

Rocky Mountain District—
LCMS
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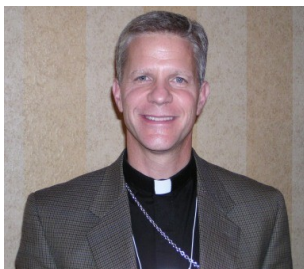
THE MESSENGER OCTOBER 2010

by
President Randall Golter

Gospel Gap Paradigm

John 4:35, *“Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.”*

Is it not interesting how the Lord saw the need to instruct His disciples in the story of the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well? Why did they not get it, that is, not know that the harvest field was right before their very eyes?



The disciples had gone into Sychar to buy food (John 4:8). They did not see what the Lord saw in Sychar, a city full of lost sinners for whom He would shed His blood as payment for their sins. They saw it only as a place to buy food, not to spread the Word.

Is it not interesting how gentle and patient our Lord is with His disciples? He uses a woman to teach them that the church’s purpose is redemptive, that is, the saving of souls. And the boundary is as broad and as wide as the Father’s heart is full of mercy.

I am proposing a new mission paradigm for the Rocky Mountain District which is fundamentally a “circuit-based church planting model.” It is based on the cell phone coverage metaphor.

See each of the seventeen circuits within the RMD as cell-phone coverage areas. Each church is a cell tower which transmits signals, the preaching of the Gospel.

There are gaps, though, where the Gospel is not transmitted, not being heard. These “gaps” may be geographic or demographic. The Northeastern Circuit of Colorado, for example, sees their GGP as the Hispanics in their midst. God’s people there in Holyoke and Sterling and Ft. Morgan, etc., are going to call a Hispanic pastor in the spring of 2011. They are identifying, strategizing, implementing, and, with collaboration from their larger church family, the RMD, will plant missions to reach out to the Hispanics.

Where are the Gospel Gaps around you? Are you like the disciples who saw only places to buy food but not the souls that are lost in unbelief?

The Gospel Gap Paradigm places the joyful responsibility of stewarding the Triune God’s mission at the circuit level first but not only there where the eyes and hearts are closest to the ground. The larger church, represented by the District, will help build capacity for each of the circuits through training, motivation, financial support, ecclesiastical supervision, etc.

Together, *together*, bound by Christ’s voice revealed in His Word, we cooperate in the Triune God’s mission. In reality, we are trying to catch up to Him. He is always on the move, seeking and saving the lost through the preaching of His shed blood.



“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



Rocky Mountain District—LCMS

www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org



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October Meditation

"Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

(Luke 15:6-7)

Any Christian pastor will be quick to tell you that one of the greatest joys in ministry is to witness a person come to faith in Christ Jesus as their Savior. It's almost a contagious thing, to observe this person discover the Lord's gift of peace and purpose in their lives, the new sense of freedom and joy that they come to know through the forgiveness of all their sin and the gift of eternal life. To see that type of joy – and to share in the type of joy – even by itself, makes Christian ministry all worthwhile.

Yet the joy that we so experience must pale in comparison with the joy of the Lord and all of His heavenly hosts whenever even a single sinner comes to saving faith. Clearly, that is the main point of the three familiar parables of Jesus in Luke 15 – those of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son. Truly it is a heavenly joy, a heavenly celebration – yet one in which you and I are also invited to participate here on earth.

For this reason, joy always attends the mission of Christ's church. For the Lord Himself has promised that His Word will never return to Him void, but will accomplish what He desires and fulfill His intended purpose (Isaiah 55:11).

Every one of the Rocky Mountain District's 180 congregations, and every one of its 70 schools, plays a role in this work of proclaiming the Lord's saving Word. Not only does He call, gather, enlighten, sanctify, and keep us in the one true faith, but He also sends us forth to proclaim the Gospel, especially to those who still do not know Him as their Savior. In this sense, each congregation and each school serves as a mission outpost of the Gospel.

Beyond this, our Rocky Mountain District is at this time also partnering together in a special appeal to advance the broader mission of our Lord, an appeal that seeks to raise \$2 million in new monies to support the Lord's mission internationally, nationally, and locally. Divine joy is the hallmark of *Igniting Church and Culture for Christ*, simply because its sole purpose is to better position and equip the church to reach the lost with the Gospel. While this appeal is a direct result of our 2009 Rocky Mountain District convention resolutions, much more importantly it is our shared response to the Great Commission that our Lord Jesus has given to us.

So you and I are invited to share in the joy - the very joy of heaven! - over those who will come to know the Lord's salvation through this mission partnership of our district. And it is our fervent prayer that He would bless this effort to that end.

