

**Learning from Luther on mission:
Abraham's seed and world mission**

"And in you [Abraham] all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Gen. 12:3c).



Rev. Randall
Golter

God came down at Christmas. In the womb of the Virgin, God took upon Himself human flesh. This One born of a woman was Abraham's seed—offspring—through whom all the nations of the world would be blessed.

Luther considered Genesis 12 to be the grandest chapter in the entire book of Genesis. Why? Because in it God clearly showed in His promise to Abraham that His magnificent

love through one particular offspring of Abraham would be a blessing to all nations. "From my (Abraham's) posterity will be born One who is blessed in His own person and who will bring a blessing so long and wide that it will reach all the families of the earth" (*Luther's Works* 2:260).

And again Luther writes:

"In these few simple words the Holy Spirit has thus encompassed the mystery of the incarnation of the Son of God. The holy patriarchs and prophets explained this more fully later on in their sermons, namely, that through the Son of God the entire world would be made free, hell and death would be destroyed, the Law would be abrogated, sins would be forgiven, and eternal salvation and life would be given freely to those who believe in Him" (Ibid, 261).

The scope of God's mission—and therefore, the Church's—is the whole world. Not one sinner is excluded. The reason for such a wide and broad scope is quite simple: Christ's life, death, and resurrection covers all of humanity, from Adam to the last human being on the face of this earth.

Therefore, since the blessing covers "all the families of the earth," God places His people where they are to be a blessing to their neighbors, not only for temporal care but to show forth the mercy of God. Luther discusses this evangelistic emphasis within his discussion of righteous Lot and his family living in Sodom:

"All Christians have been placed into this world for the purpose of serving their neighbors, not only so far as the Second Table is concerned (Commandments Four through Ten) but rather so far as the First Table is concerned, in order that they all may learn to fear God

and to trust in His mercy" (*Luther's Works* 3:24).

God has strategically placed in the Rocky Mountain District His churches—and every Christian—for the purpose of proclaiming the work accomplished by the Seed of Abraham.

This Christmas, rejoice in the gift of Abraham's Seed given for the whole world and praise Him that, by faith, you also are Abraham's offspring.

*Rev. Randall Golter
District President*



Mission: Southern Africa reaches goal!

"Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!" (Ps. 66:1-2)

Recent gifts to **Mission: Southern Africa** have enabled our Rocky Mountain District to surpass its stated goal of \$500,000. This amount is being matched dollar-for-dollar by LCMS World Relief and Human Care and is supporting the expansion of the Tshwane Lutheran Seminary in Pretoria, South Africa, along with two human care and relief projects in South Africa and Botswana.

Additional gifts to this mission project may still be made. For more information, contact the district development director, Rev. Thomas Schoech, at 303-695-8001.

To God we sing a hearty Doxology for His blessings upon this effort as He manifests His love and extends His saving Gospel throughout the world!

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*When possible, send photos digitally,
in JPEG format, 300 dpi.*

MISSION FOCUS

Hispanic Mission and Ministry

Which church in the Rocky Mountain District has grown by 3,400 percent since 2001? Probably not yours if you are reading this article in English. This particular church is part of the district's mission and ministry to Hispanics.

The Lutheran Hispanic Mission is one of the largest missions supported by the Rocky Mountain District. Hispanics make up 15 percent of the United States' population and are the fastest-growing ethnic group. Of the 6,000 churches in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, only 140 are involved in some type of Hispanic ministry.

The word "Hispanic" covers many cultures and backgrounds with many differences. There are language barriers within Spanish-language speakers as well as differences in levels of education and social status.

What does Hispanic ministry look like in our district? It is more than just planting congregations, yet it requires the same resources as other church plants to meet needs in evangelism, stewardship, education, fellowship, youth ministry, and human care. In the Rocky Mountain District, there is just one Hispanic congregation with its own building and pastor. It is Cordero de Dios Lutheran Church in Denver, Colo.

