

Church Simple: A regional church that acts and does church

“So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied” (Acts 9:31).

Take careful note of this verse written by Luke, the physician (Col. 4:14). He describes the “church” in a particular region and what God is doing to those who are the Lord’s. Of particular note at this point is that the apostle writes of the church as “singular,” as one. The text does not say “churches,” that is, plural in number.

Luke does use the singular for “church” in Acts 8:1. “And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem.” He locates the church as “in Jerusalem” and identifies it as one church. In Acts 5:1-11, he also identifies the “whole church” as those who were struck with fear at the Lord’s taking the lives of Ananias and Sapphira. Because of the church discipline that happened, all the “church” was struck with fear.

Back to Acts 9:31: “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria.” The church, though identified in multiple locations, is singular—one church. You might even put your region there. “So the church throughout Salt Lake City, Richfield and St. George had peace.”

What is your point, President Golter? The Holy Spirit through Luke’s pen does *not* view local churches as

isolated entities that do not have a living relationship with each other. There is a binding there, a binding so deep that they are labeled by the Spirit as one entity, and this entity is called “church.”



And “So the church throughout all *northeastern Colorado—that is, Fort Morgan, Sterling and Holyoke—* had peace and was being built up.” Or “So the church throughout the *New Mexico region of the Rocky Mountain District—that is, Albuquerque, Roswell, El Paso, Farmington—* had peace and was being built up.”

The One who binds and builds this church is Jesus Christ through the Spirit’s work through the Word; Jesus said so. “I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18). The same word for “build” that Jesus preaches here also is used

by Luke in Acts 9:31. That is, Jesus was building up the church in “Judea and Galilee and Samaria” just as He promised in Matt. 16:18, and as Dr. Luke describes in Acts 9:31.

Some say “church” can only be in one location and not beyond the local altar. Such a view does not square with Luke’s description of church in a region. Because of Christ’s binding through the work of His Spirit through the Word, bonds of fellowship exist beyond the local congregation. This binding presents the privilege and opportunity for individual churches to work together as the one that they are.



Rev. Randall
Golter

This work includes the following:

1. Doctrinal conversation and discussion for the sake of unity in the church (Acts 15:1-35; Eph. 4:1 ff.);
2. Stewarding the mission field of the one church in a region. The church was being “multiplied” (Acts 9:31) by God as the Word spread to unbelievers in that region.
3. Works of mercy to those in need. When there was a famine in Judea, financial resources of the church of Antioch were sent to the church in Judea. “So the disciples determined, everyone according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea” (Acts 11:29).

The **Gospel Gap Paradigm** is beginning to take shape in the Rocky Mountain District. Each of the 17 circuits is to be and act as “church” in its region! The church in the Western Circuit, for example, from Gunnison to Grand Junction to Vernal, Utah, to Steamboat Springs is to have doctrinal conversations, works of mercy, but in particular, to steward God’s mission in that place. The church there—made up of 11 churches—is to identify where the Gospel is not being preached. The Lord will work through His coworkers to build His church in that region.

The church in the Rocky Mountain District region is and acts as church also—in mission, doctrinal conversation and works of mercy. Jesus Christ is building His church in this region, as He is doing in the whole Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and in His whole church around the world.

Rev. Randall Golter
District President

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Redeemer dedicates new sanctuary

After nearly 12 years of planning, prayer and hard work, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in Los Alamos, N.M., saw the dedication of its sanctuary. Redeemer is a “daughter” congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Santa Fe, N.M., which voted in 1999 to lay the groundwork for planting a new LCMS mission in Los Alamos County.

In January 2003, laymen-led services began with Pastor Douglas Escue of Immanuel Lutheran Church



Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church's new sanctuary in Los Alamos, N.M., was dedicated March 13.

traveling up from Santa Fe once a month to administer the Sacrament of Holy Communion. On April 25, 2003, Immanuel Lutheran Church purchased land at 2000 Diamond Drive in Los Alamos, which would later be used as the location of Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Beginning in September 2003, formal services were led every Sunday afternoon by Pastor Escue in the side chapel of the United Church in Los Alamos. In February 2004, mission development and financial workshops were led by Rev. Mark Larson, Dr. Erich Helge, Bernie Braunschweig and Dan Bacon. On Dec. 5, 2004, a total of \$300,980 was pledged through a three-year Sustained Giving Stewardship Emphasis program, along with \$232,000 through a Jean Elder/Elsie Seek memorial gift.

On April 24, 2005, Immanuel Lutheran Church issued a call to Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, graduate Brian Kachelmeier. On June 26, 2005, Kachelmeier was ordained into the Office of Holy Ministry and installed as associate pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church with the task of planting a new congregation in Los Alamos. On July 10, 2005, formal divine services led by Pastor Kachelmeier began at the Los Alamos Community Building.

After using various locations in public schools and

county facilities, the new mission began leasing a storefront space in White Rock in May 2007. On Jan. 6, 2008, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in Los Alamos became a member congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. On April 13, 2008, Rev. Brian L. Kachelmeier was installed as the first pastor of Redeemer. In the summer of 2010, a building loan was acquired through Lutheran Church Extension Fund. On Aug. 22, 2010, a ground-breaking ceremony took place at 2000 Diamond Drive in Los Alamos.

