



PEAKS AND VALLEYS

DISTRICT NEWS

Following God's pattern

Those who are familiar with me know that I have a somewhat different taste in clothes, especially in suits, ties, shirts — the patterns of the fabrics. I have a friend who makes suits and shirts and has made some of my clothing. It always strikes me that he knows how critical it is that he follow the pattern. He knows the pattern for the fabric is to be cut properly and the stitches sewn correctly so that the cloth is transformed into a suit and shirt that fit.



Rev. Allen Anderson
District President

It reminds me of and takes me to the Scriptures where God gives the pattern of sound words:

“Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.” — **2 Tim. 1:13**

God's pattern is His way of speaking, so that we hear Him as He wants to be heard and have life in His name. We understand that with His words of Law, He exposes our sin, convicting us of our failure to let Him be our God. By His words of the Gospel, He puts His promises into our ears, giving us the comforting gift of forgiveness of sins through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The Lord's pattern keeps us “in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.” Martin Luther once commented that the Christian lives outside of himself. He lives by faith in Christ

and by love of neighbor.

Faith does not look to self, but to Jesus for salvation. Love does not focus on self, but on the people that the Lord places in our lives. Receiving Jesus' gifts through faith, we hand them on to our neighbor in word and deed.

I am looking forward to being with many of you at the district convention in June in Colorado Springs. The theme for the 51st convention is “Declare His Glory,” based on Ps. 96:3. It will be a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the pattern that keeps us “in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.”

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

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



Cardboard home no more

If joy had a soundtrack, it would sound like the hammers heard this January all around the Iglesia de la Santa Biblia (Church of the Holy Bible) in Anapra, Mexico. Servant-event groups working with Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care (YLM) built five homes for families of this mission, located in one of the poorest regions of our border.

Among the families who were helped, Juan Flores,

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YLM servants replaced a plywood/ cardboard house with a solid, two-room home .



Growing church installs pastor

The Rev. Austin Kraft was ordained and installed at Grace Fellowship Church, Gypsum (Vail Valley), Colo., on Jan. 28. Kraft has completed two years in the Specific Ministry Program (SMP) at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and will continue for the final two years.

Grace Fellowship worships in a remodeled section of a furniture store. Ironically, the name of the furniture store is Santa Fe Furniture. Santa Fe in Spanish means "Holy Faith." Because space in the furniture store was too small to hold the almost 300 guests, the ordination celebration was held at 4 Eagle Ranch in Wolcott, Colo. Western-style pulled pork, beans and slaw were enjoyed by the guests and members of Grace Fellowship after the service.

Grace Fellowship was organized in 2013 and now has about 150 — and growing — members, including lots of children and young families. They are planning an expansion into more space in the furniture store and are negotiating the possibility of purchasing the entire 30,000-square foot building.

Participating in Austin Kraft's ordination and installation service were, from left, Revs. Daniel Rohlwing, Frank Johnson, Mel Mertens, Kraft, Robert Oeltjen, Kurt van Fossen and Lowell Kindschy; and Dr. Glenn Kraft.

Organ available

A Rodgers, two-manual church organ with full pedal board and bench in excellent condition is available from Bethlehem, Lakewood, Colo. The organ includes amplifiers and four panels/boxes with multiple speakers each (and a zimbelstern).

The organ must be picked up by June 1. Contact Sandy Wendelin at Bethlehem, swendelin@bethlehemdenver.com.

Wheat delivered to YLM

Paul Kerschner, assistant warehouse manager at Orphan Grain Train's Rocky Mountain Branch in Julesburg, Colo., is also a wheat farmer, along with his wife, Carolyn. Paul and Carolyn donated to the branch 2,500 pounds of clean and bagged wheat. OGT decided to send the wheat to the Rev. Dr. Karl Heimer with Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care (YLM) in El Paso, Texas.

Heimer has a flour mill volunteers use and then distribute to families in need. Paul and Carolyn took the wheat on the long, yet scenic trip to El Paso. He is grateful for the generous donation and delivery of the wheat.

