

Rocky Mountain District—
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THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2011

God Needs Pastors

by

President Randall Golter

"Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood" (Acts 20:28).

The Lord of the church needs pastors, for He *made* some men to be pastors. Not that He absolutely needs pastors, but He chooses to need pastors. In the Lord's grand and glorious freedom as lord over His Church, He orders how it is.



He puts into place an office whereby He places men to be *overseers*. *Overseers* may also be translated in English as *bishops*. Overseers or bishops, or pastors as we are more familiar with as Lutherans, get their clues from the true Bishop, Jesus Christ. "For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls" (1 Peter 2:25). Pastors are bishops or shepherds who follow the lead of their Shepherd, Jesus Christ, and watch over or oversee souls.

Paul's descriptive word for bishop work is "care for the church of God." Take note first that the church is God's; His Son's blood was the purchase price for the Father's church. Pastors don't own the church, and neither do the sheep, the laity. The church is God's. He is the one who builds it (Matt. 16:18; I Cor. 3:7, 9).

In Acts 20:28 "care" is one possible translation, "feed" is another. "Care," though, captures the broad and wide range of the bishop's oversight. The pastor is to lead, guide, and guard the flock. They do so with the Word of God, which is God-breathed (2 Tim. 3:16), God's reliable and trustworthy voice (2 Peter 1:21).

Sheep are so precious to God that He sets up the pastoral office and puts a man in it. He charges the man placed in that office with the oversight and care of souls. He provides the very tools by which the bishop is to care: God's very voice, the Word, and Baptism and the Holy Communion.

Many church bodies today place women into this office, even though God has not put them there. Paul refers to the Lord's command (1 Cor. 14:37), which forbids women to preach in church (1 Cor. 14:34; 1 Tim. 2:12; 3:2; Titus 1:6). The Lord's own choice of men only for apostleship makes visible His way, even though many women supported His ministry.

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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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Augsburg Confession XIV states: “Our churches teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church, or administer the Sacraments, without a rightly ordered call.” And thus, in The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, no one does preach or administer the Sacraments without following the right and churchly order of training and certification by a seminary, call, ordination, and installation. This is the church order to which we have bound our churches and pastors, and to which all gladly and freely agree.

The whole church (circuits, district and synod) needs to know and have confidence in the man the Holy Spirit puts in the office. The Lord does not state the *how* but only the *what*. The what of the office is that He makes the office and calls the pastor; the how is left to the church herself. The years of training, certification, the call process, installation, etc.

The local church as well must be certain that this man preaches only Christ’s Word, and that the Word is that which is interpreted correctly by the Lutheran Confessions. The sheep must be certain that the Word is not twisted or added to, which would place uncertainty into the soul of sheep. The word of the Gospel is certain and true: I forgive you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord needs pastors to care for His church, for He cares for His church. His blood covers His church, and every sheep in the flock.

Denver Area Reformation Service—November, 6—Ascension Lutheran Church, Littleton, CO

“In addition to preaching for the area-wide Reformation Worship on November 6th at 4:00 p.m., Dr. Paul Meier will also be preaching at Ascension Lutheran Church, Littleton, CO, that Sunday, November 6 at the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services. In addition, he will lead a discussion of his book, “Jesus, Legend or Lord”. During the adult bible study at Ascension from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.”

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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Be Aware, Be Prepared, and Live by Faith

Helping Congregations and Members Prepare for Disasters

Earthquakes! Tornadoes! Hurricanes! Floods! Wildfires! Plane crashes! Are your congregation and community prepared to respond to natural or man-made disasters? For most of us the answer would be “I don’t know” or “I hope so.”

Our Synod and the Rocky Mountain District have a Disaster Response Team that is prepared to come and present training in Disaster Relief and Response to your group. Through an initiative following Hurricane Katrina, the Synod has organized a disaster relief and response effort that has been put into action this year in the Northeast, the Gulf Coast, Texas, and California. In addition, ongoing relief efforts are in place in Haiti and Japan.

Many different agencies and organizations respond to disasters at various levels with varying capacity. There are always needs to be met. The members of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod meet those needs most efficiently and effectively when they cooperate, collaborate, and coordinate work. Faith-based, congregation-based disaster recovery combines funding, personnel, material, and other essential resources to facilitate cooperation, collaboration, and coordination.

