



# PEAKS AND VALLEYS

## DISTRICT NEWS

### He is risen indeed!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,

Just how important is the resurrection to the Christian faith? Without the resurrection, our Christian faith would be just wishful thinking, no better than human philosophies and speculative religions.



Rev. Allen Anderson  
District President

In fact, the noted 17th-century philosopher John Locke, some of whose ideas were incorporated into the Declaration of Independence, wrote, "Our Saviour's resurrection is truly of great importance in Christianity, so great that His being or not being the Messiah stands or falls with it."

This Old Testament Scripture passage contains the message of resurrection hope:

"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!" **Job 19:25-27**

Death has never been the end for the believer, but simply a gateway to eternal life in heaven. Abraham was ready to sacrifice his only son Isaac because in faith:

"He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead,

from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back." **Heb. 11:19**

The Lord assured Daniel that believers live!

"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

**Dan. 12:2**

The resurrection was the focal point of Christ's teaching to the disciples about His sufferings and death:

"And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many

things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again." **Mark 8:31**

It is therefore completely understandable that Mark and the other three Gospel writers all included a historical account of Jesus' resurrection in their narratives. Paul knew that without the resurrection our salvation could not have been possible (1 Cor. 15). He was also convinced a person couldn't be saved without believing in the resurrection of Jesus:

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Participating pastors were, from left (front row) the Revs. Tim Davis, Dave Loeschke, FitzPatrick, Kurt Hatteberg, Trent Christensen; (back row) Jim Nash, Scott Biecker and Tim Storck.

### New pastor installed in Yuma

The Rev. Dennis FitzPatrick accepted the divine call as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Yuma, Colo., and was installed on Oct. 23. He previously served Emmaus, Denver, Colo.

Several circuit pastors participated in the service and St. John's music department (King's Kids, adult choir and Glockenspiel Ringers) provided special music. St. John's welcomes FitzPatrick and his wife, Kara!



## Luther and the Gospel

### The Event

Luther reportedly discovered the Gospel while reading Romans in the tower of the Augustinian cloister. Luther experienced the “true discovery” of the Gospel after intently studying Rom. 1:16-17: “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes ... as it is written: ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”

His study of the Scriptures brought him to the realization of the differences between the Bible and the practices and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. And so, the story of the Reformation began.

### What Luther Says

“For a long time I went astray [in the monastery] and didn’t know what I was about. To be sure, I knew something, but I didn’t know what it was until I came to the text in Rom. 1:17, ‘He who through faith is righteous shall live.’ That text helped me. But when I discovered the proper distinction—namely, that the law is one thing and the gospel is another—I made myself free.

“God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars. If he (we)

has (have) faith, the believer cannot be restrained. He betrays himself. He breaks out. He confesses and teaches this Gospel to the people at the risk of life itself. You should not believe your conscience and your feelings more than the Word which the Lord who receives sinners preaches to you.”

### The LCMS’s Doctrinal Position

*What Lutherans Teach* states that “Lutherans teach (and believe) that no human being can earn or obtain forgiveness of sins or life with God by any human efforts or ‘good works.’” We believe, and the Gospel clearly teaches, that salvation is achieved by the grace of God through faith in Him.

The Gospel is the joyful news that our Lord Jesus Christ has given us complete forgiveness from our sins through His

life, death and resurrection. The central and most important teaching in the Bible is the Gospel, the Good News of God’s gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

We believe that the two chief doctrines of Holy Scripture, Law and Gospel, must be constantly and diligently proclaimed. We believe, teach and confess that the Gospel is the heart and center of our Christian faith. The Holy Spirit works through the Word of the Gospel to create and sustain faith in our heart. The Gospel’s message is that God forgives us all our sins through Christ, accepts us for His sake as God’s children, and out of pure grace, without any merit of our own, saves us.

**Next month’s topic:**  
*Marriage and Family*

## Experience the tabernacle

See firsthand what the children of Israel experienced as they worshiped God in the Old Testament tabernacle. Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Fort Morgan, Colo., is offering “The Tabernacle Experience” May 5-14.

The Tabernacle Experience includes a full-size recreation of the first tabernacle and its furnishings. Attendees, guided by an explanation linking the furnishings to Jesus, the Great High Priest, will be ushered into God’s presence to experience a day in the life of a priest as he attends his duties. Listening to the narration on earphones (or personal earbuds) will make the

experience profound, yet intimate.

The tour lasts for 50 minutes. The cost is \$3 for children, \$5 for adults or \$20 per family unit. The Tabernacle is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 8 pm daily. Group tours are offered from 9 to 11 a.m. Make reservations at [trinitylutheran.fortmorgan.com](http://trinitylutheran.fortmorgan.com) or [capobeachchurch.com/tabernacle-experience](http://capobeachchurch.com/tabernacle-experience); click on “Locations,” then “Trinity Lutheran.”

Trinity Lutheran School is located at 1215 W. 7th Ave., Fort Morgan, Colo. For more information, contact Ann Stivers at [bastivers@wigginstel.com](mailto:bastivers@wigginstel.com).

## MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

“Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” **Rom. 10:9**

It’s no wonder Paul, the other apostles and every leader in the early church continually proclaimed Christ’s resurrection as the culmination of His ministry. Those men were so captivated by the significance of the resurrection

that they could not help but preach it, teach about it, and, yes, to share it!

The point, my brothers and sisters in Christ, is that this should be our action today. He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Have a blessed Easter.

