

Church Simple: The place of no fear of the unknown unknowns

“Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes, for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught” (Prov. 3:25-26).

Donald Rumsfeld’s latest book (*Known and Unknown*) speaks of *known knowns*, *known unknowns* and also *unknown unknowns* (p. xiii). He writes:

There are known knowns: there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns: that is to say we know there are some things (we know) we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns—the ones we don’t know we don’t know.

About the *unknown unknowns*, Rumsfeld writes: “And if one looks throughout the history of our country and other free countries, it is the latter category that tends to be the difficult one” (Ibid.).

And further, he writes that “unknown knowns ... are gaps in our knowledge, but gaps that we don’t know exist. Genuine surprises tend to arise out of this category. Nineteen hijackers using commercial airliners as guided missiles to incinerate three thousand men, women and children was perhaps the most horrific single unknown unknown America has experienced” (Ibid, xiv).

Biblically, the *known knowns* fundamentally include the self-description by God of His character and attitude toward sinners. “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (Ex. 34:6). He is the God “who justifies the ungodly” (Rom. 4:5). He has revealed Himself in His Son (Col. 1:15), and through His Son, all things have been reconciled through the blood of the cross (Col. 1:20).

This faith and explicit trust in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are the grounding for coping with the *known unknowns* and even the *unknown unknowns*. We know that life has its twists and turns; we don’t know what the twists and turns will be. That is OK because faith trusts that God is working all things out for the good of His own (Rom. 8:28).

And to the *unknown unknowns*, Jesus, the One who owns us by His blood, is not surprised by any twists and turns in the road, for He guides all of them for our good. For the Lord is present with His church and every individual believer (Matt. 28:20). He is the “first

and the last, and the living one” (Rev. 1:17-18) and preaches to have no fear (Rev. 1:17; cf. Matt. 28:10).

The church is the place for no fear, for this Living One is present in the preaching of the Word and the administration of the sacraments. The preacher preaches the Word and, through this Word, the Holy Spirit cleanses dirty consciences. In the divine service, sinners draw near to the Father through the Son by the Spirit’s work. And God’s work is the application of blood, the Lamb’s blood, which is the only conscience-cleanser (1 John 1:7c; Heb. 9:14).

Paul therefore stands before the council with a “good conscience” (Acts 23:1) even though he had murdered believers. He did not know his future, but this he confessed: “For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 21:13).

The *known unknowns* and the *unknown unknowns* in our lives are made small when one is confident in the Lord, in life and death, by the *known known* of Him who is our Savior.



Rev. Randall Golter
District President

50th anniversary—a year of jubilee

Plans are progressing for two events which will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Gethsemane Lutheran Church and School, Northglenn, Colo. A special service will be held at 9:30 a.m., July 10, to celebrate the church’s first service at Gethsemane. A continental breakfast will follow.

The second event will be held Oct. 8-9, which marks the date the church was chartered and dedicated. The weekend will begin with an “Octoberfest” from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday. The church service Oct. 9 will begin at 9:30 a.m., with a reception to follow.

Gethsemane members invite charter, former and current members, along with the community, to attend these events. Please plan to join in the celebrations.

More information about the activities in October will follow in the August issue of *Peaks and Valleys*. For details, contact Marlene Cummings at cummingshouse@msn.com or 303-451-6386 or Elenor (Kin-
near) Winters at pigloverew@aol.net or 303-452-2874.



LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

High schools to consolidate for 2011-12 school year



Next school year, the trophy case at Lutheran High School in Parker, Colo., will hold both the first- and second-place state 2A boys basketball trophies. On March 12, approximately 4,000 people, most of them Lutheran, gathered for a Lutheran show-down at center court as the Denver Lutheran High School Lights and Lutheran High School Parker Lions battled for the state crown.

Both schools fought hard to make it to the finals, winning quarter and semi-final games with last-second shots and overtime play. The Lights and Lions provided a thrilling game for the Lutheran-packed gym. At the end of the evening, though, it was the Lights who took home the first-place trophy.

So, how is it that their trophy will sit side-by-side with the second-place trophy in the case at Lutheran High School in Parker? At the end of the 2010-11 school year, Denver Lutheran High School will close its doors and the two sister schools will consolidate and hold classes at the Parker campus.

