



# PEAKS AND VALLEYS

## DISTRICT NEWS

# Facing our Goliaths

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,**

On the first of March, we begin another journey in the season of Lent. During this season, many people look for ways to make Lent more meaningful by doing something special or giving up something they typically enjoy. In this brief devotion, let us reflect upon the journey we each walk and live, and upon a story that defines our journey.

One Scriptural text that has great meaning for me is the story of David and Goliath:

“Then David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give you into our hand.’

When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet



**Rev. Allen Anderson**  
District President

the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David.”

**1 Sam. 17:45-50**

The young David encountered the giant Philistine Goliath, and he did so with only a sling and a stone. Note that in verse 47, David says “the Lord saves.” David went into battle with Goliath knowing and trusting in the Lord. It is rather fitting that David trusted in the true rock of salvation — the Lord.

As we enter the season of Lent, it might be a good time to look at the “Goliaths” we face in our own lives. On the road of life we travel, Satan wants so much for us to fall victim to those Goliaths. That is why in this season especially we reflect on the path — the mission — Jesus was given for our sake.

“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—everyone—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that

is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.” **Is. 53:4-7**

He alone had to take the pain, scorn, blood, sweat and death on a cross. Why? He alone is the Rock of our salvation who conquered Satan, drenched our sins by His blood and defeated death by rising to life!

“When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” **1 Cor. 15:54-57**

When we face those “Goliaths” in life, we, like David, must stand on the only “Rock,” which is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In truth, when we turn to and stand on anything else, we are relying on a false foundation!

Now in this marvelous season of Lent, we walk our life’s path knowing and trusting who is with us. We go to the Rock of our salvation! Let us go to the Word and grow in the truth, recall the precious gift of our Baptism and feed on the supper Jesus has given for us! Celebrate this season of Lent in our life’s journey as we look at the Lord’s journey to the cross for us! The Lord bless you in this wonderful season of the Church.

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

## Luther and the Bible



### The Event

In 1503, Martin Luther, at age 20, had never seen a Bible. At Erfurt University, he discovered a Bible chained to a table. Luther found the Bible very intriguing and spent a great deal of time reading it. His previous religious education was based on written biblical commentaries.

In 1521, in the Wartburg Castle, Luther began the translation of the New Testament into German and in 1522 finished with the help of Philip Melancthon. In 1534, he, along with several friends, completed the translation of the Old Testament from the Greek to German, enabling the entire Bible to be published in German.

### What Luther Says

Luther had complete faith in the inspired nature of Scripture and in its complete and absolute inerrancy. He ascribed the entire Holy Scripture to the Holy Spirit. Luther often agonized over the disrespect that man had for the Bible and, even more importantly, the misinterpretation of the Scriptures by the Roman Catholic Church.

Luther: "These are the Scriptures which make fools of all the wise and understanding, and are open only to the small and simple, as Christ says in Matthew 11:25. Therefore dismiss your own opinions and feelings, and think of the scriptures as the loftiest



and noblest of holy things, as the richest of mines which can never be sufficiently explored, in order that you may find divine wisdom which God here lays before you in such simple guise as to quench all pride. The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid."

Scriptures are God's testimonies about Himself. The Holy Spirit is the creative author of the Bible and the writers are God's secretaries in service to the Lord.

The Holy Spirit speaks with purpose and authority, and the inspired Word, in the Bible, gives us the assurance of salvation.

### The LCMS's Doctrinal Position

From *What Lutherans Teach*: "Lutherans teach (and believe) that the Bible is the inspired, true and reliable revelations of the triune God ... and that this revelation clearly shows how God rescues human beings from the curse of sin and death."

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) professes that the Bible is the Word of God, not that of mortal man, and the Holy Spirit uses the Bible to communicate God's Word. The Bible reveals God's Law (the Ten Commandments) and the Gospel, the Good News of forgiveness and salvation. The Bible is the foundation for everything that we in the LCMS believe, teach, confess and practice because the Bible is the inspired, Christ-centered Word of the Lord.

**Next month's topic:**  
*The Gospel*

## Celebrating 35 years

On Sunday, Oct. 9, Trinity Lutheran Church, Franktown, Colo., celebrated the anniversary of the Rev. Terry Beltz's ordination and installation 35 years ago. Terry and his wife of 39 years, Pam, have served in several congregations. After graduating from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Beltz took a call to serve at Christ and Immanuel in Saskatchewan, Canada, and then started a church plant in Mansfield, Texas, before accepting the divine call to become pastor of Trinity in 2002.

The service was highlighted by the participation of Terry's father, the Rev. DeWyth Beltz (emeritus) as



From left, the Revs. DeWyth Beltz, Terry Beltz and Sam Beltz.

homilist, and Terry's son, the Rev. Sam Beltz (who serves at St. John, Oskaloosa, Iowa) as liturgist. Former parishioners traveled from Canada and Texas to attend the festivities. Following the service, a tribute to Beltz was given and a meal served in the fellowship hall.

# Who is this man?

(and why is he holding a cat?)



He is the director of Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission (BOLM). Originally from Egypt, he speaks several languages, most importantly Arabic. St. Paul wrote: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" (Rom. 10:15). If Paul were around today, he might write of our mystery pastor, "Blessed are the hands that bring the Gospel."

