

Rocky Mountain District—  
LCMS  
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**THE MESSENGER**

**MAY 2011**

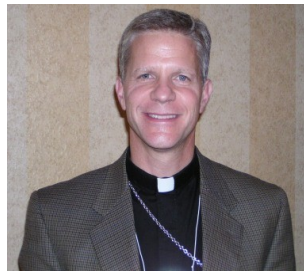
## **Not Just Any Hymn Will Do**

by  
**President Randall Golter**



*“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*

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (Col. 3:16).*



He is risen; He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

The fact that Christ has triumphed over the grave has caused the Christian Church for centuries to give God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit praise. The baptized join Christ in the midst of worship, giving the Father praise for all that He has done. “I will tell of Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing Your

praise” (Heb. 2:12).

In the midst of the assembly, the baptized sing and give praise with the very lips that have now been redeemed, restored, and forgiven. What gets bloodied gets cleansed. As Isaiah’s cauterized tongue became sanctified for preaching (Isaiah 6:6,7), so the tongues of the baptized, touched with the Lamb’s blood, now give praise (1 Peter 2:9).

St. Paul offers to the church at Colossae instruction as to the content and purpose of the songs sung by the baptized. He instructs that the “word of Christ” is to inhabit the assembly and that word is “Christ’s word”—it originated from Him. Therefore, any word or teaching that is not of Christ should not be dwelling among the assembly. Songs or hymns that teach contrary, blur, or twist the word and teaching of Christ should not be allowed to be sung or taught.

The word for “teaching” is used along with the word “preaching” in various biblical texts, including Acts 15:35. “But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.” In other words, these songs sung in the midst of the assembly are no less than the sung word of Christ. Christ is preaching (telling the Good News) through the repetition of the Word set to notes.

This does not mean that the Church should sing only Bible verses, but it does mean that any kind of sung proclamation should match the Spirit’s teaching from the Word. What comes from the pulpit or the pew, the preached *and* the sung word, must be critiqued by the Holy Scriptures. It appears to me that we tend to be much more lenient with the sung word than the preached word; it ought not to be so.

Lutherans need to be very aware of using just any hymn or song from non-Lutheran sources. For such songs present a theology that does not teach justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, apart from any human decision, the regeneration of the sinner of any age—including, and especially infants—through baptism, or the real presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper.

Not just any hymn will do according to St. Paul’s boundaries taught to the Christians at Colossae.



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For your contemplation:

A friend loveth at all times. Proverbs 17:17 (KJV)

"One of the greatest demonstrations of real friendship is that a friend can really endeavor to have his friends advances in honor, in reputation, in the opinion of others, before himself." Jeremy Taylor

Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel. Proverbs 27:9 (NIV)

What a blessing is a friend with a heart so trustworthy that you may safely bury all your secrets in it, whose conscience you may hear less than your own, who can relieve your cares by his words, your doubts by his advice, your sadness by his good humor, and whose very look gives comfort to you.

"What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer." (LSB 770; Josheph M. Schriener, 1819-86)

## **DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE June 30, 2011**

The Rocky Mountain District (RMD) Scholarship Committee offers scholarships for students who are members of LCMS congregation and are pursuing full-time church work as pastors, deaconesses, teachers, directors of Christian education, etc. Students must be accepted for admission and/or enrolled full time at a Synodical college, university, or seminary in a church work major field of study. Awards are given on the basis of financial need and merit. Applications are available from the guidance offices of the District's Lutheran high schools and the financial aid offices of all Concordias. All application materials are due

June 30, 2011. For more information, please contact Pastor Chris Matthis, chairman of the Scholarship Committee, at (303) 781-5887 or [csmatthis81@hotmail.com](mailto:csmatthis81@hotmail.com).