**In Christ’s love and service,  
The Rev. Allen Anderson**

“Be still, and know that I am God.” **Ps. 46:10**

# SOAR seminar observes Reformation

SOAR, the Rocky Mountain District older adult one-day seminar, was held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lakewood, Colo., on Feb. 11 with more than 120 in attendance. The 500th anniversary of the Reformation received a lot of attention with the event theme being “Our Reformation Heritage.” The Rev. David Ahlman of Peace, Arvada, Colo., spoke on the theme with a presentation called “The One Thing Luther Kept.” He talked about Luther’s struggle with the Law and his guilt before God until he discovered in Scripture that “The just shall live by faith.” The Gospel of God’s grace is the one thing Luther kept.

Also highlighting the Reformation was the quartet 4GIVEN from Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Broomfield, Colo., which sang Reformation hymns along with a jazzed-up version of “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” Accompanying the quartet was pianist, Sandy Meske.

Everyone was blown away by Mary Boyle’s dramatic presentation of Katie Luther in full custom. She told of her experiences as a nun and how she met Martin Luther and later married him. She also explained all the troubles she went through after Luther’s death.

Dr. Nauman Moazzam, an oncologist, spoke about various types of cancer and the treatments used to combat this insidious disease. After lunch, Moazzam was followed by the Rev. Larry McGurur, a local missionary from Peace Lutheran Church, Arvada, Colo. His relational ministry is called “Salt of the Earth Community.”

The next SOAR event will be the Gathering, scheduled for Sept. 18-19 at Bethlehem. The Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Lutheran Hour speaker, will be the keynote speaker. Mark your calendars!

*Submitted by the Rev. Dr. Norbert Kleidon*



Mary Boyle as Katie Luther.



## Adios — and Godspeed

The Rev. Armenio Pineros was honored at a retirement and farewell “Adios and God Speed” gathering at Trinity, Sterling, Colo., on Jan. 14. Pineros and his wife, Mila, plan to return to Colombia.

For the last five years, Pineros has served as the Northeast Circuit Hispanic Outreach (NECHO) missionary. He was responsible for beginning a Hispanic congregation at Sterling and Holyoke, Colo. Attending the farewell celebration was the Rev. Pedro Jofre, his wife, Deaconess Erica, and the Jofre children. Jofre has accepted the Divine Call to be the next missionary for NECHO.

From left, the Rev. James Nash, pastor, Trinity; Mila Pineros; the Rev. Armenio Pineros; and Murl Abts, the chairman of NECHO.

## Blessings in Sterling

The Rev. Richard von Steinman was installed as pastor of First English Lutheran Church, Sterling, Colo., on Jan. 8. Participating in the service are, from left, the Revs. Timothy Davis, Calvary, Wray, Colo.; David Loeschke, Immanuel, Haxtun, Colo.; James Nash, Trinity, Sterling; Dennis Fitzpatrick, First, Blytheville, Ark.; von Steinman; Allen Anderson, Rocky Mountain District president; Timothy Storck, Trinity, Fort Morgan, Colo.; Trent Christensen, St. Paul, Julesburg, Colo., and Zion, Big Springs, Neb.; and Kurt Hatteberg, St. Paul’s, Amherst, Colo., and St. Paul’s, Venango, Neb.



# DISTRICT CALLS/CHANGES

## Calls accepted

- ▶ **The Rev. Dale Andrew Becker**, St. Paul's, Farmington Hills, Mich., to Faith, Buena Vista, Colo.
- ▶ **The Rev. Pedro Jofre**, Lutheran Inter-City Network Coalition, Houston, Texas, to Trinity, Sterling, Colo., Northeast Circuit, Hispanic missionary
- ▶ **Sarah Ross**, Littleton, Colo., candidate status, commissioned minister to Peace, Arvada, Colo.
- ▶ **Shelly Davis**, Salt Lake City, Utah, candidate status, commissioned minister, to Grace, Sandy, Utah

## Calls declined

- ▶ **The Rev. Mark Nierman**, Mount Olive, Loveland, Colo., to Zion, Laramie, Wyo.
- ▶ **The Rev. Garen Pay**, Peace, Alcester, S.D., to Immanuel/Zion, Arriba/Flagler,



Colo.; and to Grace/Trinity, Cheyenne Wells/Kit Carson, Colo.

## Calls extended

- ▶ Memorial, Houston, Texas, associate pastor/headmaster to **the Rev. Robert Paul**, Immanuel, Roswell, N.M.

# ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN



The Rocky Mountain Branch in Julesburg, Colo., had some great help loading a shipment for Taurage, Lithuania. The FFA students from Revere School District in Ovid, Colo., donated their time and muscles to load 976 boxes containing quilts, layette kits, linens, coats, clothing, shoes, hygiene kits, diaper T-shirts, backpacks, sewing supplies and bikes. What wonderful gifts for Taurage Evangelical Lutheran Church to receive and distribute to families in need.

Fifty women ages 9 to 90 from Mout Olive, Aurora, Colo., held their second annual quilting marathon in January. The 34 quilts made that day joined additional quilts made earlier to be part of a shipment out of Castle Rock, Colo., headed to Evangelical Lutheran Church of Talsia, Latvia. Altogether, 74 quilts were donated, including baby quilts. What works of beauty! Thank you!



## Change of status

- ▶ **Christine Eggert**, Ogden, Utah, commissioned minister, candidate status to emeritus

## Called to glory

- ▶ **Sylvia Pfanku**, Chippewa Falls, Wis., commissioned minister, emeritus

## Removed/Resigned

- ▶ **The Rev. David Hall**, candidate status, Colorado Springs, Colo.

## Transfer

- ▶ **Ruth Stuenkel**, Ogilvie, Minn., commissioned minister, emeritus, Rocky Mountain to Minnesota North District

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JUNE

**22-25** LWML National Convention, Albuquerque, N.M.

## SEPTEMBER

**18-19** SOAR gathering, Bethlehem, Lakewood, Colo.

## OCTOBER

**4-6** Educators Conference

**4-6** Pastors Conference



**Combined June-July issue deadline: April 17**

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