Our man of mystery, along with other pastors and laypeople, runs an on-line seminary that brings the Gospel into the Middle East, especially Muslim-majority countries. Often, the work is time and resource demanding. It is also dangerous for those who convert to Christianity and to those who teach it. Our mystery man is the Rev. George Naeem, and the cat is one of his loves and best friend!

This work of BOLM is reminiscent of Radio Free Europe, which worked to broadcast the truth behind the Iron Curtain. Radio Free Europe worked to free minds. The work of BOLM is to free souls.

How can we share in the work our Lord left us to do? We can support the work of BOLM with our prayers, involvement and pocketbooks. Naeem is available to speak with your church or church group about what he does, share stories of the converts and discuss challenges for BOLM. He can be contacted at [gnaeem@comcast.net](mailto:gnaeem@comcast.net).

Individuals can also support the work with their prayers and donations, which can be made out to Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. Please write "BOLM" on the memo line. Donations should be mailed to BOLM (Rev. Dr. George Naeem), 9609 South University Blvd., P.O. Box 631402, Littleton, CO 80163.

## INSTALLATIONS



Pastors participating in the installation service for the Rev. Tom Barton at Grace, El Paso, Texas, on Nov. 13, were, from left, the Revs. Brian Bestian, Stephen Heimer, Barton, Bill Heithold, Glenn Weber and Don Neidigk.



Pastors participating in the Jan. 22 installation service of the Rev. Michael Redeker at Lutheran Church Messiah, Grand Junction, Colo., are, from left, (front row) the Revs. Duane Daeke, Redeker, Darrell Hannenberg; (middle row) Marion Hoffman, Johnathon Schultz, Kurt Von Fossan, Ed Schmidt; (back row) Jason Haynes, Melvin Mertens and Dr. Jeff Gibbs.

## Pocket catechism available in Japanese

Do you have a Japanese friend with whom you'd like to share the Gospel? The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) has a new, free resource that can help, a pocket-sized edition of *Luther's Small Catechism*, translated in Japanese.

To order your copy, email [info@LHFmissions.org](mailto:info@LHFmissions.org) or call LHF at 800-554-0723. LHF has translated Lutheran books into more than 90 languages.

To search its database of free resources, go to [LHFmissions.org/publications](http://LHFmissions.org/publications).

## DISTRICT CALLS/CHANGES

### Calls accepted

► **Kathy O'Day**, Redeemer, Fort Collins, Colo., to Lutheran Church Charities, Northbrook, Ill.

### Calls declined

► **The Rev. Christopher Gillespie**, Grace, Dyer, Ind., to Trinity, Gallup, N.M.

### Calls extended

► Faith, Buena Vista, Colo., to **the Rev. Dale Andrew Becker**, St. Paul's, Farmington Hills, Mich.

► Zion, Laramie, Wyo., to **the Rev. Mark Nierman**, Mount Olive, Loveland, Colo.

### Change of status

► **Sharon Kembel**, commissioned minister, Fort Morgan, Colo., to emeritus



### Called to glory

► **Henry K. Hermann**, commissioned minister, emeritus, Grand Junction, Colo.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH

Nurturing the Faith 2017

**6** New Mexico    **7** North Denver

**9** South Denver    **10** Utah

### SEPTEMBER

**18-19** SOAR

gathering,  
Bethlehem,  
Lakewood,  
Colo.



# Helping those with disabilities

Did you know that March is Disability Awareness Month? The Rocky Mountain District Disability Ministry Task Force was formed to help all our congregations in implementing environments that are welcoming for everyone.

The Task Force can help by pointing you to resources for those with disabilities, including confirmation and Sunday School material. We can also help your training of volunteers with practical skills to better work with children and adults with disabilities. We are here to help.

Please visit the disability ministry's page on the district's website at [rm.lcms.org](http://rm.lcms.org). Go to "Ministries" at the top and select "Disability Ministry Task Force" from the drop-down menu.



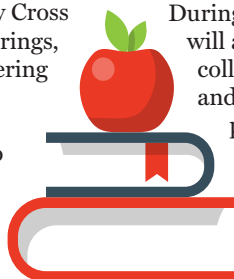
The task force is aware of the following congregations that are providing disability ministry, ranging from weekly Sunday school and confirmation classes to monthly social events and the hosting of a Tim Tebow Foundation's Night to Shine:

- Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, Centennial, Colo.
- Our Father, Centennial, Colo.
- Zion, Holyoke, Colo.
- University Hills, Denver, Colo.
- Holy Cross, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- St. Paul, Durango, Colo.
- Redeemer, Fort Collins, Colo.

If your church is providing ministry for one or more people with disabilities, we would like to know so that we can add you to this list and encourage others! Please contact Becky Gambardella, chairman, at [becky@markgam.com](mailto:becky@markgam.com).

## Educators: make plans for gathering

Save an important date as Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, Colo., will host a regional gathering of educators this fall. All educators from Rocky Mountain District schools are welcome to attend Oct. 4-6. The gathering's topic will be "Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge" from Col. 2:2-3.



During this conference, participants will analyze their current ministry, collaborate with other educators and look forward to future ministry practices. The registration cost is \$40 per person (lodging and meals not included). Lodging information and schedule of events will be provided at a later date.

### May issue deadline: March 15

Send news to Jan Hoener:

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