## Circuit Counselors

DNE (Denver Northeast)  
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Rev. James Knapp  
Wheat Ridge, Wheat Ridge, CO

DSE (Denver Southeast)  
Rev. Jeff Shearier  
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DSW (Denver Southwest)  
Rev. Bruce Skelton  
Holy Cross, Highlands Ranch, CO

EHP (Eastern High Plains)  
Rev. Donald Schulz  
Trinity, Genoa, CO

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Rev. Monte Gusewelle  
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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

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Rev. Randy Bolt  
Trinity, Pueblo, CO

UTA (Utah)  
Rev. Bror Erickson  
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WES (Western)  
Rev. Gary Buss  
Messiah, Grand Junction, CO

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## National Campus Ministry Conference at ULC Boulder

University Lutheran Chapel at the University of Colorado, Boulder, will be hosting this year's National Christ on Campus Conference May 24–26, 2011. Whether you are a pastor, vicar, college student, or a laymen helping with campus outreach, or you are just plain interested in learning more about campus ministry, this conference is for you. We are pleased to have three outstanding speakers and topics: Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast, "The Future of Lutheranism: Challenges and Opportunities for Campus Ministry," Dr. E. Christian Kopff, "Luther as Classical Humanist: Why the Philosophical Theses of the Heidelberg Disputations Matter for Campus Pastors," and Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller, "Luther on Post-Modernism: The Humility of Being Right." For more information on the conference, visit, [universitylutheranchapel.com](http://universitylutheranchapel.com), or email Pastor Daniel Burhop at [pastor@universitylutheranchapel.com](mailto:pastor@universitylutheranchapel.com)

## Continuing Education Summer Workshop

Continuing Education (CE) Summer workshop, offered by Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in the Rocky Mountain District this summer 2011. "Psalms," taught by Dr. Reed Lessing, Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology, M-W., August 22-24, 2011 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Santa Fe, NM. The three-day CE workshop provides opportunity for pastors, church workers, and laity to grow in faith and understanding about the Scriptures and how to apply one's faith to contemporary culture. The workshop looks at some of the 400+ quotations from the book of Psalms found in the New Testament. Participants will also learn how to read the Psalter in its Old Testament context as well as in its multiple NT fulfillments in Jesus.

August 22-24, 2011 Workshop information and registration:

[www.csl.edu](http://www.csl.edu);

email: [ce@csl.edu](mailto:ce@csl.edu);

phone: 314-505-7486;

Registration deadline: Aug. 1, 2011

Cost: \$135

For lodging information in Santa Fe, contact host pastor, Rev. Douglas K. Escue, 505-983-7568.



## "Let the Countdown Begin for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation"

A special historic memorial keepsake is now available to LCMS congregations, Sunday Schools, schools, and Sunday worshippers. As we celebrate the awesome gift of salvation in the resurrection of our Lord in this holy Easter

season, we can also begin the countdown to the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 and the great heritage of God's Word and the Gospel that comes from it. Lutheran congregations can now order and plan to supply each worshipper in the Divine Service on Mother's Day, Armed Forces Sunday, Pentecost Day, or Father' Day with this first in a series of nine countdown commemorative medallions.

A series of nine commemorative medallions are being planned by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau. The nine medals are 1½ inches in size and issued in gold anodized aluminum. The obverse of each of the medals would be similar in design, focusing on Luther looking left (adapted from portraits by Lucas Cranach the Elder) at an image related to the event depicted on the reverse side. Visit [www.alpb.org](http://www.alpb.org) to see images of the two medallions planned for release in 2011, Luther in the Lightning Storm and the Erfurt Cathedral where Luther celebrated his first Mass. This second medal in the series will be offered in time for Reformation Sunday in October, 2011.

Other medallions to follow plan to feature Luther traveling to Rome (1510-1511), Luther receiving the Doctor of Theology Degree (1512), Luther's Tower Experience (1513), Frederick the Wise blocking Tetzal from Saxony (1514), the 600th Anniversary of Jan Hus's martyrdom (1415), Charles V (1516) becoming King of Spain, and the final medal issued in 2017, Luther posting the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church on Oct. 31, 1517, starting the Lutheran Reformation.

A 9" x 12" holder (Collector's Board) to store and display all nine medals is will also be available from ALPB (see website mentioned above). Pastor Scott Blazek of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Clovis, NM, is helping with the initial designs and production. For collectors of Luther and Reformation medallions, there will also be a limited number of medals struck in antique bronze and .999 silver. The bronze medals are \$18.00 and the price of the silver medals at this time is \$65 (pending the volatile price of silver). Orders for such can be made by going to the ALPB website at: [www.alpb.org](http://www.alpb.org). All orders, big or small, will receive a description of the medallions, children's sermon, and the sheet music for a brand new "500th Anniversary Countdown" Reformation Hymn for congregational use.

