



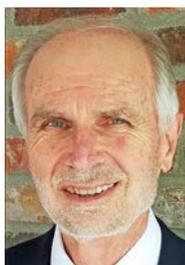
PEAKS AND VALLEYS

DISTRICT NEWS

Being of one heart and one mind,

share the Gospel

As I write this article, it was just a week ago that I was elected president of the Rocky Mountain District. Raised on a farm and having served rural, small-town, sub-urban and urban parishes, I never thought that I would be in a position where I would serve all those types and more at the same time.



Rev. Roger Schlechte
District President

In spite of differences in ministries, together we serve a gracious God who desires that all would be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. We praise God for bringing about our salvation through Jesus!

Some of Jesus' last words remind us of our one mission: to go make disciples of all nations. He urges us to baptize, to teach. He promises to be with us as we go.

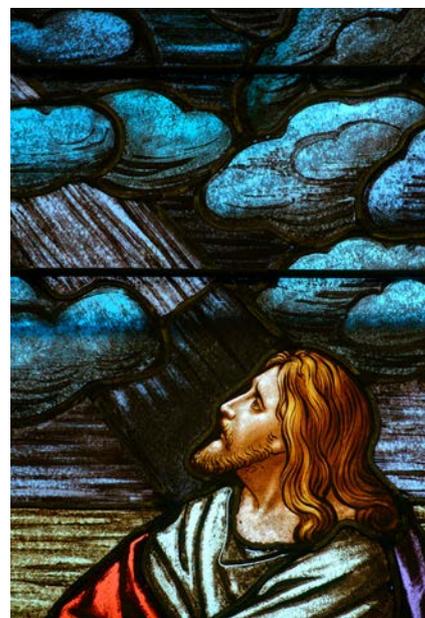
We have the Word; we have the Sacraments; we have the pure, clear Gospel. Last October, we marked the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, which brought clarity to the Church that it is only through the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ

that we are saved. We rejoice in God's wonderful gift with great relief that our salvation does not depend on us!

Yet, there are those in our district and throughout the world who remain without the knowledge of this truth. While we have hope, others in our communities remain without the hope of Christ. Unfortunately, most of them will not enter our churches to hear the truth that is proclaimed in the liturgies and in the preaching and teaching of God's Word, and in the Word made flesh.

That necessitates our taking the Gospel message of hope outside the church walls. Peter calls us to always be ready to give an account of the hope that is within us. Every day of the week, every hour of the day, we live in that hope.

Jesus opens doors for us in our vocations — not just our occupations — as neighbors, volunteers, family members and participants in many other settings. He provides many opportunities to build relationships with people, to rejoice with them, to weep with them, to walk with them, to love them, to serve them and, as opportunity arises, to clearly speak of the hope that we have in Christ. These opportunities



present themselves to all people, not only to church workers.

Do you find this challenging? Yes!

Does it make you somewhat fearful? Probably!

Remember, Jesus promises to be with you always. You have received the Holy Spirit who will enable you to recall the teaching you have received and empower you to speak.

Jesus also calls us to baptize. How marvelous it is to baptize babies, young children with a strong trust in Jesus, teens, adults, whole families and those of another ethnicity or culture!

Who do you know personally who lives without hope? Look for the opportunity

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Harrison encourages convention attendees to ‘stay faithful’

Pastors, delegates and guests from around the district gathered in Colorado Springs June 14-16 for the 51st convention of the Rocky Mountain District.

The Rev. Roger Schlechte was elected as the new president. Also elected were:

- ▶ The Rev. Gary Piepkorn, first vice-president—Southern Area.
- ▶ The Rev. Gary Rahe, second vice-president—Eastern Area
- ▶ The Rev. Dwight Hellmers, third vice-president—Central Area
- ▶ The Rev. Dave Fischer, fourth vice-president—Western Area.

Complete election results and other convention news are available at rm.lcms.org. Go to “Resources” and select “District Convention News” from the drop-down menu.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), addressed the convention on Saturday, offering a time for questions from the floor. Among the many topics brought forward were concerns about the attacks on religious freedom, especially those that threaten the future of our Concordia universities and seminaries.

