



THE MESSENGER

JUNE 2009

A Full-Bodied Hope!

by

President Randall Golter

Romans 8:11, “If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life *to your mortal bodies* through His Spirit who dwells in you” (*emphasis added*).



Don't short-change the hope that is yours in Christ Jesus for life after death! The Lord Jesus did not take on your flesh and blood in order for you to reside in some kind of bodiless existence floating in the clouds somewhere. His whole work of rescue through His holy life, bloody death, and resurrection from the dead secured for you the certain hope of a full-bodied existence in a new heaven and a new earth.

I remember that many years ago I discussed the Christian's existence after death with a person who believed in some kind of spiritual existence that was apart from the body. I tried to convince that person how contrary this was to what we confess in the Apostles' Creed: I believe in ... “the resurrection of the body.”

Then I pointed to what Paul clearly states in Romans 8:11: A believer possesses through the Word by faith the same Spirit that raised Jesus' body from the grave. And it is this Spirit who will raise the mortal bodies of all believers on the Last Day.

You see, we don't merely look to that existence when our spirits will be with Jesus and our bodies dwell in the grave. This intermediate state after death but before the resurrection is a blessed communion with Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:6-8; Phil. 1:20-24), a far better existence than our present lives. Rather, we look to that time when all the groaning—that of our mortal bodies and of all creation—ends. What starts is a whole new beginning for all of God's creation.



A full-bodied hope of a Christian is that of a restored and renewed heaven and earth and our restored and renewed bodies! No more blurred vision, aching knees, and crooked limbs. “For in *this hope* we were saved” (Romans 8:24a, *emphasis added*).

Connected to God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—through faith in Him gives us every day hope for the present because of a secure future.

Meditation from the Spiritual Growth Team

Boy, so many are looking for this kind of hope!

“Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:2,3 NIV

We live in a day when it’s popular for employees to have a “covenant” with one another. In short, these covenants, created by co-workers are designed to define agreed upon relationship standards. Often relationships are broken over people speaking poorly of each other, breaking the 4th and 8th Commandments, and not putting the best construction on everything and everyone. Perhaps, okay, without a doubt, Ephesians 4:2,3 is superior to any man-made Covenant! All we have to do is turn to the above verse to find “terms of behavior” or “relationship parameters.” Imagine employing these principles at Voters’ assemblies, faculty meetings, PTL activities, Board of Education meetings, Circuit gatherings, District Conventions, and even the family dinner table!

How might you be a leader in this area? In what relationships might you initiate God’s directives? Do you have personal relationships that need re-defining or re-alignment? For what do you need to repent? Praise be to God for His forgiveness! Give it a try- if for no other reason than the Apostle Paul encourages it and God desires it!

May God grant you both the will and the means, for His Name’s sake.

(Brought to you on behalf of your Spiritual Growth Team.)

Hope Lutheran Church Dedication, Westcliffe, CO

Please Join us for the Dedication Service and open house at Hope Lutheran Church in Westcliffe, CO on June 7, 2009. We will dedicate to the glory of God our newly-constructed Lange memorial Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion, followed by a dinner at noon in the new multipurpose building. The President Randall Golter will be our preacher.

This new facility will help Hope Lutheran in ministry and mission to the congregation and community, in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.



The Laborers For Christ helped greatly with this project as well as untold hours of volunteer labor by the members of Hope, funds from gifts from C.T. Lange Memorial Fund and pledges from the members of Hope Lutheran made this construction possible.

To God be the glory!

Rev. Wayne Riddering

SMALL CHURCH CONFERENCE 2009



Since 1996 small churches of the Rocky Mountain District have gathered for professional growth and to encourage one another. Small churches are vital and unique. By gathering together pastors can help each other and share with one another the joys and trials we experience while serving in a small church.

The conference theme this year is “The Still Small Voice,” which calls to mind Elijah’s encounter with the Lord at the point of his deepest discouragement and greatest fear. Our Lord spoke to His prophet Elijah demonstrating that He is not always present in the elements of power but comes to His servants in the Word of promise by which they are renewed for further service in His kingdom.

This year our major presenter will be Dr. John T. Pless, Professor at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He will help us to understand our vocation in the midst of difficult circumstances. We will focus on the challenges and triumphs which our Lord gives us in congregations where our average Sunday worship attendance is fewer than 100 souls. We will also hear some papers (by our participants) on various issues of ministry and how the changes in Synod may or may not change the face of ministry in a smaller parish.