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. Jeff Shearier
Mt. Olive, Aurora, 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. Gary Buss
Messiah, Grand Junction, CO

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Igniting Church and Culture for Christ

Do you think your congregation is too small to raise funds for the special *Igniting Church and Culture for Christ* fundraising effort? Do you feel that your contribution would be too small to make a difference?

The decision of Faith Lutheran Church, Johnstown, CO might help you to view your own situation in a different light. They were excited by the Rocky Mountain District's special appeal to raise funds for national and international missions.



Fan into Flame is a campaign to gather financial support for the Abolish movement. It is a call to action for the movement to help the people and people who are in need of help.

Faith Lutheran, a small congregation of 121 communicants with an average Sunday worship attendance of 97, made a decision to raise \$1,500 on an annual basis for four years to help support the District-wide special appeal, *Igniting Church and Culture for Christ*.

igniting Church and Culture for Christ.

We praise God for Faith's partnership in the Gospel! As members of congregations join together and as congregations partner together, much can be accomplished!

Incidentally, Faith's contribution amounts to roughly \$50 per communicant member. If every member of the Rocky Mountain District made a similar contribution, the *Igniting Church and Culture for Christ* special appeal would surpass the \$2 million goal!

While some individuals are able to contribute in greater abundance and others contribute a lesser amount, so it is with congregations. It is not the amount that is as important as setting our hearts and minds on carrying the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. It is about carrying out the mission of God! As we have generously been given the gift of salvation through Jesus, so we want those who do not yet have the peace and hope we have to have it also. We want them to spend eternity with us!

The District website, www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org, has further information on this special \$2 million fund appeal, how funds will be utilized for national and international missions, and how you may participate.

You may also call the District Office for further information (303-695-8001).

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Healthier Ministries Taskforce Brings New Life to Rocky Mountain District

By Rev. Chris Matthis, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Englewood, CO

There is a crisis facing LCMS congregations. Over the past several decades, our denomination continues to lose members and see congregations close. Ninety percent of our congregations are in decline or have plateaued in worship attendance, and the vast majority has not had one adult baptism in the past year. Even in the Rocky Mountain District, baptized and communicant memberships has decreased by 6,272 and 2,937 souls, respectively, over the past decade. Sadly, many LCMS congregations are paralyzed in fear when facing the decision to change or die. But many do not know how to begin reaching out to their communities and neighbors with the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

That is why the Rocky Mountain District began its Healthier Ministries Task Force several years ago. Healthier Ministries is tasked with providing resources and training to congregations, schools, pastors, and staff in order to lead transformational change that will bring new life and vitality by focusing on Jesus' mission "to seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10). A major component of that effort is the Transforming Congregations Network (TCN) which helps congregations address issues that have resulted in decline: ineffective leadership, unaddressed conflict, a lack of vision, stifling structure, and a failure to be outward-focused on lost people. Through a weekend consultation, ongoing coaching, and learning communities for pastors, TCN helps congregations to address the needs of their neighbors and communities—especially the need for lost people to be found and loved by Jesus and His Church through the Gospel. Most congregations participating in the TCN process have experienced significant new conversion growth (adult baptisms) within the first two years of the three year process.

In addition to making TCN consultations and coaches available to congregations and pastors, Healthier Ministries hosts three Lachaim learning communities in Salt Lake City, Denver, and the Denver Southwest Circuit. These monthly and quarterly groups meet to help train pastors, principals, and administrators to lead transformational change in their churches and schools by equipping them with skills and resources that help make loving lost people their top priority and mission. Through lectures, discussions, prayer, and fellowship, church leaders grow in their love for Jesus, one another, and the lost. They also find challenge and encouragement from the Lachaim leaders to make Jesus' top priority their top priority: loving lost people.

You can help congregations and schools of the Rocky Mountain District experience new life and vitality by supporting Healthier Ministries through your prayers and financial contributions. The District's Mission funding campaign, *Igniting Church and Culture for Christ*, is seeking to raise \$100,000 in support of Healthier Ministries. This \$100,000 will make it possible to train consultants and coaches to help pastors and churches develop a mission, vision, and strategic plan; provide support for church and school workers dealing with overwhelming personal stresses; and provide resources for churches and schools to become healthier and more effective in their mission and ministry. This \$100,000 goal is part of the District's greater goal of raising nearly \$2 million dollars for international, domestic, and local missions.

The District website, www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org, has further information on this special \$2 million fund appeal, how funds will be utilized for national and international missions, and how you may participate. You may also call the District Office for further information: 303-695-8001.