Harrison pointed out that, even as we face more challenges at home, there has been a significant global shift with an increase in the number of requests for fellowship from other Lutheran church bodies around the world. He also revealed that, although the LCMS retention of young people after confirmation is about 35 percent — similar to the percentage seen among other Christian church bodies — the LCMS retention of adults is at 70 percent, the highest of any Christian church body.

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison addresses convention attendees.



Now serving the Rocky Mountain District as vice-presidents are, from left, the Revs. Dwight Hellmers, Gary Piepkorn and Dave Fischer. At right is the Rev. Roger Schlechte, who was elected district president. Missing from the photo is the Rev. Gary Rahe, who serves as vice-president.

Delegates voted to:

- ▶ **GIVE** thanks to God for the presidency of the Rev. Allen Anderson.
- ▶ **REAFFIRM** the Scriptural teaching concerning the age of the earth.
- ▶ **ENCOURAGE** prayer for and greater support of campus ministry within the district.
- ▶ **GIVE** thanks to God and encourage support for San Pablo Lutheran Church and Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, Texas.
- ▶ **MEMORIALIZE** the Synod in convention to direct the chief financial officer to report quarterly in the Synod’s official publications about the finan-

cial position of the Synod in a format easily understood by those unfamiliar with financial terminology.

- ▶ **MEMORIALIZE** the Synod in convention to direct the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) to prepare an addendum to the 2012 CTCR report “Immigrants Among Us: A Lutheran Framework for Considering Immigration Issues” to specifically address how the biblical doctrines of Law and Gospel, repentance and forgiveness apply to the current immigration issue.
- ▶ **PRESERVE** the authority and clarity of the New Testament Scriptures.

SOAR event is Sept. 24-25

The Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, since 2005, will be the keynote

speaker for the SOAR Gathering Sept. 24-25 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Colo.

Meyer also serves as professor of practical theology. Has has previously served as Lutheran Hour speaker and was host of the TV show

“On Main Street” from 1989 to 2001. Being a charter member of the Association of Lutheran Adults (ALOA) gives Meyer a unique insight for ministry to and with older adults. He will give three one-hour presentations based on the theme “The Way Forward in Our Challenging Times.”

Anyone dealing with tremors and spine-related problems will be interested in Dr.

Kara Bealley's presentation. She is a general neurosurgeon in cranial and spine trauma, endoscopic and open tumor surgery, radio-surgery and complex disorders of the spine. She will speak on the theme “A Steady Future is in Your Hands—Controlling Involuntary Tremors.”

Zack Kreeger is the area director of the Bromfield/Adams County Young Life, which has involved many young people in Bible study. His presentation is titled “The Art of Incarnation—Young Life.”

From Faith Family Reunion, Paula Isakson will tell the story of a prodigal, as she herself strayed from the Lord, but by God's grace returned again.

Entertainment will be provided by a string and horn trio from the University of Northern Colorado. They performed during the February seminar and were so well received that they were invited to perform again.

The cost of the gathering is \$50 per person, which includes lunch, dinner, coffee and a continental breakfast.



Meyer

— Submitted by the Rev. Dr. Norbert Kleidon

Need help with witnessing?

Do you want to verbally share Jesus with others but feel inadequate or fearful? Please plan to attend the “Joining Jesus on His Mission” workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 8 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 700 S. Franklin in Denver.

The Rev. Greg Finke, author of “Joining Jesus on His Mission,” will lead the workshop. He has successfully trained congregations to be everyday missionaries, and will provide practical tools at the workshop. Finke is founder and executive director of Dwelling 1:14, a ministry which helps leaders disciple their people to join Jesus on His mission in the places they already live, work and go to school.

Finke will also be the guest preacher at St. John's on Sunday morning.

Registration is \$20 for one person and \$30 for two. The cost includes workshop, continental breakfast and lunch. Childcare will be available.

You are encouraged to:

- ▶ Purchase Finke's book at dwelling114.org/book.
- ▶ Sign up for the conference at thelc.ms/mission-workshop.
- ▶ Contact the Rev. Andrew Farhat, St. John's associate pastor, at pastor.andrew@sjdenver.org for more information.

Let's join Jesus on His mission!



Sign up for DISTRICT YOUTH GATHERING



The 2018 District Youth Gathering, in partnership with Un-Paved Ministries, is happy to invite you to HERO – Greater. Better. True.

The Gathering will be held Nov. 9-11 at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 7755 Greenstone Trail in Fort Collins, Colo.