Enjoy family adventure at LVR

Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) offers several opportunities throughout the summer for families to get away and reconnect while enjoying the beauty of Colorado.

A free family work weekend is offered May 18-20 to help get the camp ready for summer. Campers will stain buildings, clean bunkhouses, clear brush, repair horse stables and enjoy time outdoors. To register or let LVR know that you are coming, contact Steve Johnson at steveo@lvr.org.

Mothers and daughters (ages 6-16) are invited to enjoy a Mother/Daughter Horse Adventure weekend July 13-15. Take this time and retreat to the mountains to

get away for some quality time. Every daughter needs her mother to listen and share. Come enjoy working with horses for the weekend and participating in other camp activities designed for you to connect with your daughter.

Fathers and sons (ages 6-16) also get a special adventure weekend June 22-24. Take this opportunity to get away and share some quality father-son bonding time together in the great outdoors at LVR. This is a rustic retreat designed to provide a step back to focus on

growing in God's Word and building father-son relationships through activities.

Climbing/rappelling, great food, hiking, trail rides, zipline and team build-

ing on the low-ropes course are just some of the options.

To register for the weekends, or for any of the many summer camps offered at LVR, visit lvr.org.

YSLETA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

who works in a nearby factory, his wife and two children received a beautiful, safe and warm two-room home to replace their plywood/cardboard house.

YLM's pastors and deaconess lead weekly Bible studies, children's ministry and worship services at Iglesia de la Santa Biblia mission. In addition, they minister to the physical needs of the families by providing food, shelter and other help.



Seminar highlights social ministry

The Active Adult one-day seminar, held Feb. 10 at Bethlehem, Lakewood, Colo., began with the Rev. Paul Albers, Rocky Mountain District Executive for Congregational Services, offering encouraging words about SOAR's ministry that were indeed welcomed.



The first speaker was the Rev. Drew Ross, who talked about Bethlehem's Table and Living Well Showers ministries. Every Thursday night, homeless people are at Bethlehem for a hot meal, accompanied with worship and fellowship. There is also a trailer where showers are available for the homeless.

Since about 90 percent of people have some form of back and neck pain, it was with keen interest that the audience listened to Alex Ashton, a physician assistant, speak about testing and treatments for these painful conditions.

Mile High Ministries partners with 10

churches to support and strengthen ministries to the homeless and also works to minister to the needs of the poor. Virginia Ortiz, director of development, told how this ministry works with the churches to meet those needs. She also talked about many other avenues to help youth in their educational pursuits to have a more productive life.

Rev. Drew Ross talks about Bethlehem's unique ministry to the homeless.

Entertainment from the University of Northern Colorado Golden Brass delighted the audience. The musicians, undergrad to doctorate students, were Grant Baker and Dustin Seagren (trumpet), Kerri Pitts (horn), Craig Hull (trombone) and Xan Perkins (tuba).

The two-day Active Adult Gathering is set for Sept. 17-18. The keynote speaker for this event will be the Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

— Submitted by Rev. Dr. Norbert Kleidon



Garry Fuller shares the ministry of Orphan Grain Train.

Retired educators support OGT

For their first luncheon in 2018, the Retired Rocky Mountain District Educators (RRMDE) met on Feb. 22 at Epiphany, Castle Rock, Colo. The 32 in attendance heard from Garry Fuller, Orphan Grain Train (OGT) collection center coordinator at Epiphany. Fuller talked about how OGT began and how its ministry continues throughout the world. He also shared the fantastic work that is being done in the limited

space at the Castle Rock collection center.

RRMDE members brought clothing, quilts and monetary gifts to be used by and distributed through the OGT collection center at Epiphany.

The next RRMDE luncheon will be held at Lutheran High School, Parker, Colo., on Thursday, June 21. Watch for details and registration dates. All retired LCMS educators in the Rocky Mountain District are invited to attend the luncheons for fellowship, service, mutual support and growth.

