



# PEAKS AND VALLEYS

## DISTRICT NEWS

# Celebrate the gift of faith!

“April showers bring May flowers” was and still is a line many folks say. Some might recall when May 1 was a day you would put flowers and edible delights in a basket and place it on or in front of a friend or neighbor’s door. This was a nice gesture of friendship and love. It seems these lines and customs are fading away and becoming just a memory. This again brings me to realize that being rooted daily in God’s Word is most important.



**Rev. Allen Anderson**  
District President

When God speaks, things happen. In the beginning, God spoke creation into existence. When God said, “Let there be light,” no one had to look for a light switch. There was light!

It is through the Word, the preaching of the Gospel, that the Lord creates faith. Martin Luther once remarked that whenever God brings a person to faith in Christ, there you have a miracle on par with creation itself. Just as the Word of Jesus brought dead Lazarus to life, so His words bring us to new life!

Jesus said:

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” — **John 6:63**

Let’s be clear. If God’s words can open graves and make dead men walk, cannot His Word also perform the miracle of conversion? We know that by our own reason or strength, we cannot give ourselves the gift of faith. Faith remains a gift given by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel. Faith is not a commitment or emotional experience. It is the trust in Jesus that the Spirit works in the heart as God’s promises are heard.

His Word and promises draw us together in convention next month to celebrate the gift of faith we have been given by God. We celebrate His Word in the words of the psalmist:

“Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!” — **Ps. 96:3**

This is the theme for our 51st Convention of the Rocky Mountain District, being held June 14-16 at the Colorado Springs Marriott. As the delegates and advisory delegates gather, I invite you to come and join us for this gathering to proclaim Ps. 96:3. The opening worship service is planned for 1:30 p.m., June 14. You are most welcome to join us for this gathering, held every three years. The convention schedule is available at [rm.lcms.org/rmd-convention](http://rm.lcms.org/rmd-convention).

I close with the words of St. Paul:

“To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**2 Thess. 2:14**

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

“If God’s words can open graves and make dead men walk, cannot His Word also perform the miracle of conversion?”





### NECHO welcomes new deaconess

On Palm Sunday, March 25, the Northeast Circuit Hispanic Outreach (NECHO) Project commissioned and installed Deaconess Erica Jofre. The installation service was held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sterling, Colo. The Rev. Gary Rahe, Rocky Mountain District second vice-president, conducted the rite of installation. Deaconess Jofre and her husband, the Rev. Pedro Lopez, NECHO missionary, are pictured in front. They were joined for the service by, from left, the Revs. Trenton D. Christensen (Northeast Circuit visitor), Timothy Davis, James Nash, Kurt Hatteberg, Rahe, Richard Von Steinman and Rodrigo Fernandez of Houston.

## Considering pastoral or diaconal ministry?

**Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.,** is holding summer retreats:

▶ Phoebe Academy High School  
June 17–24

This one-week summer retreat is for high-school-aged women considering diaconal ministry as a possible vocation. For more information, go to [ctsfw.edu/PAHS](http://ctsfw.edu/PAHS).

▶ Christ Academy High School  
June 17–30

This two-week summer retreat is for high-school-aged men considering pastoral ministry as a possible vocation. For more infor-

mation, go to [ctsfw.edu/CAHS](http://ctsfw.edu/CAHS).

**Concordia Seminary, St. Louis,** has annual visitation events that give participants valuable information about formation for pastoral and diaconal ministry. There's something for everyone, including events for prospective students who are in high school, college or are considering ministry as a second career, as well as events for prospective students who are married and have children.

For more information, go to [csl.edu/admissions/visit](http://csl.edu/admissions/visit).

## BOLM is now an LCMS RSO!

**By Maynard Buck**  
BOLM Board President

It is with humble wonder and praise to God that Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission (BOLM) has received the designation of Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. BOLM is a mission established to reach out to Muslims seeking to know God, share the gift of Christ and teach the pure salvation through Christ.

BOLM teaches through weekly seminars and answers questions from people throughout the world. BOLM was established to teach about Christ, address questions from Muslims who do not know Christ, answer questions about Muslim beliefs and guide Muslims and others to know Christ and turn to Him for salvation.

### **BOLM:**

- ▶ IS A MISSION BASED ON solid Lutheran doctrine and belief, readily sharing these beliefs with those seeking Christ.
- ▶ IS A UNIQUE MISSION using the internet and other technologies to reach thousands of individuals seeking information about Christ and Christianity.
- ▶ PROVIDES A PLATFORM that allows people to ask questions and get responses in their own language.

BOLM was established almost 15 years ago to share Christ. This mission has continued to grow through the untiring effort of the Rev. George Naeem. BOLM was a mission within the Rocky Mountain District prior to being recognized as a non-profit 501(c)3 in May 2017. And now as an RSO, BOLM is positioned to gain support and continue its mission of sharing Christ with those who do not know Him.

We praise God as our loving Lord for all that He provides. We thank those who have continued to provide prayers and financial support for the outreach and mission of BOLM.

Please continue to pray for those who do not know Christ. Pray for BOLM and the continued teaching and sharing of Christ. If you would like more information about BOLM or would like to provide financial support, please contact us at [Gnaeem@comcast.net](mailto:Gnaeem@comcast.net) or c/o BOLM Treasurer, 9609 S. University Blvd, P.O. Box 631402, Highlands Ranch, CO 80130.

## Pastor is 'Businessman of the Year'

The Rev. Al Borchert, pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Riverton, Utah, was recently named the Knight of Heroes Businessman of the Year. A write-up about Borchert by the South-west Valley Chamber of Commerce included the following:

Pastor Borchert was approached at the end of 2007 and asked to plant a church. At the time he was not interested, but after enjoying the Christmas holidays he reopened the emails and found that there were five areas requesting a church. All were in the Rocky Mountain District. After much prayer, he felt called to come to Riverton, Utah, where a dozen families were waiting for him to plant a church.

