



PEAKS AND VALLEYS

DISTRICT NEWS

The Lord's Supper ... God's love gift

Once again, we will go into the Lenten season. The date for Ash Wednesday this year is Feb. 14, which is also Valentine's Day. What timing this is, especially now in our secular world where we have opportunity to tell of real love! The love given:



Rev. Allen Anderson
District President

for all time on Calvary. The forgiveness of sins purchased and won in Jesus' atoning sacrifice is now distributed to us as we eat and drink His Supper. We come to receive the benefits of Christ's saving death—forgiveness, life and salvation! St. Paul writes:

“The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in



We come to church not to do something for Jesus, but to receive what His Word promises – His body and blood.”

the body of Christ?”
—1 Cor. 10:16

This, the Lord's Supper, is our foretaste of heaven here on Earth, for with His body and blood, the Lord promises us that in death we live. We live even as the Lamb lives and reigns at the heavenly feast that knows no end. Sisters and brothers, let us all celebrate His love, especially this Lenten season.

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

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” — John 3:16

The Lenten season offers us so very much. It is hard to comprehend the magnitude of Jesus and all He continues to give us. Briefly, let us focus on one wonderful gift — the wonderful feast of Holy Communion.

Most of us know this wonderful gift as The Lord's Supper because Jesus Himself is the host at this meal. Martin Luther would remind us that this is the Lord's Supper and not “the Christian's Supper.” Understand that we come to church not to do something for Jesus, but to receive what His Word promises — His body and blood. As Jesus' words tell us, this is the real thing, not some kind of symbolism.

The wonderful gift is the sacrifice that Jesus gives to us. He did this once and



LCMS/Erik W. Lunsford

LCEF recognizes district staff



Kevin Grein, center, receives an outstanding leadership award from Ryan McIvor, LCEF senior vice-president (left) and Bart Day, president and CEO.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) had a very good 2017 in the Rocky Mountain District.

LCEF provides loans, investments, services and grants for LCMS congregations and workers. Through the LCEF loan rebate programs, more than \$135,000 was returned to participating congregations. The district received more than \$90,000 in earnings distributions, which it uses to fund the Gospel Gap program.

LCEF provided more than \$600,000 in Kaleidoscope grants and two congregations in our district received funding for their ministries. Several congregations

benefited from the Signature Sponsorship grants, which totaled more than \$20,000 this year.

At the LCEF Fall Leadership Conference in November, the Rocky Mountain District was once again recognized for its outstanding leadership and service to its congregations. The LCEF team in the Rocky Mountain District consists of Kevin Grein, vice president; Laura Raben, promotion coordinator; the Rev. Kent Schnegel-

berger, promotions; and Terree Arthurs, administrative assistant. These individuals help congregations and rostered church workers secure loans and provide them with other services. They also help individuals and congregations secure great rates offered by LCEF on savings accounts.

If you would like more information about any of the programs or investments offered by LCEF, please call Grein at 303-408-1971.

Bethlehem member elected to board

On Nov. 18, Dale Wagner, retired finance executive and member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Colo., was elected to the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) Board of Directors. He fills the vacant West Region seat.

Wagner brings a wealth of experience to this position. From 1973 to 2013, Wagner held senior executive positions at Rifkin & Associates, American TV & Communications Corporation and CableCom—General Inc. He also sat on the LCEF Rocky Mountain District Loan Committee.

The election occurred during the LCEF annual meeting, which serves as an official review of the organization and current objectives. LCEF Board of Directors, officers, members-at-large, former staff, district vice-presidents and district voting delegates attended this two-hour gathering.

Alert: February events are on the horizon

The Rocky Mountain District's **Active Adult Ministry Seminar is scheduled for Feb. 10** at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Colo. The seminar's theme is "Enhancing One's Quality of Life."

The keynote speaker, the Rev. Drew Ross, will speak about "Delivering Dignity to the Homeless Community," a ministry at Bethlehem. This outreach ministry provides a meal and worship service at Bethlehem, along with showers in its mobile shower trailer. Jolene Webb-Hammond will share wisdom and knowledge on back and neck pain. Virginia Ortiz from Mile High Ministries will talk about some of the issues surrounding their ministry to the homeless. Golden Brass from the University of Northern Colorado will provide entertainment.

Details about fees and a schedule are available by calling Harriet Oehlkers, 303-619-7839, or Stan Moeller, 303-665-4289.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Centennial, Colo., and Bethesda Lutheran Communities will hold **Night to Shine on Feb. 9** at Shepherd of the Hills. Night to Shine is a prom night experience, centered on God's love for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages 14 and older. The evening features a red-carpet entrance with a friendly welcome from a buddy, paparazzi, limousine rides, hair and makeup stations, shoe shining, dinner, refreshments, respite areas, crowns, tiaras, flowers and a dance floor.

They are reaching out to you in prayerful anticipation, hoping that you might consider supporting this event through attending as an honored guest, volunteering your time or in providing a charitable gift or donation.

For more information, contact Kathy Lock at 303-795-2061 or Kathy.Lock@mailblc.org.

