

Rocky Mountain District—
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THE MESSENGER

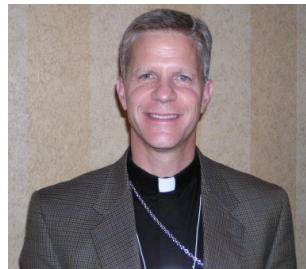
FEBRUARY 2011

by
President Randall Golter

The Righteous Take Delight in the Word



“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



“But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night” (Psalm 1:2).

The Spirit through David’s pen writes of how it is for a believer in Jesus Christ: he takes pleasure in what God has written in His Word.

The Spirit then indicates how a person should read the Bible. He reads it for comfort, for the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. In other words, the reader looks for Jesus everywhere in the Bible, for Jesus is the One upon whom the Father laid all sin.

Only the believer can find such delight in God’s Word. For through the very same Word, Jesus Himself is delivered and presently acts to apply His blood to the one who believes. He is not off at a distance but is as close as a person’s nose, yes, even closer. For Jesus does heart surgery through this Word, “piercing to the division of soul and of spirit ... discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

Luther writes that, as the Gospel is preached, Christ comes to us (AE 35:121). The Word that is descriptive of what Jesus did to people in times past is also the means through which Jesus presently does the same good, saving, and healing deeds. As He worked in the past, so now He works in the present: invisibly curing souls, washing them clean.

The righteous ones of God, the believers, do take delight in His Word. As they hear it, meditate on it, and believe it, God Himself is speaking and doing Gospel things.

God extends this gracious reign of grace through His Word, through believers, and through them to those who are in desperate need of clean consciences.



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Rev. Greg Seltz Named the New Speaker of ‘The Lutheran Hour’

St. Louis, MO, Jan. 21, 2011 - Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is pleased to announce that the



Rev. Gregory P. Seltz of Orange, California, has accepted the position of Speaker of **The Lutheran Hour**[®] radio program. Seltz succeeds to the microphone following the Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus, who retired from full-time duties at the end of the 2010 calendar year after serving in the Speakership since 2002. Seltz will officially begin his ministry with LHM on a part-time basis Feb. 1 and will become full time on or before June 1.

"We are pleased that the Lord has led us to Rev. Seltz with his diverse ministry experience as the next person to carry on our rich history of proclaiming the Gospel," says Lutheran Hour Ministries Executive Director Bruce Wurdeman. "While we will soon have a new Speaker behind the microphone, our focus for the program will remain the same: reaching the lost with the message of hope found in Christ."

"I'm honored to now be included in the long line of Speakers whose goal was to faithfully bring Christ to the nations and the nations to the church," says Seltz. "I'm also very excited about the new opportunities for presenting that same Good News to our increasingly multi-cultural and diverse world."

Seltz is currently the Director of the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center as well as professor of Theology at Concordia University in Irvine, California. He came to Concordia in 2000 to oversee the master's program in Theology and Culture. His present work trains students to launch ministries in a variety of cultural settings, including Vietnamese, Korean, Spanish, Indonesian, Indian, and African-American to name just a few.

Prior to his work at Concordia, Seltz was the Executive Director of Life's Journey Ministries, an urban, not-for-profit evangelism ministry in Manhattan, New York. He was also the founding pastor of Church For All Nations (LCMS) in Manhattan, the first new Lutheran mission start in New York City in more than 40 years, started a mission church in Dallas, served as pastor of a large congregation in Tampa, and started grade schools and pre-schools in a variety of cultural settings. He has led several seminars on urban ministry, entrepreneurial leadership development, team ministry within the city, and evangelism. Seltz has served on the steering committee of the National Urban Evangelism Institute for the LCMS, the Advisory Board for North American Missions—LCMS, and the board of the Center for U.S. Missions.