Denver Lutheran opened its doors in 1955 under the direction of Dr. Norman Brinkman, its first principal. The purchase of a farm in southwest Denver provided unique classrooms in its early years. A barn, a shed (fondly remembered as the "chicken coop") and the "white house" (farmhouse) provided space for classes.

The building of the campus occurred in stages. The first wing was built in 1956, the second in 1959 and the third in 1963. The gym and cafeteria were built in 1967-68. Until 1973, the three wings were disconnected, requiring students to walk outdoors from one wing to another or to the gym and cafeteria. Construction in 1973-74 connected all the wings to each other and to the cafeteria and gym. Final construction of the west entrance, offices and computer labs, along with a number of internal upgrades, such as air-conditioning, was completed in 2005.

Principals who served at Denver Lutheran following Dr. Brinkman included Richard Klatt, Henry Hermann (interim), Dr. Kenneth Palmreuter, Rev. Juls Clausen, Loren Otte and Dan Gehrke. About 4,000 students have graduated from Denver Lutheran over the years. Those students have gone on to attend almost 250 agencies of higher education, with a large number attending schools in the Concordia University System, especially Concordia University Nebraska. In a typical year, 35 to 45 Denver Lutheran graduates serve as professional church workers in the Rocky Mountain District alone.

Declining enrollment and the current economic downturn led the Board of Directors of the Colorado Lutheran High School Association to the difficult decision to sell the campus and consolidate its two schools at the Lutheran High School campus in Parker. Lutheran High School Parker began classes in 2000 at a temporary site. In 2003, it broke ground and, in 2004, moved into its new campus.

A "Lights Forever" celebration will take place June 3-5 at Denver Lutheran High School. It will include a mingling evening from 6 to 9 p.m. on June 3, a picnic and a ceremony on June 4 to honor longtime faculty members who will not be teaching at the Parker campus, and a gathering of alumni classes and closing service on June 5.

Visit www.growinginhim.org for up-to-date details regarding these celebrations.

The following page includes photos of Denver Lutheran High School over the years. Enjoy the memories!

We pray God's blessings on the new, consolidated Lutheran High School in Parker as it opens its doors to a new era of Lutheran high school education in the Denver metro area in August.

Send news to Jan Hoener

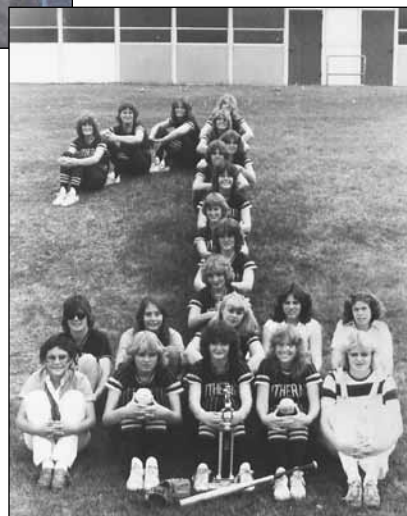
5446 Knoll Place
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130
Email: janhoener@comcast.net

August issue deadlines: June 14
September issue deadline: July 15

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

PHOTO
MEMORIES

ROCKY
MOUNTAIN DISTRICT



Rocky Mountain District Office
14334 E. Evans Ave.
Aurora, CO 80014
303-695-8001
www.rm.lcms.org

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Heimer named Man of the Year



On Saturday, March 26, Dr. Karl Heimer de la Cotera was honored in Juarez, Mexico. The Sertoma International Club of Juarez named him “Man of the Year” and has nominated him for the national designation that will be decided later this spring. As CEO of Ysleta

Lutheran Mission Human Care (YLM), Rev. Heimer has sought, inspired and equipped action, bringing aid to thousands of people in northern Mexico. YLM provides physical, educational and spiritual care for the people of El Paso, Texas, and northern Mexico.

Zion, Flagler, to celebrate 100th anniversary

Zion Lutheran Church of Flagler, Colo., will celebrate its 100th anniversary on the weekend of June 18-19 under the theme “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.”

The history of Zion congregation arose out of the dedication and hard work of German Lutheran families and Lutheran missionaries who settled in the Arriba-Flagler area (about 120 miles southeast of Denver on Interstate 70) on the sparsely populated Eastern Colorado High Plains. Immanuel Lutheran Church in Arriba was the first to be established, in 1907, during the time of missionary Heinrich Schmidt.

