

Church Simple: The church is the Triune God's making

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image after our likeness'" (Gen. 1:26).

We are talking about the church—God's church—and God's church is not that complicated. "Simple" does not mean bland or lifeless or boring. "Church is boring" we hear some say. I remember when I thought the same thing. When I was young and heard the Nunc Dimittis ("Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace ..."), I thought, "Yay, church is about over!" I could not wait to get out!

Church simple means that God's church is God's church, and that He chose His church before she was created. "There is no doubt that God foresaw before the time of the world, and still knows, exactly, which people who are called will believe and which will not believe" (Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration XI 54).

The Triune God's conversation in which He says He is content with Himself is revealed in the above Genesis verse penned by Moses. God, before the creation of Adam and Eve, speaks of the making of the church! The Father, Son and Holy Spirit have a holy meeting, as it were, where the Triune God determines to create that entity called man ("adam" in the Hebrew).

You must take delight in the fact that it is God who takes the initiative in creating His church because man was not even capable of choosing Him. All the work, all the care, all the love first came from God.

As you ponder the fact that God had made—and makes—the church (including you), you must also see the delight God had in making the church. Moses, by the Spirit's prompting, writes about the special way in which the Triune God makes the church, starting with Adam and then Eve. From the ground comes Adam, and from the man's rib comes the woman. Adam's life comes about only because God breathed breath into him. And from Adam's side—not from his head or his foot—God creates the woman. God is full of delight with His creation, calling it "very good" (Gen. 1:31).

Of course in Genesis 3, the church (consisting of only two people) went astray, rebelling against the Lord who made her. Immediately, God seeks His runaway bride, admonishing Satan and His now lost church. And then He preaches the first Gospel promise of a male offspring who would crush the serpent's head (Gen. 3:15).

God re-creates His church now through His breath breathed into people (the Word about Jesus Christ

preached and proclaimed) and by His water poured and blood drunk by His own. His Spirit, through these means, creates and sustains the church. *"For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood"* (1 John 5:7-8).

God sends pastors to deliver His powerful breath, and in no less a way, God creates and sustains His church through the Word, Baptism and the Holy Supper. God Himself bows down and carefully crafts and shapes His church in the Divine Service.

And He is full of delight! *"And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders rejoicing"* (Luke 15:5). God absolutely delights over His church. He delights over you!

Much more is going on in the church service than what the eye sees. It certainly is not boring!

Church is simple, and so marvelous!



Rev. Randall Golter
District President

Workshop for those interested in Intentional Interim Ministry

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in cooperation with the National Association of Lutheran Interim Pastors (NALIP), will host a Discernment for Interim Ministry workshop Sept. 28-29.

This event is specifically designed to identify personal and pastoral gifts needed for transitional ministry. It also will help participants become aware of professional and lifestyle challenges involved in intentional interim work before entering a full 60-hour, six-month basic training in Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM) work.

Leaders considering an intentional interim ministry for their districts in the future may wish to participate as well. Note: Discernment events can be scheduled by districts or regions for as few as 10 participants at a modest fee.

The registration cost for Discernment for Interim Ministry is \$200. To register or for more information, contact continuing education and parish services at 314-505-7486 or e-mail ce@csl.edu.

More information on Intentional Interim Ministry in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is available at www.interiministrylcms.org.

IGNITING CHURCH AND CULTURE FOR CHRIST

Discovering the value of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in South Africa

by Pastor Joe Burnham



“So, what were you doing in Africa?”

This is a question I’ve heard countless times since I returned to the United States, even from people I talked to before I left the country last December.

“I was teaching at a seminary.”

“Teaching at a seminary?”

The tone behind the question reveals the deeper question, “Why, when serving on a continent that’s impoverished, in a country with an HIV/AIDS epidemic, and in a city where a man can’t walk to the store without being propositioned by a prostitute, would you spend your time, energy and fundraised dollars on teaching Lutheran theology?”

Similar thoughts can be connected to the Rocky Mountain District’s support of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane, South Africa, through Igniting Church and Culture for Christ.