A faith-based, congregation-based disaster recovery organization like LCMS World Relief-Human Care uses resources of the Synod, Districts, and churches, as well as community-based social services and coordinated volunteer programs. It does not deploy energy, effort, and precious financial resources to build duplicate structures but rather it focuses on the unique work and call of the Church.

Through collaborative efforts the faith-based, congregation-based disaster recovery organization determines what other organizations and agencies are providing and coordinates with them to insure that all needs are met, first among congregation members and then within the community.

The elements necessary for relief and recovery are often already present in a disaster-affected community. Every community possesses distinctive assets and strengths that can advance the healing process following the trauma of disaster. The local congregation draws on those distinctive assets and strengths to join the community in a comprehensive response to disaster that is truly Christ-centered and Gospel motivated.

A faith-based, congregation-based program provides training in key areas such as disaster preparedness, education, mitigation, and prevention. Congregations may also give attention to community and national initiatives such as environmental concerns and economic development prior to and following a disaster.

In addition, a faith-based, congregation-based approach can help build awareness about kinds of disasters that are likely to happen. It can also help communities take steps to mitigate and prepare for disasters, thereby lessening the dangers of natural events through education and advocacy.

Congregations can provide leadership to a community to create a more secure future during recovery by encouraging rebuilding programs that make homes and other structures less vulnerable to damage in another disaster.

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A faith-based, congregation-based recovery approach that organizes to respond to a particular disaster may also continue working to prepare for the next disaster by developing a response plan that enables the entire religious community to move into action quickly, effectively, and efficiently. Such an approach can also help educate individuals and churches about special personal and institutional preparation for disasters. In doing so, the faith-based, congregation-based approach plays a unique role in disaster relief and response.

For further information or to schedule a Disaster Response Team training event in your area, contact your Rocky Mountain District Disaster Response Team.

RMD DRT Coordinator –

Rev. Dr. Dennis F. Lucero—719-233-0562 (cell) 719-596-6519 (home)
719-636-5011 (church)

RMD Utah Coordinator—Rev. Bob Schrank—801-455-7010 (cell)
801-268-4277 (home)

RMD New Mexico Coordinator—Rev. Doug May—575-835-9648

Peace, Arvada, CO Hosts Community Events

Members of Peace Lutheran Church in Arvada, CO hosted their second annual Community BBQ on September 11 in conjunction with the city's Arvada Harvest

Festival. On that weekend the church sponsored a booth at the city's festival, entered a float in the city's parade, and hosted the free BBQ for the community on Sunday. Dozens of neighbors attended and an estimated 375 people were served. Thrivent sponsored the bouncy castles and dunk tank. A table offered an opportunity for people to fold small pocket flags which will eventually be carried by deployed military. Famous homemade spices were sold to



support a fall mission trip to El Salvador through Living Water International. Live music was presented by the Fish Tones. The love of Jesus was shared through word, food, music, smiles, games, and through military and mission support.

Submitted by Polly Wegner, DCE

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St. John's Connects with Neighbors at Annual Community Picnic

St. John's Lutheran Church and School, Denver, CO puts on a spread of food and fun each year at their annual Community Picnic in Washington Park. The September 11th picnic brought in over 500 people who enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers, homemade pies, a chili contest, a dog contest and fellowship with friends. St. John's School PTL sponsored and organized the children's activities and games. The kid fun included a giant caterpillar for kids of all ages to crawl through, a bouncy castle, caricatures, craft projects, a bike obstacle course and much more. During the 10:30 am Praise Service the Christian band "Sixteen Cities" performed several songs while also accompanying the All-School Choir.

"This was such a fun way to get to know more of our neighbors and check out what St. John's church and school are all about," commented one first-time picnic attendee. "We'll be back next year!"



Photo 1: Almost 500 St. John's members and Washington Park neighbors gathered on September 11th for food, fun, and fellowship.



Photo 2: Mom and daughter eating Good food, sunshine, gathering with new and old friends brought out all the grins at St. John's Community Picnic!

