

## Church Simple: Who and where is God?

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:11-12).*

The story goes like this: A man from Nazareth who had believed in the Christ died and went to heaven. Upon entering there, he saw a man with dark hair and a beard. He thought he recognized Him and asked, "Say, didn't you build my house?" The person he asked was Jesus, the One who had worked as a carpenter for His stepdad (Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3).

While driving through Las Vegas this past August, several billboard messages caught my eye:

"God is a Myth"

"God is ... El Shaddai ... Allah ..."

"Virginia, there is NO God."

"Heathen Greetings!"

While America is very religious, it is full of people who don't know the true God, who don't care about Him or who even aggressively attack Him. Yet, you and I know who God is. His name is Jesus Christ along with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He was fully God from all eternity. Jesus revealed Himself to the world in the Baby born in the city of David — Bethlehem. He was and is a Jew by bloodline. By the power of the Holy Spirit, He was conceived in the virgin womb of His mother Mary and so was fully human.

This God is made known in Jesus Christ. He is not a myth. He does exist, and He is absolutely for you, not against you (Rom. 8:31-32). He was born, crucified and resurrected squarely in the middle of the crossroads of the first century world — Israel. He taught publicly for all who had ears to hear. God sent His believers far and wide to tell of His identity and saving work (Acts 8:4). The news of this Messiah was not kept in the corner!

Jesus is still with His Church and the world. He made the promise: "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20). His powerful presence is revealed in the last book of the Bible, written around 60 years after His death and resurrection. "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades" (Rev. 1:17-18).

He is present, but where? He is where His preachers

preach His Word and where that Word is scattered, repeated and proclaimed.

"The one who hears you hears Me," Jesus preaches in Luke 10:16. Jesus commissioned the 72 as His representatives (10:1, 3) just as He had been sent by His heavenly Father (10:16). Our Confessions see these 72 preachers as prototypes for the public ministry of the Word. And of them Jesus says that the people who hear them preach, hear Him! Hearing the Word through Jesus' disciples is the same as hearing the Word from Jesus Christ Himself. On Sunday mornings, we go to worship to hear the voice of Jesus and His Father, not merely to meet the pastor.

Who is God, the only true God? Jesus Christ. "For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell" (Col. 1:19). Jesus is to be found in and through His Word wherever it is proclaimed, spoken and preached. The forgiveness of sins He earned for us on the cross is bestowed on us in the administration of the Holy Sacraments — Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

The Triune God is present in and through His Word. God's faithful, gathered before the slain Lamb, constitute His Church. The Church is indestructible, contrary to the notions of many in this present world.

It is that simple, America.

*The Rev. Randall Golter,  
LCMS Rocky Mountain  
District President*



### **Send news to Jan Hoener**

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**February 2012 issue deadline: Dec. 14**

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

# OUR SCHOOLS

## Trinity dedicates athletic/play field

Trinity Lutheran Church and School, located on Highway 83 north of Franktown, Colo., dedicated its newly constructed grassy playfield on Oct. 14 and 16.

Begun as a dream suggested by parents in a survey just 18 months ago, the congregation and school families began an aggressive campaign to raise the funds to see the project to completion. A total of \$35,200 was raised through student and parent donations and a highly successful auction in April 2010. Following the receipt of a permit from Douglas County, work began in the summer and concluded in late September.



Dr. Kenneth Palmreuter, principal, cuts the ribbon following the dedication on Oct. 14.

This playfield consists of a running track surrounding the 100-foot by 225-foot field. It will be used to support the physical education and sports programs of Trinity Lutheran School and the youth and adult ministry activities of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Following the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremonies, the students of Trinity Lutheran School participated in a CardioBlast fundraiser on the new playfield.



Kristy Proctor, parent and fundraising chair, directs one of the activities at the CardioBlast following the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

## Red ribbons at Trinity Lutheran School

Wednesday, Oct. 12, was another special day for the students of Trinity Lutheran School in Franktown. The Colorado National Guard Joint Counterdrug Task Force brought an agent from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to the school in a National Guard helicopter. He spoke with the students about the dangers of illegal drugs. Each of the attendees received a red ribbon and took a pledge promising to remain drug free.



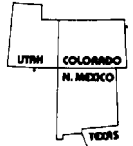
Deanna Ayers and her fourth- and fifth-grade students were fascinated by the National Guard helicopter.

Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program, reaching millions of Americans in October every year. Wearing red ribbons and participating in community anti-drug events, young people pledge to live a drug-free life and pay tribute to DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who was kidnapped, tortured and murdered in 1985 while working undercover in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Citizens in his hometown of Calexico, Calif., donned the ribbons to emphasize the need for increased prevention efforts. In 1988, Red Ribbon Week became a national campaign. For more information on Red Ribbon Week, visit [www.imdrugfree.com](http://www.imdrugfree.com).



Students at Trinity Lutheran listen attentively to the DEA officer talk about his job and Red Ribbon Week.



## **The Rocky Mountain District Professional Workers Conference**

The Rocky Mountain District Professional Workers Conference met Oct. 5-7 in Breckenridge, Colo., under the theme “Rooted and Established in Love” (Eph. 3:17-19). Keynote speakers were the Rev. Dr. Brian L. Friedrich, president of Concordia University Nebraska, Seward, Neb., and the Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, associate professor of exegetical theology and director of the graduate school at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Numerous sectional workshops offered a variety of topics, including baptism, family fun nights, digital storytelling, mnemonics, technology trends, faith development, trays and stations (math), drama and speech, Internet and cellphone safety, pre-retirement

and parent-teacher partnerships.

Those celebrating significant anniversaries in the ministry were recognized. Congratulations to the Lutheran Educator Award recipients: Kris Fjeldsted, Educator of the Year, serving at Grace Lutheran School in Sandy, Utah; Duane Nyen, Administrator of the Year, serving at Trinity Lutheran School in St. George, Utah; and Tammy Hayes, Early Childhood Director of the Year, serving at Mission Lutheran School in Las Cruces, N.M.

Participants grew professionally, renewed friendships and were refreshed through Bible study and worship, becoming more rooted and established in love.



# OFFICIAL ACTS AND EVENTS

## Rocky Mountain District calendar

### January

30-31 RMD Board of Directors meeting

### February

27 Nurturing the Faith 2012 — New Mexico

### March

4-10 Lutheran Schools Week

5-6 RMD Board of Directors meeting

13 Nurturing the Faith 2012 — North Denver

15 Nurturing the Faith 2012 — South Denver

16 Nurturing the Faith 2012 — Utah

### June

7-9 Rocky Mountain District Convention, Hyatt Tech Center, Denver, Colo.

22-24 RMD Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention, El Paso, Texas

### July

15-17 Rocky Mountain District Youth Gathering, Redeemer, Fort Collins, Colo.

### August

6-7 RMD Board of Directors meeting

## Living the Grande Life

The 2012 LCMS Rocky Mountain District Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)

Convention will be held

at the El Paso Marriott, El Paso, Texas, on June 22-24

for all LWML women of the Rocky Mountain District.

Come to El Paso for worship, Bible studies, fellowship, "Gifts from the Heart," LWML HUGS, shopping and more fellowship. You also won't want to miss humorous and inspirational speaker Elaine Bickel.

Complete details will be available in the January issue of *Tidings*. You also may find convention news along with convention registration and hotel reservation information at [www.rmdlwml.org](http://www.rmdlwml.org).

**Start making plans now to attend!**



## Sharing the Gospel with immigrants



Deacon Shakil Nizami, pictured above in front of University Hills Lutheran Church in Denver, Colo., shares the Gospel of Jesus Christ in an outreach ministry among Muslims, Hindus, Kikhs and other non-Christian immigrants. Below, Nizami leads a prayer meeting with Pakistani Christian families at University Hills. Please keep this mission and ministry in your prayers.



## Calls in the district

### CALLS EXTENDED

- Our Father, Centennial, Colo., to the Rev. Dan Thews, Faith, Appleton, Wis.
- Calvary, Rio Rancho, N.M., to the Rev. Thomas Barton, candidate status, Albuquerque, N.M.

### CALLS ACCEPTED

- The Rev. Daniel Kletke, Pembroke, Ontario, Canada, to St. John, Canon City, Colo.

### CALLS DECLINED

- The Rev. Kevin Froelich, candidate status, to Grace, Hibbing, Minn.

### REINSTATEMENTS

- Joan Paez Crow, Long Beach, Calif., to candidate status.
- Kimberly Eman, Westminster, Colo., to candidate status.

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