



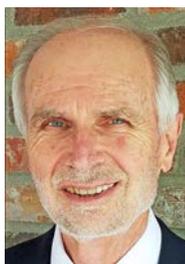
# PEAKS AND VALLEYS

## DISTRICT NEWS

# Sola Scriptura

## The final authority

We haven't heard nearly as much this year as we did in 2017 regarding celebrating the Reformation. The 500th anniversary brought numerous celebrations, rallies, special worship services and other events.



**Rev. Roger Schlechte**  
District President

The remembrance of the nailing of the 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg 500 years ago served as a catalyst for many individuals to travel to Reformation sites. While some may view these as pilgrimages, we do not see the sites as shrines or holy places. Rather, it is an opportunity to see with our own eyes the locations of historic happenings in the church and in the world.

Somehow, the 501st anniversary hasn't evoked the same fervor for remembering or for travel. Although my wife, Karen, and I did not travel last year, we enjoyed Wittenberg more than 10 years ago. In May, as we traveled to Germany for a friend's wedding, we took in other Luther sites in Eisleben, Eisenach and Erfurt. It was fascinating to learn more of Luther's life, his family and his work.

In speaking with a young mother on our recent trip, I happened to mention that Ascension and Pentecost Monday (both of which occurred while we were there) were holidays in Germany. Her question: "What's Pentecost?" That opened a door for the Holy Spirit to work!

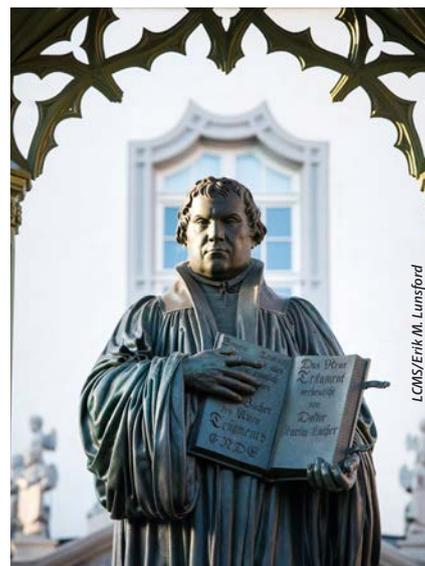
Basically, the young woman had little knowledge of Christianity or any other world religions, or other currently expressed spiritual thoughts. The variety of spiritual thinking expressed by her peers only added to her questioning.

Ultimately, her query was: "How do you know what is true?" So, how do you know what is truth?

The question takes us directly back to one of the main principles of the Reformation: Scripture alone (*Sola Scriptura*). Only in Scripture do we find the final authority for matters of faith and life.

Her next inquiries: "How do you know the Bible is true because it is so old? Couldn't it have changed over the years of publishing?"

This mother, concerned about guiding her two-year-old son in the right way in his life, was quite interested to learn of the Dead Sea Scrolls, how old some of



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them are, how near to the time of Christ they were authored and how God's Word has been preserved through the centuries.

God's Word remains the final authority for matters of faith and life. If not the Word, what is the final authority? Whose word is it? What's the authority that you use for making decisions? Legislative bodies? The Supreme Court? Your own rationalization? For the Christian, the final authority remains in God's Word.

As we observe the Reformation, we give thanks to God for the clear truths of His Word and the pure Gospel of God's grace through Jesus Christ, given to us by the Holy Spirit. We give thanks for opportunities to speak of the hope that we have in Jesus, including the Spirit's guidance as we speak.

**In Christ's love and service,**  
The Rev. Roger Schlechte  
[rschlechte@rm.lcms.org](mailto:rschlechte@rm.lcms.org)



# 30 YEARS!

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Centennial, Colo., celebrated the 30th ordination anniversary of **Rev. Dr. Brad Stoltenow** on Aug. 12. He has served at Shepherd of the Hills since 2006. Brad and his wife, Jodie, are standing next to the banner his mother made for his ordination 30 years ago.

## Retired educators plan luncheon

The Retired Rocky Mountain District Educators (RRMDE) will meet for a Reformation luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Oct. 25 at Cinzetti's Italian Market in Northglenn, Colo.

All retired district educators and their spouses are invited for fellowship, growth, service and mutual support.

The Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute (LHMI) will be the subject of the feature presentation. The luncheon service project will offer financial support for this LCMS Recognized Service Organization (RSO).