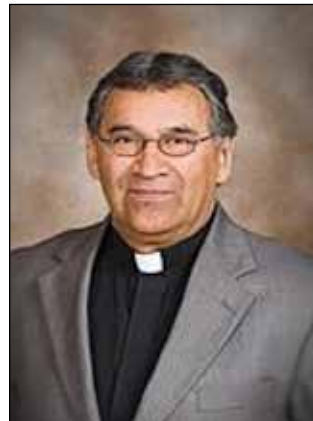


Cordero de Dios Lutheran Church is the district's mission church for Hispanic outreach.

Cordero de Dios is comprised mostly of family units with very few singles. Ninety percent of the members are from Mexico. While these families are usually poor, they also are very hard-working and often work two or three jobs to pay for rent, food, and other basic necessities. There is not a lot of money left to support their church.

In 2001, Pastor Juan Hormachea was called by the Rocky Mountain District to be the district's Hispanic

Ministry coordinator and the pastor at Cordero de Dios. The district pays his salary for these two full-time jobs. When Pastor Juan first came to Cordero de Dios, there were only five members. Today, the membership has grown to 170 (3,400 percent growth). Pastor Juan has become well known in the community through his counseling of families, radio interviews, and as a member of Rotary.



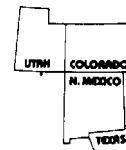
Pastor Juan Hormachea

Although Cordero de Dios is the district's only Hispanic congregation with its own church building, there are a few other Hispanic congregations throughout the district. These congregations are hosted by Anglo congregations that invite them to share their facilities and bear the majority of the financial responsibility of the Hispanic congregation. This presents its own set of challenges as host congregations must open their hearts and truly desire to have Hispanics worshipping among them.

Pastor Juan is uniquely qualified to meet the challenges of his dual role in the Rocky Mountain District. He was born in Chile and was raised in the Pentecostal church, where his father was a pastor. After coming to the United States, he began to seek a new church because he felt the Pentecostal church was too focused on Law and regulation. Around this same time, he was injured in an industrial accident and was hospitalized for three months. While there, he met his future wife, a nurse. She had been raised in the Missouri Synod Lutheran faith by her father and in the Catholic faith by her mother.

After their move to Irvine, Calif., Pastor Juan prayed for freedom in Christ and literally had those prayers answered when he and his wife began attending an LCMS church there. After another move to Buffalo, N.Y., he was confirmed in the Lutheran faith, and his pastor encouraged him to attend seminary. After three months of prayerful consideration, Pastor Juan began seminary studies. He served in Hispanic mission congregations in New York and Nebraska before coming to the Rocky Mountain District.

Since his move to Colorado, he has counseled many



families in preparation for baptism and confirmation—families that don't know about the Lutheran Church, just as he did not know of it before meeting his wife. Many of the children he has baptized have been brought to him by Catholic parents who then receive instruction from him. Through these baptisms, he becomes the family's pastor.

When asked what one thing he would like people to know about his ministry, Pastor Juan's response was for awareness that his parish is a very poor one. His families struggle with language barriers and economic hardships. He prays for help in providing basic necessities for the families of Cordero de Dios.

Pastor Juan also would like to talk with other congregations that are interested in finding out more

about hosting a Hispanic congregation. His prayer is that many more congregations will open their hearts to their Hispanic brothers and sisters and share the saving Gospel with them. Churches that are unable to host a Hispanic congregation can still be involved by financially supporting the district's Hispanic ministry.

To explore the possibilities, contact Pastor Juan at 303-579-6564 or pastorjuan@comcast.net.

To sustain ministries like this and to expand into new areas, the Rocky Mountain District depends on both congregational support as well as special "over and above" gifts from individuals. Gifts of support for this and any of the district's missions may be sent to the attention of Rev. Thomas Schoech at the Rocky Mountain District office.



