



PEAKS AND VALLEYS

DISTRICT NEWS

Live the faith

In recent *Peaks and Valleys* articles, I highlighted the first two phrases of the Rocky Mountain District focus:

- ▶ Know the Truth
- ▶ Understand the Culture
- ▶ Live the Faith



Rev. Roger Schlechte
District President

This article speaks to the last phrase: “Live the Faith.” By God’s Holy Spirit working through the Word and Baptism, we have been brought to faith in Jesus Christ. In our Baptism, we are buried with Christ into His death and raised to walk in newness of life. St. Paul writes:

“Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.” — **Rom. 6:8**

As we live the faith, we do so in the midst of a secular culture. Renewed by the Holy Spirit, our lives present an appearance that differs from the culture of the world. Transformed, we live by biblical values rather than by those of the culture. People will recognize the difference!

Paul, writing to the Romans, encourages disciples of Jesus “to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God ... do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the

renewal of your mind” (Rom. 12:1-2).

A repeated theme throughout Scripture portrays how we live the faith: “Love your neighbor.” From the Old Testament summary of relationships with others to the “new commandment” Jesus gives before His crucifixion, “Love one another as I have loved you,” the message remains consistent!

The love of which Jesus speaks surpasses the love of friends; yes, even the passionate love of individuals. His words challenge. They are a call to sacrifice.

In the Sermon on the Plain, Jesus says: “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you” (Luke 6:27-28). Another challenge! That’s what Jesus did. He prayed for those who nailed him to the wooden cross. We, through faith in Him, con-



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

nect to the power source that enables us to love even the enemy.

In our occupations, we live the faith through ethical work practices, standing up for fellow employees who are being mistreated and caring for and helping them as opportunities arise.

In our vocations, whether as a family member, classmate, neighbor or member of a community organization, we will encounter situations in which we are called to love our neighbor. We listen, we grieve, we console, we rejoice and we serve, sometimes by simply providing the basic human needs of food, clothing and shelter.

As we serve our neighbor, we are serving Christ. We are His witnesses in deed. Our good works bring glory to our Father in heaven.

The apostle Peter tells us to always be ready to speak of the hope that we have

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Seminar attendees engage in service

During the one-day SOAR seminar held Feb. 9 at Bethlehem, Lakewood, Colo., hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train's (OGT) disaster relief ministry were assembled by the 130 in attendance. Before working on the kits, Dick and Sandra Eichacker, members of Peace Lutheran Church, Arvada, Colo., talked about the work OGT does in helping the needy around the world with food and other supplies.

After a continental breakfast, Rev. Dr. Michael Eckelkamp, senior pastor of St. John's, Denver, spoke on inevitable change in society. He said that the Church should be open to change and use it to develop new approaches in sharing the Gospel.

One serious health problem for



Herm Heine, Pat Gray, Dianna Williams and Kay Moeller show some of the hygiene kits assembled by the older adults at the SOAR seminar in February.

people over 65 are injuries sustained from falling. Joan DePug, Boulder Community Health trauma outreach and injury prevention coordinator, spoke on the theme "Slip, Trip and Fall No More." She discussed what causes many falls and what to do to prevent serious injury.

The date for the fall gathering has been set for Sept. 16-17. Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C., and former speaker of "The Lutheran Hour," will return as the keynote speaker.

— Submitted by Rev. Dr. Norbert Kleidon

Albuquerque mission celebrates new property

On Feb. 19, Rev. Neal Groeling, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church and School, Albuquerque, N.M., led a dedication service celebrating the purchase of property for God Cares About You, a mission that shares the Gospel to the impoverished of Albuquerque, and helps to provide for their basic needs and improve their living conditions.

Groeling thanked God for His continued blessings since the mission began in 2008. "God is here for you" was the message he shared with those in attendance from the neighborhood.

God Cares About You mission shares the Word and the love of Jesus through street evangelism, Spanish and English Bible stud-

ies, back-to-work and life-recovery programs, an active food pantry and clothing distribution, children's ministry, Christmas and Easter services, and worship services twice a month. The mission has more than 2,700 contacts each month with the city's most needy people.

