A Spiritual Health Partnership with McKee Hospital of Loveland provided additional training, leadership and some supervision.

Immanuel's Human Care ministry and MarJean soon became a reference for others, a model which was adopted and copied elsewhere. For three years, MarJean was invited to present small-group talks at the annual Parish Nurse Convention at Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon, Wis. MarJean has supervised a number of nursing students from University of Northern Colorado and Regis, training them in community health experience.

Her nursing services have been available to Immanuel's school students through hearing and vision tests, as well as checking and verifying student health records. Along with others, MarJean's efforts led to the pur-

chase of an automatic defibrillator (AED). MarJean visits and prays with many of Immanuel's members who are unable to leave their homes.

Along with Pastor Al Schroeder and a cadre of members that became a part of Immanuel's Human Care Ministry Team, this ministry to the community rapidly

In recognition of her ministry, MarJean was presented with a special bronze titled "The Good Samaritan." This truly is MarJean Carpenter, a Good Samaritan to all those to whom she ministers.



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MarJean has recruited Kandi Quick, a member of Immanuel, to become the congregation's next parish nurse. While MarJean has officially retired, she will continue her loving service to Immanuel and the Loveland community. Immanuel members thank God for bringing this gifted woman among them and the community at Loveland and for demonstrating the ministry of service.

Called to glory

Pastor Mario Lozano of Rey de Reyes Hispanic Ministry, Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, N.M., fell asleep in Jesus Wednesday evening, Feb. 15. A memorial service for Pastor Lozano was held Feb. 21 at Mission Lutheran Church.

Many praises to the Lord for Pastor Lozano's faithful service as preacher, husband and father. Please include in your petitions to the Lord of life his wife, Sue, and their four children, along with the dear saints of Mission Lutheran Church.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die" (John 11:25-26).

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‘Following in the Footsteps of Paul’ tour

Join fellow Lutherans on a special pilgrimage to Turkey and Greece, Oct. 12-23, presented and hosted by Rocky Mountain District President Randall Golter and his wife, Elizabeth. Learn about Paul’s missionary journeys and experience the world of the early Christians.

The 12-day deluxe escort trip includes a full-day tour of Istanbul. You also will visit the Churches of the Revelation, walk “in the footsteps” of Paul in Alexandria Troas, travel via the old Roman Road to Assos, visit the Acropolis in Pergamon, journey to ancient Smyrna, travel to Miletus where Paul visited on his third missionary journey and on to Ephesus.



The tour includes a three-night Greek island cruise. You’ll sail to the island of Patmos where the apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation and on to the beautiful island of Rhodes. In addition, you will visit the island of Crete and the beautiful island of Santorini.

Final stops include Athens and the archaeological site of ancient Corinth where Paul lived and taught in A.D. 51 and 52.

For more information, call LutherTours at 866-777-1517 or e-mail info@luthertours.com.

‘Defending Your Faith: Overcoming Timidity with Confidence’

Join fellow Christians July 18-20 in Parker, Colo., to learn how to confidently defend your faith in a post-modern world. Dr. Steven Hein will present this one-week course titled “Defending Your Faith: Overcoming Timidity with Confidence.”

Christians often find themselves on the defensive when challenged about the truthfulness of their faith.

How can we stand up for our beliefs without offending others? This course is designed especially for the young Christian who is looking for answers and strategies by which the Christian faith can be successfully defended in the face of today’s culture wars and the challenges of post-modernism.

Learn how to survive and thrive in today’s culture wars! Sign up, do the readings before class, and get ready for some great discussions and applications. Bring your youth group—maybe stay a couple more days to explore the Front Range. There are several nearby motels if you need overnight accommodations.

What you will learn:

- how to defend your faith;
- how to do more than survive culture wars;
- the difference between giving offense and others taking offense;
- how to talk it like you walk it; and
- how to think Christian and feel confident.

Where: Lutheran High School

11249 Newlin Gulch Blvd., Parker, Colo.

When: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. daily, Monday, July 18-
Wednesday, July 20

Coordinator: Rev. Joseph Murphy, Grace Lutheran Church, Parker, 303-840-5493

Cost: \$100

Registration/information/course outline: e-mail gracelutheranparker@gmail.com.

Retirement celebration

After a lifetime of service to the Lutheran church, Dr. Wes Broderius has announced his retirement. Please come and celebrate a wonderful history of faith and service at a luncheon at noon on Sunday, May 15, at St. Philip Lutheran Church, 7531 S. Kendall Blvd., Littleton, CO 80128. To RSVP or if you have questions, call Laurie Selander at 303-794-9739 by May 1.

Among many other ministry roles during his career, Wes was the conductor of The Lutheran Chorale for more than 20 years. A major effort of the Chorale under his direction was the presentation during the Christmas season of Handel’s “Messiah”—a collaboration between The Lutheran Chorale, the Lakewood Symphony and local high school choirs.

