



THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2009

Submittals of articles for the Messenger are due the 15th of each month for the next month. Please send to Margery Richter at m.richter@rm.lcms.org

**Let the Children Come to Jesus
by**

President Randall Golter

“Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God” (Luke 18:16).



Jesus’ words teach His deep love for children and His desire to have them come to Him. Children are a priority for Jesus, and a priority for His church.

If the church does not teach them, culture will and does. The devil attempts to use every institution and medium to have the children come to him. Songs, videos, magazines, academic institutions, all these are tools that he uses to teach children’s hearts that they don’t have a god. And if there is a god, he is a god who either demands too much or demands nothing but what the sinful heart wants.

The true God can only be known fully and rightly in the Word. It is through the Word that God reveals His heart through the work of His Son. His Son teaches a loving and merciful Father whose heart is totally for the sinner, not against him.

How many college students slip into sin and then feel too dirty to run to God? Satan agrees! And atheistic professors only confirm the devil’s philosophy. The truth is: You can’t be too dirty for God. Jesus’ blood takes away the dirt (1 John 1:7b).

Campus ministries--like our University Lutheran Chapel at Boulder--and every church’s children’s ministry program has a rich message to teach and a vast field to



reach. Each ministry is God's mouth, feet, and hands that fulfill His desire to have children come to Him.

Pray to the Lord of the harvest for more children to be brought home to the Father through the Son. Bring your children to Him through family devotions and weekly hearings of Christ's Word. That same Word is your life too.

Navajo Mission Trips This Month

Volunteers are needed for two trips to assist with building repair at Shepherd of the Valley, Navajo, NM in September (Shepherd of the Valley is our District's mission outreach to the Navajo nation).

The purpose of the trips:



- Trip # 1, September 9-12: Prepare for the removal of the currently rotting roof
- Trip # 2, September 19-27: Replace the roof and finish the inside of the fellowship hall

The building was condemned for use one year ago due to severe damage and the unsafe condition of the roof and ceiling. Willing and able-bodied volunteers may contact Mr. Bob Toney at 303-791-0064 for more information.

A Close-Up and Personal Look: Our District Mission to the Navajo Nation

Ministry among the Navajo people is most challenging! The Navajo Nation is a separate nation within the boundaries of the United States. The reservation is home to 220,000 people, families bound not by the measurable confines of buildings, but one that is tied together through a rich cultural heritage. There are few Navajo towns as families live in enclaves scattered throughout the reservation, which is larger in size than the state of West Virginia. Roads to and from their homes are generally unpaved and sometimes impassible. The reservation has been described as a Third World of its own. It is not unusual for a missionary visiting a family to travel 50 miles one way. This isolation gives fertile ground to the problems that plague so many families, problems such as alcoholism, drug abuse, physical or emotional abuse. Employment opportunities on the reservation are few. Most males must travel a great distance to find work. Upon finding it, they must live away from their family while earning barely enough to subsist. The absence of males has led to a matriarchal society, which is much different from that of their ancestors. There is still a great distrust of the "white man" and his religion. The government, culture, and language are all vastly different from that of the Anglos.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Navajo, New Mexico, has been a mission of the Rocky Mountain District for over 35 years. Eight different pastors, five vicars, and many parish workers and deaconesses have served the Navajo mission. Pastor Steven Greene was called as missionary. For more than 17 years he has worked with great patience in developing relationships, respecting the Navajo culture, and building trust through his ministry. Recently retired from full-time ministry, Pastor Greene still provides mentoring and guidance to the mission's deaconess, Louise Lee.

Louise Lee is involved with the important outreach of the Gospel to the Navajo people. She is a native, raised, and educated on the reservation. She knows the traditions and people of the reservation and is fluent in both the languages of the Navajo and English. She is highly respected, an educated woman, and a former teacher. Nine years ago, Louise began to help Pastor Greene spread the "good news of the Gospel," first to her own family and then to other Navajo families. Her own family has endured the same kind of afflictions which affect everyone on the reservation. Through faith and sharing the Gospel with them, many of her family members have become part of the core group of believers at Shepherd of the Valley.