42,000 pounds of potatoes delivered—three bags at a time

On Sept. 28, when 42,000 pounds of potatoes arrived from Orphan Grain Train, Ysleta Lutheran Mission (YLM) immediately began to distribute them to the many hungry families in El Paso, Texas, and across the border in Juarez, Mexico.

This was no easy task since ADUANA (Mexico's customs office) was not approving many (if any) bulk shipments of donated food to cross the border. However, they would allow individuals to take up to three bags across at a time.

volunteers to get the food into the hands of families who needed it. In a little less than two weeks, the entire 42,000-pound shipment of potatoes had been delivered in El Paso and Juarez.

To learn more about the mission and ministry of Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, visit its Web site at www.ylm.org. On the site, you can sign up for e-news to keep up-to-date with this vital ministry within our district.

Visit Passion Play and Luther's Germany

You are invited to join members and friends of Concordia Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Colo., on a unique tour of Luther's Germany, including the Passion Play in Oberammergau, in June 2010.

In addition to premium seats for the once-every-10-year presentation and outstanding accommodations a short walk from the theater, the 12-day trip will include visits to Berlin, Wittenberg, Leipzig, Eisleben, Erfurt, Eisenach, Augsburg, Neuschwanstein, and Munich.

For more information and a colorful brochure, contact Tom Teske at tom@teskes.net or 303-877-8038.



Learning this, members of the Juarez missions and churches rose to the task of coming to the YLM campus in El Paso to pick up potatoes—three bags at a time—to carry across and deliver to their churches and neighbors. One of these volunteers told YLM, "We are happy to help in this small way. God has been good to provide help to

us through the church, and this is a way I can help others too. I have a passport and can cross to El Paso, but there are many others who cannot."

Elvira, Rosy, Karla, and Javier (from YLM and the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute) coordinated

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AROUND THE DISTRICT

Older adults change gathering venue

This year, for the first time, the Rocky Mountain District Older Adult Gathering was held on a weekend—Sept. 11-13. After 11 straight years of holding the gathering at the YMCA in Estes Park, Colo., this year's event was held at the Glen Eyrie Conference Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. The theme was "M&M's—Ministry and Missions." M&M candies were given to all participants.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Robert Roegner, former executive director of LCMS Board for Mission Services. Roegner is one of the creators of the Synod's mission outreach program *Ablaze!* After speaking about the mission opportunities we all have, Dr. Roegner finished by discussing the unique challenges of Islam.



Other speakers included:

- attorney David Cook, who spoke about various power of attorney legal documents; and
- Rev. David Dyer, pastor of Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Monument, Colo., who challenged everyone to ask the question, "Where am I?" in regard to the mission of the church. He encouraged all to get involved in sharing the Gospel with those who so desperately need it.

Entertainment Saturday night was provided by Raptor Summit. The organization brought four live raptors—an owl, falcon, hawk, and eagle—demonstrating

to the audience the unique characteristics of each.

A worship service concluded the event, with Dr. Roegner delivering the sermon. After lunch in the beautiful dining room of Glen Eyrie, friends said goodbye and made their way home. Participants' comments were very complimentary, with many expressing thanks to the committee for a job well done.

Plan now to attend the one-day seminar Feb. 20, 2010, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lakewood, Colo.

Submitted by Dr. Norbert Kleidon

New DCE intern for Zion

Zion Lutheran Church in Farmington, N.M., recently welcomed its new director of Christian education (DCE) intern, Sarah Andrews. Sarah, 23, grew up in the St. Louis area and graduated from Concordia University Nebraska with a bachelor of science degree in secondary education, with subject endorsements in vocal music and Spanish.



In the short time she has been at Zion, Sarah has been busy instructing confirmation classes and organizing many youth-oriented activities.

Last summer, Sarah participated in a tour with her college choir to promote newly-founded Lutheran churches in Spain, followed by an invitation-only choral competition in Austria.

Zion is blessed to have Sarah, who is a valuable asset to the ministry of the church.