Note: Reformation commemorative medallions and coins cover six centuries and number in the hundreds of different types. For more on this, visit: [WWW.IARCM-IGMMR.ORG](http://WWW.IARCM-IGMMR.ORG)

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*What a Way* is an initiative of the LCMS that cherishes church workers. We are people who care.

Church workers are important to the church.

Both church workers and members of LCMS congregations can actually notice those persons around them who have the gifts to serve Christ and His church in the world in some full-time vocation of ministry.

You also can name them in prayer to God, name them to the pastor (and the pastor name them to the congregation) so that he might encourage them, name them to leaders in the church that they might pray for them, and get their name to a preparatory school (one of our Concordias) where they can grow into a life of service in their vocation.

Further, you can step forward to nurture them toward lives of Christian ministry to God's people, nurture them with conversation about their gifts and places of service, and nurture them with support as they come to want to serve in some form of ministry in the church.

Where can you go to get help in your quest to *notice* and *name* and *nurture* church workers?

*What a Way* at [www.whataway.org](http://www.whataway.org) has a tab, ENCOURAGE, and there you will find ways to support a church worker and to identify a future worker who wants to serve in the church.

Go to tab, EXPLORE, and you'll see ways to serve as a church worker. We'd love to have you think about ways to teach and preach the Word of God and serve the Lord Jesus.

Go to tab, EMBRACE, and you'll see how to serve well and be happy as a current church worker.

Lastly, view the very active *What a Way* blog at <http://blog.whataway.org> where numerous LCMS authors write daily/weekly about issues that relate to the church and her church workers. Over 3,000 viewers a month go to the blog and spend time reading these interesting little but engaging posts on important issues.

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## CAMP ERIN

When death strikes close to home, children can become what the military terms 'collateral damage.' Camp Erin, 40 miles west (at Camp Wondervu) of Denver, may be a useful resource to help meet the needs of children and teens (ages 6-17) who have experienced the death of someone dear to them. Campers can enjoy arts and crafts, sports, games, creative expression, and remembrance activities. It will run from **August 12-14, 2011**, including three (3) meals a day, snacks, and more. Camp Erin is **FREE** to all campers. To register, contact Shelli Worrall, 303-604-5279, or check out [www.hospicecareonline.org](http://www.hospicecareonline.org) Who do you know in your congregation, military unit, neighborhood, or family that may benefit?

How the LORD will use such an experience will be up to Him. Making the referral is up to you. But believe this about sanctified holy living with a faith focused on Christ crucified and risen and an eye on doing good for someone in need,

“This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father ... to visit orphans and widows in their distress; and, to keep oneself unstained by the world” James 1:27.

Charles Keogh, Chaplain, Denver VA Medical Center

## Lutheran Schools

The Lutheran schools in Salt Lake City metro area are contemplating a new vision. To read a great summary letter sent to the area congregations and shared with us by Pastor Al Borchert (Light of Valley Lutheran Church, Riverton, UT), please find it at [http://www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org/sites/default/files/users/margery\\_richter/News%20and%20Updates%20from%20Lutheran%20High%20School%20in%20UT.pdf](http://www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org/sites/default/files/users/margery_richter/News%20and%20Updates%20from%20Lutheran%20High%20School%20in%20UT.pdf)

The **Lutheran Chorale** presents its spring concert, featuring music inspired or written by great theologians, such as Martin Luther, Bernard of Clairvaux, Isaac Watts, St. Germanus, and Charles Wesley. David Hodel, the Chorale's director, will provide history and interesting anecdotes about several of the pieces. The concert will be presented twice on Sunday, May 15.