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Immanuel in Paonia Gets New Pastor



On Sunday, September 19, Immanuel Lutheran in Paonia, Colorado, installed Rev. Duane Daeke as their new pastor. Pastor Daeke succeeds Pastor Rod Loose, who has served Immanuel for the past seven years. Pastor Loose, who preached the sermon for the Installation Service, has now officially retired. He partially retired before coming to Paonia in November 2003. Area LCMS pastors, pictured above, participated in the Service of Installation.

Pastor Daeke, age 62, has served congregations in South Dakota and Wisconsin. He has taken an early retirement and is serving Immanuel on a part-time basis.

Pastor Daeke is single since his wife Pat passed away about three years ago. The congregation and their new pastor look forward to years of service together.

Celebrating 25 Years In Our Lord

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church of Ruidoso, New Mexico, will be celebrating its 25th anniversary of the dedication of their building on October 31st. Dr. Dean Hemplemann of Las Cruces will be the guest preacher in the Divine Worship at 10:30am. All are invited to attend this worship of praise and thanksgiving.

Pastor Kevin Krohn

St. John's Lutheran Church, Denver, CO, Celebrates new Members!



Thirty-four people stepped forward and were recognized as new members at St. John's Lutheran Church on Sunday, September 19, 2010. This group was welcomed during the 8 a.m. service and others were recognized at the 10:30 worship time.

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The Holy Land and Egypt



You are invited to join Rev. Tom and Chris Mroch and Rev. Tom and Jeanette Teske on a unique 13-day tour to the Holy Land and Egypt in October of 2011. In addition to all of the usual Holy Land sites, the tour will include a visit to Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem and dinner with its pastor, the Rev. Mitri Raheb, and a brief tour of Augusta Victoria Hospital, on the Mount of Olives, operated by the Lutheran World Federation. The tour concludes with three nights in Cairo and visits to the Egyptian Museum, the Pyramids, the Sphinx, and other sites in the area.

For information or a brochure, please contact the Mrochs at tcmroch@yahoo.com (720-379-6376) or the Teskes at tom@teskes.net (303-877-8038.)

Reaching Out to the Community

St. John's Lutheran Church and School, Denver, Colorado, partnered together in reaching out to the Washington Park Community on September 12, 2010. The event was blessed with the attendance of RMD Education Executive Paul Albers, Lutheran High School Chief Executive Officer Juls Clausen, High School Principals Dan Gherke and David Ness, and Loren Otte, Principal of St.

John's Lutheran Church School.

Approximately 1,200 people from the church, school, and community were in attendance for the three hour event. A free lunch was served to the attendees who also enjoyed a chili contest, a cookie competition, and a dog show. Adding to the festivities of the day were a children's art demonstration, a quilt show, and face painting. The family friendly setting included Fire Engine Rides, Jump Castles, and a Climbing Wall.

The mission of St. John's Lutheran Church and School, partnering together as one in ministry, is "Connect people to

Jesus by creating a culture that values people and raising up people to love them."

Rev. Dr. Michael A. L. Eckelkamp

Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church and School



Mark your Calendars!

RMD LCMS Evangelism Team is partnering with Lutheran Hour Ministries to host a Conversations of Grace Conference on November 5-6, 2011.

The theme is "Conversations of Grace at the ROC!"

It will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO. Wonderful speakers and terrific workshops are being planned.

This will be a much bigger event than our past conferences, so you won't want to miss it. Watch for more information as we get closer to the date.





News from Ysleta

It has been a whirlwind summer for Ysleta Lutheran Mission (YLM) in El Paso, TX. In September YLM added up the number of people who were impacted by their ministries during the past three months or so and arrived at an exciting tally: 10,402. Ten-thousand four-hundred-two people whose lives were touched in some way by some facet of their ministry. Ten-thousand four-hundred-two—and that does not even include viewers of their weekly television program. When one really ponders it, that impressive number is just the beginning. The work of the Holy Spirit is so much bigger than one can imagine as His mercy and grace ripple outward from those lives impacted by the Gospel.

Even as YLM closes the doors on such a successful summer of ministry, they find themselves struggling to go forward and not have to close themselves down. Every penny of their savings has been spent in the past year as they stand boldly on the border in service to Christ during this critical time. As they carry out God's calling in the valley that is El Paso and Juarez, Mexico, they are battling to keep the lights on AND Christ's light shining into a city bathed in thick darkness. Financial gifts are needed now more than ever in order to keep doing all that we do: Mariachi San Pablo performances; food, clothing, and toy distributions; weekly worship services at ten mission sites in two countries; a thrift store; the aforementioned TV program, and more. Stephen Heimer, YLM COO, is heading up an appeal for 80 gifts of \$500.00 each to aid us with our present battle against the powers and principalities at work on the border. Rev. Karl Heimer, YLM CEO, envisions a network, or partnership, approach, sharing our financial burden with congregations and individuals nationwide in the coming fiscal year. A monthly commitment of any amount, no matter how modest, would contribute to the sustenance of any number of outreaches that God has permitted the mission to operate. Information on the cost of each individual program is available upon request.

