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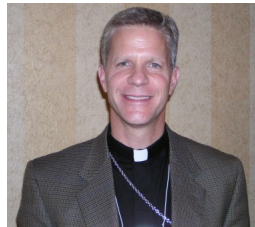
**THE MESSENGER**

**JULY 2011**

## **I Will Follow God's Plan**

by  
**President Randall Golter**

*"And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness,'" (Jeremiah 23:6b).*



I traveled to Vernal, Utah, and Rangely, Colorado, in the middle of June. What a joy it was to visit with Pastor Jonathon Schultz and God's people in those two parishes and to see God's work through His church.

Pastor Schultz handed me an interesting sheet of paper that he had found in the church parking lot. It was entitled "I Will Follow God's Plan." The sheet is full of happy and sad faces that are fixed in a maze. The exercise is intended for children; they are to follow the happy faces to reach the finish line. Awaiting the one who chooses rightly are the happy faces in the "Celestial Kingdom," the third and highest level of Mormon heaven.

Yes, this is a "Sunday School" pamphlet that teaches the salvation plan for Mormons. Mormons believe in "free agency," that is, each person has a free will to Choose The Right (CTR). You will see necklaces and bracelets with the letters "CTR."

Can you imagine the absolute pressure on a person to do the right thing, to choose the right path, all the time, to gain the eternal pleasure of some type of unending bliss? St. Paul's words in Romans teach the impossibility of this quest. "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God ... no one does good, not even one" (Romans 3:10-12). Holy Scripture teaches an absolute bound and chained human will by sin.

"I Will Follow God's Plan" was accomplished by only one man, the God/Man, Jesus Christ. "For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise" (John 5:19). Only Jesus could fulfill the requirements of being righteous as required by the Law; only He could choose the right. This is why Jeremiah labels Jesus as "The LORD is our righteousness."

For those who believe in Jesus Christ, the pressure is off. Joyful hearts "cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).



*"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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## Lutheran Hour Ministries' "The Bible on Trial" To Air on Television Nationally June 18 and July 18

Lutheran Hour Ministries is excited to bring you updated information about nationwide airings of our full-length program for television broadcast, *The Bible on Trial: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt*. As announced previously, on **Saturday, June 18**, the program aired at 6 p.m. Eastern, 5 p.m. Central, 4 p.m. Mountain and 3 p.m. Pacific on the **Inspiration Network (INSP)**, Channel 259 on Dish Network and Channel 364 on DirecTV; Inspiration is also available on 2,800 other local cable systems). The program will also air on **Monday, July 18**, at 9 p.m. Eastern, 8 p.m. Central, 7 p.m. Mountain and 6 p.m. Pacific through the **National Religious Broadcasters Network** (Channel 378 on DirecTV and Channel 126 on Sky Angel, as well as online at [www.nrbnetwork.tv](http://www.nrbnetwork.tv)).

Hosted by attorney Craig Parton, *The Bible on Trial* lays the overarching question before some of the world's foremost authorities in biblical scholarship and ancient history: "Are the Bible and its claims trustworthy?" A panel of experts—including Dr. Paul L. Maier of Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Mich.; Dr. Randall Price of Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.; Dr. Jeff Kloha of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. and Joel Lampe of The Bible Museum, Goodyear, Ariz.—weighs the evidence from contemporary non-Christian writers and archaeological, bibliographic, and eyewitness sources. The balanced testimony from these scholars affirms the reliability of the biblical record. The program concludes with a call to the viewer: "*What is your verdict?*"

*The Bible on Trial* began airing in May on AMG TV network stations in Los Angeles, Phoenix, Houston, Nashville, Detroit, Cincinnati, New York, Orlando, Dallas, Seattle and many other cities. More airings are scheduled in the coming months. For broadcast dates and times, visit the Broadcast Guide at [www.TheBibleTrial.com](http://www.TheBibleTrial.com). Please check back periodically to get information about additional local airings across the country.

## Circuit Counselors

DNE (Denver Northeast)  
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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 Neidig  
Calvary, Rio Rancho, NM

Sange de Cristo  
Rev. Randy Bolt  
Trinity, Pueblo, CO

UTA (Utah)  
Rev. Bror Erickson  
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WES (Western)  
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## Where Are the Pools of Potential Church Workers? Act 1 – The Acolyte Pool

by Dr. L. Dean Hempelmann, Director, *What a Way*, a formidable conscience for effective recruitment and retention of LCMS church workers.



Acolytes are customarily a part of Lutheran Church worship services. With over 5,000 Lutheran congregations worshipping each week, and if there are two acolytes serving, on average, in each service, there is a pool of 10,000 persons who could be encouraged to consider a church-work career.

