

Rocky Mountain District—
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THE MESSENGER

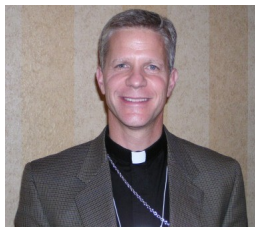
AUGUST 2011

I Go to Church to ...

by
President Randall Golter

“Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel” (Ps. 22:3).

I go to church; it is what I do.



During my undergraduate days at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, I would get up to go to church almost every Sunday. Even when I had stayed up way too long the night before, I went to church. It is what my Dad and Mom taught me to do; it was my habit.

Why do we go to church? Your understanding of who God is and especially what God *loves to do* determines the answer. Do I go there for the primary purpose of giving praise to Him? This seems very probable because the above verse from Psalm 22:3 seems to support such a view that God is “enthroned in the praises” of His people.

Now, praise is quite a wonderful activity of God’s people. The very purpose of the tongue given by the Creator is for praise of the One who redeems and sanctifies. The ear hears the Word of Christ, and then the tongue forms words that are instructed by what came into the ear. The tongue praises God in His presence, and it proclaims His deeds to others who are in the assembly. In this sense, praise contains both praises above and horizontal proclamation, a nourishing and admonishing of one another of which Paul writes (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19).

The danger, of course, is if I believe that the *primary* purpose of church is my activity of giving praise to God. One can soon slip into the belief that it is *my praising* that gives me comfort and strength. In this sense, *my praising* becomes a means of grace, as if my faith is strengthened by my activity. Pretty soon, the whole service tends to focus on me.

God’s gift of faith is strengthened by the Word of Christ that is heard from its proclamation. “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Rom. 10:17). The *primary* means of strengthening faith are the Word preached, Baptism administered, and the Holy Meal given and received.

Continued on next page ...



“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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We don't want to push this too far—the whole liturgy is proclamation. The Word repeated and sounded in song and praise does proclaim, nourish, and admonish. This is why the substance of song and hymn must be consistent with the Gospel. People are touched through singing and song as the Spirit works through the Word that is repeated through the song's text. The Gospel proclaimed in all its forms is still Gospel, that life-giving word of Jesus Christ.

The psalmist is right, of course. God is “enthroned in the praises of Israel.” He abides among His people and receives the praises of His own. He is One, however, who not only receives but *causes* and *prompts* the praise by His presence through His Word. His presence puts into action, that is, His mercy applied to sinners causes an eruption of praise.

Jesus, who quotes this Psalm, questions the Father's absence from His place of suffering on the Cross (“Why have You forsaken Me” is the preceding verse). His absence is so inconsistent from the Father who is known by His Son, that is, the One who dwells among His people to forgive sinners! The Father's absence from Jesus means that He will never absent His presence from those who are in Christ Jesus (Matt. 28:20b)!

Back to the question: I go to church because, because I need to hear the Gospel. I need to hear from the One who loves to “justify the ungodly” (Rom. 4:5). I need to hear from the Holy One who dwells among His people, who forgives me of my sin. Of course, then there is praise. We are prompted to give praise to Him and about Him to each other.

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. Joe Murphy
Grace, Parker, CO

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

EHP (Eastern High Plains)
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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)
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Immanuel, Colorado Springs, CO

RIO (Rio Grande)
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Rev. Ryan Oakes
Risen Savior, Broomfield, CO

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

SAS (Sandia South)
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Calvary, Rio Rancho, NM

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

WES (Western)
Rev. Edward Schmidt
Rifle, CO

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Rocky Mountain Theological Institute

“Teaching, Training and Equipping People for Mission and Ministry”

The Rocky Mountain Theological Institute (RMTI) held a graduation service at Holy Cross, Highlands Ranch, CO, on Sunday, July 31, at 3 p.m. The graduates were **Kenny Stroud** from Immanuel, Colorado Springs; **James Tuell** from Holy Cross, Highlands Ranch, CO; and **Steve Winkler** from Ascension, Littleton, CO. Rev. Bruce Skelton, Holy Cross, preached at the worship service. Rev. David Schroeder, RMTI Coordinator, was the liturgist. A social time with light refreshments followed the service.

The RMTI is the educational arm of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Rocky Mountain District.

Carlsbad, NM, Immanuel Lutheran Celebrates 75 Years

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Carlsbad, NM, will celebrate its 75th anniversary with three special events. On Saturday, September 17, 2011, Dr. Paul Maier, a professor of ancient history at Western Michigan University and author of several books including Pontius Pilate and A Skeleton in God’s Closet will present a seminar “Christ or Caricature?” The seminar will begin with registration at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at 3:15 p.m. A potluck lunch will be served. A free will offering will be provided. Dr. Maier will deliver the sermon on Sunday, September 18th at the 10:30 worship service.

On October 16, 2011, Pastor Paul Neuburger, former pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church from 1989-2003, will preach at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Following the service, a potluck meal will be provided.

Rocky Mountain District President Pastor Randall Golter will preach the sermon on Sunday, January 8, 2012, at the 10:30 a.m. service. A potluck lunch will follow.