For information and to register (groups or individuals), visit the

district website at rm.lcms.org: go to “District Youth Gathering 2018” and select “More Information” from the drop-down menu.

The site has the schedule and hotel information, registration forms for groups and individual participants and a poster you can download and display.



DISTRICT CALLS/ CHANGES

Seminary candidates

- ▶ **Joshua Schmidt**, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Lutheran Church of Messiah, Grand Junction, Colo., associate pastor
- ▶ **Samuel Sessa**, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Redeemer, Fort Collins, Colo., assistant pastor
- ▶ **Joshua Vanderhyde**, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Faith Lutheran Church, Carbondale, Colo.

Vicars

- ▶ **Paul Choul**, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to St. John's Lutheran Church, Salt Lake City, Utah
- ▶ **Sam Reinhard**, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Colo.
- ▶ **Brady Retzlaff**, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Rock of Ages Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- ▶ **Michael Schuetzler**, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to CrossPoint Lutheran Church, El Paso, Texas

Placements

- ▶ **Emma Wendorff**, Concordia University Nebraska to Trinity, St. George, Utah

Calls extended

- ▶ Immanuel, Roswell, N.M., to **Joanna Whittington**, candidate status, Dexter, N.M.
- ▶ Mount Hope, Evergreen, Colo., to **the Rev. Rick Miller**, Trinity, La Junta, Colo.
- ▶ Redeemer, Salt Lake City, Utah, to **Dr. Joan Davis**, candidate status, Northwest District

- ▶ Risen Savior, Broomfield, Colo., to **Elizabeth Stephens**, St. Marks, Battle Creek, Mich.
- ▶ Lutheran Church of Messiah, Grand Junction, Colo., to **Daniel Shield**, Immanuel, Lewiston, Minn.
- ▶ St. John, Meade, Kan., to **the Rev. Kent Peck**, Wheat Ridge, Wheat Ridge, Colo.
- ▶ St. Paul, Enid, Okla., to **the Rev. David Reber**, Hobbs/Lovington, N.M.

Calls accepted

- ▶ **The Rev. Derrick Brown**, St. John's, Curtis, Neb., to Our Savior, Vernal, Utah
- ▶ **Emily Cotter**, Immanuel, Albuquerque, N.M., to St. Paul's, Alliance, Neb.
- ▶ **The Rev. Ryan Oakes**, associate pastor, Risen Savior, Broomfield, Colo., to Gethsemane, Northglenn, Colo.
- ▶ **The Rev. David Reber**, Hobbs/Lovington, N.M. to St. Paul, Enid, Okla.

Calls declined

- ▶ **Mary Arrick**, candidate status, Michigan District to Redeemer, Salt Lake City, Utah
- ▶ **The Rev. Frank Balgeman**, Grace, San Mateo, Calif., assistant pastor, to Shepherd of the Springs, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- ▶ **Tia Esser**, Sioux Falls Lutheran School Association, Sioux Falls, S.D., to Immanuel, Loveland, Colo.
- ▶ **The Rev. Roger Wohletz**, Christ, Denver, Colo., to Zion, Akron, Ohio

Transfers

- ▶ **Dawn Groth**, commissioned minister, candidate status, Northern Illinois District to Rocky Mountain District
- ▶ **Melinda Heine**, commissioned minister, emeritus, Texas District to Rocky Mountain District
- ▶ **Kent Stephens**, commissioned minister, emeritus, Kansas District to Rocky Mountain District

DISTRICT CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

24-25 District Active Adult Gathering

NOVEMBER

9-11 District Youth Gathering
Redeemer, Fort Collins, Colo.

Nurturing the Faith 2019

March 18—New Mexico
March 19—North Denver
March 21—South Denver
March 22—Utah

Rocky Mountain District Office

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MESSAGE

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to share the hope you have in Christ. I know of no greater joy than to see God's Holy Spirit work faith in an individual's heart.

My prayer, ascending to the throne of God, is that we in the Rocky Mountain District, church workers and lay people alike, are of one heart and one mind proclaiming the truth of God's Word and sharing the hope we have in Christ as we love and serve our neighbors.

The Rev. Roger Schlechte
rschlechte@rm.lcms.org

October issue deadline: Aug. 15



Send news to Jan Hoener:

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- > 5446 Knoll Place,
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