

Rocky Mountain District—
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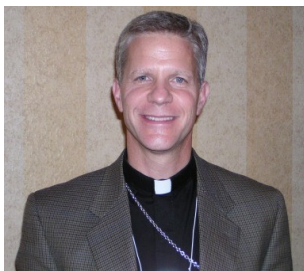
THE MESSENGER JANUARY 2011

by
President Randall Golter

Jesus Is the True God for the World

“The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth” (Proverbs 8:22-23).

The Church stands on this truth as confessed in the Nicene Creed:



“... one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father.”

Arius, from Alexandria, Egypt, around the year 320 AD, taught that Jesus and the Father were not of the same substance and that Jesus was a created being. The Son of God—he believed—existed before the creation of the world, but He came into existence at some point in time.

The above verse—Prov. 8:22—was the center of what is called the Arian Controversy. Some still believe that instead of “possessed” the word should be translated as “created” (as the RSV and NRSV do). If Jesus was created, then He would no longer be the very God eternal, with no beginning.

The weight of Scripture acclaims Jesus as true God, begotten of the Father:

“This is my Son” (Luke 9:35).

“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature” (Heb. 1:3).

“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell” (Col. 1:19).

“Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58).

This Jesus, the true God and Son of the Father, is the Father’s “delight” (Prov. 8:30); He Himself also delights “in the children of man” (Prov. 8:31). This is such Good News for each of us and for all of humanity.

It is no small wonder then that the Father sent His Son to rescue all of humanity. The Father’s desire drove Jesus (the Father’s “delight”) to the cross, and it still drives Him to reach those who remain in the darkness of unbelief.

The triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit use the Church as Jesus’ voice to broadcast far and wide the Good News of saving grace. “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed,” cries out Wisdom, Christ Himself (Prov. 9:5). He also says in Rev. 22:17, “And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.”

The Epiphany season offers the Church a time for wonderment: The Father’s only-begotten Son, who is the one true God, has accomplished salvation for everyone, everywhere, and the cost of salvation is free.



“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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Ascension Lutheran Church To Present Seminar for Parents

Ascension Lutheran Church in Littleton, Colorado, will present a seminar for parents on Saturday, January 29. The seminar will be held at Ascension from 10:00 until 12:00 noon that day. This free seminar is called "Fighting the Entitlement Dragon." Entitlements define our culture today. There are few more exasperating or daunting challenges that parents face as they work to raise their children in the most affluent society in the history of the world. The seminar will address how and why an entitlement mentality is spreading, how parents can target the problem with their children, and surprising new skills parents can use to undermine entitlement in their home.

The seminar will be presented by Rick Lawrence. Rick is a frequent conference and workshop speaker. He has been editor of GROUP Magazine for 23 years. GROUP is the world's most widely read resource for Christian youth leaders. Rick leads Group Publishing's efforts to challenge, encourage, and equip youth workers.

Ascension Lutheran Church, 1701 West Caley Avenue, is located on the corner of Windermere and Caley in Littleton. For additional information, please contact the church office at (303) 794-4636. All are welcome to attend the seminar!

Kathy Johnson
Ascension Lutheran Church
(303) 794-4636

It's coming ...

RMD LCMS Evangelism Team is partnering with Lutheran Hour Ministries to host a Conversations of Grace Conference on November 4-5 2011.

[The theme is "Conversations of Grace at the ROC!"](#)

It will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO. Wonderful speakers and terrific workshops are being planned.

This will be a much bigger event than our past conferences, so you won't want to miss it.

Check out the website for more information.

<http://www.lhm.org/roc/co.asp>



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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Outreach Event

St. John's Lutheran Church and School, Denver, CO, hosted our annual women's outreach event—Advent by Candlelight. This year we had a record number of guests. Two-thirds of those guests were not part of the St. John's community. Ladies have taken the lead by inviting their co-workers, neighbors, friends, and family who may not feel connected to our Savior in a relational way. The evening was spent enjoying the beautifully decorated tables, tasting delicious desserts, singing familiar carols, telling stories, sharing smiles and tears, and reflecting on the TRUE meaning of Christmas in a way that touched the hearts of many that may not have known or have forgotten the reason for the Season.

Carolyn A. Otte
St. John's Lutheran Church and School
Executive Director of Ministries

Installation, Woodland Park, Colorado

In the front row l/r: President Golter and Revs. David Schneider, Mark Reiner, Dave Hall, Pete Petrowsky.

Back row l/r: Clare Skov, Ron Baker, Doug Brauner, Max Wilk

Rev. Mark Reiner, was installed September 18 at Faith Lutheran, Woodland Park.



Pastor Reiner writes: Prior to colloquy, I served two congregations in Montana for ten years.

I also served as director of education ministries at Holy Cross, Colorado Springs, for five years. My wife, Jody, is a graphic designer at Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, and my daughter,

Tara Becker, teaches preschool in Columbus, Mississippi. My son Paul died in 2007.

Thank you for your labors and God bless.

Pastor Mark Reiner



Ysleta Lutheran Mission Outreach

[All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth ...](#) and cleaned, thanks to Vista Hills Family Dental. It will be easy to thank them for their donation of 1,500 kits containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss, just in time for Ysleta Lutheran Mission's Christmas distribution, which took place Saturday, December 18. The Vista Hills office, which has many YLM staff members as patients, has long supported YLM's work in the community. We would like to wish the entire staff a very merry Christmas, especially the teenage helpers who assembled all of the kits!



Vista Hills is one in a long line of Christmas angels who have blessed us immensely as we prepare to celebrate the season by giving out holiday necessities to hundreds of needy people. Here are a few others:



Students at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Des Peres, MO, collected chapel offerings of stuffed animals, school supplies, and hygiene items, which arrived in El Paso together with some other donations from St. Paul's church members on 3 PALETTES in the thick of our holiday preparations. Here are two of them; there is another not pictured that contains 2000 copies of the book *Red Boots for Christmas* in Spanish!