Registrations for the luncheon may be sent to [dberlinski@msn.com](mailto:dberlinski@msn.com), or call Don or Elaine at 303-993-2596.

## Interns impact NAVAJO COMMUNITY

Shepherd of the Valley, Navajo, N.M., was blessed by two interns this past summer. Owen Duncan and Anthony Draper helped lead vacation Bible school and a sports camp and day camp. Through these events, 112 children heard the Good News of the Gospel.

The interns were a great blessing to the church and community. They hauled wood, visited church members, went on two hikes — one to the top of Fuzzy Mountain and the other to Mount Taylor — and led a youth horseback trip to Canyon de Chelley National Monument. They enriched worship with music as both are talented musicians, and they even composed an original song of praise.

The congregation is very grateful that the Rocky Mountain District LWML voted during its convention in June to fund interns for next summer as well.



Top, Owen Duncan and, left, Anthony Draper, were interns at Shepherd of the Valley, Navajo, N.M., this summer.

### December issue deadline: Oct. 15



**Send news to Jan Hoener:**

> [communications@rm.lcms.org](mailto:communications@rm.lcms.org)

> 5446 Knoll Place,  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130

# Need help witnessing to Muslims?

**Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission (BOLM)** is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS.

However, is your church aware of BOLM? Is it actively encouraging and supporting BOLM? BOLM is focused on sharing Christ's love to bring converts to Christ and on educating Christians in how to reach out to Muslims. This mission is unique. BOLM is the only mission of the LCMS witnessing directly to Arab-speaking Muslims throughout the world, with the single purpose of bringing them to Christ.

BOLM is seeking to provide increased awareness and support of its mission by reaching out to churches, sharing information about BOLM and establishing ongoing church relationships. Why? Biblically, God has directed us to share the Good News of Christ so

that all will hear and come to Him. We cannot do that without your prayers and financial support. BOLM is here to increase understanding of the Muslim faith in order to prepare Christians to comfortably talk with Muslims. This understanding allows for conversation and communication with Muslims and opportunities to share Christ.

What does this mean for you? BOLM is reaching out to congregations to share its mission. We are also looking for BOLM Ambassador(s) to be a conduit to bring BOLM to your church. Your help in promoting or providing opportunities to grow your church's understanding of the mission of BOLM and increasing support of BOLM is essential to this mission.

We will work with you and your church. For example, Rev. Dr. George

Naeem is available to fill pulpits when a congregation's pastor needs to be absent. He also can meet with mission boards and lead Bible studies. He is happy to attend senior luncheons, conduct Sunday school classes and attend various other meetings of interested groups. Pastor Naeem speaks on a variety of different subjects, such as understanding Muslims, exploring Muslim origins, witnessing to Muslims or telling about the persecution of Christians today. He has a unique command of Bible truths from a Middle Eastern perspective that will bring new understanding of Bible teachings to members of your congregation.

To become a BOLM Ambassador or for more information, please visit [bolmission.org](http://bolmission.org).

— Submitted by Maynard Buck, BOLM board president

## OGT news



Volunteers in Julesburg, Colo., recently loaded a shipment to be delivered to Fonds Saules Kalns, which means Sun Hill Foundation. This foundation, located in Smiltene, Latvia, will receive sewing machines with supplies, stuffed toys, 15 Christmas gift boxes for children,

medical supplies, clothing, shoes, coats, layette kits, linens and blankets.

These will be shared with many in need, including families living in poverty, disabled individuals, orphans and the elderly. Thank you, Rocky Mountain Branch volunteers and donors!

## Gospel Gap grants awarded

A highlight from the July 30 district Board of Directors meeting was the acceptance of Gospel Gap grant applications and the awarding of funds in support of three applications:



- ▶ A \$9,250 grant was awarded to the Four Corners Circuit in support of Vicar John Widmer.
- ▶ A \$20,000 grant was awarded to the Denver Northeast Circuit in support of Resurrection in the City for the calling of a pastor.
- ▶ A \$21,000 grant was awarded to the Sandia North and South circuits in support of the east Albuquerque mission, God Cares About You.

The Rocky Mountain District praises God for the initiatives of the circuit pastors and congregations, for the Gospel Gap grant process and for the resources to make these awards as we partner in ministry. To Him be the glory and praise!