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Join us on twitter

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

October

31 RMD Board of Directors' Meeting

November

1 RMD Board of Directors' Meeting

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





Roster Report

PLACEMENTS

Duncan Sprague, Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN to Grace, Lamar, CO

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev. Chris Matthis, Immanuel, Englewood, CO to Epiphany, Castle Rock, CO

Craig Oldenburg, Mount Cross, Felton, CA to Immanuel, Loveland, CO

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Kevin Froelich, Candidate to Nicolai, Canby, MN/ Zion, Boyd, MN

CHANGE OF STATUS

Rev. William Allshouse, Summit of Peace, Thornton, CO to Emeritus

Allegra Braasch, Trinity, Franktown, CO to Candidate Status

Troy Dieters, Rock of Ages, Colorado Springs, CO to Non-Candidate Status

Joel Palmreuter, Lutheran High School, Parker, CO to Non-Candidate Status

Rev. Steven Parks, University Hills, Denver, CO to Candidate Status

Michael Werner, Shepherd of the Hills, Centennial, CO to Candidate Status

REINSTATEMENTS

David Hentzen, Idaho Falls, ID to Candidate Status

REMOVED/RESIGNED FROM ROSTER

Kathyrine L'Heureux, Non-Candidate, Germantown, WI

Bridget Thiel, Non-Candidate Status, Ft Morgan, CO

TRANSFERRED DISTRICTS

Rev. Richard Bolland, Emeritus, Missouri District to RMD

David Hentzen, Candidate Status, Idaho Falls, ID to Northwest District

Igor Skrastins, Emeritus, Minnesota South District to RMD

Rev. Gary Trickey, Emeritus to California-Nevada-Hawaii District

CALLED TO GLORY

Rev. Scott C. Campbell, Emeritus, Thornton, CO

Rev. William Gustave Polack IV, Emeritus, Lakewood, CO

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Be Inspired, Energized and Equipped

to share God's love, nurture your family, and witness to the community!

COG/ROC – COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

November 4 - 5, 2011

In partnership with the Rocky Mountain District's "*Conversations of Grace*" (COG) 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, Fellowship and Discussions with other Mission-Minded Christians.

This mountaintop, however, is not the end of the journey. With solid Biblical and Outreach Training, as well as easy access to ongoing resources after the conference is over, you will be fired up to be a witness for Jesus Christ!

COG/ROC – Colorado Springs will include

- Opportunities to meet and hear the new Speaker of *The Lutheran Hour* - Rev. Greg Seltz
- Key note and encouraging messages from Trustguy Ministry's - Dr. Micah Parker
- Practical Breakout Sessions on numerous Outreach Topics designed to reach today's culture
- Teen evangelism tracks to equip and encourage them to be a light in the world - Rev. Ben Hoyer
- A track of workshops in Spanish with translation of main stage programming
- Age-appropriate activities and events for children and pre-teen youth, and much more!

For complete details and registration forms please refer to the *ROC Information Packet* that has been mailed to your church **AND/OR** go on-line to

www.lhm.org/roc - click on the "links" to Review, Register and Reserve your place for this excellent opportunity to improve your abilities to share the Gospel Message!

SAVE THE DATE and MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

"They all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ." (1 Corinthians 10:4)



We Encourage your Prayers



Prayer for the Rocky Mountain District Evangelism Outreach Team

O Rock of our Salvation, because You said in John 4:35, “Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest,” You emphasize the urgency of the missionary task. We pray that You will fill us with a joy and a passion for telling others about Christ. We pray for Your guidance and direction for the Rocky Mountain District Evangelism Outreach Team in conjunction with the Lutheran Hour Ministries Regional Outreach Conference Manager, asking that the planned program be a blessing to all those who attend the Conversations of Grace at the ROC, November 4-5, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, in Colorado Springs, CO. May Your Holy Spirit help us to see and seize the opportunities You give us to be Your light in a world that is darkened by sin. All we have to do is be who You created us to be, and You will use our talents, weaknesses, and interests for Your glory. Thank You, Lord, for showing us how to be Your light, out of love for You and for Your lost sheep. O Lord, let us experience the joy of freely sharing Your Word with others, whoever they may be. We pray in Your glorious name, Amen.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Conqueror of death, graciously attend the family, friends, and former colleagues of **Rev. Scott Campbell**, Emeritus, in the knowledge that he is safe with You in the heavenly realms; You were with Scott as he passed from time to eternity. May Your Holy Spirit bring comfort and peace to the saddened hearts of those who knew and loved him, especially his wife Josephine Marie. Amen. [Rev. Campbell went to be with our Lord on September 17. He was a member of Beautiful Savior in Broomfield, CO.]

Lord God, Father of all, thank You that Jesus sanctified the graves of all those who rest in You. May this beautiful truth comfort the family, friends, and former colleagues of **Rev. William Gustave Polack IV**, Emeritus, who Jesus called home in September. Amen. [Rev. Polack was the pastor of Emmaus, Denver, CO for many years.]