This year’s Small Church Conference will be held on June 16-18 in the Denver Metro area at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Golden CO just prior to the Rocky Mountain District Convention (also in the Denver Metro area.) The registration should be received by June 8. For more information and registration materials call Pastor Dwight Hellmers (303-233-5658) or go to www.lutheransonline.com/SmallChurches.

PASTORS-- Older Adult Ministry Needs Your Help!

You can help this vital ministry of our District by supporting and promoting the Gathering to be held at the Glen Eyrie in Colorado Springs on September 11-13, 2009. The theme of the Gathering is "M & M's--Ministry & Missions." The key note speaker is Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner, former Executive Director for Mission Services, LCMS. Other speakers are Attorney David Cook and Rev. David Dyer. A second mailing has been sent to each congregation with a bulletin insert and registration form.



Another way pastors might help is to subsidize a couple from the congregation. The cost is only \$385.00, which covers two nights lodging, six meals, coffee breaks and the program.

Thanks for your help.

Rev. Dr. Norbert Kleidon, 303-457-3298

C/DL Blessings!

The Lord works through His people! The Rocky Mountain District Stewardship Committee prayed, struggled, dreamed, and planned prior to 2005 to establish several means of communication between the work of the RMD and individual congregations within the District. Through their dedication and the work of the Holy Spirit, the Congregation/District Liaison program was born. In the spring of 2005 the Stewardship Committee set guidelines to choose a congregational representative, to define the duties of this representative, to provide training for each representative, and to strengthen the communication of their work with the RMD Board of Directors.



As the Stewardship Committee saw God's hand in their work, a pilot study program was developed to include eight Congregation/District Liaisons. These liaisons were recruited through their pastors and invited to Denver for a reception at the District office, followed by a day of training and information. Members of the Stewardship Committee mentored these liaisons through prayer, phone calls, and e-mails. DVDs were prepared for their use in sharing information with their congregations. Each liaison was given a Synodical Stewardship Manual. Surveys and other positive feedback information from the liaisons led to implementing the C/DL program throughout the RMD in the summer of 2006.

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strive to carry out the Great Commission. Demographic studies were made available to congregations with a liaison. The RMD Critical Targets were shared in detail, and leaders were trained for the Consecrated Stewards program, making the program accessible to congregations. A weekly Monday spiritual message and a monthly C/DL newsletter has been part of the communication during the three years.



The Stewardship Committee focused on their work and continued to develop means to be effective instruments in the spiritual growth in our District. It was during this time that the Holy Spirit was leading us in a new direction. The members of the Stewardship Committee became the members of the Spiritual Growth Team to fulfill one of the RMD Critical Target teams. The C/DL program may well go down in history as one of the best programs that the RMD has ever undertaken. The work of each C/DL was important and effective. Their dedication to work in this position to communicate and share ideas was an unmeasured blessing as the Lord continues to work through His people.

Helen Geuder
Spiritual Growth Committee

UPDATE ON THE LUTHERAN HISPANIC MISSIONARY INSTITUTE

We are thankful to God for the continued blessings that the Lord gives to the Hispanic Institute. This ministry began just over one year ago will soon be sending out its first graduates. This will be an exciting milestone for the Institute in fulfilling its mission of “training workers to multiply healthy Hispanic ministries.” Please continue to pray for the students and for the staff, Rev. Richard Schlak, Director, Paige Mathews, Development Director and Sue Lozano, Executive Assistant.

The Institute has overcome many challenges by God’s grace, and is confident of His help to overcome future obstacles. A recent challenge that has appeared is that LCMS World Missions, who heretofore had called and funded Rev. Schlak’s salary and benefits, was forced to cut all funding due to the economic downturn. The current plan is that Rev. Schlak will now have to raise all his funding with the assistance of the Development Department of LCMS World Missions. We ask for your prayers in this effort and, of course, **SUPPORTERS ARE WELCOME!**

We can find out more about the Institute and donate online at their website, www.missionaryinstitute.org.

Students going off to college?

It is now “the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle” (2 Sam 11:1), and the time that the graduating seniors of our church begin to seriously contemplate what life will be like in college. They are thinking of dorms and roommates, of teachers and classes, and also of extra-curricular activities. Sadly, for most of our students, our Synod’s campus ministries (whether full-time, town and gown, or even just contact congregations) are seen as merely one of many options among different groups to join.



