

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

*“Therefore I endure every-
thing 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*



THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2011

A Great and Mighty Wonder

by
President Randall Golter

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ...” (John 1:14).



The incredible reality of God taking upon Himself human flesh is captured in the title of the hymn “A Great and Mighty Wonder” (LSB 383).

Unless one realizes the absolute and utter lostness of his condition, then this mystery means little if anything. But the Father sent His Son to be the sin-bearer, and Jesus bore that sin in His own flesh. God’s decisive sending and the Son’s definitive saving by His bearing of the world’s sin makes all the difference in the world.

Because of such joyous news, the Christian church throughout the world hymns praises and songs, rejoicing with the church above, with those already beyond this threshold. Even though the world does not know this “great and mighty wonder,” the church’s tunes of the sacred texts, from pulpits, sanctuaries, households, and work desks give witness of the only way to be saved.

The staff of the Rocky Mountain District is pleased to serve the churches, schools, and workers of this region. Together with you, we receive Him by faith and work every angle to spread the Good News to one and all.

We deeply thank the Lord for His work among and through you. We ask our Lord to bless your Christmas.

Board of Directors

President

Rev. Randall Golter

First Vice President & Board 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

Secretary

Rev. Donal Widger
Redeemer Lutheran
Colorado Springs, CO

Assistant Secretary

Rev. Charles Westby
Our Saviour Lutheran
Commerce City, CO

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

Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org



A VISIT WITH BISHOP WILHELM WEBER, RECTOR OF THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, TSHWANI, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA.

On December 2, a number of Rocky Mountain District members met with District President Randall Golter and the Rector of the Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS), Tshwane, Pretoria, South Africa, and Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Southern Africa, the Rev. Dr. K. P.P.W. Weber.

One of the purposes of the meeting was to discuss the impacts on the seminary resulting from the District's financial support of \$500,000 raised by the District project "MISSION: Southern Africa" conducted from 2006 through 2009. As a result of the discussion, the decision was made to develop a comprehensive progress report to be considered for delivery during the 2012 District Convention.

A second purpose was to determine the financial needs being faced by LTS at the present time since enrollment in programs has doubled from 23 seminarians in 2006 to 40 seminarians and 6 ladies studying to be Deaconesses. This enrollment increase and the addition of the Deaconess program are in part due to the District's financial assistance.

As a result of the meeting, consideration is being given to future financial assistance in order to possibly continue to support the seminary and its programs. A decision regarding the future role of the District is being considered for discussion in convention next year.

Dr. Weber expressed his very deep appreciation for the outstanding support the Rocky Mountain District has given to the seminary and its students. District President Randall Golter congratulated Dr. Weber for the continued work of the seminary administration and staff in providing shepherds for the flocks of Lutherans in several African countries.

Submitted by Harry F. Krueckeberg
Past member of the MISSION: Southern Africa Committee



Photo subjects:

Back row: Rev. Brian Wolfmueller, Rev. Andrew Dimmit, President Randall Golter,

Dr. Harry Krueckeberg.

Front: Rev. Roger Schlechte, Dr. Wilhelm Weber, Rev. Dwight Hellmers

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)
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. Edward Schmidt
Rifle, CO

Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org



Introducing The Newest LCEF Team Member

We are excited to introduce you to the newest member of our LCEF team, Jonah Johannes. Jonah will serve the Rocky Mountain District as a



promotions director. He is looking forward to visiting congregations and sharing with them the mission and ministry of LCEF.

After graduating from Kansas State University in 1998, Jonah guided investors with their investment decisions at two mutual fund companies, American Century and Janus. Additionally, he gained anti-money laundering experience at Western Union and has a background in accounting and banking.

Jonah is a member of Our Father Lutheran Church in Centennial, CO where he has volunteered as a high school youth guide and Sunday school teacher. He has worked Ysletta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, TX and enjoys journeying there when possible.

Jonah and his wife Ely live in Centennial, Co, and are blessed with three children Emmah, Amelia, and Luke.

Want Synod news fast?

New stories are posted each week to *Reporter Online* (reporter.lcms.org), the national, online newspaper of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Want those stories delivered to you? Subscribe to *LCMS News*, the free, email news service from LCMS Communications.

To subscribe, go to lcms.org and create a “myLCMS” account. Start by clicking “Register” in the top right corner of the LCMS homepage, and then complete the “New User Registration” form.

When your account is confirmed by email (this could take up to 48 hours), log in, click the “my e-Newsletters” tab, and select “*LCMS News*” (in the “News” category).

Every time new stories are posted to *Reporter Online*, you will receive an email with links to those new stories.