A shopping cart full of bagged Christmas gifts featuring donated dresses made from pillowcases! Each bag also includes a pair of flip-flops, a bracelet, a toy, and a cross made out of a recycled Christmas card with John 3:16 on the back!



CHURCH WELCOMES UNBELIEVERS FOR ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

By Pastor Chris Matthis, Immanuel, Englewood, CO

Immanuel Lutheran Church had much to celebrate this past Advent season. On Sunday evening, December 12th, 2010, they welcomed 42 guests to their first annual Advent by Candlelight celebration. According to estimates, nearly half of all the guests had no connection to a Christian community.

Advent by Candlelight is an elegant evening for the women of the congregation to invite their friends, family, and coworkers to celebrate the Christmas season in an inviting, non-threatening setting. Table hostesses decorated their unique tables with beautiful centerpieces and their own fine china. They invited other ladies, mostly unchurched, for an evening of fancy desserts, Christmas carols, and classical chamber music by professional musicians from the congregation. Other members of the congregation provided the desserts and decorations, and the men waited on the ladies. Towards the end of the evening, Pastor Chris Matthis shared a short Gospel presentation based on the Christmas story, assuring the women that God is with us through the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The evening ended by singing “Silent Night” with individually lit candles.

Advent by Candlelight far exceeded everyone’s expectations thanks to a wonderful team of volunteers led by Julie Miller, the event chairperson and a new member at Immanuel. In the words of Pastor Matthis, the event was “a win for the Gospel,” because people without a church connection heard the Good News of Jesus’ love and forgiveness—a message they might not otherwise hear. It truly was the Church at its best: believers reaching out to unbelievers with Christ’s love in an inviting and respectful way.

The original concept for Advent by Candlelight was modeled on a similar outreach event held each December at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Denver, Colorado, and led by Mrs. Carolyn Otte. The staff of Immanuel and St. John’s enjoy a friendship and partnership in the Gospel that allows for a free exchange of ideas, encouragement, and support.

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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

CALL EXTENDED

Immanuel Lutheran School, Loveland, Colo. to Spencer Peregoy, St John's, Ellisville, MO.
Mt Calvary, Estes Park, Colo. to Rev. Richard von Steinman, Immanuel, Carlsbad, N.M.

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev. Terrence Buethe, St John, Wakefield, Neb. to St John's, Yuma, Colo.
Rev. Roger Schlechte, Lakewood, Colo. to Mt. Calvary, Denver, Colo. as Interim Pastor

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Andrew Byars, Prince of Peace, Cedar Crest, N.M. to -----Grace, Eugene, Ore.

REMOVED/RESIGNED FROM ROSTER

Amy Landgraf, Non-Candidate Status, Morrison, Colo.

TRANSFERRED TO DISTRICT

Gary W. Caulkins, Commissioned Minister, Emeritus, Michigan District to RMD
Rev. Thomas Barton, Candidate Status, Eastern District to RMD
Parley J. Johnson III, Candidate Status, Nebraska District to RMD
Rev. Charles Houska, Emeritus, RMD to Texas District

CALLED TO GLORY

Rev. James Groerich, Emeritus, Denver, Colo.
Bernie Braunschweig, Golden, CO, former Administrative in the Rocky Mountain District office and LCEF vice president

Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

January

14 LEAD Meeting, Denver, CO
24-25 RMD Board of Directors Meeting

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

August

1-2 RMD Board of Directors Meeting

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

Prayer for the New Year:

Father in heaven, as the new year unfolds before us, guide our thoughts, words, and actions by Your Holy Word. Strengthen us to live in the comfort and assurance of your gracious forgiveness, extended to us by the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. Open our hearts to live in selfless service to our neighbor. Be our life and salvation in this world and the next. Thank You for hearing our prayer in Jesus' behalf. Amen.

Dear heavenly Father, teach us to recognize the opportunities You give us to glorify You. Thank You for the gift of a baby daughter Alivia Grace to **Steven and Krysia Heimer**, San Pablo, El Paso, TX. Grant that Alivia ever know Your love for her in Jesus. Amen.

Dear Jesus, in You we have true peace: the peace of sins forgiven and the certainty of heaven. Thank You for being with **Bernie Braunschweig** (former Administrative Executive in the District office and LCEF vice president) as he walked through the valley of the shadow of death into the glories of heaven. Comfort his loved ones, especially his wife Diana, his children Matt, Eric, and Lynne, and his grandchildren, with the glorious hope of the Resurrection where they will be reunited with their loved ones in endless day. Amen.

[Bernie fell asleep in the arms of his Savior Jesus on Tuesday, December 14, 2010. Services were held Tuesday, December 21, at St. Luke, Golden, CO. He worked in the District office from 1996 until 2007, working under President Roger Krause and then President Randy Golter. God used Bernie's business acumen to bring many people to their Savior Jesus.]

Dearest Jesus, no one who lives in You will be lost in death for You are the God of the living. May the Holy Comforter draw those who loved **Rev. James Groerich**, emeritus, especially his wife Pauline, their children Jonathan, Rebecca, and Stephanie, and their grandchildren to You as they mourn his passing from time to eternity. Bless his family with Your peace in knowing that their loved one is with You and the Father forevermore. Amen.

[Rev. Groerich was taken home by our Lord's angels on Wednesday, December 15, 2010. Services were held on Tuesday, December 21, at Trinity, Denver, CO. He served in three parishes, the last of which was Trinity, Denver, for 36 years.] He served in three parishes, the last of which was Trinity, Denver, for 36 years.