I can understand the question because it’s one I asked myself before pursuing the opportunity to serve as a guest professor at the Lutheran Theological Seminary. Moreover, it’s a question I hadn’t satisfactorily answered for myself before my family and I boarded a plane on Dec. 31, 2009. Rather, I departed trusting that God had made this trip possible, so I was going to go and allow Him to answer my questions along the way—which He did.

Today, after five months in Africa and hours of conversations with missionaries who’ve spent decades on the continent, I can’t think of a better way to spend my time, energy and mission dollars than on theological education!

So, what happened during those five months that moved me from questioning the value of theological education to placing it at the top of the list? The change began our first weekend on the continent when we stayed with a family in Nairobi, Kenya. The family wasn’t Lutheran, but our host was the pastor of a small congregation.

We arrived at their house late on Friday night and had barely made it off the airport grounds before he started talking about the church’s need for money so they could build an orphanage—a conversation that

came up repeatedly over the next two days. But leaving Nairobi didn’t mean leaving the requests for money behind.

After our time in Nairobi, we traveled to Lome, Togo, to spend a couple weeks with a friend. Like our host in Nairobi, he is a pastor and, like our host in Nairobi, he repeatedly talked about the church’s struggle when it comes to money and the need for a cash infusion to upgrade the worship facility.

As I relayed these encounters to other missionaries, I learned that these kinds of requests are common throughout the African continent. It doesn’t matter if the project is an orphanage, a worship space, a business or a home; Africans have no hesitation about asking Westerners for money. Typically, those of us in the West are all too happy to give it to them because Africans are poor, and we’re charitable.

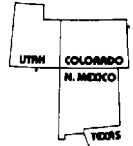
The problem is, something more profound is at work here. The book *African Friends and Money Matters* delicately addresses the topic and seeks to help those in the West understand the differences between an African and a Western approach to money. However, *When Charity Destroys Dignity*, by Glenn Schwartz, takes a far more direct approach as it tries to convey the dangers of Western charity to the long-term well-being of Africa.

Whether it is a result of hundreds of years of colonialism that suppressed the African will or the general sense of being overwhelmed by the scope of the issues the continent faces today, as my friend in Togo confessed, “We Africans don’t believe we can solve our own problems, so we look to others to address them for us.” In short, Africans are dependent on the West, a reality that isn’t healthy for the continent’s future.

So, how does theological education aid in the restoration of dignity and break a culture of dependency? I believe this happens in three ways.

■ First, at the seminary itself, African leadership is being modeled by Professor Nathan Mntambo and Dr. David Tswaedi. Through these two men, students see that something more is possible.

■ Second, theological education is about equipping and enabling Africans to be pastors in their own communities. This means that when seminary students return home, they’ll have developed skills in reflective thinking and problem-solving that will allow them to lead not only in the church but also in the entire village. They’ll have the confidence and sense of dignity needed to face and overcome challenges and, in the



process, bestow an entire congregation or community with the same sense of pride that's been fostered in them during their time at the seminary.

■ Finally, theological education results in the proclamation of a Gospel message that reaches out to broken hearts, souls and spirits, and lifts them up. Take a moment and think about all of the words that describe who you are in Christ. You're beloved, you're adopted, you're chosen, you're forgiven, you're holy, you're righteous and you're free.

Moreover, your being all of those things doesn't depend on your performance. Rather, being all of those things and knowing that Christ's love for you won't change gives you the confidence needed to step up to a challenge and face it to the best of your ability. In other words, the Gospel message itself has the power to restore dignity and empower Africans to take on the challenges they face.

When you support Igniting Church and Culture for Christ, you're enabling theological education that not only results in the proclamation that brings eternal life, but you're supporting a process that restores dignity and fosters a culture that will bring about healthy change on the African continent today.



A fiesta in heaven—70 new members!

"I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10 NIV).

In many of His parables recounted in the book of Luke, Jesus remarks that there is rejoicing in heaven when even ONE sinner repents. On one Sunday last summer, the congregation at Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey in Juarez received 70 new members. God is truly blessing this mission with His love and mercy!

Both Ysleta Lutheran Mission CEO Rev. Karl Heimer and Rev. Richard Schlak, director of the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute (LHMI), were there when the new members were asked, "Do you renounce the devil, and all his works, and all his ways." And they responded in chorus, "We do."