Most encouraging is her son David, who has begun the long process of becoming the first native Navajo Lutheran minister. He has applied for admission to the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) program which is offered by Concordia Seminary through a collaborative arrangement with LCMS World Mission. This would be an incredible opportunity and blessing for the congregation to have, for the first time, a native Navajo leading the mission. David has faced many of the personal problems that affect so many on the reservation but, by the grace of God, is now a devoted follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. He fully understands the challenges that he will face as he seeks to bring the Gospel to the people of Navajo.

Please pray for Louise and David as they seek to serve the Lord among their native people and also pray that their Christian witness might bring many to saving faith. Please also consider a gift in support of their ministry so that this mission outpost of our District might flourish and grow.

(Gifts may be sent to our Rocky Mountain District Office at 14334 E. Evans Avenue, Aurora, CO 80014. Please note that the gift is intended for our Navajo mission.)



Mission: Southern Africa -- Almost There

As of August 27, 2009, the amount gathered for the Mission: Southern Africa project stood at \$490,348, less than \$10,000 short of the goal of \$500,000 voted on at the 2006 convention.

Having a Lutheran seminary on the African continent provides South Africans as well as those from neighboring countries an opportunity to train as pastors. Graduates of the seminary return to their home countries to serve their people in their indigenous (heart) languages. Among the advantages to training

national colleagues for this work are the many willing Africans eager to bring God's Word to their countrymen while at the same time fewer North Americans are being drawn to the mission field.

Another advantage of having indigenous workers serve as pastors is that many challenges are significantly reduced: housing, cultural and language adaptation, and transportation. The ongoing expenses of ministry are considerably less with local experts than the costs of sending a North American family to live overseas. Who better to share God's Word in a clear, comprehensible, culturally appropriate manner than someone who is part of that culture and considers the language his mother tongue?

The Rocky Mountain District in convention last June decided to continue this project until the goal of \$500,000 is reached.



Conversations of Grace 2009 Evangelism Conference

Friday, Nov. 6 – Saturday, Nov. 7
Radison Hotel and Waterpark ---- Albuquerque, NM

You can register at: www.conversationsofgrace.org

4:00 PM Registration Opens

5:00 Welcome reception (with music by Mariachi San Pablo)

6:00 Opening Worship

6:45 Break

7:00 Keynote: Plowing the Field: The Seed Which We Sow –
Rev. Scott Snow, LCMS Director of Outreach; and
Morgan Jackson, International Dir., Faith Comes By Hearing / Hosanna Ministries

8:00 Breakout Workshops Session #1

1A Evangelism Can Be Fun – Dr. Phil Bickel

1B Writing and Implementing a Cong. Outreach Plan* – Susan Roberts, Outreach Dir.,
Christ Luth. Church and School, Murray, UT; E.D., Utah Luth. Mission Outreach

1C Care Ministry: Nurturing Within and Reaching Out – Carol Tobias, Care Min. Dir.,
Immanuel-ABQ; former Political Director, National Right to Life Committee

1D Leadership Development and Church Planting – Rev. Jesus Astorga, Volunteer
Mission Planter/Educator, Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, El Paso, TX

1E Cross-Cultural Evangelism: Working Together – Rev. Ken Behnken

1F Holistic Ministry: Serving the Needs of the Whole Person (*in Spanish*) – Rev. Shin-

Hwan (David) Kim, Mission Dir., Luth. Inter-City Network Coalition, Houston, TX

Saturday , November 7

7:30 AM Registration Opens

8:00 Morning Devotional

Keynote: **NET** Fishing — Network of *E*vangelistic *T*eams – Dr. Phil Bickel, CEO Roller Coaster Press; Missions Pastor St. Michaels, Bloomington, MN

9:15 Break

9:30 Breakout Workshops Session #2

2A **ET**: *E*vangelism *T*echnology in the 21st Century – Rev. Mark Larson, Missions Executive, Rocky Mountain District