But how does a pastor, teacher, or lay person working with acolytes tap this pool? I suggest, first of all, that acolytes be led to recognize the importance of their service to God and His people. That means that acolytes are chosen, individually identified, and recruited by the pastor, teacher, or lay person in charge of them. Ask the parent(s) first for

their permission to enlist their son or daughter for this significant work. Next ask the child, encouraging them in their active participation in the worship life of the congregation.

Here comes the next big “thing to do.” Train these acolytes – prepare them for their service! I fear this part is often not completed satisfactorily (and it’s pretty obvious when you visit such a congregation). Engage them by way of Scripture to show them the importance of attending to God’s altar and the life of worship around the Word and Sacraments. Now walk them through each role, whether serving as crucifer, bearing a banner, lighting candles (include special Advent and Lent candle arrangements), showing them exactly how the cross is to be held, how banners are stabilized in procession and in their stands, explaining the customs and habits pertinent to the life of worship in this congregation. Take nothing for granted. And that includes showing them how to get robed properly.



Once a year take the acolytes for a day of retreat. Find a good place, work hard and play hard, and let the acolytes evaluate their work and mentor one another in their work. On the subsequent Sunday in worship, induct these outstanding servants in their ministry of acolytes. That induction is an important element both for the congregation and the acolytes.

The training of acolytes in the parishes I served grew to the place where they not only were a part of prayers before the service began, but they helped by actively participating in those prayers for church, congregation, pastors and church leaders, choir, organist, and others.



Out of this acolyte pool a number of persons went to prepare for a church-work career. Right now I am remembering one of them going to seminary and today serving as a professor at one of our Lutheran universities. Several others are pastors and teachers. I knew the acolytes well, I loved them, I had fun with them, and I engaged them in how much joy there is in serving God and His people in worship. Joy is contagious.

What do you do with acolytes to encourage them to consider service as a church worker? What will you do to pay more attention to the pool of acolytes for the next generation of church worker? I would like your comments: <http://blog.whataway.org/blog/encourage-serving/where-are-the-pools-of-potential-church>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AT CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY Continuing Ed Opportunities for 2011

Studying at the seminary affords scholars incredible opportunities to learn from some of the finest theologians in the world. But, unfortunately, not everyone is able to make the trek to Fort Wayne. Because of that, many of our professors will be leading courses in locations from Washington to Florida during the summer of 2011.

These courses are offered to professional church workers in an effort to assist them as they strive to grow in their knowledge and, in turn, share that knowledge with others. Professional church workers may also earn Continuing Education Units (CEU) when participating in these courses.

For a more detailed description of courses, to download a brochure or to register online, visit [www.ctsfw.edu/CE](http://www.ctsfw.edu/CE). If you have additional questions, please e-mail [ContinuingEd@ctsfw.edu](mailto:ContinuingEd@ctsfw.edu) or phone 260-452-2103.

## St. John's Lutheran Church, Pastor Baldwin Retires

A retirement dinner in honor of Pastor and Alice Baldwin was held May 21, 2011 at St. John Lutheran Church in Canon City, CO. The Baldwin's had served the congregation for 16 years. Following the dinner, gifts were presented and everyone enjoyed the excellent slide presentation in recognition of various events during their years of service at St. John's.



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## Pastor Allshouse Retires

Pastor William N. Allshouse, Ch., retired as Sr. Pastor at Summit of Peace Lutheran Church in Thornton, Colorado on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011. Pastor Allshouse led the flock at Summit of Peace for 22 years, seeing it grow from a mission church of 37 members, meeting in a local school gymnasium, through 3 building projects, to its current membership of 758.

Although he had thoughts of becoming a pastor as early as age 14, he formally decided to enter the ministry at the age of 29, while in the military and speaking with a chaplain after a career broadening school. He applied for, and received a professional discharge and attended Concordia Theological

Seminary in Springfield, IL, and Fort Wayne, IN, completing his Master's of Divinity in 1978. His first call was to Good Shepherd in Memphis, TN (1978) where he also completed a CPE residency at St. Jude's Memorial Hospital. Pastor Allshouse went on to serve at St. Paul's in Bridgeport, NE (1979 – 1982) St. John's in Buckley, IL (1982 – 1985) and the dual parishes of Zion in Douglas, and Our Redeemer in Glenrock, WY (1985 – 1990) prior to accepting his call to Summit of Peace in 1990.

He holds a bachelor's degree with a double major in political science and psychology from West Virginia University, where he was also commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Reserve Officers Training Corp, and holds a Master's in Family Therapy from the University of Illinois.