The church's first location was in an old warehouse converted into a church. When the building was sold three years later, Holy Trinity entered into a joint venture with the Lutheran high school in Salt Lake City. They secured the Garden Lodge and found a new home. The high school was not able to grow



Rev. Al Borchert (fourth from left, back row) is pictured with the other honorees.

as expected and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church became homeless again.

After a conversation about Riverton land opportunities with then Riverton Mayor Bill Applegarth, Borchert was able to purchase land, and by the next year the building and preschool were completed. On Good Friday 2014, the congregation of 75 had a new home for worship. Since then it has grown to 266 members and 50 preschoolers.

Borchert took his pre-ministry business experience and applied it to doing God's

business. The church's tagline — "Your Family, Our Family, His Family" — is the foundation of the church. Each month the members get together for family fellowship with food and drink. This table fellowship is vital to the congregation's becoming family. Family meetings are held to discuss needs of the church and its members as well as to set goals. One of Pastor Borchert's greatest joys comes from teaching and seeing the "Aha" moment. This is the greatest feeling, and he cherishes these moments.

## From Colorado to Latvia

It was minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit when Orphan Grain Train (OGT) recipient Fonds Saules Kalns unloaded a shipment by hand in Riga, Latvia. Words of gratitude were shared for blankets, quilts, linens, clothes, coats, shoes, crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, stuffed toys, school kits and sewing supplies that arrived from the Rocky Mountain Branch in Julesburg, Colo.

Vitnija was one of the recipients of some of these supplies. She and her 1-year-old son, Alex, had been struggling to have enough money for food and heat. Orphan Grain Train provided clothing, toys, curtains, blankets, food and more. OGT continues to help with food, diapers and other supplies as needed.

Praise the Lord for the work of Orphan Grain Train! A special thank you goes to all those who contribute to and volunteer for OGT. Your efforts impact His people around the world!



▲ Vitnija and her son, Alex, now have food and supplies thanks to OGT.

▶ High school students and volunteers unload supplies in frigid weather in Latvia.



## Four Higher Things youth conferences planned



**Sanctified**  
2018 HIGHER THINGS CONFERENCES

### Schedule:

- ▶ **July 3-6**  
Carleton College,  
Northfield, Minn.
- ▶ **July 10-13**  
Southern Illinois  
University,  
Carbondale, Ill.
- ▶ **July 24-27**  
University of  
Kansas, Lawrence
- ▶ **July 31-Aug. 3**  
Pacific Lutheran  
University, Tacoma,  
Wash.



More than 1,000 worshipers attend the opening Divine Service in the Valparaiso University, Ind., chapel during one of the Higher Things youth conferences in 2017.

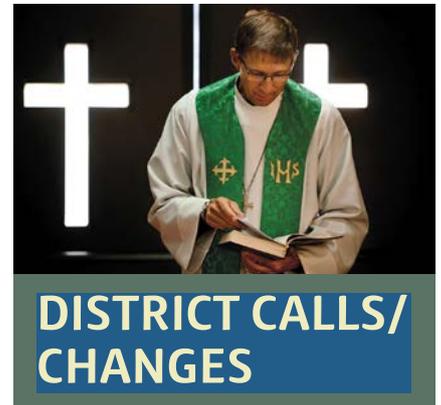
Registration is open at [sanctified2018.org](http://sanctified2018.org) for four Higher Things Lutheran youth conferences — sharing the theme “Sanctified” — set for this summer.

All of the conferences — planned for junior-high and high-school-age youth — will run Tuesday through Friday, with scheduled times for worship, learning and organized free-time activities. All will be “deaf-friendly,” with sign-language interpreters.

The all-inclusive registration fee of \$410 includes three nights of on-campus housing, nine meals and all programming.

“Over the past 17 years, Higher Things conference themes have covered each section of the Catechism except the Ten Commandments,” noted Conference Executive Sandra Ostapowich. “The ‘Sanctified’ conferences will focus on the Ten Commandments and how God has called us to be His own people in Christ.”

Higher Things is an LCMS Recognized Service Organization that sponsors annual youth conferences and assists parents, pastors and congregations in cultivating a distinctly Lutheran identity among their youth and young adults. For more information, visit [higherthings.org](http://higherthings.org).



## DISTRICT CALLS/CHANGES

### Calls accepted

- ▶ **Patrick Moore**, Epiphany, Houston, Texas, to Concordia, Lakewood, Colo.

### Calls extended

- ▶ Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission (RSO), to **the Rev. George Naeem**, assistant pastor, Shepherd of the Hills, Centennial, Colo.
- ▶ Gethsemane, Northglenn, Colo., to **the Rev. Ryan Oakes**, associate pastor, Risen Savior, Broomfield, Colo.
- ▶ Immanuel, Loveland, Colo., to **Tia Messer**, Sioux Falls Lutheran School Association, Sioux Falls, S.D.
- ▶ Mount Olive, Aurora, Colo., to **Kristine Bower**, Beautiful Savior, Broomfield, Colo.
- ▶ Shepherd of the Hills, Prescott, Ariz., to **the Rev. Adam Burke**, Mount Hope, Boulder, Colo.
- ▶ St. John's, Spokane, Wash., to **the Rev. Greg Zillinger**, associate pastor, Shepherd of the Hills, Centennial, Colo.

### Called to glory

- ▶ **The Rev. Joseph Brennan**, emeritus, Arvada, Colo.

## 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

## Rocky Mountain District Office

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## August issue deadline: June 15

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