Klaus will continue to serve Lutheran Hour Ministries as Speaker Emeritus. His projects in this role will include writing and editing LHM's daily devotions, writing and recording a sermon a month for **The Lutheran Hour**, producing Bible studies for LHM's **Men's NetWork**, and much more. "Pastor Klaus has been and continues to be a blessing to our ministry," says Wurdeman. "We are pleased it is the Lord's will to allow us to continue using his talents beyond his official retirement date."

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*. LHM produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast, as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials, to reach the unchurched in more than 30 countries. LHM's flagship program, **The Lutheran Hour**, is the world's longest-running Christian outreach radio program. It airs weekly on more than 1,350 stations. For more information about Lutheran Hour Ministries, visit www.lhm.org.

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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Calvary Lutheran Church in Wray, CO, Invites You ...



On February 19th, 2011, Calvary Lutheran Church will be hosting a free conference for laity and clergy. We are excited to present this opportunity to hear the Rev. Dr. Jeff Gibbs of Concordia Seminary St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Gibbs will be joining us on Saturday to present on the theme, *"People of Hope: Living with Eager Expectation of Jesus' Return."*

The day will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. and opening devotions at 9:15 a.m. The first lecture will start at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided and a free will offering will be gathered to offset the cost for the meal. The final lecture will conclude around 4:30 p.m. The cost of the conference is free. It is our honor and privilege to have you join us as our guest for this day of reflection and learning. Even though there is no registration fee, we would ask that by February 16th you would call, e-mail, or write to let us know how many are coming from your church so that we may have an accurate count for the meal.

More information will be coming out regarding this event as the time draws near. Please, if you have any questions do not hesitate to call and we will do the best to answer any and all questions. If you desire to arrive on Friday evening, limited lodging is available at our local bed & breakfast. Room rates are as follows:

1 Queen bed per room/Private bath \$79 per night (5 Available)

2 Queen beds per room/Private bath \$99 per night (2 Available)

Rooms have T.V. and free wi-fi. Room rates include the breakfast.

Please call Joyce Kettelson@970-630-5459 for reservations and other questions pertaining to lodging.

Pastor Timothy P. Davis
Calvary Lutheran Church
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Wray, CO 80758
Phone: 970-332-4630
e-mail: calvarywray@yahoo.com

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Lutheran Family Services Valentines Day Event

Want a unique place to celebrate Valentines Day?
Looking for a way to explore your artistic side but don't know where to start?
Join LFS for one of the trendiest night's out in Denver! Lutheran Family Services is hosting a fundraiser at Canvas and Cocktails, one of the newest ways to learn the basics of acrylic painting while enjoying the company of friends. The class which is for both the artistic and the not so artistic will be held on Monday, February 14 at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 per person with \$10 being given to LFS. To register visit, www.canvasandcocktails.com or call 303.333.3288. Contact Erica at LFS for more information – 303.217.5859



Rocky Mountain District LWML Scholarships

The application deadline for scholarships from the Rocky Mountain District LWML is April 1. These scholarships are available to ten RMD students in the Concordia University system or attending one of the LC-MS Seminaries. Application forms and information are available on the website www.rmdlwml.org. If you have questions, you may contact Beth Nagy, chairman of the Scholarship Endowment Fund Committee at scholarships@rmdlwml.org or 303-284-7510.

Lenten DVD

The Lenten season will begin with Ash Wednesday on March 9th. How to approach this season afresh can be a concern for pastors as well as lay folks. A resource that may be worth considering is (retired military chaplain, Loveland, CO) Dr. Richard Stenbakken's DVD presentation entitled "Faces Around the Cross." The 2-disc set (\$25) is Dr. Stenbakken's portrayal of biblical people (in half-hour segments) who were changed by their interaction with Christ. "The purpose of the DVD set is twofold," writes Dr. Stenbakken: "First and foremost, it is a way to bring biblical people and events to life—to put flesh and blood on the printed words of biblical reality. Second, by experiencing the people, we come face to face with our own personal struggles and journey or unbelief in Jesus and who He was and is." A reproducible study guide is included. For more information, please, see ... www.dickstenbakken.com . He can also be contacted at 970-667-0866.



