

Rocky Mountain District—
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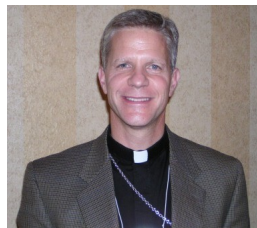
THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2011

Initial Reflections on the Turkey/Greece Trip

by
President Randall Golter

“And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent’” (Acts 18:9).



We returned October 23 from spending twelve days in Turkey and Greece, retracing in a partial way St. Paul’s three missionary tours.

The first of the many reflections I have about our trip is the absence of crosses in the Turkish villages. Standing tall on the horizon of every village we went through along the western coast of Turkey were minarets, the “prayer towers” of Islam. At marked times of each and every day the call goes out for Muslims for prayer. I can’t tell you how weird it was, unsettling, to not see churches with steeples and crosses affixed at the top. Rev. Clare Skov pointed out to me that no crosses adorned any of the tombstones either.

The church had been planted by Paul through the preaching of the Word. Now nearly 99 percent of Turkey is Islamic. About 50 years after Paul preached to the Ephesians, Jesus, in Revelation, takes the Ephesus church to task for losing its first love (approximately 95-96 A.D.). Christian churches as well as individual Christians can lose their saltiness and, therefore, are good for nothing for Christ (Matt. 5:13).

Another thought comes to mind: St. Paul was a driven man, bold and courageous. I believe he traveled over 6,000 miles in mission for the Christ who owned him. And, of course, that was why Paul was driven. After seeing the rugged terrain and the vast distances via the sea, such texts as Philippians 3, Romans 3, and Galatians 3 come alive with the vibrancy of Paul’s faith. He had been under the law but now was crucified with Christ. He was God’s slave and therefore completely free to be as authentically human as God intended him to be.

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“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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To show Paul's tenacity, read Acts 17:16 where Paul's spirit was "provoked within him" because of all the idols in Athens. Today you see the myriad of temples with the Parthenon owning the Temple of Athena, the goddess of virginity. Paul didn't judge the city by shopping malls or white beaches but according to the First Commandment. God's mercy was being rejected; His conversation through His Son refused. Paul didn't hesitate to take on the Greek philosophers on their own turf. While God's Word received mostly a cold welcome, a few came to faith by the Spirit's work (Acts 17:34). Paul was not afraid for his own life, for his life was secure in Christ. He was Christ's spokesman, God's mouthpiece, so to speak.

God works the same way today. God works His works through speaking, and through this speaking He creates a new reality in the midst of this fallen world. He recreates people into new creatures and sustains the earthly order. He calls pastors to preach His Word and the laity to repeat His Word heard in the Divine Service within their vocational callings.

America still has church steeples and crosses across the country but the time may come when they are destroyed or replaced. And we have God's Word to proclaim and that is far more powerful than any sword of steel. God will advance His kingdom here and around the world. Surprisingly, He used a sinner like Paul to speak of the Christ ... and He empowers you and me to do likewise.

2011 Lutheran Educator Award Recipients

Congratulations to all the Winners!

Educator- Kris Fjeldsted- Grace Lutheran School, Sandy, UT

Administrator- Duane Nyen- Trinity Lutheran School, St. George, UT

Early Childhood Director- Tammy Hayes- Mission Lutheran School, Las Cruces, NM



Pictured is - Kris Fjeldsted

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. 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 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. Edward Schmidt
Rifle, CO

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Support Lutheran Ministries in Bethlehem

On Sunday, December 4, the Colorado Chapter of Bright Stars of Bethlehem is sponsoring "On the Way to Bethlehem," a festival of Advent Lessons and Carols. The benefit will be held at Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Avenue in Denver at 7:30 p.m. All are invited.

Choirs from Ascension, St. Paul, and Our Savior Lutheran Churches will sing selections, and singers from other church choirs have been invited to participate in a mass choir led by David Hodel, director of the Denver Lutheran Chorale. Organists from other congregations will be involved as well.

Bright Stars of Bethlehem is a 501(c)3 charity that seeks to raise support for Lutheran ministries in Bethlehem, Palestine. An offering will be taken. It will go toward a music room at Dar al-Kalima (Arabic for "House of the Word") College in Bethlehem, the only Lutheran college in the Middle East. Thrivent Financial will supply matching funds. The Colorado Chapter already has raised over \$10,000 toward a goal of \$50,000.

A reception will be held afterward with a live video feed from Bethlehem featuring a conversation with the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem and director of the Diyan Consortium which sponsors the college.