By the time you read this, the number 10,402 will have grown steadily. As God takes each of the comparatively miniscule 10,402 instances that can be counted and multiplies them according to His purposes, we trust that He will do the same with the resources and connections He has blessed YLM with. Here is another number: we stand in awe and praise for every ONE person that is added to that contingent, and our prayer is that YLM continues touching and even changing lives with Christ's Gospel through every component of its ministry, knowing that God is rejoicing over every ONE.





Pastor Dan Muecke Installed at Faith Lutheran, Buena Vista, CO

Having accepted the call from Faith Lutheran in Buena Vista, Pastor Dan Muecke was installed on Sunday, July 25th. Pastor Muecke and his wife, Betty, moved to Buena Vista from Dearborn, MI where he had been serving as Pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church from 2005 until their move to Colorado. Prior to his attending the seminary and being ordained on July 17, 2005, Pastor Muecke used his degrees in electrical engineering as a consultant and manager in information technology for a variety of companies. Pastor and Betty have two adult children, Susan, a Ph. D. student at Wayne State University, and Christopher, a pharmaceutical representative for Mead-Johnson.



Mario Lozano Ordained and Installed, Las Cruces, NM

Mario Lozano was called by Mission Lutheran Church to be pastor to the Hispanic community of Las Cruces. He was ordained and installed at Mission Lutheran Church on July 25, 2010.

Pastor Lozano is pasturing the Hispanic mission, known as Rey de Reyes (King of Kings), as they work toward independence and is helping them to reach out to the Hispanics of Las Cruces.



Currently about 40 people worship in Spanish each Sunday. Rey de Reyes is currently remodeling a trailer (mobile home) to be used for the new sanctuary and

are in the process of trying to purchase some land on which to put the new sanctuary.

(Picture above: The Lozano family, Mario, Sue, Antonio, Melody, Maricella, not pictured is Emiliano).





We Encourage your Prayers

Prayer of intercession for the Professional Workers Conference:

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints for the courts of the Lord. (Psalm 84:1,2)

O Lord Almighty, Your Word enables Your saints to demonstrate their love to You, O God, by being faithful to Your Word as it also empowers us to eagerly strive to put that Word into practice in our lives.

Bring to the remembrance of those attending the **Professional Workers Conference** the truth that Jesus came to earth to live among us and to do the work of the Father who sent Him. He completed that work of rescuing lost souls and returning home to the Father. Jesus dwells in our hearts: we want to go home when our work of sharing that Word is done. May Your Spirit, who gave us the longing for our heavenly home, also grant us a longing to have others have that heavenly home.

Grant that Your Holy Spirit bless the efforts of those church workers planning and organizing the PWC so that those who participate in the conference are better able to use their time, energy, and abilities as they return to their work in Your kingdom. We pray that a spirit of humility and openness prevail during the presentations, discussions, and conversations that are an integral part of a conference such as this. Cause all presenters to present their material in clear, focused thinking so that Your Word is not hindered nor misunderstood.

We ask that all participants have safe travel to and from the conference. Thank You for the work of Your Son Jesus who enables us to turn to You in prayer. Amen.



Roster Reports

PLACEMENTS

Rev. Mark Reiner, Colloquy, Faith, Woodland Park, CO

CALL EXTENDED

Prince of Peace, Cedar Crest, NM to Rev. Bruce Zagel, Montana District

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Bruce Zagel, Montana District to Prince of Peace, Cedar Crest, NM

CHANGE OF STATUS

Kelly Ebel, Candidate to Non-Candidate

REMOVED/RESIGNED FROM ROSTER

Zion Lutheran Church, Wellington, CO

TRANSFERRED TO DISTRICT

Kathryn L. Seymour, Candidate, Michigan District to RMD

Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

October

6-8 Professional Worker's Conference in Breckenridge, CO

24 The Annual Joint Reformation service will be held at Peace LC, located 5675 Field St, Arvada, CO. at 4pm.

November

1-2 RMD Board of Directors Meeting at RMD office

2011

November

5-6 "Conversations of Grace at the Roc!" conference, Colorado Springs, CO