To be included on the invitation list, send your name and email address to Nathan Eickmann at eickmann@msn.com.



June/July issue deadline: April 16

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Creation speaker to make three presentations in early April

Dr. Kevin Anderson will be the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Denver Society of Creation on April 5 at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, Colo.

Anderson will also speak at Lutheran High School, Parker, Colo., on Friday, April 6, and at the Shepherd of the Hills adult Bible class on Sunday morning, April 8.

Anderson earned his Ph.D. from Kansas State University in microbiology. After his studies, he became a professor of microbiology at Mississippi State University and later served as a research microbiologist for the United States Department of Agriculture.

Since 2003, Anderson has served as the director of the Van Andel Creation Research Center for the Creation Research Society. He is also presently the editor-in-chief of the *Creation Research Society Quarterly*. One of his main areas of research has been the molecular analysis of bacterial interactions and molecular genetics. He has written more than 20 papers in scientific microbiology journals and has given presentations at many nationwide and worldwide scientific meetings. Ander-

son has done significant research into dinosaur soft tissue with the iDINO Project, and is the author of the book "Echoes of the Jurassic."

If you'd like to receive emails or newsletters from the Denver Society of Creation, sign up at denversocietyofcreation.org or send an email to info@denversocietyofcreation.org.

Videos of guest speakers are posted on the web site. If you missed a meeting and would like to see the presentation, just go to the website, click on "Past Speakers" and select the video you would like to view.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

JUNE 2018

14-16 Rocky Mountain District Convention, Colorado Springs

21 Retired Rocky Mountain District Educators luncheon, Lutheran High School, Parker, Colo.

SEPTEMBER

17-18 District Active Adult Gathering



DISTRICT CALLS/CHANGES

Calls accepted

► **The Rev. Alston Kirk**, emeritus, Corpus Christi, Texas, to Family of Christ, Colorado Springs, Colo. (interim senior pastor)

Calls extended

- Concordia, Lakewood, Colo., to **Patrick Moore**, Epiphany, Houston, Texas
- Immanuel, Albuquerque, N.M., to **Patricia Maree**, candidate status, Tuscola, Ill.
- Our Savior, Vernal, Utah, to **the Rev. Geoffrey Wagner**, Christ Our Savior, Elizabeth, Colo.
- Redeemer, Salt Lake City, Utah, to **Henry Pahlkötter II**, Peace, Saginaw, Mich.
- Zion, Akron, Ohio, to **the Rev. Roger Wohletz**, Christ, Denver, Colo.

Calls declined

- **The Rev. Dwight Hellmers**, emeritus, Lakewood, Colo., from Shepherd of the Springs, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- **The Rev. Mark Nierman**, Mount Olive, Loveland, Colo., from Gethsemane, Northglenn, Colo.
- **The Rev. Justin Sellers**, Faith, Collierville, Tenn., to Trinity, Cortez, Colo.
- **The Rev. Geoffrey Wagner**, Christ Our Savior, Elizabeth, Colo., to Our Savior, Vernal, Utah

Placements

► **Deaconess Erica Jofre**, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., to Trinity, Sterling, Colo.

Change of status

► **Catherine Fischer**, Salt Lake City, Utah, commissioned minister, candidate status to emeritus

An advertisement for disaster relief volunteer opportunities. It features a green background with white text. At the top, it says "YOU CAN HELP RESTORE • RECOVER • REBUILD" in large, bold letters. Below that, it says "SIGN UP! THELC.MS/TXVOLUNTEER". On the left, there is a logo for "LCMS World Relief and Human Care" with a cross and a heart. Below the logo, it says "Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Disaster Response". In the center, there is a photograph of two people, a man and a woman, working together to repair a wall. The man is using a power drill, and the woman is holding a piece of wood. On the right, there is a list of volunteer opportunities: "WHETHER YOU HAVE A DAY, A WEEK OR LONGER, A VARIETY OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS." Below that, it says "#HURRICANEHARVEY".