In 2001, a new Bach liturgy, composed and adapted by Broderius, was published in a new Lutheran hymnal titled *The Service Hymnal, a Lutheran Homecoming*. Wes retired from The Lutheran Chorale last year.

LOVING ONE ANOTHER THROUGH SERVICE

Neighborhood food pantry opens



Hope Lutheran Church in Aurora, Colo., opened a food pantry in February. The pantry is open for its neighbors every other Thursday. In the first month, volunteers gave away more than 5,000 pounds of food to nearly 80 households. If you (or your congregation, Bible class, etc.) would like to be involved, please contact the church office at 303-364-7416.

On the front lines of need

by Rev. Mark T. Kluzek

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

GodCaresAboutYou.net

We held one of our six annual community outreaches in February at Mount Calvary in Grants, N.M. We held a “God Loves You Banquet” the day before Valentine’s Day, serving up pizza, games, crafts and a short Kids Church service.

As I talked with one of the families who came, I was shocked to find they had no plumbing and no electricity. This family with a number of small children did have wood heat or food in their shack but were looking forward to moving back into the subsidized apartments by our church and having water and lights again. They were 23rd on the waiting list.

Here is a profile of another family we minister to. This extended family has two parents in prison, and the other two parents are out of work. If they can’t come up with the \$198 for rent, they—like the first family—will be off to fend for themselves. Here’s the good news though. Most members of this family—five children and their grandmother—were baptized in our church Jan. 30.

We have had many Native Americans come to our Sunday school program for years, and I had been praying for baptisms. It finally happened! Praise God!

Now what hope for the future can we give families

like this? We give them the amazing hope of Jesus and God’s Word. We have provided necessities like food, diapers and clothes. We would like to do more. I would like to see us start a “Will work for food” program where one of the unemployed dads could use his roofing skills to roof a Christian just-out-of-prison halfway house; then we could help the family with their rent. May God help us to get this program going!

We here in Grants and others, like the Christians at Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, Texas, are on the front lines of need. In an army, the front lines are well supplied by the rest of the forces. In God’s army, couldn’t we do the same? Do you care about the rest of Christ’s body? Though we may be a little toe in Christ’s body, please consider us, your brothers and sisters in Christ, who are staring need in the face.

Jesus said in John 13:35: “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Here in Grants, Mount Calvary is shining the light of Jesus’ love. Ysleta Lutheran Mission is doing the same, for I have seen it with my own eyes for nine years now. Please pray for us who are on the front lines of need. Great things are happening! And, with your prayers, even more can be done!

“You are the light of the world” (Matt. 5:14).

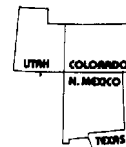
Speaking of Ysleta ...

According to the online newsletter from Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, the following was distributed during the recent Christmas season:

- 322 food baskets in El Paso and hundreds more in Mexico (food sent in bulk);
- 990 winter coats;
- 1,056 hygiene kits;
- 1,659 blankets/quilts;
- 1,752 toys.

Go to www.ylm.org to learn more about this mission along the Texas and Mexico border or to sign up for its online newsletter.





Rocky Mountain District calendar

May

- 6 LEAD meeting, Denver, Colo.
- 16-17 RMD Board of Directors meeting

August

- 1-2 RMD Board of Directors meeting

September

- 13-15 District Older Adult Gathering at YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colo.

October

- 4 Administrators Conference, Breckenridge, Colo.
- 5-7 Professional Workers Conference, Breckenridge, Colo.

November

- 5-6 "Conversations of Grace at the ROC!" Conference, Colorado Springs, Colo., Crowne Plaza
- 7-8 RMD Board of Directors meeting

Calls in the district

CALLS EXTENDED

- Grace, Marlin, Texas, and Grace, Mart, Texas, to Rev. David Loeschke, Immanuel, Las Vegas, N.M.
- Grace, Hibbing, Minn., to Rev. James Nash, Trinity, Sterling, Colo.

CALLS DECLINED

- Rev. Timothy Heupel, Beautiful Savior, La Vista, Neb., to Epiphany, Castle Rock, Colo.

CHANGE OF STATUS

- Rev. Norman Barnette, Mount Calvary, Estes Park, Colo., to emeritus.

REMOVED/RESIGNED FROM ROSTER

- Rev. Devon Woodyard, Cedar Crest, N.M.

TRANSFERRED TO/FROM DISTRICT

- Paul Boettcher, candidate, South Wisconsin District to RMD.
- Rev. Robert Pinta, emeritus, RMD to Northwest District.

CALLED TO GLORY

- Rev. Mario Lozano, Rey de Reyes Hispanic Ministry, Mission Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, N.M.