His career, which he describes as “a phenomenal experience,” includes service as a parish pastor and as an army and air force chaplain. As a Lt. Colonel, he served as the Sr. Chaplain in the State of Colorado, in the Air Force National Guard for 15 years, and under 3 different governors. He retired from his Air Force chaplaincy in 2005. Pastor Allshouse describes his favorite parts of ministry as teaching, preaching, end of life care, and pastoring a lay-led congregation. His parishioners describe his faithfulness to God's Word and his practical application in preaching and teaching, as well as his personal care for their families, as the highlights of his ministry. Summit of Peace held a retirement luncheon in his honor on May 21. Three hundred parishioners as well as Gen. Schultz, Col. Parker, retired, and Chaplain Manager Tamera Gaffney of the United States Air Force were in attendance. Some fifteen people spoke or sent greetings of both humorous and touching remembrances and gratitude to both Pastor Allshouse and to the Lord, who has blessed and empowered his ministry. Approximately 30 people who had been confirmed by Pastor Allshouse stood to thank him for his faithful teaching.

When asked what is in the future for him, Pastor Allshouse says, “First, some rest”. Following that, perhaps some work as a vacancy pastor, intentional interim pastor, or hospice chaplain. “I want to see what the Lord has in store for me, what doors He might open.” Whatever that is, the flock at Summit of Peace wish him the Lord's continued joy and blessings.





## News Release for Seward Worship Conference

### Still Time To Register for This Conference:

St. John Lutheran Church and Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska, are sponsoring a national Worship Conference July 27 – 29<sup>th</sup> to be held in their facilities. This conference is open to all interested pastors, musicians, church workers, and laypeople from across the nation.

To register online and for complete information about the conference, go to the website at [www.seward2011.org](http://www.seward2011.org). For printed registration forms, contact St. John Lutheran Church, 919 N Columbia Avenue, Seward NE 68434; phone: 402-643-2983; email: [info@seward2011.org](mailto:info@seward2011.org)

“Sing His Praise, His Love Declare” is the theme and the conference program is being organized to allow participants to learn from some of the best teachers in the field of worship and church music. Preachers, plenary speakers, and worship services will point us to the cross and the love of God for His people, enabling His Church to confess the Gospel message in both Word and song.

Scheduled presenters include Dr. Carl Schalk, Dr. Carlos Messerli, Paul Bouman, and LCMS President Rev. Matthew C. Harrison, along with faculty members at Concordia University, Nebraska, those from other LCMS congregations and schools, and from Concordia Publishing House.

Student auditions for an Honor Choir consisting of LCMS high school students are being sought from across the districts of the LCMS as are students from grades 5 – 8 for a Children’s Choir.

The schedule includes daily worship, four plenary events, three in-depth seminars during which the attendees learn about a single topic they select, five “breakout” sessions on a variety of topics, vendor displays, and fellowship opportunities.

Registration is \$115 per person, covering all sessions and a Thursday banquet. One-day registration is \$50 which includes that day’s sessions and meals.

Housing at Concordia is \$35 per person, per night for single rooms and \$17.50 per person, per night for double occupancy. Pillows and bedding are included. A meal plan is available for \$32. Housing is available in nearby hotels also; see online for details.

This conference is similar to the former LCMS Commission on Worship Institutes on Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music held as recently as 2008. When plans for a commission-sponsored institute for the summer of 2011 were put aside due to restructuring in Synod, St. John and Concordia University, Nebraska came forth to jointly sponsor this event.

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## Organist Workshop



Trinity Lutheran Church (4225 W. Yale Ave., Denver, CO) is pleased to offer a **one-day ORGANIST WORKSHOP: SERVING CHRIST'S CHURCH THROUGH HIS GIFT OF MUSIC** on *Saturday, October 15, 2011*. Kantor **Richard C. Resch** of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN will be the instructor. *Class size is limited*. For more information, cost and registration, please contact Kantor Thomas E. Lock: (303) 934-2103 or [kantorlock@gototrinity.com](mailto:kantorlock@gototrinity.com).

## Conversations of Grace at the ROC!

Be **inspired**, **energized**, and **equipped** to share God's Love, nurture your family and witness to the community!

**November 4-5, 2011**



In partnership with the Conversations of Grace Conference, ROC-Colorado Springs at the Crowne Plaza brings you to the foot of Pike's Peak for a mountain-top experience through inspirational worship, empowering presentations, and discussion with other mission-minded Christians.

The mountain top, however, is not from which you will need to come down. With solid training and access to ongoing resources after the conference is over, you will be fueled and fired up to witness for Jesus Christ!