Soon, plans for a congregation at Flagler began. Under the guidance of Immanuel’s Pastor H. Stegemann, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized on April 10, 1911. Zion began with approximately 28 baptized and 24 communicant members, with 10 voting members. Zion is part of a dual parish with Immanuel and has been for most of its history.

Zion operated a Christian day school from 1921 through 1945, with Ernst Daberkow as teacher from 1927 on. The same small building served as both church and school. Zion’s current church building was dedicated in 1962, and the mortgage was burned in 1972.

The 100th anniversary celebration will begin with an informal supper at the church on Saturday evening, June 18, followed by a time for sharing memories and

evening prayer. The festive anniversary service will be at 10:30 the next morning, June 19 (Trinity Sunday), with former pastor Rev. John Luttmann preaching. There will be a catered meal at noon on Sunday (R.S.V.P. requested; freewill offering). The celebration will conclude in the afternoon with a hymn sing and closing worship. For more information and to R.S.V.P., call Zion at 719-765-4460.

The Eastern High Plains of Colorado are still sparsely populated, and times are still challenging with drought and a struggling rural economy. But Zion continues to persevere by the grace of God and the help of His Holy Spirit. Members invite their fellow Lutherans of the Rocky Mountain District to rejoice with them as they celebrate a century of God’s grace and pray His continuing blessing on their Gospel ministry. “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God!”

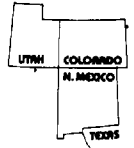
First student receives diploma from Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute

On Sunday, April 10, Rosy Lira was installed as deaconess at Cristo Rey Lutheran Church in Juarez, Mexico. Rosy and her family had beaming smiles as she received her Certificate of Basic Theology from the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute. She is the first student to graduate and receive her diploma from the Institute.

Even while she was taking classes, “Rosy began teaching classes to the members of the churches in Juarez,” explained Rev. Richard Schlak, director of the Missionary Institute. Rosy has been a shining light in Ysleta Lutheran Mission’s (YLM) work in Juarez. She has served as a member of the YLM missionary staff, facilitating ministry in Juarez at Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, San Lucas Lutheran Church and the new mission at Iglesia Sin Paredes.

Rosy Lira, kneeling, receives blessings from Rev. Schlak and other pastors and vicars in attendance during her installation as deaconess on April 10.





Faith Fair

by Kimberly Rassmussen,
second-grade teacher

What does your faith mean to you and how do you express it? Sounds like a question asked in religion or confirmation class. But we asked that question of all our students at Christ Lutheran School.

Like most Lutheran schools, Christ Lutheran Church and School in Albuquerque, N.M., enjoys celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW).

Each year we plan special days and events like “Mismatch Monday” and putt-putt golf parties. Also like many Lutheran schools, every other year we hold a science fair.

Since 2011 was an off year for the science fair, our staff had to decide what to focus on this year. Would it be an art festival? A social studies fair? Something else we’ve done in the past? This year we decided to have a “Faith Fair.” We kicked off NLSW with this special event and were amazed at the results!

The children could do almost any project related to their faith. They just had to fill out a card stating what the project was and how it related to their belief in God and the marvelous things He has done for them. We were expecting great things, and the Holy Spirit didn’t disappoint!

Some students made storybooks and then read them to visitors. We

had a game room with all kinds of student-made Bible games from Trivia to Monopoly. Kids could make a blanket for Project Linus. In the “movie room,” visitors could watch movies that some of the children had made. Some students also created PowerPoint presentations.

The art section featured crosses, sculptures and dioramas, pictures and posters. In addition, art and craft activities were available to children. Our PTL moms got together and set up a few games the kids could play for a piece of candy. Children also could build Solomon’s temple with Legos,

have their faces painted or even chat with some of the congregation members who dressed up as Bible characters.

Many visitors came for the fair. It was a privilege to see how the Holy Spirit works in the lives of the kids. And it was an honor to watch as the kids reached out to the parents and visitors and shared the Good News with everyone who came! Tired of doing a science fair every year? Give a Faith Fair a try! You won’t be disappointed!



Some children chose art to portray their faith, creating crosses, posters, pictures and dioramas.