On March 13, the new sanctuary was dedicated at a special Sunday afternoon service. Rocky Mountain District President Randy Golter was guest preacher. Others participating in the service were Rev. Brian Kachelmeier, pastor of Redeemer; Rev. Douglas K. Escue, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Santa Fe, and RMD regional vice president; Rev. Ed Maas, Sandia North Circuit counselor; and Vicar Phil Quarles, Sangre de Cristo Lutheran Church, Taos, and Christ Our Savior, Angel Fire.



Pictured are those who attended the dedication. Seated in the front are (from left) Vicar Quarles, Rev. Escue, Rev. Golter, Rev. Kachelmeier and Rev. Maas.

Send news to Jan Hoener

5446 Knoll Place

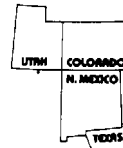
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130

Email: janhoener@comcast.net

August issue deadline: May 15

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

NOTE: The next issue of Peaks and Valleys is a combined June/July edition. Articles and photos submitted between May and June 15 will appear in the August edition.



India Pakistan Lutheran Church gives message of hope and salvation to community



On Dec. 18, 2010, India Pakistan Lutheran Church invited many Hindu and Muslim families in the community to a carol service and potluck dinner. The message of hope and salvation through Christ Jesus was proclaimed through Christmas hymns and songs. The photo above shows some of the



guests enjoying the potluck dinner. At left is the ladies choir, singing at the Colorado South Asian Christian Convention held in September 2010.

News from the Rocky Mountain District LWML

MISSION GRANTS

Praise the Lord! Ten thousand dollars have been paid to support our LWML district mission grants for the 2010-12 biennium. Thus far, funds have been disbursed to support Trinity/Hope—Feeding Haitian Children. These funds provide lunch and spiritual affirmation for 100 children each day. Monies also were disbursed to the Rocky Mountain District Debt Assistance Fund to help pastors repay



their educational loans.

Veterans of the Cross received support as it assists called workers experiencing financial difficulties in their retirement years. The last grant to receive funds thus far was the Colorado Unit of the Good Shepherd Auxiliary, which uses the grant funds to print teacher materials for the curriculum used by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A balance of \$65,000 remains to fund all the mission grants. Keep those mites rolling in!

34TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION PLAYS IN PEORIA

The 34th biennial LWML convention will be held June 23-26 in Peoria, Ill., under the theme “Being with Jesus—Living on the Edge.” Many LWML members from the Rocky Mountain District will attend. It’s not too late to register. Go to www.lwml.org and, under “Events,” click on “Conventions” to get all the details you need.



The Rocky Mountain District will conduct a caucus and take a group photo during the convention. Check the website (www.rmdlwml.org) for the exact date and times. Hurry, late registration starts May 20.

LWML GOES SOCIAL

That’s right! The LWML has joined the fastest-growing social networking website on the Internet. The LWML is now part of Facebook. Since LWML members are spread across many states and districts, and even the world, Facebook is the electronic way to connect with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Check us out at www.facebook.com/thelwml. Watch for an updated Facebook address for our own Rocky Mountain District at www.rmdlwml.org.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday greetings this month are extended to Senior Pastoral Counselor Gary A. Rahe. Happy birthday from all your LWML sisters in Christ in the Rocky Mountain District! We look forward to hearing more about your birthday presents.

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

EVENTS & OFFICIAL ACTS

Rocky Mountain District calendar

May

- 6 LEAD meeting, Denver, Colo.
- 16-17 RMD Board of Directors meeting

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.
- 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

CALL EXTENDED

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

Mount Calvary, Estes Park, Colo., to seminarian candidate.

CALLS ACCEPTED

P. John Johnson III, Aurora, Colo., to Peace with Christ, Aurora, Colo.

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. David Loeschke, Immanuel, Las Vegas, N.M., to Grace, Marlin, Texas, and Grace, Mart, Texas.

Rev. James Nash, Trinity, Sterling, Colo., to Grace, Hibbing, Minn.

TRANSFERRED TO DISTRICT

Rev. Arthur Schudde, emeritus, Central Illinois District to Rocky Mountain District.

Warren Paul, commissioned minister, emeritus, Rocky Mountain District to Southern District.

Daniel Stec, commissioned minister, candidate, Missouri District to Rocky Mountain District.

Christine Boettcher, commissioned minister, candidate, Northwest District to Rocky Mountain District.

'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, 303-840-5493, or email gracelutheranparker@gmail.com.



Continuing education opportunities

Clergy and laypeople alike will have the opportunity to grow, refresh and connect by attending one of the continuing education opportunities available in 2011. Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS), Fort Wayne, and Concordia Seminary (CS), St. Louis, will lead these courses in locations across the United States.

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

Courses being offered in the Rocky Mountain District are:

CTS—"Why Should I Believe You? Christian Apologetics for Today," led by Dr. Adam Francisco in Riverton, Utah, June 1-3. Coordinator: Rev. Alan Borchert, 801-571-6769 or gnaborcher@hotmail.com, Light of the Valley Lutheran Church, 3383 W. 12600 S., Riverton, UT 84065. For more information concerning CTS continuing education opportunities, including registration fees, speakers' biographies and suggested readings, go to www.ctsfw.edu/ce. If you have questions, contact ce@ctsfw.edu or 260-452-2204.

CS—"Psalms," led by Dr. Reed Lessing in Santa Fe, N.M., Aug. 22-24. Host: Rev. Douglas Escue, 505-983-7568 or dkescue@aol.com, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 209 E. Barcelona Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505. To register or to receive more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education and Parish Services, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; 314-505-7486; ce@csl.edu.