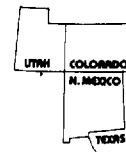
A special 'thank you' extended to community pastors

Students of Shepherd of the Hills Christian School in Centennial, Colo., showed their appreciation for the pastors of all the churches that send students to their school by inviting them to a special pastor appreciation luncheon in October. The invitation included 40 pastors from non-Lutheran churches who have students attending Shepherd this year.

The Jubilate Choir sang for the gathered pastors, and students in the "Life Skills" class served the delicious lunch. The group also was greeted by Shepherd's student council president, who expressed appreciation on behalf of the students for all their pastors do for them.



Students show their appreciation for pastors who support them as they attend Shepherd of the Hills.



'Trick or Treat on LHSP Street'



Lutheran High School in Parker, Colo., opened its doors to the community Oct. 31, offering a safe place for youngsters to dress in their costumes, play games, and get lots of treats. Youngsters enjoyed pumpkin bowling, jack-o-lantern Frisbee toss (left), stick the eyes on the pumpkin, cookie and cupcake walk (below), and other fun games.



Six states represented at national Funding Academy

Denver, Colo., hosted the National Lutheran School Funding Academy Oct. 19-21. Under the leadership of Paul Albers, Rocky Mountain District (RMD) executive for congregational services, the academy addressed the district's "Healthier Ministries and Spiritual Growth" targets.

Nearly 50 principals, pastors, and school leaders from Utah, New Mexico, Colorado, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Oregon spent three intense days learning about school funding, marketing, development, student retention and recruitment, and admissions work. The academy was especially timely as many Lutheran schools face financial challenges and declining enrollments.



At the Lutheran School Funding Academy, participants received practical help they could take home and apply as their schools take on many challenges in today's world.

Special thanks go to the School Ministry Department of the LCMS (Bill Cochran and Perry Bresemann), St. John's Lutheran School in Denver for being fabulous hosts (Loren and Carolyn Otte), and the School Ministry Committee of the Rocky Mountain District. May God richly bless the ministries of each of our Lutheran schools—for Jesus' sake!

Zion serves its community

Zion Lutheran Church in Wellington, Colo., has sponsored the Wellington Food Bank since its beginnings in 1988. Currently, 99 households are registered with the bank and receive weekly distributions.

Members of Zion provide much of the manpower to operate the food bank. In addition, they plan to convert some of the open space on their property into a community garden to raise produce for the bank.

In September, Pastor Mark Gabbert of Zion took over organization of the Wellington Food Bank, allowing a fellow member, Phyllis Nace, to retire from her role as longtime facilitator.

Thank you, Zion, for being such a shining example of Christ's love to your community!

Editor's note:

How does *your* church or school serve its community? Send your story to *Peaks and Valleys!*

See contact information on Page A.

PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKERS CONFERENCE

Professional church workers meet in Breckenridge

Professional church workers from throughout the Rocky Mountain District met Sept. 30-Oct. 2 for their fall conferences in Breckenridge, Colo. District pastors, meeting under the theme "I Will Build My Church," gained new insights from speakers Dr. Jeffrey Kloha, Dr. Joel Lehenbauer, and Dr. Lawrence Rast.

Keynote speakers for educators and directors of Christian education, meeting under the theme "One Heart, One Voice," included Dr. Mary Manz Simon, Dr. Perry Bresemann, and Rev. Michael Eckelkamp.

In addition to keynote sessions, nearly 40 sectional workshops were available with topics ranging from "101 Fun Ideas for Children's Ministry" and "Singapore Math," to "Relational Discipline" and "Using Google in the Classroom."

Vera Abresch of Christ Lutheran School in Albuquerque, N.M., was named Lutheran Educator of the Year, and Gabriele Bergmann of Redeemer Lutheran Early Childhood Center in Fort Collins, Colo., received the early childhood director honors. Professional workers celebrating significant anniversary years of service also were recognized.



Loren Otte, District School Committee chairperson, and Charlie Pflieger, District School Committee member, present Vera Abresch with the 2009 Lutheran Educator of the Year award.



