



Joy to the world,
the Lord has come!
Let Earth receive her King.

**Rocky Mountain District
Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod**

THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2009



We are Privileged to be Workers in Christ's
Kingdom along with You!
Merry, Merry Christmas in Christ.

God Has Spoken Clearly in His Son

by
President Randall Golter

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son” (Hebrews 1:1-2a).



God can't be any clearer: He sent His Son to show you how much He loves you. Not that God did not speak clearly in the Old Testament. God is the author of all of Scripture--all of it is “God-breathed” (2 Tim. 3:16)—and, therefore, the Scriptures are absolutely clear in what God communicated.

To Adam and Eve God clearly communicated the crushing blow by the Seed to Satan (Gen. 3:15). He caused Isaiah to write of the Suffering Servant in chapter 53 and of the virgin birth of the Messiah earlier in that same book (7:14). And in many, many other places God made it clear that He would save His own by His righteousness. “Your righteousness” (Ps. 71:2) is God's righteous will of saving sinners through His Son.

As the author of Hebrews writes, God has spoken most clearly in the coming of His Son. God not only spoke and wrote of His favor toward sinners, but He came Himself, in the flesh, as the very icon of God (Colossians 1:15), that is, He is God (1:19).

Much spiritual confusion exists in America, as if there is uncertainty as to who God is. And even among the Christian churches, doubt is cast on what God has said in His Word. This is nothing other than an attack on God and His ability to communicate clearly in His Word. God wrote the Bible, God sent His Son, and that is how it is. There is no confusion!



Such God-given certainty compels all of us--and everyone at the Rocky Mountain District office--to work feverishly for Him who desires all sinners to be saved. Labor in the church is not burdensome labor but a joyful privilege as His Word is proclaimed to all.

Thank you, thank you, churches, schools, and church workers of the RMD, for all that He does through you. We are your partners for Jesus' sake.

A Meditation From the Spiritual Growth Team

New beginnings. Ah, Advent is upon us yet again. It's the beginning of the church year. In Matthew 1 we find the arrival in history of Jesus the Messiah. Matthew's words may call to mind the language found in Genesis. Our word “genealogy” (Matthew 1:1) is Greek “genesis” (beginning, origin, birth, genealogy). This implies that Matthew, like Genesis, is a book of beginnings. Perhaps Matthew had two thoughts in mind. One is certainly providing the genealogy of the Messiah (1:2-17), but might he also have



in mind a “beginning”: a new beginning with the arrival of Jesus the Messiah and the kingdom of God.

Advent is a time for preparations. We ought to ready our hearts and minds lest we be caught unprepared for the Bridegroom! We encourage you to make a new beginning, again, this Advent. Prepare your heart for Christ, who once came as a tender infant (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20), but whose second coming will be as Judge (Revelation 20:11-15).

As you busy yourself in preparation for the celebration of Christmas, we pray that your “new beginning” is blessed by the power of the Holy Spirit through the hearing of God’s Word. Please make worship, the reading and meditation of Scripture, and family devotions priorities. May your days be filled with the joy as you celebrate new beginnings in anticipation of the blessed things to come! Merry Christmas!



Paul Albers

Reaching Out to the Hispanic Community



One prominent mission field in our own backyard here in the Rocky Mountain District is the Hispanic community. 25% of the population within our District’s border claims a Hispanic heritage, over 2½ million people. For many of these individuals, Spanish is their primary language.

Who are these people? Studies have shown that of the 44 million Hispanics in the United States, 11% are first generation, 52% are second generation, and 37% are third or greater generation residents. They represent one of the fastest growing demographic segments in our country. During the 1990s, while the general population of the U.S. grew by 6%, the Hispanic population grew by an astounding 53%, a trend that has no doubt continued over this past decade! While conventional wisdom considers these folks Roman Catholic, in reality less than 50% of American Hispanics identify themselves as such.

What a mission field the Lord has brought to our own backdoor!

Has your congregation or school considered a focused outreach to Hispanic folks? In addition to San Pablo Lutheran Church in El Paso and Cordero de Dios Lutheran Church in Denver (congregations that we as a District support), several other congregations in the District, in places such as Colorado Springs, Las Cruces, and El Paso, also have begun such ministries.

Pastor Juan Hormachea, who pastors Cordero de Dios, also serves as our District coordinator for Hispanic ministry. He is available for consultation and resources. In addition, our District’s Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute in El Paso is now offering courses over the Internet to help train workers for Hispanic Ministry.



Your prayers and financial support are also critical, as they enable us as a District to move forward in Hispanic ministry. Designated gifts may be sent to the attention of Rev. Thomas Schoech at the Rocky Mountain District office, 14334 E. Evans Avenue, Aurora, CO 80014.

We have been given a Great Commission, to make disciples of all *ethna* (Matthew 28:18-20). Let us work while it is day, for the night is coming when no one can work (John 9:4).