On June 6, 2012, Pastor Allen Schenk, former pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church from 1977-1983, will preach at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Following the service, a potluck meal will be provided.

Everyone is invited to attend these events. For more information call 575- 885-5780 or email ImmanuelLutheranNM@yahoo.com. If you are planning to attend Dr. Maier’s seminar, please RSVP by August 28th, so we can accommodate the number of people attending.

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Older Adult Gathering September 13 -15

Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, former president of the LCMS for the last nine years, will be the key note speaker at the District Older Adult Ministry Gathering at the YMVA of Estes Park on September 13-15, 2011. Dr. Kieschnick, will speak on subject of New Testament Leadership for the 21th Century. Dr. Keischnick will also preach the message at the closing worship service on Thursday morning.

Also on the program is Mr. John Stonestreet, Executive Director of Summit Ministries. His presentation last year was so well received that he was invited to come back again. This time his topic will be: "Thinking Worldviewishly: Loving God with Your Mind." That is in line with the theme of the Gathering: "Love the Lord your God will all your heart, soul and mind."

On Wednesday evening, Deborah Holmes, with MedX of Estes Park will speak on health and fitness. She believe that exercise in the key to aging gracefully and functionally. Exercise also have a positive effect on our lives. On Tuesday, the group will gather for a fun of games and fellowship.

The cost of registration is lower this year than last by around \$35.00 per couple. The costs include six meals, two nights lodging coffee breaks and program. To register for the Gathering, please call Sharon Hodge at 303-404-9841, or if you have any questions, call Rae Lee Kleidon at 303-457-3298. Registration still open. The entire program is conducted in the same, new, beautiful building. And speaking of beauty, the YMCA is located in a place of grandeur.

Rev. Dr. Norbert Kleidon

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Be Inspired, Energized and Equipped

to share God's love, nurture your family, and witness to the community!

[COG/ROC – COLORADO SPRINGS, CO](#)

November 4 - 5, 2011

In partnership with the Rocky Mountain District's "*Conversations of Grace*" (COG) conference, **ROC**-Colorado Springs at the Crowne Plaza brings you to the foot of Pike's Peak for a mountain-top experience through inspirational Worship, Empowering Presentations, Fellowship and Discussions with other Mission-Minded Christians.

This mountaintop, however, is not the end of the journey. With solid Biblical and Outreach Training, as well as easy access to ongoing resources after the conference is over, you will be fired up to be a witness for Jesus Christ!

[COG/ROC – Colorado Springs will include](#)

Opportunities to meet and hear the new Speaker of *The Lutheran Hour* -

Rev. Greg Seltz

Key note and encouraging messages from Trustguy Ministry's - Dr. Micah Parker

Practical Breakout Sessions on numerous Outreach Topics designed to reach today's culture

Teen evangelism tracks to equip and encourage them to be a light in the world – Rev. Ben Hoyer

A track of workshops in Spanish with translation of main stage programming

Age-appropriate activities and events for children and pre-teen youth, and much more!

For complete details and registration forms please refer to the *ROC Information Packet* that has been mailed to your church **AND/OR** go on-line to www.lhm.org/roc - click on the "links" to Review, Register and Reserve your place for this excellent opportunity to improve your abilities to share the Gospel Message!

SAVE THE DATE and MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

"They all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ." (1 Corinthians 10:4)



ROC
Lutheran Hour
MINISTRIES
REGIONAL OUTREACH CONFERENCE



PASTORAL RESOURCE KITS

The National Chaplain Center of the Veterans Health Administration makes resource kits available for pastors who have veterans of the armed forces in their family, congregation(s), and communities. Titles of the resources include the following:

- 'Reunion and Reintegration'
- 'Recovering from Traumatic Brain Injury'
- 'Military Sexual Trauma'
- 'Suicide Prevention'
- 'Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder'
- 'Spirituality: Inspiring Hope in Healing'
- 'Rebuilding Wounded Lives'
- 'DoD Blast Injury Program'
- '10 Tough Facts About Combat'
- 'Accepting the Ashes'
- 'Welcome Them Home...Help Them Heal', and
- 'Ministering to Families Affected by Military Deployment'.

The resource packets will be available at the fall pastoral conference (**as per request in advance** as stipulated by the NCC-VA) to pastors who have requested them. To request a packet, if you haven't already, please, send an e-mail to Charles.Keogh2@va.gov ... no later than August 10th. Thanks.

Charles Keogh, Chaplain
Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center



Roster Report

PLACEMENTS

Christal Chapman, Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota to Messiah, Longmont, Colo.

Kathleen Garner, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska to St John's, Denver, Colo.

Stephanie Warner, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska to Peace, Arvada, Colo.

CALL EXTENDED

Faith, Las Vegas, Nev. to Daniel Cattau, Lutheran High School, Parker, Colo. Christ,

Overland Park, Kansas to Brent Howard, Mt Olive, Aurora, Colo.

Trinity, Great Falls, Mont. to Rev. Joseph Murphy, Grace, Parker, Colo.

Redeemer, Denver, Colo. to Dave Renquest, Denver Lutheran High School, Denver, Colo.