The biggest challenge to our Synod’s campus ministries is not reaching out to the non-Lutherans on campus; **the biggest challenge is finding the Lutheran students who are on campus**, and letting them know that we are here to serve them. Universities are continually giving our churches less and less contact with students, especially during the summer and fall of their first year on campus. Religious groups are not even allowed to be at the student orientation fairs anymore.

It is becoming more and more important for parents, pastors, youth leaders, administrative assistants, and whoever else may have a connection with the youth of our church, to put their youth in contact with our campus pastors, as well as putting our campus pastors in contact with their youth. I understand that days and weeks can become filled with meetings, visits, studies, etc., and that sometimes the students who are away from the church are not at the top of everyone’s mind. **I urge you, however, to find someone in your congregation who is willing to make connecting your graduating seniors (and any others currently in college) with the pastor in the churches near their colleges a priority.** Sometimes simply knowing that a student is here, or having a student know that we are here, can make all the difference in the world.

If you have any questions about how to connect students with campus churches, please feel free to contact me by phone (303.443.8720) or e-mail (pastor@ulcboulder.org), or stop by our booth at the District Convention in June.

Rev. Daniel G. O. Burhop
University Lutheran Chapel
Boulder, CO

CALLS EXTENDED

Redeemer, Denver, CO to Candidate Andrew Hulke, Concordia, Mequon, WI
Beautiful Savior, Broomfield, CO to Dave Meineke, Gethsemane, Northglenn, CO
Grace, Albuquerque, NM to Candidate Lesley Holle, Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN, as
Deaconess

First, Salida, CO to Rev. Wayne Riddering, Hope, Westcliffe, CO
Calvary, Wray, CO to Rev. Timothy Davis, Christ, Sioux Falls, SD

CALLS ACCEPTED

Candidate Audrey Hermann, Concordia, Seward, NE to Messiah, Longmont, CO
Candidate Christopher Loesel, Concordia, Seward, NE to LHS of the Rockies, Parker, CO
Joy Lutz, St. Andrew, Denver, CO to Immanuel, Albuquerque, NM
Rev. Lowell Kayser, Dist. Missionary, Wyoming Dist to Grace, El Paso, TX

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Samuel Clay, St. Paul, Statesboro, GA to Faith, Johnstown, CO

TRANSFERS

Tara Wolf, Candidate Status to King of Glory, Williamsburg, VA
Rev. Herman Williams, Emeritus to Northwest District

CHANGE OF STATUS

Rev. Joe Burnham, Denver, CO Non-Candidate to Candidate status



Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

June

- 7 Dedication Service and Open House, Westcliffe, CO
- 11 Conversations of Grace Web Meeting – With Phil Johnson
- 16-18 Small Church Conference – St. Luke's, Golden, CO
- 18-20 Rocky Mountain District Convention - DoubleTree Hotel, Denver, CO

July

- 5-8 Rocky Mountain District Youth Gathering - Colorado Convention Center
- 9 Conversations of Grace Web Meeting
- 16-19 Int'l LLL Convention, Greensboro, NC

August

- 3-5 Workshop - "The book of Revelation and the End Times" Prince of Peace,

Cedar Crest, NM
13 Conversations of Grace Web Meeting

September

11- 13 Older Adult Ministry Gathering at Glen Eyrie in Colorado Springs, CO

19-21 National Lutheran School Funding Academy, Denver, CO

October

1-2 Professional Workers Conference - Breckenridge, CO

November

6-7 Conversations of Grace Conference – Radisson, Albuquerque, NM

We Encourage your Prayers

Dear Jesus, thank You for putting death's dark shadows to flight. Be the comfort of **Rev. George Hesse**, Mt. Hope, Boulder, CO, his wife **Ruth Ann**, and those who loved their four-year-old grandson Calvin who was called home May 12. Dry the tears of Calvin's family and friends in this bittersweet time of heartache and joy. Amen.

O Lord of the church, may Your Spirit grant discerning and clear thinking to the delegates as they read and study the convention materials prior to the convention and also as they discuss and vote on overtures at the Convention.

Thank You, Lord, for empowering those who, serving as presenters, are sharing/imparting spiritual and/or temporal information. Be with those on the "receiving end" of the material so that it can be used to make a difference in the lives who are touched by it.

Grant safe travel to all those attending the convention: delegates, presenters, guests, and visitors. Move the hearts of the people of the Rocky Mountain District to be willing to support the mission work of the District by encouraging their congregations to make and keep a pledge to the District. Keep all church workers steadfast in their faith, sharing Your love for us with zeal and kindness. Amen.