Please Consider a Gift

Our District's mission and ministry work is dependent on individuals' gifts in addition to congregational support. As the Lord has blessed you, please prayerfully consider a year-end gift to help our District continue to move forward in the work He has given us to do.

Gifts may be given online at the District website (www.ignitingchurchandcultureforchrist.org) or by sending a check to The Rocky Mountain District at 14334 E. Evans Avenue, Aurora, CO 80014. Gifts may be given as general support or designated for specific ministry projects.

University Lutheran Chapel Invite!



University Lutheran Chapel in Boulder will be holding its "*Christmas Hymns and Lessons*" service on Sunday, December 13th, at 5:00 PM. We invite everyone to come and join us on that Sunday of finals week to celebrate Christmas with our students before they depart for Christmas break. Appetizers and desserts will follow the service. ULC is located at 1202 Folsom Street, Boulder, CO 80305. Call 303.443.8720 or e-mail pastor@ulcboulder.org, for more information.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Layton, UT Has Moved



Sunday, October 25, the people of Trinity held their final worship service at their property on Golden Avenue. Sunday, November 1, they gathered for the first Divine Service in the new sanctuary at their new location on Fort Lane Boulevard.



Missouri Synod Lutherans first gathered for worship in Layton at the City Hall, and a little later at Community Hall in what is now Layton Commons Park, back in 1945 because of the difficulty gas rationing posed to travel to the nearest established congregation—St. Paul, Ogden. From this humble beginning, Trinity Lutheran Church was incorporated on All Saints Day 1948 under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Harold Brauer

with charter members Arthur Krueger, Victor and Lillian Frank, Conrad and Clara Loe, William and Nellie Loe, Walter Sommer, Dale and Arlene Philips, and Fritz and Ellen Aarfor.

The people of Trinity purchased land on Golden Avenue, across the street from the current location, in 1954 and dedicated a converted army barracks as its original worship facility in March of 1955. The members of Trinity completed construction of the current building at 385 W. Golden Avenue and began worship there in November of 1964.

Trinity grew through the 1970s and 80s. They expanded the facilities in 1971. Then in 1998 they added an education wing to accommodate a growing Sunday School and a desire to open a Lutheran elementary school.

Preschool opened for students of the congregation and local community in the fall of 1980, and added kindergarten classes in 1993.

Trinity has found it necessary to sell the property of their beloved church home in order to continue its ministry to the congregation and its surrounding communities.

We pray this sale and move will provide a sanctuary for the gathering of God's beloved people in Layton, Utah, around the Word and Sacraments of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, for years and generations to come.

Please remember us in your prayers as well.

Pastor Kurt Hering

Salt Lake Lutheran High School, Utah

Salt Lake Lutheran High School has a lot of things happening this year.

You're Invited to "Breakfast Tours" at Lutheran High - Come and see first-hand the awesome



ministry, the college-prep education, and the caring family environment that is Lutheran High School. Tours will be one hour long starting at 9:00 a.m. We will visit classrooms, talk to students and teachers, and join in the invocation at chapel. A light breakfast will be served. Tours are scheduled every Thursday though, we will not have tours from Thanksgiving to New Year's. We will resume tours on January 7, 2010. Please RSVP to Patti or Shelly at 801-266-6676 or

shellyadavis@hotmail.com

March 13: "A Night in Monte Carlo" – Annual Dinner/Auction at LHS

Check out our website at: www.slhhs.org for information on the 2009-10 year.

Conversations of Grace Wrap Up

Evangelists and their families gathered November 6-7 in Albuquerque, NM, at the Rocky Mountain



District's annual Conversations of Grace Evangelism Conference to listen, learn, discuss, and worship.

The theme of the conference was "Plowing the Field--Preparing Congregation and Community for Outreach."

Nationally recognized presenters spoke on topics ranging from "Help for the Shy Evangelist," "Evangelism Can Be Fun," and "Knowing Your Community," to "Writing a Congregational Outreach Plan," "Leadership Development and Church Planting," and "NET Fishing" (outreach through group networking). Featured speakers included Rev. Scott Snow, LCMS Director of Outreach, who publicly unveiled a new, Synod-wide program for the widespread distribution of audio Bibles in 2010-2011.

Cross-Cultural Outreach was a major focus--which is critically important to the future of the Church, given the demographics of our Rocky Mountain District. Experts held a groundbreaking panel discussion on Hispanic Outreach as one of the general (plenary) sessions. A Spanish-language track program was available throughout the workshop sessions and a number of individuals enjoyed being able to attend sessions in both Spanish and English.



The service featured music by the Mariachi San Pablo from Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, TX, and adult, youth, and children's choirs. Rev. Mark Larson, RMD

Executive for Missions, delivered the bilingual sermon. Total number of participants was 230.