Reaching Muslims with the Gospel

“I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut.” — Rev. 5:8

In November 2003, the Rev. George Naeem, by the grace of God, founded and established BOLM (Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission) as a small mission to Arabic-speaking people in Colorado. Naeem was called by the Rocky Mountain District as a missionary pastor.

The Lord has blessed this small plant over the years. Through the very hard work of BOLM, the Gospel has spread to many countries that hadn't heard about Jesus or that have had wrong information about Christianity.

Today, the activities of BOLM are worldwide and include four radio stations, two television stations, chat rooms visited by those who are seeking Christ and Bible distribution in 12 languages (about 20,650 Bibles have been distributed so far, with a goal of 100,000 more copies within five years).

Also, BOLM has started seven theological schools in other countries and has held conferences for the converts at least twice a year, where thousands attend for theological studies and workshops, training for outreach and missionary work!

BOLM also has its own YouTube



channel with 5,000 uploaded lectures, reaching millions of listeners and converts. In addition, it has a Facebook page that reaches many around the world.

BOLM receives thousands of messages and emails from people everywhere who are looking for Christ or are asking questions during their journey to faith. It also has an international network that connects millions worldwide and helps new converts come to Baptism.

The long-term vision of BOLM is to reach 100 million Muslims by 2022, in addition to Mormons, Jews, Native Americans, atheists and other groups. The Lord is good all the time! Thousands of Muslims are coming to Christ,

being Baptized and added to the Kingdom almost every day.

Currently, BOLM has 110 missionaries worldwide with outreach in 102 countries. Most of the missionaries are Muslim converts, serving the Lord voluntarily and willingly.

Naeem has traveled to many states to establish new Bible study groups and plant churches. In the past 14 years, BOLM has started 26 churches in the United States, and most members are Muslim converts. Also, BOLM has started 32 churches in other countries and founded four “missionary havens.” One of the havens is in Denver.

The Lord has planned a new chapter of BOLM — which includes more reach nationally and internationally and to become an independent, self-supported mission. All donations to BOLM are tax deductible. BOLM is currently seeking to become a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Please pray for this process.

You can invite Naeem to your church or group meeting. Congregation members can learn how to reach Muslims with the Gospel.

If you have any questions or would like to receive BOLM's monthly newsletter by mail or electronically, please contact Naeem at gnaeem@comcast.net. You can also send donations or requests to BOLM, 9609 S. University Blvd., P.O. Box 631402, Littleton, CO 80163.

Arvada church sponsors radio program

Peace to You is broadcast every Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on the Denver-area radio station KOA, 850 AM and sponsored by Peace Lutheran Church, Arvada, Colo.



If you know of people in the Denver area who are unable to attend worship, offer this as a possible supplement to their devotional lives.



April issue deadline: Feb. 15

Send news to Jan Hoener:

- > communications@rm.lcms.org
- > 5446 Knoll Place, Highlands Ranch, CO 80130

Please report your stats

Congregations should have received a mailing from LCMS Rosters, Statistics and Research Services on reporting your 2017 statistics. The mailing provides information on how to submit online figures for such things as membership, worship attendance and contributions from members.

Reports are due by Feb. 28.

Christmas at Mariachi San Pablo

On Dec. 16, Mariachi San Pablo of El Paso crossed the border to visit Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care and lead children in a musical celebration of Christmas. They processed through the streets of Anapra with instruments sounding, visiting homes and singing the carols and traditional songs of the posada as they went.



The children always enjoy the traditional posada at Christmas.

Support for rural congregations

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission (RSTM) supports pastors, professional church workers and lay leaders in the work to which God has called them; specifically serving to equip them to meet the unique challenges of leading Christ-centered outreach in rural and small-town communities. Through the LCMS' RSTM ministry, rural congregations are upheld and nurtured because, while the work to which God has called congregations is the same across the country, the context in which that work is carried out varies from setting to setting.

In addition to holding workshops and seminars, RSTM also produces helpful newsletters and conducts webinars.

To learn more, to read the latest newsletter and to get information about an upcoming webinar, visit lcms.org. go to "How We Serve" and select "Rural and Small Town Mission" from the "National" drop-down menu. The next webinar, "Working Partnerships: Dual/Multi Parishes" is scheduled for March 15.

DISTRICT CALLS/CHANGES

Calls extended

- ▶ Shepherd of the Desert, Page, Ariz., to the **Rev. Thomas Henkes**, Mesa, Ariz., emeritus
- ▶ St. John's, Denver, Colo., campus pastor, to the **Rev. Andrew Farhat**, St. Paul, Roseburg, Ore.

Specific Ministry Pastor calls

- ▶ **Frank Johnson**, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Redeemer, Fort Collins, Colo.
- ▶ **Austin Kraft**, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Grace Fellowship, Gypsum, Colo.



- ▶ **William Shamburger**, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., to Grace, Albuquerque, N.M.

CALENDAR



MARCH

Nurturing the Faith

5 New Mexico **6** North Denver
8 South Denver **9** Utah

JUNE

14-16

Rocky Mountain District Convention, Colorado Springs