2B Plowing: Where's My Field? Dispelling Common Misconceptions About Sharing Our Faith – Rev. Scott Snow

2C Men in the Church: Not an Oxymoron – Richard Cohrs, Manager, District and Congregational Relations, Lutheran Hour Ministries

2D Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute: Tomorrow's Leaders Today – Rev. Richard Schlak, Executive Director, Luth. Hispanic Missionary Institute, El Paso, TX

2E Outreach Through Music Ministry – Stephen Heimer, Vicar / Chief Operating Officer, Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, El Paso, TX

2F The Missional Church: Evangelism in Our DNA in All We Do (*in Spanish*) – Rev. Shin-Hwan (David) Kim

10:30 Break

10:45 Breakout Workshops Session #3

3A Outreach Promises—God's Encouragement for Sharing Your Faith – Dr. Phil Bickel

3B Women and Evangelism

3C Help for the Shy Evangelist – Richard Cohrs

3D Knowing Your Community: How Demographics Can Help* – Kevin Grein, VP, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, Rocky Mountain District

3E The Missional Church: Evangelism in our DNA in All We Do – Rev. S-H(David) Kim

3F Leadership Development and Church Planting (*in Spanish*) – Rev. Jesus Astorga

11:45 Break

12:00 Luncheon (music by Mariachi San Pablo)

Keynote: Together in Missions Across Cultures – Rev. Ken Behnken, Ethnic Ministry Consultant to Pacific Southwest Dist.; extensive work with church planting

1:15 PM Panel Discussion — Hispanic Outreach in the Rocky Mountain District

2:15 Break

2:30 Breakout Workshops Session #4

4A **NET** Fishing in Your Church and Circuit – Dr. Phil Bickel

4B Partners in Getting the Word Out – Faith Comes by Hearing: Hosanna Ministries

4C Equipping to Share: Developing Your Personal Witness – Richard Cohrs

4D Knowing Your Community: How Demographics Can Help* – Kevin Grein

4E Speaking the Truth In Love to Jehovah's Witnesses – Rev. Jesus Astorga

4F Outreach Through Music Ministry (*in Spanish*) – Stephen Heimer

- 3:30 Break
- 3:45 Breakout Workshops Session #5
- 5A Plowing: Which Tools Shall I Use? Where do I Find Them? – Rev. Scott Snow
- 5B Writing and Implementing a Congregational Outreach Plan* – Susan Roberts
- 5C Mangelism: Evangelism to / for Men – Richard Cohrs
- 5D Speaking the Truth In Love to Muslims (and Others) – Rev. Brian Kachelmeier,
Redeemer Luth. Church, Los Alamos, NM; Biblical Orthodox Luth. Ministries
- 5E Holistic Ministry: Serving the Needs of the Whole Person – Rev. S-H. (David) Kim
- 5F Speaking the Truth In Love to Jehovah's Witnesses (*in Spanish*) – Rev. J. Astorga
- 4:45 Break
- 5:00 Closing Divine Worship Service

* Indicates workshop presented more than once in English.

Registration Fees (*We have kept fees at or below 2006 conference levels!*):

Adult \$45 / Youth (Grades 6-12) \$20 / Child (Age 3-Grade 5) \$10
 Special maximum rate for whole family (including spouses, youth, children): \$90
 (Registration is not complete until payment is received.)

Hotel Registration Information:

Conference Rate: \$89 per room, up to four persons per room
 Reserve room by Friday, October 23, to guarantee rate (Identify this conference)
 To reserve: Call the Radisson at 800-333-3333 or 505-888-3311
 Location: 2500 Carlisle Blvd., NE (I-40 and Carlisle), Albuquerque, NM 87110

For more information: Call Damon or Carol Tobias at 505-286-5778 or 505-321-4366
 or e-mail us at cog-abq@hotmail.com; or send us a fax at 505-286-5778.