## Hope Springs Eternal

**May 15, 2011, 3:00pm - Sunday**

King of Glory Lutheran Church

10001 W. 58 St.

Arvada, CO

&

**May 15, 2011, 7:30pm - Sunday**

St. Paul Lutheran Church

1600 Grant St.

Denver, CO

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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**

Join the Rocky Mountain District on Facebook:

## **Roster Reports**

### **CALLS EXTENDED**

Immanuel, Loveland, CO, to David Florine, Fountain of Life, Tucson, AZ  
Shepherd of the Hills, Centennial, CO, to William Busacker, Grace, Sandy, UT  
St John, Libby, MT, to Rev. Steve Thomas, Grace, Lamar, CO  
St Paul, Ogden, UT, to Rev. Mark Christ, Clover Trinity, Buhl, ID

### **CALLS ACCEPTED**

Beth Landon, King of Glory, St Louis, MO, to Messiah, Longmont, CO

### **REMOVED/RESIGNED FROM ROSTER**

James Sturgis Jr., Portland, TX

### **TRANSFERRED FROM THE DISTRICT**

Abigail Reed, RMD to TX

## **Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District**

### **May**

16-17 Board of Director's Meeting - RMD  
19 Lachaim—St. John's, Denver, CO 9:30 am. to 2:30 pm

### **August**

1-2 RMD Board of Directors Meeting

### **September**

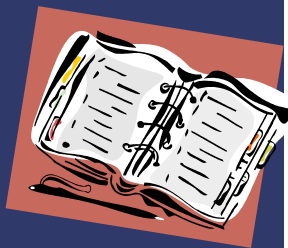
13-15 Older Adults at YMCA of Rockies, Estes Park, CO

### **October**

5-7 Professional Worker's Conference, Breckenridge, CO

### **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

Gracious Father, in Your hands lies the power to give strength and to bring about healing. Enable Your servant **Rev. Gary Buss** (senior pastor Messiah, Grand Junction) to trust that his cancer treatments will bring about remission. Continue to be the source of his strength as he undergoes these treatments. We pray in the saving name of Your Son Jesus. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the resurrection and the life, the first fruits of those who sleep in You. Thank You for releasing **Rev. E. Edward Hackman** (emeritus), Immanuel, Albuquerque, NM from the prison of this world on April 20. Comfort those who loved Rev. Hackman with the hope of the resurrection of the body and the promise of a heavenly reunion on the Day of Judgment. Grant this for the sake of Your name. Amen.

Gracious Shepherd, thank You for Your presence that has been with the teachers in our schools throughout this past school year: You guided them as they made their daily preparations; You encouraged them to emphasize to the students in their classrooms the importance of using their knowledge to the glory of God; You granted them the courage to speak the Word of God in their teaching whenever they had the opportunity. Bless them with patience and strength as they finish another school year, keeping them faithful to the Word. Amen.

Loving Father, thank You for guarding and protecting the students in our preschools, kindergartens, elementary and high schools throughout this school year about to come to a close. We pray that the students increased not only in secular knowledge but also in the knowledge of Jesus Christ as their only Savior from sin and as the Lord of their lives. May they grow into strong citizens of the world, keeping their hearts and minds focused on You, dear Father. We pray in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

The Rocky Mountain District Evangelism Outreach Team is asking you to join us in prayer as we prepare for the Conversations of Grace at the ROC, to be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO, November 4-5, 2011. The theme is "And all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual Rock which followed them; and the Rock was Christ". 1 Cor. 10:4.

Oh, Rock of our Salvation, because You want "all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1Tim 2:4), send Your Holy Spirit among us to reach those who are spiritually lost. Pray for, and guide our leadership as they discuss the potential topics and presenters, outreach needs of the area, obtain various volunteers who have special gifts, seek funding, and work with the Lutheran Hour Ministries Regional Outreach Conference Manager to finalize the schedule and program. Make us Your instruments in this regard, so that through participation in the ROC, and through our knowledge gained, many lost souls would come to salvation, hearing and knowing that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, and we may all join in drinking the same spiritual drink. In Jesus' name, Amen.

We encourage people to pray for the ROC effort, encourage existing prayer ministries to remember this event in their prayers, and organize prayer events before, during, and after the conference, as appropriate. If you are interested in being a prayer partner for the presenters and workshop leaders prior to, and during the event, please e-mail Jan Bloss at [jjbloss.1982@yahoo.com](mailto:jjbloss.1982@yahoo.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>