## DISTRICT CALLS/ CHANGES

### Placements

- ▶ **Matthew Pontifes**, Concordia University Texas, to Gracious Savior, Edwards, Colo.

### Calls accepted

- ▶ **Nicole Barton**, candidate status, Highlands Ranch, Colo., to Shepherd of the Hills, Centennial, Colo.
- ▶ **Stephanie Bongard**, Lutheran Urban Mission Initiative Inc. (LUMIN), Milwaukee, Wis., to St. John's, Denver, Colo.
- ▶ **The Rev. Carl Frank**, Christ Our Redeemer, Bennett, Colo., to Mount Hope, Evergreen, Colo.
- ▶ **Timothy Greve**, Lutheran School Association, Decatur, Ill., to Colorado Luther-

an High School Association (CLHSA), Parker, Colo.

- ▶ **Aaron Rudzinski**, Trinity High School, Seymour, Ind., to CLHSA, Parker, Colo.
- ▶ **Hannah Ryan Swafford**, Prince of Peace, Carrollton, Texas, to CLHSA, Parker, Colo.
- ▶ **Rachel Weinhold**, Mount Olive, Aurora, Colo., to Immanuel, Lockwood, Mo.
- ▶ **Joanna Whittington**, candidate status, Dexter, N.M., to Immanuel, Roswell, N.M.

### Calls declined

- ▶ **The Rev. Hans Fiene**, River of Life, Channahon, Ill., to Risen Christ, Arvada, Colo.
- ▶ **The Rev. Harrison Goodman**, St. Paul/St. Paul, Winside/Carroll, Neb., to Christ the King/Hope, Los Lunas/Socorro, N.M.
- ▶ **The Rev. Brad Hubbard**, St. Mark, Battle Creek, Mich., to Family of Christ, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- ▶ **The Rev. Dr. Robert Macina**, candidate status, Texas, to Immanuel, Clovis, N.M.
- ▶ **The Rev. Rick Miller**, Trinity, La Junta, Colo., to Mount Hope, Evergreen, Colo.
- ▶ **Elizabeth Stephens**, St. Mark's, Battle Creek, Mich., to Risen Savior Broomfield, Colo.

- ▶ **The Rev. Ryan Wendt**, Christ the King, Billings, Mont., to Risen Christ, Arvada, Colo.
- ▶ **The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Williams**, Good Shepherd, Leadville, Colo., to Mount Hope, Evergreen, Colo.

### Calls extended

- ▶ Christ the King/Hope, Los Lunas/Socorro, N.M., to **the Rev. Chad Schopp**, Emmaus, Livingston, Mont.

### Transfers

- ▶ **Melinda Heine**, emeritus, commissioned minister, Rocky Mountain District, to Southern District
- ▶ **Christa Kirchner**, Englewood, Colo., candidate status, Kansas District to Rocky Mountain District
- ▶ **Elinor Paulison**, Centennial, Colo., candidate status, Northern Illinois District, to Rocky Mountain District
- ▶ **Spencer Peregoy**, emeritus, California-Nevada-Hawaii District, to Rocky Mountain District
- ▶ **The Rev. Robert Schaibley**, emeritus, Rocky Mountain District, to Texas District
- ▶ **Dennis Witte**, Buena Vista, Colo., emeritus, Northern Illinois District, to Rocky Mountain District



## Helping students in their **'WITNESS'**

Registration is open for "Witness," the 2019 National LCMS Campus Ministry Conference, set for Jan. 2-5 at Purdue University Fort Wayne and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Attendees will gain a familiarity with the *Every*

Conference attendees sing during Matins at "Liberty," the 2017 National LCMS Campus Ministry Conference at the University of Maryland in College Park, Md.

*One His Witness*® (E1HW) evangelism program, with sectionals exploring some of the contexts college students may encounter, including witnessing to adherents of various world religions, atheists, agnostics, the dechurched, those with depression, social justice advocates and promoters of scientism.

Registration is \$250 per person and covers all aspects of the conference and non-free-time activities, including breakfast, lunch and supper on Jan. 3 and 4 and three nights at the conference hotel Jan. 2-4 (based on quad occupancy). **Registration closes on Oct. 15.**

As with previous LCMS U conferences, tiered rates are provided at an additional cost for those who would prefer other occupancy arrangements. Minimal scholarships are also provided to those traveling the greatest distances.



For more information or to register, go to [lcms.org/events/witness](https://lcms.org/events/witness).