If you wish to join the mass choir, for additional information, please contact Margaret Hinchey at mhinchey@aol.com or Arnie Voigt at arnievoigt@msn.com.

Grace Lutheran Celebrates a Mission Festival

Every third Sunday of October, Grace Lutheran in Hudson, CO celebrates a mission festival. In order to promote the great commission (Go ye therefore and teach all nations), they borrow the flags from the Rocky Mountain District Office. This makes a most colorful and festive service. "I would recommend that other churches do this as well," Pastor David Baker said. "It really seems to lift up the service and emphasize our



Lord's sending us into all the world." Pastor Baker continued, "I would really like to thank the staff at the Rocky Mountain District office. We have been doing this for about five years, and they have always been helpful and kind by letting us borrow the flags." Also for further emphasis on all nations, following the service they hold an "international potluck," which means food from as many places in the world as the members can cook..

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Rev. Chris Matthis installed as pastor of Epiphany, Castle Rock

On Sunday, October 2, 2011, Chris Matthis was installed as the Senior Pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, Colorado. Over 242 Epiphany members and guests participated in the Divine Service, including Pastor Matthis' relatives and 21 pastor friends who blessed the new pastor during the laying on of hands. Pastor Michael Eckelkamp (St. John's, Denver), a close friend of Pastor Matthis, preached on the theme of Jesus the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost sheep and loves His flock. District President Rev. Randy Golter installed Pastor Matthis in his office. Pastor Joe Murphy (Grace, Parker) read the Scriptures, and Rev. Glenn Kalthoff (Em.)



served as liturgist.

Organist Ila Twogood led the congregation in the singing of several stirring hymns. Epiphany's Adult Choir, directed by Cindy Hendricks, shared two uplifting musical offerings. Following the service guests enjoyed a catered meal.

Pastor Matthis's installation comes as another celebration in the life of a congregation that recently dedicated a remodeled, expanded sanctuary and a new education wing. Previously, Pastor Matthis faithfully served God's people at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Engle-

wood, Colorado. He and his wife Lisa live in Centennial, CO. Both pastor and congregation ask for your prayers as they continue their journey in mission and ministry together by God's grace and the Holy Spirit's power.

Photo by Sherry Jacob, Member of Epiphany, Castle Rock, CO

Pastor Chris Matthis
Epiphany Lutheran Church
Castle Rock, CO

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LCEF's Project School Zone

Project School Zone LIVE, a webcast series from Lutheran Church Extension Fund, begins school-year broadcasts Nov. 9 at 4 p.m. (CT).

ST. LOUIS, MO. (Oct. 20, 2011)—When it comes to branding, many Lutheran schools struggle. In a 2011 Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) survey, 90% of Lutheran principals who responded agreed it is important for schools to brand themselves. Yet, 78% graded their schools' branding efforts "C" or lower.

LCEF's Project School Zone aims to help with a four-part webcast series available to all Lutheran schools, free of charge. The first episode, "LIVE the Brand: Crafting a Consistent Story from Front Door to Faculty" streams Wed., Nov. 9 at 4 p.m. (CT)

School administrators, faculty and leaders can access the webcast at the Project School Zone Ustream Channel: (<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/project-school-zone-live>).

The Nov. 9 webcast features an in-depth interview with Spencer Peregoy, principal at St. John Lutheran School, Ellisville, Mo. In 2008, St. John received the National Blue Ribbon School award from the U.S. Department of Education. Gretchen Jameson, a frequent speaker on the topic of Lutheran school branding, will lead the interview with Peregoy. Jameson owns purePR, a communications strategy firm that works with nonprofits as well as Lutheran elementary, early childhood, and secondary schools.

The 50-minute webcast will include best-practice recommendations for schools of all sizes and settings, meant to improve branding efforts by focusing on identifying, differentiating and shaping a school's unique mission story. Online viewers can ask questions and share comments during the program via Twitter, Facebook and Ustream. Twitter users are invited to engage pre-event using #PSZLive.

Viewers are encouraged to pre-register, though it is not required, at Eventbrite: <http://projectschoolzone.eventbrite.com/>. Registration allows Project School Zone to provide helpful pre-cast information via email.

Last year's three-part series attracted more than 200 real-time viewers. The series' archived videos have been viewed more than 950 times at the Project School Zone Ustream channel.

This year's planned LIVE topics include:

"LIVE the Brand: Crafting a Consistent Story from Front Door to Faculty"

"Shoestring Strategy: Highly Effective Branding on a Budget"

"A Whole New You: Reinventing Your School Story in the Face of Challenges, Changes and Crises"

"That's MY School: The Role of Students and Parents in Effective Branding Strategy"

Project School Zone is a resource from LCEF of school marketing materials and support services to benefit recruitment and retention efforts in early childhood, elementary and secondary schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Project School Zone is online at

www.lcef.org/schoolzone.



DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel, is a LCMS RSO offering training in advanced skills for pastoral care. This continuing education experience draws from the insights of contemporary Christian psychology as well as the longer heritage of the cure of souls. DOXOLOGY's Advisory board includes recognized Lutheran leaders from five church bodies and three continents. Executive Directors are Dr. Harold L. Senkbeil (experienced parish pastor and seminary professor) and Dr. Beverly K. Yahnke (Professor of Psychology, Concordia University – Wisconsin). The program includes ten days of intensive instruction and peer learning spread over three separate events held in conference retreat settings: 1) The Gathering (pastors only); 2) The Encore (pastors and lay leaders); and, 3) The Grand Reunion (pastors and wives). Each enrolled pastor is eligible to receive up to five hours of individual consultation/mentoring for his personal or professional growth.

Research among program participants verifies significant improvement in pastors' skills and personal fulfillment/joy in ministry. Participating pastors, laity, and pastors' wives all have expressed consistent appreciation for the supportive, safe, and open environment fostered in DOXOLOGY events as well as the rich worship experiences woven throughout.

Here are just a few comments from participating pastors and laity:

This was priceless for anyone who desires to remain effective and beneficial as a shepherd of the flock; this conference provides great tools.

This pastor ...has been humbled by what I have received and learned at DOXOLOGY. In over nine years of ministry, this has been the most beneficial spiritual event I have attended.

I believe that DOXOLOGY has saved my ministry from a spiral into terrible mediocrity and my early exit from the ministry.

DOXOLOGY has built me up spiritually to be a better lay leader.

This has been very informational and moving. I will be able to take back useful information to share with my congregation about how to support our pastor.

The program has made me a torchbearer!

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The cost of this comprehensive experience, including all instruction, materials, meals, and lodging for pastors, a lay leader, and the pastor's wife is \$3,400. Due to the generous support received from LCMS WRHC and other funding partners, each enrolling congregation receives a grant of \$2,000 for this next training cycle. An additional \$200 discount is available for every congregation that enrolls by November 23, 2011, bringing the total cost to \$1,200. Concordia Plan Services offers a *BeWellServeWell* incentive bonus for member pastors and their spouses upon completion of the DOXOLOGY program.

Register online:

www.doxology.us

For information:

hsekbeil@doxology.us

byahnke@doxology.us

2012 Training Venues

Palo Alto, CA

Gathering January 8–11, 2012

Encore June 15–17, 2012

Rockford, IL

Gathering January 15–18, 2012

Encore June 1–3, 2012

Donaldson, IN

Gathering July 15–18, 2012

Encore November 16–18, 2012

The Grand Reunion for California and Illinois venues will be in Belleville, IL, August 3–5, 2012.

The Grand Reunion for the Indiana venue will be August 2–4, 2013, at a Midwestern site to be determined.

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Disaster-response conference encourages, equips Lutherans

By Kim Plummer Krull

While focusing on hurricanes, tsunamis, floods, and famines may sound depressing, participants at the first International Disaster Response Conference for Lutherans say they are encouraged and better equipped after learning how the church reaches out when calamities turn lives upside down.



LCMS Communications/Frank Kohn
The Rev. John Halakhe, left, general secretary with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK), and the Rev. Isaiah Obare tell how the ELCK is helping people affected by the famine in East Africa. The Kenyan Lutheran leaders were among presenters at the International Disaster Response Conference for Lutherans.

"We see that suffering is everywhere, but also that God has provided ways for us to respond," said the Rev. John Halakhe, general secretary with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya, one of about 80 attendees at the Oct. 18-20 conference in St. Louis sponsored by the LCMS Office of International Missions. "That's so encouraging. It's beyond our understanding and imagination how God has placed us in all these situations."

Lutherans from 15 countries, including the United States, took part, spotlighting the conference theme, "Sharing Moments of Mercy, Touching Lives Forever." Presenters included church leaders from Haiti, Chile, Japan, India, Kenya, and Australia. After "our summer of disasters" that included historic floods and a category 5 cyclone, Sirpa Harms said the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) belatedly discovered the need for preparation.

"We had no disaster-response ministry or plan. We had to develop one on the run," said Harms, who now serves as coordinator of the LCA Queensland District's disaster

response and recovery program. "This [conference] was an opportunity to learn more about what works and doesn't work from other countries so we can be better prepared for the next time."