30 years in His service



35 years in His service



40 years in His service



45 years in His service



50 years in His service



25 years in His service

(More photos of the conference are on Page H.)



Rocky Mountain District calendar

December

10 Conversations of Grace Web meeting

January 2010

25-26 RMD Board of Directors meeting

February

20 Older adult seminar, Bethlehem, Lakewood, Colo.

April

13-15 New Mexico Area Spring Pastors Conference, Bonita Park Camp and Conference Center

13-15 Eastern High Plains and Pikes Peak Circuits Spring Pastors Conference

August

9-10 RMD Board of Directors meeting

Calls in the district

CALLS EXTENDED

- Gethsemane, Northglenn, Colo., to Rev. Andrew Wehling, Grace, Liberal, Kan.

CALLS DECLINED

- Rev. George Hesse, Mount Hope, Boulder, Colo., to Faith, Johnstown, Colo.

Wes Broderius—Renaissance man

There are many multi-talented people among us. But there are very few who could answer to performer, composer, arranger, musical scholar, architect, and craftsman, as well as athlete. This multi-talented gentleman is Wes Broderius.

As noted in last month's *Peaks and Valleys*, Wes is the director of The Lutheran Chorale. He will retire from that position at the end of this choral season. He is a native Coloradan who attended Lutheran schools from grade school through ninth grade. Wes then begged his parents to send him to prep school at Concordia College (now University) in Seward, Neb. (although he had never heard of Concordia until two classmates at Emmaus Lutheran, Denver, decided to go there).



Broderius

After prep school, he continued in college at Concordia. Wes was active in sports at Concordia and was recently elected to the Concordia College Hall of Fame in both football and tennis.

After graduating, Wes served Lutheran churches in Wisconsin, Florida, Nebraska, and Colorado as a minis-

ter of music, organist, choir director, teacher, and principal. He also taught music at Lutheran High School in Denver.

Wes returned to Concordia College as a staff member teaching organ, music, education, and piano, and conducting two college choirs. He led the Concordia Singers on their first tour through America's southland, singing only in African-American churches. He earned a master of music degree at the University of Colorado in Boulder and worked on a doctor of musical arts degree.

Upon returning to Colorado, Wes purchased land in the foothills west of Denver and has been building an amazing house there, adding features and structures every year. The house resembles a castle, and, in fact, Wes' voice mail answers with "Castle Broderius!"

Sometimes, Wes finds his composing inspiration in the most unusual circumstances. In 1990, after suffering a heart attack, he awoke from surgery with the theme music from Edward Elgar's "Enigma Variations" resounding in his head—with lyrics full-blown! He immediately wrote down the lyrics, and the Chorale has performed the piece many times since.



Castle Broderius is Wes's ongoing building project in the foothills west of Denver.

Wes has been the conductor of The Lutheran Chorale for more than 20 years. A major effort of the Chorale under his direction has been the presentation of Handel's "Messiah"—a collaboration between The Lutheran Chorale, the Lakewood Symphony, and local high school choirs.

The Lutheran Chorale invites you to join them at the concerts of Wes Broderius' final season. You'll hear some of his original pieces—including those lyrics of Elgar's "Enigma Variations"!



THE CONFERENCE IN PICTURES



Check out *Fan into Flame* Web site

LCMS World Mission announces an updated feature on the *Fan into Flame* Web site. It recently has expanded its list of congregational profiles to include profiles from California, Louisiana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Kansas, and more! These profiles contain exciting stories about how congregations run their appeals and how they are using their "Jerusalem" funds for local mission and outreach initiatives. Praise God for these wonderful gifts that enable His people to share the Gospel!

To view the profiles, please visit www.lcms.org?12731. If you would like to share your congregation's story, call Kathleen at 800-433-3954, ext. 1653, or e-mail kathleen.rall@lcms.org.

To learn more about the *Fan into Flame* campaign, please visit www.fanintoflame.lcms.org or call the campaign office at 800-977-2017.