Angie Bischoff and Vera Abresch, dressed as Ruth and Mary, enjoyed visiting with children and visitors during the fair.

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DISTRICT NEWS

Dr. Gerald Kieschnick is keynote speaker for Older Adult Gathering



Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, former president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, will be the keynote speaker at the Older Adult Gathering Sept. 13-15 at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colo. The theme of the Gathering is “Loving the Lord with All Your Heart and Mind.”

The topic of Dr. Kieschnick’s presentation is “New Testament Leadership for the 21st Century.” In his talk, Dr. Kieschnick will discuss how leaders lead, and they learn how to lead in many ways. The New Testament provides examples of people who learned how to lead through the Holy Spirit’s guiding and directing. We all have been

called to be the light of the world, the salt of the earth.

Also on the program is John Stonestreet of Summit Ministries. His presentation at last year’s gathering was so well received that the committee invited him back again. This time he will speak directly to the theme “Loving the Lord will All Your Heart and Mind.”

Since older adults need to stay in shape, Debra Holmes, who has a master’s degree in Health Science Education from the University of Florida, will speak about exercise and nutrition. She is part owner of a health club and physical clinic in Estes Park. Besides being a director on the Tri-Fit Class of the local senior center, she hosts a weekly radio program on health and fitness every Thursday.

Programs with registration forms have been mailed out to all congregations of the Rocky Mountain District. The fees for this year’s gathering have been lowered by \$34 over last year. For more information on program and registration, call Sharon Hodge at 303-404-9841.

Submitted by Dr. Norbert Kleidon

Thrivent funds second half of grant

In February 2010, the Thrivent for Lutherans Foundation awarded the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute (LHMI) a \$100,000 grant, funded over two years. LHMI recently received a check for the second half of the grant.

The purpose of the grant is to develop the financial and mission objectives of LHMI. Primarily, the Institute is expanding its network of relationships throughout the United States. To date, more than 3,000 Lutheran churches are receiving regular updates, contacts and information from LHMI.

The generosity of the Thrivent for Lutherans Foundation is especially appreciated, particularly because not all of the established metrics were satisfied during the first year. The Foundation’s management acknowledged the downturn in the economy and agreed with the assessment that churches have reduced their mission commitments as their giving has leveled. Both LHMI and Thrivent pray that the second half of the grant period will see greater fruitfulness.

LHMI invites you and a few of your friends to share a meal and information. One of the grant purposes is to take people who are concerned with Spanish outreach to dinner. If you would be willing to host one of these opportunities for a few people who love Hispanic

mission as much as LHMI, contact the director of development, Rev. R. Paige Mathews, at pmathews@missionaryinstitute.org or call 303-378-5363.

‘Following in the Footsteps of Paul’ tour

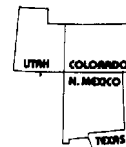
Join fellow Lutherans on a special pilgrimage to Turkey and Greece Oct. 12-23, presented and hosted by Rocky Mountain District President Randall Golter and his wife, Elizabeth. Learn about Paul’s missionary journeys and experience the world of the early Christians.

Visit Istanbul and the churches of the Revelation, walk “in the footsteps” of Paul in Alexandria Troas, travel via the old Roman Road to Assos, visit the Acropolis, journey to ancient Smyrna and travel to Miletus and Ephesus.

Included is a three-night Greek island cruise. Sail to the island of Patmos where the apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation. In addition, you will visit the islands of Rhodes, Crete and Santorini.

Final stops include Athens and the archaeological site of Ancient Corinth.

For more information, call LutherTours at 866-777-1517 or email info@luthertours.com. Last day to confirm participation is June 30. Those confirming by June 30 will receive a complimentary \$100 VISA traveler gift card.



Rocky Mountain District calendar

August

1-2 RMD Board of Directors meeting

September

13-15 District Older Adult Gathering at YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colo.

October

4 Administrators Conference, Breckenridge, Colo.

4-5 2011 Circuit Counselors Conference, Breckenridge, Colo.

5-7 Professional Workers Conference, Breckenridge, Colo.