All the new members were received via adult confirmation (the youngest were 15 or 16, says Ministry Coordinator Rosy Lira). Sunday's celebration was the culmination of three months of course work for them, during which they studied every conceivable aspect of Lutheran doctrine in classes taught by Rosy and Cristo Rey's pastor, Rev. Jaime Martinez.



Rev. Schlak presents certificates to some of the 70 new members at Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey.

Rev. Schlak preached an inspiring message to all in attendance, and like any good Lutheran gathering, the evening concluded with a potluck!

Two other details that deserve mention are these:

■ Cristo Rey actually received nearly 80 new members but 10 to 12 of them were unable to attend the service and be presented with their certificates.

■ Three Sunday school teachers were presented with their Christian education certificates from the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute. They too went through a rigorous three-month training with Rosy.

Pastor Martinez is, of course, very excited to have so many new faces in his congregation. More people means more participation and more recognition for the Lutheran church in the neighborhoods surrounding the church.

If one repentant sinner is the cause of so much rejoicing in heaven, there must have been a big fiesta over the multitude that renounced the devil and all his works and all his ways that day. Praise God!

Send news to Jan Hoener

5446 Knoll Place
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130
E-mail: janhoener@comcast.net

November issue deadline: Sept. 15

Please attach JPEG images to e-mail messages.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Outstanding educator retires

When Lucille Waiser came to Denver, Colo., in the winter of 1973 to student teach at St. Andrew Lutheran School, she had no idea she would be embarking on her life's calling. Now, 35 years later, Mrs. Lucille Foglesong is retiring from the school that she has served with love and dedication.



Joining Lucille Foglesong (far right) at her retirement celebration were founding principal Gert Keiper and former principal Lee Horst. They are the only three principals to have served St. Andrew Lutheran School.

Her responsibilities at St. Andrew have included serving as assistant director, teacher and Sunday worship organist. In her free time, she taught piano lessons, Sunday school and vacation Bible School; tutored mathematics; directed the children's choir; and served as secretary to the Rocky Mountain District LEAD organization.

Foglesong stepped into the role of principal when Lee Horst retired in 1999. Her experience has ranged from teaching pre-kindergarten through fourth grade, with her expertise being tapped to also teach middle school language courses.

Foglesong is recognized in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* (1998) and was selected by the Far Northeast Community for the National Women's History Month Award in 1999.

Lucille's husband, Melvin, is retired from Aurora Public Schools. They have one son, Fredric, a civil engineer and project manager with Kiewit Western, working in Utah and Idaho.

Commenting on her retirement, Mrs. Foglesong said that the past 35 years have been an awesome walk, learning and growing with wonderful children, families and coworkers. She looks forward to quality family time, travel, reading, scrapbooking family history, gardening, fishing and the next adventure the Lord has in store for her.

A retirement celebration was held July 24 for Mrs. Foglesong at St. Andrew Lutheran Church and School.

It appears that Mrs. Foglesong is excited about her retirement! She is shown here with Paul Albers, the district executive for Congregational Services.



Eagle Scout project beautifies the Lord's house

When Emiliano Lozano was 12, he wanted to do something for his church while working on his requirements to become an Eagle Scout. Even though his troop is sponsored by an Episcopal church, Emiliano wanted to do something for Mission Lutheran, Las Cruces, N.M., where his father was vicar and his family worshiped. After discussing several options with the trustees, he decided to make landscaping his Eagle project.

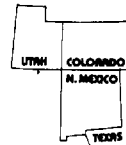
In the church courtyard, the plants were surrounded by black plastic weed barrier covered with rocks. The landscaping had started to look pretty shabby with the plastic getting ripped, the rocks scattered and the drip line exposed.

On one of the hottest days in August 2009, Emiliano led his troop, family, friends and members of the church in a service project to remove the rocks, take up the old plastic, put down new plastic, sift the rocks to remove debris and put them back down while burying the drip line. Although everyone was sweltering in the 100-plus degree temperatures, they worked six to eight hours until the project was finished.

Emiliano, now 13, completed his Eagle rank requirements in April. His Eagle Court of Honor was held at his church on the same weekend as his confirmation, proving yet again that we can glorify God through our daily activities and that teenagers do want to serve the Lord if given the chance.