Full conference information—including schedule and registration details—will soon be posted. While each of the eight ROCs is being developed to meet specific outreach needs of the area in which they are located, you can check out the ROC-Phoenix schedule by clicking here: <http://www.lhm.org/roc/co.asp>

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## Join us on twitter

[http://twitter.com/#search?q=rmd\\_lcms](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](mailto:doug.ullmann@rm.lcms.org)

## Join us on Facebook

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## Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

### August

- 1-2 RMD Board of Director's Meeting
- 8-12 Continuing Ed Summer'11-Grace Lutheran Church- Albuquerque, NM-Prof. Roland Ziegler
- 22-24 Continuing Ed Summer'11-Immanuel Lutheran Church- Santa Fe, NM-Dr. Reed Lessing
- 29- Sept. 2 Continuing Ed Summer'11-Mt. Zion Lutheran Church- Castle Rock, CO-Dr. John Kleinig

### September

- 2 Continuing Ed Summer'11-Mt. Zion Lutheran Church- Castle Rock, CO-Dr. John Kleinig
- 13-15 Older Adults at YMCA of Rockies, Estes Park, CO

### October

- 4-5 2011 Circuit Counselor's Conference- Breckenridge, Colo.
- 5-7 Fall Worker's Conference-Breckenridge, Colo.
- 31 – Nov. 1 RMD Board of Director's Meeting

### November

- 1 RMD Board of Director's Meeting
- 4-5 "Conversations of Grace at the ROC!" Conference, Colorado Springs, Colo., Crowne Plaza

### 2012 Calendar

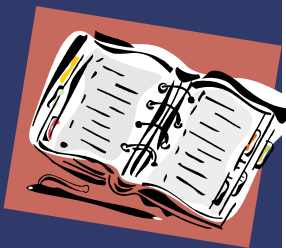
#### June

- 7-9 RMD Convention

## Roster Report for July

### CALLS DECLINED

Sandee Dunker, Zion Lutheran School, Marengo, Ill. to Redeemer, Salt Lake City, Utah





## We Encourage your Prayers

### Prayer for the Rocky Mountain District Evangelism Outreach Team:

Oh, Rock of our salvation, because we are the hands and feet of God, we have an opportunity to communicate, by our words and actions, who You are: God is love. We pray that You will guide and direct the planning of the Rocky Mountain District Evangelism Outreach Team as they prepare for the Conversations of Grace at the ROC, November 4-5, 2011, in Colorado Springs, CO. Guide our leadership as to topics and presenters, outreach needs of the area, volunteers with special gifts, and funding. Enable them to coordinate efforts with the Lutheran Hour Ministries Regional Outreach Conference Manager. Provide participants who, through the work of the Holy Spirit, can reveal the love of God to others as they go about each day. Thank You, Lord, for your many blessings. In Your name. Amen.



Dearest Jesus, You have proclaimed that Your Word shall go forth and not return to You without accomplishing what You desire. Guard Your church against false and deceptive teaching. Preserve the message of the soul-cleansing battle of Your crucifixion, the spirit-reviving triumph of Your resurrection, and the hope-renewing victory of Your ascension. Send forth Your Holy Spirit that we may be moved to trumpet these truths to every corner of the world. We pray in the confidence of knowing that we have been redeemed by You. Amen.

Father of all, grace **Rev. Kurt and Lisa Schilling** and their family with Your peace as they mourn the passing of Lisa's mother from time to eternity. May those who loved her trust that our Savior Jesus "has put death's dark shadows to flight" so that they have solace for their loss. Amen.



## Patriotic Lutherans

July is associated with Independence Day or the Fourth of July—the celebration of our liberty and the great nation in which we live. July 4<sup>th</sup> commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain.

Many in the Thirteen Colonies of North America worked hard and gave their lives so that we might enjoy the freedoms we have today.

Did you know that ...

Lutherans came to this country seven years before the Pilgrims.

The first book translated into any American Indian language was *Luther's Small Catechism*.

The first "Stars and Stripes" was made by Sara Austin and the Ladies Aid of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Philadelphia.

The first president of the Continental Congress was a Lutheran, John Hanson of Maryland, who served until Washington was inaugurated.

A Lutheran pastor, Frederick Muhlenberg, was the first speaker of the House of Representatives. He signed the Bill of Rights.

It was a Lutheran boy who called a Lutheran Sexton to ring the Liberty Bell. The bell was hauled from Philadelphia to Allentown by a Lutheran, Frederick Leiser, in 1777 to be hidden from the British under the floor of Zion Lutheran Church.

There are many stories of Lutherans active in securing our freedom from the 1700s through today.

We offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for these patriots and the liberties we enjoy each day.

Almighty God, You have made us stewards of a rich and bountiful land we do not own, have not earned, and do not deserve. Give us thankful hearts for Your generosity. Cause us to exercise our stewardship faithfully and diligently. Lead us, our leaders, and our fellow citizens to commit ourselves and our resources to protect life, to defend and enhance liberties, to make common cause around honorable ideals, and to work to extend peace. Give those entrusted with the rule of government the spirit of wisdom and the ability to know and do Your will. In times of prosperity, may we be thankful, helpful, and generous. In times of trouble, may we not lose our trust in You. We thank You that we can pray in the name of our living Savior, Jesus. Amen.