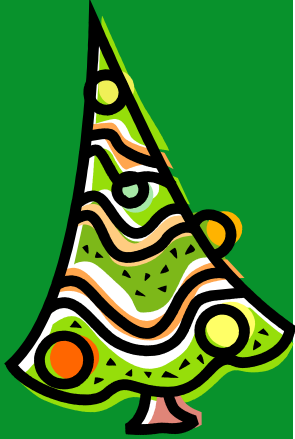
Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org



ROCKY MOUNTAIN THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE (RMTI)

An educational arm of the LCMS Rocky Mountain District
Pastor David Schneider – Pikes Peak Circuit Coordinator
5355 Silo Ridge
Colorado Springs, CO 80917
(719) 596 6703 - djschnitz@juno.com



Good news! A worship service of praise and thanksgiving will be held on January 15, 2012, for and with five more men who have completed the 12-course curriculum of the Rocky Mountain Theological Institute (RMTI). The entire RMD is invited to participate.

The service will celebrate and thank God for the faithful work of:

Mr. Clifford Dawson – Concordia, Lakewood, CO
Mr. Curtis Engle – Holy Cross, Highlands Ranch, CO
Mr. Larry Monke – Mt. Hope, Boulder, CO
Mr. John Widmer – Our Savior, Pagosa Springs, CO
Mr. Steve Zandstra – Grace, Cheyenne Wells, CO

The service will be held at Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Monument, CO, beginning at 3:00 p.m. The preacher will be the Rev. David Dyer, pastor of the host congregation and teacher of several RMTI courses in the area of practical theology.

After the service, light refreshments will be served and an open forum will be held on the topic “The Future of the RMTI,” with Rev. David Schneider (RMTI Coordinator) providing background and context.

Information about the RMTI and displays of the work of RMTI students will be on display. The interested and the curious are invited to come and see.

To reach Family of Christ, proceed on I-25 to exit 158 and turn eastward (towards Kansas). Proceed about ½ mile, where you will see the church building on the frontage road on the right side. Go on past and then come back on the service road.

For more information, please contact Rev. Schneider, RMTI Coordinator at djschnitz@juno.com



Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org



LHF offers free resources for Chinese ministry

In every state, in every city, there are people for whom Chinese is their first language. In fact, more than two million Chinese currently live in the United States, making them the third largest immigrant group in the country.

Most Chinese come from a Buddhist background; many practice some form of ancestor worship. American pastors and congregations have recognized the need to reach out to them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but the language barrier has often hindered their ability to do so. Now, the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) has produced three new catechisms that can help explain the Lutheran faith to our Chinese neighbors: a pocket-sized edition that contains only the six chief parts of the catechism; the complete *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*; and a revised version of the Chinese-English side-by-side catechism first printed five years ago.

The Chinese-English side-by-side edition has proven to be especially useful in the United States, helping pastors and laypeople who do not speak Chinese to better explain the Christian faith. The book also helps Chinese who are learning English to practice the language while learning the principles of our faith.

In China, where the Christian faith is gaining ground, the catechisms will spell out, in a simple way, the mercy and grace that is offered through Jesus Christ.

"There is so much potential for this catechism to help the Chinese people and pastors understand the Bible and God's plan of salvation for all people, through His Son Jesus Christ," said Rev. Ted NaThalang, LHF's coordinator for Southeast Asia projects.

Rev. James Fandrey, LHF's executive director, also sees the potential. "Very exciting opportunities are arising in the area of Chinese missions," he said. "This will be an excellent resource both in the United States and abroad. Pastors, international students, caring neighbors, co-workers, and travelers are all encouraged to share this important book."

To order Chinese catechisms, call the LHF office at 800-554-0723, or send an e-mail to info@LHFmissions.org. As always, there is no charge for the books. For those who are able, a gift to LHF of \$5-10 helps defray the costs of shipping and allows LHF to continue its work around the world.

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation is a recognized service organization of The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod. For nearly 20 years, LHF has been translating, publishing, distributing and introducing Lutheran books for churches around the world. LHF is at work in more than 70 countries and 80 languages.

For more information, contact:

Jennifer Bagnall
Lutheran Heritage Foundation
jbagnall@LHFmissions.org
800-554-0723, ext. 111



Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org



COME and JOIN US – Lutheran Chorale

Welcome, Joyous Season! Come celebrate the Christmas season at the Lakewood Cultural Center with the Lutheran Chorale, the Lakewood Symphony, and Green Mountain High School's "Shadows of the Mountain" chorus, performing selections from Handel's *Messiah*, Vaughan-Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas*, Bach's *Suscepit Israel*, Mendelsohn's *There Shall a Star from Jacob*, and other great music of Christmas. One performance only, Thursday, December 8, at 7:30 pm. For tickets, call the Lakewood Cultural Center (303-987-7845), log on to www.lakewood.org, or stop by the box office at 470 South Allison Parkway.



STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP

On Saturday, February 11, St. John's, Yuma, CO will be hosting a workshop on Faith Aflame!, a synodical stewardship program. The workshop will be from 9:00 a.m. to noon with refreshments provided. The presenter is Rev. Wayne Knolhoff from the synodical offices in St. Louis. This workshop is suggested for members of stewardship boards and other congregational leaders. Registration before January 23 is necessary so the proper amount of materials will be available. Call 970-848-2210 to register.

Terry Buethe
Pastor, St. John's - Yuma, CO
970-630-8560

Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org



Stephanie Gray to Head LSS Foster in Texas and Adoption Programs

AUSTIN, TX – Stephanie Gray, M. S., LPC, LCCA, LCPAA, has been selected as vice president of Foster Care and Adoption for [Lutheran Social Services of the South \(LSS\)](#), a 130-year-old nonprofit organization serving more than 46,000 children, elderly, and poor in Texas and Louisiana annually.



Before joining LSS, Gray was the state director of the Bair Foundation of Texas, a child placing agency that provides therapeutic foster care and adoption services. Prior to her employment with Bair, and after attaining her Master of Science degree in Counseling Psychology, Gray worked as treatment director at the Concho Valley Home for Girls, a residential treatment center in San Angelo.

Gray has been dedicated to the quality, development, and future of foster care in Texas for many years, serving on the Board of Directors for the [Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services](#), for three years as president of the [Texas Association of Child Placing Agencies](#), and on the state [Foster Care Redesign Committee](#).

“I’m very excited to join the LSS team,” Gray said. “It is a tremendous honor to be leading the foster care and adoption services of this great agency into the future of Texas foster care.”

In addition to the [Foster In Texas](#) and [LSS Adoption](#) programs, other LSS services include three children’s residential facilities in Texas, plus adult day care, senior health care and retirement centers, disaster response, and emergency assistance

About Foster In Texas

Foster In Texas, a program of Lutheran Social Services of the South, Inc., has a long-standing, award-winning history of success serving vulnerable children and families, with offices in 16 communities throughout Texas. The mission of Foster In Texas (FIT) is to improve the lives of children who have been removed from their families due to neglect and/or sexual, physical, or psychological abuse, by placing them in stable loving homes and providing therapeutic care as needed. FIT families are actively recruited and trained to foster basic needs children as well as large sibling groups, troubled teens, and children with special medical needs.

LSS Foster In Texas office locations include: Amarillo, Austin, Bryan/College Station, Conroe/The Woodlands, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Harlingen, Laredo, Lubbock, McAllen, Mesquite/Garland, Robstown, San Antonio, Tyler, and Victoria, Texas.

Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org



Peaks and Valleys Articles Wanted:

Have news that you would like to share?

Please send it to:

Jan Hoener

5446 Knoll Place

Highlands Ranch, CO 80130

Email: janhoener@comcast.net

February issue articles are Due: December 15, 2011

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

Roster Reports

PLACEMENTS

Phillip Quarles, Concordia Theological Sem.-DELTO, Ft. Wayne, Ind. to Sangre de Cristo, Taos and Christ Our Savior, Angel Fire, N.M.

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev. Robert Sharp, Candidate Status, Denver, Colo. to Trinity, Cedar City, Utah

CALL EXTENDED

Calvary, Rio Rancho, NM to Rev. Thomas Barton, Candidate Status, Albuquerque, NM
Our Father, Centennial, CO to Rev. John Kunze, Messiah, Lincoln, NE
St. Paul, Farmington Hills, MI to Rev. Joseph Murphy, Grace, Parker, CO

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Dan Thews, Faith, Appleton, WI to Our Father, Centennial, CO
Rev. Joseph Murphy, Grace, Parker, Colo. to St. Paul, Farmington Hills, Mich.