Rev. Charles Keogh
Chaplain



Blessed are they ...

Living in a retirement community, one sees mostly older folks, the exception being an occasional visiting young family or favored grandchildren. Retired folks like to laugh, even at themselves, and have their own brand of humor. Recently I saw a video of an invocation given by an older person (see website below) whose message and deadpan delivery were hilarious. Near the end of her invocation, she quoted a poem by Esther Mary Walker, which goes as follows:

"BEATITUDES FOR FRIENDS OF THE AGED"

Blessed are they who understand my faltering steps and shaky hand.

Blessed are they who know my ears today must strain to hear the things they say.

Blessed are they who seem to know that my eyes are dim and my thoughts are slow.

Blessed are they who looked away when coffee was spilled at dinner today.

Blessed are they with a cheery smile who take the time to chat for awhile.

Blessed are they who never say, "You've told that story twice today".

Blessed are they who know the way to bring back memories of yesterday.

Blessed are they who make it known I'm loved, respected and not alone.

Blessed are they who ease the days of my journey home in loving ways.

I like that poem, especially the line about hearing a story told more than once. With such healthy and active older people these days, it is easy to forget they really do become less able and more frail as they age.

God in His Word honors the aged person and urges us to do the same in the Fourth Commandment. Besides commanding us to respect our elders, God gives many

examples of blessing the world through older people: Hannah, Elizabeth, and Sarah gave the world very important children in their advanced age. Abraham, Jacob, and Simeon are examples of old men honored by God in later life.

Leviticus 19:32 tells us, "**Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God.**" Older people cannot demand respect of others, but, like everyone, should seek to earn it. Most older folks truly appreciate it when people are sensitive to their needs. Patience and attention are wonderful gifts to give an aged person.

The older we grow, the more we can see God's abundant blessings!

Rev. Bob Tasler, Emeritus Lutheran Pastor

Read past WEEKLY MESSAGES at <http://pbtsplace.blogspot.com>

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FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL
OCTOBER 12-23, 2011

Presented and Hosted by
District President, Rev. Randall L. & Elizabeth Golter

A Pilgrimage to TURKEY & GREECE; October 12-23, 2011

Rocky Mountain District/LCMS is proud to offer you, your family and friends the opportunity to experience the benefits and joys of traveling the world together in Christian fellowship.

12-Day Deluxe Escort Tour

Highlighting Istanbul, Churches of the Revelation and a 3-Night Greek Island Cruise

Full day tour of Istanbul including the Roman Hippodrome Square, Blue Mosque with its beautiful blue tiles, St. Sophia Church, Topkapi Palace, the Imperial Residential Palace of the Ottoman sultans, and leisure time for shopping at the Grand Bazaar.

We'll visit the **Churches of the Revelation**, and walk "in the footsteps" of Paul in **Alexandria Troas**, travel via the old Roman Road to **Assos**, visit the Acropolis in **Pergamon**, travel to ancient **Smyrna**, visit **Miletus** where Paul visited on his 3rd missionary journey, and **Ephesus** where Paul spent two years preaching the word of God, here we visit the House of Virgin Mary

3-Night Greek Island Cruise with Ocean-view Cabin,

to the **island of Patmos** where the Apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation, and on to the beautiful **island of Rhodes** to visit the Acropolis of Lindos, marvel at the breathtaking views covering the great expanse of the Aegean Sea and **St. Paul's Bay**, where the apostle cast anchor during his historic voyage to Ephesus, we visit the **island of Crete** and the beautiful **island of Santorini**. Next stop, **Athens**, today we visit the Acropolis, the Parthenon and Mars Hill, the place where Paul found the Temple to Athena (the goddess the city was named after). Above the temple entrance were the words "To The Unknown God" and using that as his theme, Paul preached about Jesus. We visit the archaeological site of **Ancient Corinth** where Paul lived and taught in AD 51 and 52.