Congratulations, Emiliano! Your hard work and dedication to the Lord while attaining the Eagle rank are a wonderful example for all of us.



Bethlehem one of five schools in national pilot program

Bethlehem Lutheran School in Lakewood, Colo., has been chosen as one of five schools in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) to participate in a pilot program that provides technology training for Lutheran schools.

The Ministry Technology Mentor Project (MTM) received a \$50,000 grant from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation to pilot a new technology training program for Lutheran schools. The program was developed by the MTM Project and the LCMS School Ministry Department to supplement the current online Masters of Science in Education—Educational Technology Program that is run through Concordia University Wisconsin.

The Technology In-service Program (TIP) is a 12- to 18-month process that will help Lutheran schools meet the demands of 21st century learning. Great challenges have been placed before our schools as they work to integrate technology in the classroom, retool teacher skills and address our important responsibilities as a Christian in a digital world. The Technology In-service Program is designed to help Lutheran schools meet these challenges.

TIP has three main components:

1. On-site visits by a trained consultant;
2. A series of face-to-face and online educational technology workshops conducted by the consultant; and
3. Designed educational technology modules that are geared to fit the needs of the faculty, staff, and students of the school community.

Dave Black serves as the consultant for Bethlehem. He is the interim principal for Shepherd of the Hills Christian School in Centennial, Colo., and its director of technology integration. Black also serves the LCMS as director of the Technology In-service Program.

The grant is part of the foundation's Lutheran Grant Program. This program is designed to help Lutheran institutions and organizations take advantage of unique growth and service opportunities. It also supports the interests and needs of the Lutheran community. Eligible Thrivent grant applicants include Lutheran congregations, regional divisions of the three largest church bodies, small church bodies, high schools, colleges, universities, seminaries,

campus, campus ministries, social ministry organizations and other independent Lutheran organizations or institutions.

Hodel named Chorale's new director

The Lutheran Chorale launches its new 3-R season (Recall, Rejoice, Renew!) with its new director, David Hodel, in its fall concert titled "Something Old, Something New, God's Word Eternal, Always True."



This concert will feature choral works by Bach (St. John's Passion, "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring"), Mozart ("Ave Verum Corpus"), Henry Purcell, Beethoven, Michael Praetorius, Pablo Casals and others.

The concert will be presented at 3 p.m. Oct. 24 at Evergreen Lutheran Church in Evergreen, Colo., and at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Denver, Colo.

David Hodel plans to build on the fine work of the Chorales' long-time director Wes Broderius by continuing to refine the Chorale's sound, recruiting new members and providing opportunities for those who love classical choral music to sing and hear some of the best music ever written.

David graduated from Valparaiso University with a bachelor of arts degree in music (voice and piano). He also holds a master of divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

He sings regularly with the Colorado Symphony Chorus and has appeared in a number of musicals presented by the Empire Lyric Players, the Ovation Players and the Main Street Players. In addition, David regularly does solo work with area choirs.

The Chorale is delighted and grateful to have David's services and talents in the director's role.

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

PASTOR APPRECIATION

'Pastor, thank you!'

Such words are good words. They are spoken to our pastor following a funeral, a wedding or a counseling session. Every once in a while they are spoken following a sermon. It is a timely event when you can express thanks to the man that God has called to serve you in His name.

October has been designated as Pastor Appreciation Month. We on the Debt Assistance Committee of our district encourage you to voice or show your appreciation to your pastor or pastors during this coming month.

Another way we suggest you show your appreciation to them is to make a gift in honor of them to the Debt Assistance Program. A gift in honor of them will be given to other pastors who are assisted by the program. This reduction of debt is a blessing to pastors and their families.

If you are so led and so blessed, please send a check to the Rocky Mountain District for the Debt Assistance Program. Let us know that this is being done in appreciation for your pastor (please include your pastor's name), and we will let him know that other pastors in the district are being blessed by his ministry through this gift in his honor.

Gifts should be sent to the Rocky Mountain District, 14334 E. Evans Ave., Aurora, CO 80014 (Attention: DAP). Funds received in this special appeal will be distributed this year to help our pastors to reduce their educational debt.

Thank you for remembering the one who leads you faithfully into the hands of your Savior, Jesus.