Join Lutheran Valley Ranch for its Second Annual Wood Choppers for Charity Event



Please Join LVR for its second annual wood choppers for charity weekend September 18-20. The cost is free (\$25/person donation would be fine to cover the cost for food)! Our goal is to provide the needy families of Teller county with wood for the winter. This wood will be used to heat their homes.

Last year LVR provided wood for 12 families, this year we are going to twenty families. Your help is desired to make this goal happen. We will need log splitters, trucks to haul wood, chainsaws (helmets, double lined pants, ear & eye protection required), and people power to move the wood. LVR will provide housing, food, snacks, fuel for splitters and chainsaws, bar and chain oil, and a servant atmosphere. Join us for the weekend or a day! To reserve your place, please call LVR (719) 687-3560

Steve "QD" Johnson

Exec. Director
Lutheran Valley Retreat
PO Box 9042
Woodland Park, CO 80866
Phone: (719) 687-3560 // Fax: (719) 687-4080
www.lvr.org

Donations for Lithuania

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania's pastors and churches need vestments and paraments (altar, pulpit, and lectern). Please send these items to Trinity Lutheran Church, 212 W. 12th Street, Grand Island, NE 68801, before December 31, 2009. They will be collected and sorted by Rev. John Reehl at Grand Island and packed for shipment to Lithuania. These items will be collected only at Grand Island through December 31, 2009.



Lou Boette, Chairman CO West Division
Orphan Grain Train
303-453-1270

HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER?



Why would a man agree to pay for years of undergraduate education and a four-year seminary program to become a Missouri Synod pastor when Christians who are unprepared and uncertified can pay \$25 for a certificate and practice the public role and responsibilities of a pastor? Why? Because he agrees with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions that theology and practice are a complete and indivisible unity, and, if he wishes to serve as a Missouri Synod Lutheran pastor, he must study its theology.

He learns that God prescribes a certain form regarding the call, doctrine, and conduct of those to whom the functions of the church are entrusted. Congregations place an awesome responsibility on pastors to keep watch over souls as they will have to give an account to God one day.

The cost of the eight years of education leading to ordination and service is great, yet, without it, our church does not recognize pastors. So, many future pastors borrow the funds for their education. The District's Debt Assistance Program exists to help our pastors repay debt incurred for their education.

Call Paul Gutknecht at 303-465-1236 with any questions. And do not forget to pray for these, and all of our pastors and their families.



Join Us in Welcoming These New Additions to Our Rocky Mountain District Schools for the 2009-10 School Year.

Principals

Don Wischmeyer	Messiah, Longmont, CO
Janette Teske	Bethlehem, Lakewood, CO
Jeanette Singleton	St Paul, Ogden, UT
JoDee Kuehn	Gethsemane, Northglenn, CO
Joel Palmreuter	Lutheran High School, Parker, CO
Ken Palmreuter	Trinity, Franktown, CO
Kevin Rhode	Trinity, Fort Morgan, CO
Lisa Schilling	Redeemer, Denver, CO

CLHSA Executive Director: Juls Clausen

New to the District:

Principal:

Mark Angell	Immanuel, Albuquerque, NM (previous SW District)
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First Year Teachers:

Andrew Hulke	CU ME'09	Redeemer, Denver
Audrey Herrmann	CU SW'09	Messiah, Longmont
Bradford Hueske	CU SW'09	LHS, Parker
Christopher Loesel	CU SW'09	Lutheran High Parker

Teachers:

Abigail Reed	Vail Christian High School, Edwards, CO (previous MI District)
Emilie Meyer	Immanuel, Albuquerque, NM (prev. FG District)
Mari Buss	St John, Denver, CO (previous CNH District)
Melissa Cattau	Zion, Brighton, CO (previous CNH District)

Directors:

Jace Holden	Redeemer, Delta, CO
Joli Robbins	Messiah, Longmont, CO
Kristina Stelling	Peace with Christ EC, Aurora, CO
Tessa Pacilli Miller	Messiah, Grand Junction, CO

DCE

Andy Busch
Sarah Andrews

Immanuel, Loveland
Zion, Farmington

Deaconess

Leslie Holle

Grace, Albuquerque, NM (grad CTS FW'09)