Damon Tobias

Grace Place Lutheran Retreat Announcements for 2010



Grace Place Lutheran Retreats is pleased to announce three special retreats for 2010. Please share this in District newsletters, email transmissions and general announcements, and please remember to notify your education execs because these three programs are open to pastors and teachers. We thank you for encouraging those in your care to access these

Continuing Ed and spiritual formation retreats focused on wellness. Please have them register at www.graceplaceretreats.org or call (314)842-3077:

1. Grace Place in the Rockies: June 21-25, 2010. Stonebridge Inn, Snowmass at Aspen, Colorado. Leaders: Dr. and Mrs. John Eckrich and Dr. David and Kathy Ludwig. Open to all pastors, teachers, and spouses. Limited to 15 couples. Cost: \$360 per couple.
2. Grace Place in Wisconsin: July 26-30, 2010. Heartwood Conference Center, Trego, WI. Leaders: Dr. and Mrs. John Eckrich and Dr. David and Kathy Ludwig. Open to all pastors, teachers, and spouses. Limited to 25 couples. Cost: Thrivent member - \$225 per couple; Non-member - \$360 per couple.
3. Grace Place for Single Church Workers: September 1-5, 2010. Retreat House at St. Benedict's Trappist Monastery, Snowmass, Colorado. Leaders: Dr. John Eckrich and Rev. Dr. Mel and Dr. Mary Jacob. Limited to 21 singles. Cost: \$360 per person.

We will personally invite church workers from your districts. However, we also ask for your encouragement to your workers to attend a retreat. We thank you for alerting those you shepherd to these wellness opportunities.

John D. Eckrich, M.D.
Executive Director
jeckrich@graceplaceretreats.org

Donations for Lithuania



The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania's pastors and churches need vestments and paraments (altar, pulpit, and lectern). If you have some to share, please send these items to Trinity Lutheran Church, 212 W 12th Street, Grand Island, NE 68801, before December 31, 2009.

Lou Boette, chairman Colorado West Division ----303.453.1270
Orphan Grain Train

January 1, 2010 --- Deadline

Luther Sites of the Reformation and the Oberammergau Passion Play

Spend 10 Terrific Days visiting: Munich, Augsburg, Rhine Cruise, Worms, Erfurt,
Wittenburg, Leipzig & Nurnberg.



Travel Dates: June 9-18, 2010

\$3595.00 from Chicago

\$3795 from Denver

\$3995.00 from Albuquerque

(Price does not include: US & Int'l Taxes & Gratuities for guide, driver & hoteliers)

Hosted by: Rev. Devon Woodyard

Call: 505-281-2430 email: woodyard3@gmail.com

Roster Reports

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev. Geoffrey Wagner, Lincoln City, OR to Christ Our Savior, Elizabeth, CO

Rev. Earnest Hengst, Immanuel/Immanuel, Las Vegas/Springer, NM to Immanuel, Paonia, CO

Rev. Mark Nierman, Faith in Christ, Albuquerque, NM to Mt. Olive, Loveland, CO

CALLS EXTENDED

Grace, Sandy, UT to Candidate Brian Horning, Concordia, Ann Arbor, MI

Trinity, Denver, CO to Rev. Thomas Lock, Huntertown, IN, as Assistant Pastor

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Andrew Wehling, Grace, Liberal, KS to Gethsemane, Northglenn, CO

Rev. George Hesse, Mt. Hope, Boulder, CO to Faith, Johnstown, CO

Rev. Jim Nash, Trinity, Sterling, CO to St. Paul, Enid, OK.



Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

December 2009

Have a blessed Christmas season.

January 2010

25-26 RMD Board of Directors Meeting

February

18-20 District Stewardship Leaders Conference in Tempe, AZ

20 Older Adults Seminar, Bethlehem, Lakewood, CO

April

13-15 NM Area Spring Pastors' Conference, Bonita Park Camp and Conference Center

13-15 Southern Spring Pastors' Conference

August

9-10 RMD Board of Directors Meeting

November

1-2 RMD Board of Directors Meeting

We Encourage your Prayers

Jesus, helper of the weak, as You walked this earth Your touch brought healing and renewed strength to many who were sick. If it be Your will, grant relief of pain and healing to **Rev. Allen Anderson**, Mt. Zion, Boulder, CO, who suffered a heart attack on November 28 and had quintuple bypass surgery on November 29. Bless his doctors, nurses, and healthcare providers with compassion and diligence, utilizing the skills You have given them. Grant Rev. Anderson and his loved ones an awareness of Your presence so that their hearts are at peace. Amen.

Dear heavenly Father, we thank You that You have called us by Your Gospel and through it strengthening us and keeping us in the one true faith. We need not walk this day in darkness but in the light of an abundant and eternal life in Christ. Fill us with a desire to reach others, especially the spiritually lost, with Your soul-saving Gospel, confessing Christ with our lips and our lives. Use us as a catalyst in our congregations so that Your Word goes forth from us as individuals and also from our various congregations throughout the Rocky Mountain District. Grant us the confidence to trust that Your Word and Your people shall not pass away but shall live into eternity.

Through Your Word and Your workers, let Your Gospel bear fruit and show all people, especially those with darkened souls, the great love and mighty deeds of Your Son Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.