"How then shall they call on Him of whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Rom. 10:14).

Making disciples in a disconnecting world

Would you say that access to the Internet is an "inalienable right" that must be granted to everyone? You might not, but there is a push across the globe to ensure that every person is able to log on. Several countries have passed laws that mandate universal access to the Web for every citizen. The Worldwide Web is rapidly becoming like a public utility in many areas.



Many consider this "very good." For sure, this opens up a wealth of information that can do much good in many ways. Yet, as many are reflecting, access to "information" does not necessarily promote the advancement of "wisdom." In fact, as the research is beginning to reveal, Internet use is actually changing how a person receives and processes information.

For instance, reading a book stimulates that part of the brain that leads to longer term memory and retention. The need for concentration and reflection while reading, especially when coupled with active dialogue on the subject, generates a reservoir of "experience" that can be drawn upon in various circumstances of life.



On the other hand, reading a document from the Internet with hyperlinks embedded—one of the great features of the Web's ability to connect us to information—forces the mind to make choices at much shorter intervals. This distraction is significant, making it difficult to transfer the "topic" to longer term memory. CAT scans of the mind surfing the Web reveal a very different picture from the mind that is reading a book.

The end result of this research shows that attention spans are shortening, retention for reflection is diminished and meaningful application of the information is more difficult. The person lives with a greater sense of disconnectedness in a world that claims to keep you connected.

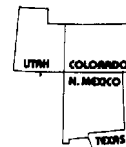
We are being shaped into the image of the technology, making it that more difficult to be shaped into the image of Christ.

Now, some of you are ready to point out the benefits of the Internet. We agree—there are benefits. Certainly, we are not advocating Web celibacy. We simply want to point out that less-than-thoughtful Internet use comes with a price. At what cost are we reaping these so-called benefits, especially when it comes to the work of the Great Commission?

For the sake of the Gospel in a disconnecting world that believes it is highly connected, we suggest a thoughtful reflection and discussion on *hagah*. This is a life-practice used by our Lord and taught by our Hebrew forefathers. This is how disciples—apprentices—of the Master are made.

Let us know what you find out. We are here to serve.

*Craig W. Henningfield, Missionary/Coach
Church Without Walls, 303-725-6760*



Rocky Mountain District calendar

September

- 11 LWML rally—Northern New Mexico Zone, Faith in Christ, Albuquerque, N.M.
- 14-16 Rocky Mountain District Older Adult Gathering, theme: “Cultural Challenges for Christians”
- 18 LWML rallies—North Central Zone at Bethlehem, Lakewood, Colo.; Northeastern Zone at Trinity, Akron, Colo.; Western Zone at Faith, Craig, Colo.
- 18 Servant Leader Workshop, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 25 LWML rallies—Eastern High Plains Zone at Grace, Lamar, Colo.; Rio Grande Zone at Zion, El Paso, Texas

October

- 5 Administrative Conference in Breckenridge, Colo.
- 6-8 Professional Workers Conference in Breckenridge, Colo.
- 9 LWML rally—Northern Zone at Messiah, Longmont, Colo.
- 16 LWML rallies—Four Corners Zone at Our Savior, Pagosa Springs, Colo.; South Central Zone at Holy Cross, Highlands Ranch, Colo.
- 24 Denver area Reformation Festival at Peace, Arvada, Colo., 4 p.m. (5675 Field St.)

November

- 1-2 RMD Board of Directors meeting

Calls in the district

PLACEMENTS

- Michelle Griedl Luevano, Concordia University Nebraska, Seward, to Christ, Albuquerque, N.M.

CALLS EXTENDED

- Christ Lutheran School, Albuquerque, N.M., to Matt Luevano, of St. Peters, Mo.

CALLS ACCEPTED

- Kristine Marlatt of Sandy, Utah, to Grace Lutheran School, Sandy, Utah.
- Lyn Stennett of Sandy, Utah, to Grace Lutheran School, Sandy, Utah.

CALLS DECLINED

- William Busacker, Grace, Sandy, Utah, to Messiah Lutheran School, Longmont, Colo.

CHANGE OF STATUS

- Rachel Bredow, St. John, Denver, Colo., to candidate status.
- Melinda Crow, Christ, Albuquerque, N.M., to candidate status.
- Lisa Matthis, Peace with Christ, Aurora, Colo., to candidate status.