CALLS EXTENDED

Our Savior, Pueblo West, CO to Rev. Benjamin Roberts, Corona, CA

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev. James Dunn, Ascension, El Paso, TX to Immanuel, Kansas City, MO
Michael Glowinski, Candidate Status, FG Dist. to Gethsemane, Northglenn, CO
Candidate Bradford Hueske, Concordia, Seward, NE to Lutheran High School, Parker, CO

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Steven Sommerer, Messiah, Carlyle, IL to Mt. Olive, Loveland, CO
Rev. Matthew Larson, Candidate Status, Oklahoma Dist. to Our Savior's, Pueblo West, CO

CHANGE OF STATUS

Alice Baldwin, Non-Candidate to Emeritus
Karen Friesen, Christ, Murray, UT to Candidate Status
Rev. Andrew Lemley, Zion, Wellington, CO to Non-Candidate Status
Rev. R. Joseph Burnham, Non-Candidate to Candidate Status

RESIGNATIONS

Rev. Bradley Hopfensperger, Associate, Summit of Peace, Thornton, CO

TRANSFERS

Karen Friesen, Candidate Status to Texas District.



Upcoming Events – Rocky Mountain District

September

- 10 Conversations of Grace web meeting with Kent Stephens
- 11 -13 Older Adult Gathering at Glen Eyrie, Colorado Springs, CO
- Sept 30 Professional Workers Conference, Breckenridge, CO

October

- 1&2 Professional Workers Conference, Breckenridge, CO
- 8 Conversations of Grace Web Meeting
- 19-21 National Lutheran Schools Funding Academy, Denver, CO

November

- 2-3 RMD Board of Directors
- 5-7 Rural and Small Town Pastors and Lay Leaders Conference, Nebraska City, NE
- 6-7 Conversations of Grace - Albuquerque, NM - at Radisson, Cedar Crest, NM

December

- 10 Conversations of Grace Web Meeting

January 2010

- 25-26 RMD Board of Directors

August 2010

- 9-10 RMD Board of Directors

November 2010

- 1-2 RMD Board of Directors

We Encourage your Prayers

God, grant that these people know Your compassion in the days ahead as they put their health concerns into Your hands. May those ministering to them demonstrate Jesus' love. We ask that an awareness of Your presence comfort and sustain these people and their loved ones. Amen.

Linda Groeling, wife of **Rev. Neal Groeling**, Christ, Albuquerque, NM, recovering from surgery.

Gary Johnson, LCEF vice president, is on medical leave.

Laverne Judge, wife of **Rev. Leslie Judge**, Our Savior, Pagosa Springs, CO, who is recovering well from surgery.

Rev. Thomas Schoech, development director of the RMD, as he continues his treatment for hairy cell leukemia.

Gracious Father, in Your goodness You have given us Christian teachers to instill love for Your Word and knowledge of Your world to the students You have entrusted to their care. Give them diligence in their vocation, passion for their labor, and love for their students. Help them deal patiently and gracefully with every challenge they face in the classroom. Keep them faithful to Your Word, giving them joy in Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.

Dear Jesus, may those with fears and doubts focus on You, on Your Word, and on Your death and resurrection for them. We entrust **Kevin Grein**, (LCEF vice president) and his family to Your care as his son **Joe** continues to battle cancer. May Joe and his family members trust that You will never take them where Your mercy cannot keep them. Help them to remember that You are keeping Your angels around his bedside. Amen.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, we give You thanks and praise that it is Your will that Your saving Gospel reach all people so that they might enjoy the blessings of Your eternal kingdom. This day we pray especially for the ministry among the Navajo people in our Rocky Mountain District. Bless the labors of Louise Lee and David Lee, along with the members of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church so that Your love might bring relief to those who suffer under an assortment of ills and many might come to saving faith in You as their Savior. Build up this congregation to be a strong mission outpost for Your work and grant them Your grace as they work in Your kingdom. Amen.