Small Group, Space is Limited, \$350 Deposit Due By March 15, 2011. Tour Price \$2665 per person based on double occupancy. Air available from US cities nationwide- call for prices.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT LutherTours
1-866-777-1517 or info@luthertours.com



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Roster Reports

PLACEMENTS

Rebecca Kaaz, Concordia University Seward, Neb. to Mt Olive, Aurora, Colo. as Director of Music Ministries

CALL EXTENDED

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

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev. Craig Henningfield, RMD, Missionary to Evangelical Lutheran Church Without Walls, Commerce City, Colo.

Rev. Thomas Schoech, Candidate, Aurora, Colo. to Shepherd of the Hills, Ruidoso, N.M.

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Richard von Steinman, Immanuel, Carlsbad, N.M. to Mt Calvary, Estes Park, Colo.

Spencer Peregoy, St John's, Ellisville, Mo. to Immanuel Lutheran School, Loveland, Colo.

CHANGE OF STATUS

Rev. Harold Baldwin, Active to Emeritus

CALLED TO GLORY

Rev. Arnold Wessler, Emeritus, Centennial, Colo.

Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

February

28 Nurturing the Faith, Immanuel, Albuquerque, NM

March

6-12 Lutheran Schools Week

11 LEAD Meeting, Denver, CO

15 Nurturing the Faith, Zion, Brighton, CO

17 Nurturing the Faith, St John's, Denver, CO

18 Nurturing the Faith, Utah

May

6 LEAD Meeting, Denver, CO

16-17 Board of Director's Meeting - RMD

August

1-2 RMD Board of Directors Meeting

October

5-7 Professional Worker's Conference

November

4-5 "Conversations of Grace at the ROC!" Conference, Colorado Springs, CO, Crowne Plaza

7-8 RMD Board of Directors Meeting





We Encourage your Prayers



The mighty Lord is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. O heavenly Father, be with those who mourn the death of **Jean Cordova** on January 5. May her friends and former colleagues be comforted in knowing that Jean is home with her Savior Jesus. Amen.

(Jean was preceded in death by her husband Gil Cordova in 2006. Jean and Gil created Roadrunners for Christ in 1975. It was incorporated in 1996. The funeral service was held at King of Kings, Arvada, CO).



O Comforter of priceless worth, grant a measure of Your presence to those who loved **Rev. Arnold A. Wessler**, emeritus, who fell asleep in Jesus on January 7. May the family and friends of Rev. Wessler trust that Jesus “has put death’s dark shadows to flight” so that they have solace for their grief and loss. Amen.

(Rev. Wessler served the church in many ways: parish pastor, employment at Concordia Publishing House, Assistant to Synodical President Rev. Dr. Oliver Harms from 1961-1969, Executive Secretary of Missions of the Colorado District, and Director of Development for Lutheran Social Services of Colorado. His funeral service was held at Ascension, Littleton, CO, on January 17).





Name Your LCEF Rep and Support Ministry

Many of our churches have volunteers who work for LCEF as congregation representatives. To help thank them for a job well done, LCEF is giving them an opportunity to “earn” \$1,000 for their church. From January 15th to February 28th a short survey will appear on our LCEF volunteer website, www.rmdlcef.org, asking you to name your church’s LCEF rep. The congregation in each of three categories (listed below) with the highest percentage of communicant members who fill out the survey will receive \$1,000.

Categories are:

- Churches with fewer than 150 members.
- Churches with 151 to 500 members.
- Churches with more than 500 members.

If your congregation does not have an LCEF rep it is not too late to participate. By naming a rep you will automatically receive \$100 when that person is trained and you will be eligible for the \$1,000 gift.

If you have any questions about naming an LCEF rep, please contact Laura Raben at (303)695-8001 or laura.raben@rm.lcms.org.