REMOVED/RESIGNED FROM ROSTER

- Rev. Mark Gabbert, resignation
- Rev. Lazaro Sierra, Cordero de Dios, Denver, Colo.
- Janet Stong, non-candidate status, Los Alamos, N.M.
- Vickie Kleinsasser, non-candidate status, Bossier City, La.
- Lynn Brown, non-candidate status, Fort Collins, Colo.
- Daniel Fingerlin, non-candidate status, Aurora, Colo.
- Michael Hinckfoot, non-candidate status, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- Stephen Fehl, non-candidate status, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- Eileen Williams, non-candidate status, Peyton, Colo.
- Elizabeth Binder, non-candidate status, Fort Collins, Colo.
- Michael Eman, non-candidate status, Westminster, Colo.
- Kimberly Eman, non-candidate status, Westminster, Colo.
- Elizabeth Lewis, non-candidate status, Silver City, N.M.
- Debra Koppenhafer, non-candidate status, Elizabeth, Colo.

TRANSFERRED TO DISTRICT

- Donna L. Richman, emeritus, Kansas District to RMD.

Redeemer, Denver, receives \$1,000 award to upgrade library

Redeemer Lutheran School in Denver, Colo., was the winner of the \$1,000 Concordia Publishing House (CPH) School Library Upgrade.



The CPH promotion and award was made in partnership with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and KFUO Radio.

DISTRICT LWML CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



Mission-minded women meet in Grand Junction

The 45th Rocky Mountain District LWML Convention was held June 11-13 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Grand Junction, Colo. The Western Zone served as

host to more than 250 members and guests. The theme, "Made Holy," was based on Gal. 3:27: "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

LWML business included passing bylaw amendments and choosing mission grants for the 2010-12 biennium with a grant total of \$75,000 approved.



The new officers of the Rocky Mountain District LWML are (from left) Sylvia Bean, Judy Piepkorn, Carol von Soosten and Rev. Timothy Storck.

Election of officers included Carol von Soosten, Albuquerque, N.M., president; Rev. Timothy Storck, Grand Junction, Colo., junior pastoral counselor; Judy Piepkorn,

Portales, N.M., vice-president of Gospel Outreach; and Sylvia Bean, Clovis, N.M., vice-president of Servant Resources.

Young Woman Representatives (YWR) to the Portland convention, Julie Lemke and Glacia Peck, presented a video on their "Top Ten List"



Young Women Representatives led the Saturday morning devotion.

from Portland. From the "green city" to fellowship with friends, old and new, the YWRs shared how LWML has influenced their lives.



Five zones sent Teen Representatives to the convention.

As a service project, Teen Representatives made a fleece blanket to be given with other "Gifts from the Heart" to Bear Necessities, a support program for Mesa County foster children.

Keynote speaker Jan Struck, a nationally recognized humorist, had everyone laughing—and crying—with her memories of growing up in the Lutheran church. Between "chewing Chiclets" and "family seizures," Jan took us back in time to our own early memories.

Memorable quotes from the convention: "Ta-Da!" "I've been chosen to clap and cheer!" "I didn't mean to laugh, my smile just burst!" "I have always loved you the best!" "I'm wearing my Boss's logo—the cross!" Ask someone who attended to give you more details on the stories behind these quotes.



Jan Struck

Pastoral counselors Rev. Gary Piepkorn and Rev. Gary Rahe led a four-part Bible study on baptism. Luther's Small Catechism was used to refresh our memories and remind us what our baptism really means.

Others in attendance included Rev. Randall Golter, LCMS Rocky Mountain District president; Gerland Klein, president of the Rocky Mountain District, Int'l LLL; and Ida B. Happy and Eloise Kuhlmann, LWML vice-president of Servant Resources, who brought greetings from LWML President Janice Wendorf.

All in attendance were encouraged to be known as Lutheran Women in Mission who are in the Word, of the Word and walking with the Lord.

The next chance to gather for fellowship with LWML sisters will be for the 34th biennial convention in Peoria, Ill., June 23-26, 2011. The next Rocky Mountain District Convention will be June 22-24, 2012, in El Paso, Texas.