Who can you encourage?

Both Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod seminaries offer structured on-campus visitation opportunities for prospective students of all ages and their guests. Some visitation events are offered for high-school students, while other events are offered for those who are college-age or older. These events are designed specifically to address questions related to vocational discernment and seminary enrollment. Is there someone you could encourage to attend?

Below is a list of the structured campus visitation opportunities offered at both seminaries during this summer.

■ Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

June 18-23—Vocatio

Vocatio focuses on Christian vocation, including full-time service in the church as ordained or commissioned ministers. Bible studies focus on vocation from the exegetical, systematic, historical and practical aspects. Learn about study opportunities at LCMS colleges and seminaries.

For more information, call 800-822-9545, e-mail admissions@csl.edu or visit www.csl.edu.

■ Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

June 19-July 2—Christ Academy-High School

This two-week residential activity for high-school-age men offers an in-depth and hands-on seminary experience as participants worship in Kramer Chapel, study with seminary professors and other remarkable teachers and pastors, as well as enjoy time for recreation and fellowship.

For more information, call 800-481-2155, e-mail admission@ctsfw.edu or visit www.ctsfw.edu.

To learn about other ways to recruit and encourage future church workers or care for and support current workers, go to www.whataway.org, the website for *What a Way*.



BEYOND THE DISTRICT

Christian ministry to and through law enforcement

Concordia Seminary, together with Peace Officer Ministries, Inc. (POM), will host “Christian Law Enforcement Chaplaincy—Theology and Practice,” May 23-27 on the seminary campus. The workshop offers unique accredited training for chaplains, peace officers and pastors, focusing on effective Christian ministry to and through law enforcement.

Key principles that participants can expect to take away with them after attending the workshop include understanding law enforcement as vocation (God’s calling); distinguishing and properly applying Law and Gospel and God’s Two Kingdoms within a law enforcement context; addressing practical, legal, historical, cultural and missiological considerations; employing Christian stress management and officer spiritual survival strategies; and identifying characteristics of a competent Christian chaplain.

The Department of Homeland Security Course Component fulfills DHS Guidelines for First Responders.

Rev. Steve Lee, founding chaplain of POM, will serve as the introductory speaker on Monday morning. Other presenters include Stephanie Abernethy, Michael Dahmer, Daniel Dusseu, Dr. Denny Conroy, Steve Gielda, William Jones, Dr. Thomas Mijares, Chad Montgomery, Rev. Frank Ruffatto and Steven Ruffatto.

Registration cost is \$350. This includes four breakfasts, five lunches and three dinners. CEUs will be awarded for full participation.

Limited on-campus housing is available on a first-come first-served basis. Housing is dormitory style with shared bathrooms and showers. Rooms are on the second floor and are not handicap-accessible. Rates are \$40 per night for single or couple, and \$25 per night for a shared room.

Deadline for registration is May 16. No walk-ins will be accepted.

Lutheran church musicians to meet

The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians will meet in Seattle, Wash., for its biennial national conference. The public is invited for the July 31 through Aug. 4 conference at Seattle University.

The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) is a strong and successful service and professional organization with approximately 1,500 members, dedicated to the cause of strengthening the ministry of

music in the Lutheran church. It serves through a wide range of publications, conferences and local, regional and national events. ALCM is widely recognized as a significant force in Lutheran church music.

Once every two years, ALCM comes together for a national conference. This summer, the group will convene at Seattle University. It is the perfect combination of affordable housing, walkable campus and tourist-friendly area attractions—an ideal location. Worship spaces are close, plenary and workshop spaces are comfortable, and the Space Needle is only 15 minutes away.

For more information about the conference, please go to www.alcm.org or call the ALCM office at 800-624-2526.



Have you visited LCMS World Mission's YouTube channel lately?

Go to www.youtube.com/lcmsworldmission to watch the latest videos from the mission field! Join in celebrating the work God is doing through His people around the world.

These videos will enable you to meet the Synod's Globally Engaged in Outreach (GEO) missionaries in Peru, hear prayer requests from pastors in the Philippines, celebrate 10 years of mission work in Spain and more!

These videos can be a great resource for your Bible study, congregation or Sunday school class.

God is calling ... your church is calling ... where will you go in 2011?

It's the perfect time to start looking into options for a short-term mission trip this summer through LCMS World Mission. There is a great need for teams to serve in the Eastern Europe, leading English language camps.

To learn more about short-term and Globally Engaged in Outreach (GEO) missionary service, visit www.lcmsworldmission.org/service. (GEO missionaries typically serve for one to two years.)

To keep up to date with the most urgent service opportunities, check the “Serve Now Spotlight” each week. Questions? Contact a placement counselor at mission.recruitment@lcms.org or call 800-433-3954.