November

5-6 "Conversations of Grace at the ROC!" Conference, Colorado Springs, Colo., Crowne Plaza

7-8 RMD Board of Directors meeting

Calls in the district

CALLS EXTENDED

- Immanuel, Loveland, Colo., to David Florine, Fountain of Life, Tucson, Ariz.
- Shepherd of the Hills, Centennial, Colo., to William Busacker, Grace, Sandy, Utah.
- St. John, Libby, Mont., to Rev. Steve Thomas, Grace, Lamar, Colo.
- St. Paul, Ogden, Utah, to Rev. Mark Christ, Clover Trinity, Buhl, Idaho.

CALLS ACCEPTED

- Beth Landon, King of Glory, St. Louis, Mo., to Messiah, Longmont, Colo.

REMOVED/RESIGNED FROM ROSTER

- James Sturgis Jr., Portland, Texas.

TRANSFERRED

- Abigail Reed, RMD to Texas.

CORRECTION

The April issue of *Peaks and Valleys* incorrectly placed Rev. David Loeschke in Las Vegas, N.M. Following is the corrected call information:

- Grace, Marlin and Grace, Mart, Texas, to Rev. David Loeschke, Immanuel, Haxtun, Colo.

The May issue shows that this call was declined.

Festivals

The summer is upon us. It is a time for relaxation, reunions, rest and reflection. It is also a time for festivals. One can hardly open the paper without reading about a festival happening somewhere (Renaissance Festival, Fourth of July Festival, Harvest Festival).

But what does the word "festival" denote or mean? It basically means that something is happening that is to be celebrated, commemorated or recognized. And this celebration is to be festive!

As Lutheran Christians, what should we celebrate and be festive about more than anything else? The answer? The Gospel! We are to celebrate and be festive about the fact that, despite our sinful condition, we are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone! This is our privilege. This is our foundation. This should be celebrated. And you have a wonderful opportunity to do just that with hundreds of other Lutheran Christians in the Denver area. How?

At 4 p.m., on Sunday, Nov. 6, come to Ascension Lutheran Church in Littleton, Colo., where we will celebrate at the Denver Area Reformation Festival. This service will feature a mass choir, children's choir, great music and an inspirational message by Dr. Paul Maier—world-class church historian, author and apologist of the faith. It will be a celebration you won't want to miss! This festive service will be followed by a catered meal (cost will be around \$10 per person) in the Ascension fellowship hall.

So come to the festival! We have something to celebrate! We are children of God through faith in Christ! That is truly something to be festive about!

Defending Your Faith: Overcoming Timidity with Confidence

Join fellow Christians July 18-20 in Parker, Colo., to learn how to confidently defend your faith in a post-modern world. Dr. Steven Hein will present this one-week course, titled "Defending Your Faith: Overcoming Timidity with Confidence."

For information, contact Rev. Joseph Murphy, Grace Lutheran Church, Parker, at 303-840-5493, or email gracelutheranparker@gmail.com.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

LCEF provides \$3,000 to congregations in the Rocky Mountain District

Trinity Lutheran Church in Genoa, Colo.; Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Loveland, Colo.; and Peace With Christ Lutheran Church in Aurora, Colo., each received \$1,000 to use for ministry as part of LCEF's "Name Your Rep and Support Ministry" campaign.

From mid-January through the end of February, congregation members were asked to fill out a survey and name their LCEF congregation representative. The congregation in each of three categories that had the highest percentage of its communicant members fill out the survey would receive \$1,000 to use for ministry.

More than 2,000 people responded to the survey and correctly named their LCEF congregation rep.

The three congregation reps (all in Colorado churches) who had the highest percentage of members identify them are:

- Mardelle Martin, Trinity, Genoa
- Jack Bloss, Mount Olive, Loveland
- Margery Richter, Peace With Christ, Aurora

LCEF relies heavily on its volunteers to help get the word out about our ministry. If you would like more information about volunteering for LCEF, please contact Laura Raben at the RMD office at 303-695-8001 or laura.raben@rm.lcms.org.

There will be another "Name Your Rep and Support Ministry" campaign later this fall. Make sure your congregation has an LCEF rep so that you can participate. Maybe your congregation will receive money to use for ministry, too!



Pictured with Mardelle Martin (center) are Rev. Don Schulz and Kevin Grein, LCEF vice-president for the Rocky Mountain District.

Jack Bloss (left) is shown with Mount Olive Lutheran Church treasurer Cindy Fischer.



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