CHANGE OF STATUS

Rev. David Dahl, Grace, Moab, UT to Emeritus
Rev. George Hesse, Mt. Hope, Boulder, CO to Emeritus
Rev. Wayne Riddering, Hope, Westcliffe, CO to Emeritus
Janice Maxson, Immanuel, Colorado Springs, CO to Non- Candidate
Sarah M. Doane, Zion, Farmington, NM to Candidate

TRANSFERRED DISTRICTS

Mary Oldenburg, Commissioned Minister, Non-Candidate, CNH to RMD



Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

www.igniingchurchandcultureforchrist.org



Follow 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

Join us on Facebook

Join the Rocky Mountain District on Facebook:

Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

2012 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* - N. Denver

15 Nurturing the Faith *2012* - S. Denver

16 Nurturing the Faith *2012* - Utah

June

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

July

15-17 RM District Youth Gathering - Redeemer- Ft Collins, CO

August

6-7 RMD Board of Directors' Meeting

2013 Calendar

January

TBD RMD Board of Directors' Meeting

February

TBD Nurturing the Faith *2013*- New Mexico

March

3-9 Lutheran Schools Week

5-6 RMD Board of Directors' Meeting

12 Nurturing the Faith *2013*- N. Denver

14 Nurturing the Faith *2013*- S. Denver

15 Nurturing the Faith *2013*- Utah

July

20-25 2013 LCMS Convention – St. Louis, MO



Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

www.igniingchurchandcultureforchrist.org



Join us for these prayers.....

Dear Jesus, You have compassion on us in all of our difficulties. Grant **Rev. Jim Robinson**, emeritus and his wife **Vickie** Your peace, strength, and patience as his health problems continue to be addressed. Enable them to trust that Your hand of blessing is also guiding his doctors and those providing his health care. Amen.



Gracious Father, in Your hands lies the power to give strength and to bring about healing. Keep **Rev. Brad Stoltenow**, senior pastor, Shepherd of the Hills, Centennial, CO in mind of Your presence as his health issues continue to be addressed. Bless the efforts of his health-care providers as they utilize the skills You have bestowed on them so that Pastor Stoltenow's heart is at peace. Amen.

The mighty Lord is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Dear heavenly Father, be with **Lisa Schilling**, wife of **Rev. Kurt Schilling**, Redeemer, Denver, CO as she and her family mourn the passing of her father Bob Taylor from time to eternity. Comfort Lisa and those who loved Bob with the beautiful truth that their loved one is safe in Jesus' arms, free from the cares, pains, and problems of this world. Amen.



Heavenly Father, thank You for helping **Jonah Johannes**, promotions director for the LCEF for the Rocky Mountain District, to trust in the blessings and strength You have given him as he assumes his new responsibilities. May You continue to use the LCEF to draw people to hear and believe the message of salvation in You alone. Amen.



Almighty God, bless Your Word where it is proclaimed. Thank you for blessing the efforts of **Rev. Mark Kluzek**, Mount Calvary, Grants, NM who has been doing evangelism work for over 2 years in southeast Albuquerque, NM. The program currently has 5 small groups with the goal of adding one more group then beginning a church in that area. Fill the participants with Your love, Word, and Spirit so their words and actions draw others into this program, either as participants, volunteers, or financial supporters. We pray that many more in the southeast area of Albuquerque be drawn to You through the efforts of Rev. Kluzek's program. Thank you for hearing our prayer in the saving name of our Savior Jesus. Amen.



A Prayer to Jesus

Dearest Jesus, as we continue in the Season of Advent, turn our thoughts to You so that we reflect on Your blessings:

Your Incarnation when You appeared in human flesh to be our Savior;

Your life here on earth as our Brother. You deigned to come here to live in lowliness even though You created heaven and earth;

Your death wherein You came here as one of us to lay down Your life as a ransom for sinners;

Your resurrection from the dead for it proves that You are God's Son and seals Your sacrifice as the full payment for our sins;

Your ascension to the right hand of our heavenly Father because You promised us in John 14:6: "No one comes to the Father except through Me."

We pray this for Your sake. You redeemed us that we might be justified by grace. Amen.

Lord Jesus, in the darkness of sin and death, Your people wait. They wait for the heavenly light to shine. They wait for the Emmanuel to come and redeem. Lord, You are the Light of the world. You are God, You chose to dwell among us. Grant us true repentance as we await Your return. Gouge out the rocks of pride in our hearts. Fill in the valleys of our sin. Build a highway of salvation into our hearts, and come quickly! Amen.

Almighty God, You are our Mighty Fortress, our Refuge and the God in whom we place our trust. Bless those churches that face distress, strife, conflict, or uncertainty in these difficult times.

O Lord God, keeper of our souls, may we be ever mindful of the spiritual battle for souls that Satan constantly wages toward and within our congregations. Help us to remember that You are the strength of Your people so that we, individually and as congregations, are inclined to turn to Your Word to find health and healing for our souls.

Preserve Your church by the working of Your Holy Spirit until You return to take us home. Amen.