Representatives from 20 LCMS districts also attended. Two pastors shared their first-hand experience after this spring's deadly tornadoes in Alabama and Joplin, MO.

"A lot lands on a pastor's shoulders [when a disaster strikes,]," said the Rev. Gregory Mech, pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Joplin. "It's a great blessing that the LCMS has a plan and partners who can help steer you in the right direction."

The Rev. Glenn F. Merritt, director of Disaster Response with the LCMS, called the conference a first step toward developing a global Lutheran disaster-response network. The disaster-response veteran says he hopes participants gained a sense of belonging to "a larger Lutheran community that is bound together by the desire to provide mercy and ministry at critical intersections in the lives of people who are hurting and helpless."

"We may be separated by culture, language, time and space, but we are one through Christ and bound together in a mission of mercy," Merritt said.

Contact your Rocky Mountain District Response Coordinator, Rev. Dr. Dennis F. Lucero, at 719-233-0562 for information or to schedule a training event in your



LCMS Communications/AI Dowbina
Yuko Endo, right, a coordinator with Japan Lutheran Emergency Relief, talks with the Rev. Darrell Howanitz at the International Disaster Response Conference about continuing needs since the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power accident in her homeland. Howanitz assists the Rev. Glenn F. Merritt, director of Disaster Response with the LCMS.

congregation.

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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



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Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

2011 Calendar

November

- 4-5 "Conversations of Grace at the ROC!" Conference, Colorado Springs, CO, Crowne Plaza
- 6 Denver Area Reformation Service—Ascension Lutheran Church, Littleton, CO - 4:00 PM

2012 Calendar

January

- 30-31 RMD Board of Directors' Meeting

February

- 27 Nurturing the Faith 2012 - New Mexico

March

- 4-10 Lutheran Schools Week
- 5-6 RMD Board of Directors' Meeting
- 13 Nurturing the Faith 2012 - North Denver
- 15 Nurturing the Faith 2012 - South Denver
- 16 Nurturing the Faith 2012 - Utah

June

- 7-9 RM District Convention – Hyatt Tech Center, Denver, CO
- 22-24 RMD LWML Convention – El Paso, TX

August

- 6-7 RMD Board of Directors' Meeting
- 12 Nurturing the Faith 2013- N. Denver
- 14 Nurturing the Faith 2013- S. Denver
- 15 Nurturing the Faith 2013- Utah

July

- 20-25 2013 LCMS Convention –St Louis, MO

October

- 3-5 Professional Workers' Conference





Roster Report

CALL EXTENDED

Our Father, Centennial, Colo. to Rev. Dan Thews, Faith, Appleton, Wis.
Calvary, Rio Rancho, N.M. to Rev. Thomas Barton, Candidate Status, Albuquerque, N.M.

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev. Daniel Kletke of Pembroke, Ontario Canada to St John, Canon City, Colo.

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Kevin Froelich, Candidate Status to Grace, Hibbing, Minn.

CHANGE OF STATUS

REINSTATEMENTS

Joan Paez Crow, Long Beach, Calif., to Candidate Status
Kimberly Eman, Westminster, Colo. to Candidate Status

We Encourage your Prayers

Gracious Father, bless **Rev. Craig Henningfield**, Evangelism Church Without Walls, Commerce City, CO with the gift of Your peace and a sense of Your presence as his heart problems continue to be addressed. Grant guidance to his doctors, and enable his loved ones to trust You for strength. Amen.

Lord God, through Your Word came the seasons of nature and the seasons of life, a time for everything under heaven. We thank You for granting the father of **Rev. Martin Davis** Your peace at the close of his days, filling his last hours with the certainty of eternal life with You—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Be with Rev. Davis and his family in this sad time until they join his father in singing Your praises. Amen. [Rev. Davis is the pastor of Grace, Cheyenne Wells, CO and Trinity, Kit Carson, CO.]

O Lord of the church, thank You for those men who You have put in place in various aspects of the administrative responsibilities of the staff of the Rocky Mountain District. May Your Spirit enable them to rely on You for the power, love, and self-discipline needed for them to fulfill their duties. May the Holy Spirit also help these men to trust that Your hand of blessing is guiding the discussions/conversations/decision making in any meetings or “problem solving” situations they participate in. Continue to bless them with strength and purpose in their work in Your kingdom. Amen.

Rev. Randy Golter serves as the president of the Rocky Mountain District.

Paul Albers serves as the Executive, Congregational Services.

Kevin Grein serves as the vice-president in charge of loans for the LCEF.

Doug Ullman serves as the Executive Administrator.