CALLS ACCEPTED

William Busacker, Grace, Sandy, Utah to Immanuel, Loveland, Colo.

Linda Leitner, Christ the Redeemer, Phoenix, Ariz. to Grace Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, N.M.

Elissa Roberts, Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio, Texas to Peace With Christ, Aurora, Colo.

CHANGE OF STATUS

Joel Brase, Denver Lutheran High School, Denver, Colo. to Non-Candidate

Susan Evans, Beautiful Savior, Broomfield, Colo. to Emeritus

Lesley Anne Holle, Grace, Albuquerque, NM to Non-Candidate

Craig Parrott, Denver Lutheran High School, Denver, Colo. to Non-Candidate

Chaplain Joe Ed Pederson, The LCMS Board for Mission Services, St Louis, Missouri, Active to Non-Candidate

Jennifer Roettjer, Lutheran High School, Parker, Colo. to Candidate

Linda Tatomer, Redeemer, Salt Lake City, Utah to Non-Candidate

REINSTATEMENTS

David Hentzen, Idaho Falls, Idaho to Candidate Status

REMOVED/RESIGNED FROM ROSTER

Thomas Keithley, Colorado Springs, Colo.

TRANSFERRED DISTRICTS

Sarah Handrock, Commissioned Minister, Candidate, CNH to RMD

Chaplain Joe Ed Pederson, Ordained Minister, Non-Candidate, RMD to Missouri

Susan Wilkerson, Commissioned Minister, Candidate, CNH to RMD

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Join us on twitter

http://twitter.com/#search?q=rmd_lcms

We have open space for churches and schools for your events that are coming up. If you want us to post please let us know. Ask for Doug Ullmann 303.695.8001 or email: doug.ullmann@rm.lcms.org

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Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

Aug.29- Sept. 2 Continuing Ed Summer'11-Mt. Zion Lutheran Church- Castle Rock, CO- Dr. John Kleinig

September

- 2 Continuing Ed Summer'11-Mt. Zion Lutheran Church- Castle Rock, CO- Dr. John Kleinig
13-15 Older Adult Gathering at YMCA in Estes Park, CO

October

4-5 2011 Circuit Counselor's Conference- Breckenridge, Colo.
5-7 Fall Worker's Conference-Breckenridge, Colo.
31 RMD Board of Director's Meeting

November

1 RMD Board of Director's Meeting
4-5 "Conversations of Grace at the ROC!" Conference, Colorado Springs, Colo., Crowne Plaza

2012 Calendar

January

30-31 RMD Board of Director's Meeting

February

27 Nurturing the Faith 2012- New Mexico

March

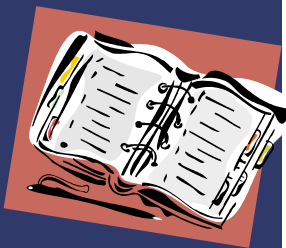
4-10 Lutheran Schools Week
5-6 RMD Board of Director's Meeting
13 Nurturing the Faith 2012 – North Denver
15 Nurturing the Faith 2012 – South Denver
16 Nurturing the Faith 2012 - Utah

June

7-9 RM District Convention –Hyatt Tech Center, Denver, Colo.

August

6-7 RMD Board of Director's Meeting





We Encourage your Prayers

Prayer for the Rocky Mountain District Evangelism Outreach Team:

Oh, Rock of our Salvation, because You have commanded us in 1 Peter 3:15-16, if we are asked about our Christian hope, to always be ready to explain it, yet do this in a gentle and respectful way, and You call for a gentle witness to the truth. We pray that You will guide and direct the planning of the Rocky Mountain District Evangelism Outreach Team and the Lutheran Hour Ministries Team, as they prepare for the Conversations of Grace at the ROC, November 4-5, 2011, in Colorado Springs, CO. We thank You for the successful conferences that have already been held, and ask for Your blessing upon our leadership, presenters, volunteers and others who will participate in various ways. We ask You to move on the hearts of the lost, and ask that You use us freely. Please open our eyes to see opportunities to witness, and open the eyes and the hearts of those with whom we will share Your hope. In Jesus' precious and Holy name, Amen

Lord of the harvest, we thank You for the men who proclaim Your Word to thirsting souls. You have called **Kenny Stroud**, **Jim Tuell**, and **Steve Winkler** to further study of Your Word as they participate in the Specific Ministry Program. Speak to these men through Your Word, refresh their souls, strengthen them in their faith, and bless them with the joy of rightly dividing Your Word for the edification of Your people. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the only "name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Amen.

Dear Jesus, You have the power to heal any sickness or disease. We humbly ask that You show Your care to these Your servants. If it be Your will, heal them from their sickness. Give the nurses and physicians who care for them the wisdom necessary to ease painful symptoms and facilitate recovery. Remind these faithful workers that You are with them always. We pray in Your healing name. Amen.

Rev. Gary Buss, Messiah, Grand Junction, CO;

Rev. David Schneider, Emeritus, Colorado Springs, CO;

Rev. Thomas Thierfelder, Messiah, Aspen,