Members of four Lutheran congregations serve on the mission's board. Many congregations provide volunteers and donations. They praise and thank God for bringing congregations together to fully

fund the purchase of the property. May the mission continue to reach out with Christ's love.

Learn more about the mission by visiting GodCaresAboutYou.net.



Conference is designed for Lutheran laity

Issues, Etc., a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in St. Louis, is bringing its one and only 2019 Making the Case Conference to Concordia University Chicago. The dates are Friday, June 7, and Saturday, June 8.

Speakers include: Ross Douthat, columnist for the New York Times; LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison; Wesley Smith, author or co-author of 13 books; LCMS Worship Director Rev. Will Weedon; Aaron Wolf, executive editor of *Chronicles* magazine; and Rev. Hans Fiene, creator of "Lutheran Satire," and pastor of River of Life Lutheran Church, Channahon, Ill.

Registration is \$125 and includes meals Friday night and Saturday afternoon and evening. Child care is free for children ages 1-12. For more information, visit issuesetc.org or call 618-223-8385.

Retired educators help musician to attend academy

The Retired Rocky Mountain District Educators (RRMDE) met Feb. 28 at Our Father Lutheran Church, Centennial, Colo., for the first of three luncheons in 2019.

The topic for the day was the Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival (LSM). Tim Schulteis and his son, Thomas, presented an overview of the academy and its benefits. Thomas, a junior at Lutheran High School, Parker, Colo., is an accomplished organist, pianist and composer. His musicianship has been greatly enhanced through attendance at two LSM academies, and he is planning to attend again this summer.

The attendees enjoyed listening as Thomas played Bach's "Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor," and Sigfrid Karg-Elert's "Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals." He also accompanied the retired educators in singing "When in Our Music God Is Glorified" (LSB #796). After high school, Thomas is thinking about attending a Concordia university to become a church musician.

For its service action, the RRMDE gave a monetary donation to help with Thomas' tuition to attend the four-week LSM academy. LSM will be held June 23-July 21 at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind. Learn more about LSM at lsmacademy.org.

The next RRMDE luncheon will be held on June 20 at Lutheran High School in Parker. The guest speaker will be Dr. Jonathan Laabs, executive director of Lutheran Education Association (LEA). Dr. Laabs will present on the state of Lutheran education here and abroad. The service action will be the financial support of LEA's "Grow a Teacher" project, which will help cover costs for students enrolled at an LCMS college or university — who are preparing to become Synod teachers — to attend the LEA Convocation in St. Louis in October.

Any retired Rocky Mountain District educators who would like to attend but are not receiving an invitation to the luncheons, please send your address to Nathan Eickmann at eickmann@msn.com.



Thomas Schulteis, already an accomplished musician as a high school junior, is shown at the LSM Academy last summer. He plans to attend again in June.

What is Roadrunner for Christ?

This ministry was founded in 1975 by Jeanne and Gil Cordova. It was born out of love and faith, following Christ's command to provide food and clothing for our needy brothers and sisters. Jeanne's Hopi Indian name is "Hospoa-Mana," which means "Roadrunner Girl." While this ministry began with the Cordovas, it became incorporated in 1996.

Focused on the poorest of the poor in Mexico, Roadrunner for Christ reaches across the border to bring food, clothing and the Good News of God's Word to the physically and spiritually hungry. Alex Cordova makes deliveries of these items also to the Hopi Indians on the First Mesa in Arizona.

Roadrunner for Christ delivers

thousands of pounds of food, Bibles and tracts, school supplies and hygiene and medical products to Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, Texas. From there, they are distributed by Rev. Karl Heimer and Rev. Martin To-var to God's people across the border in Mexico.

Items most needed are pinto beans, rice, pasta, sugar, salt, flour, canned tuna, canned vegetables, powdered milk, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, corn meal and candy (for the children). New or gently used jackets, coats, quilts, blankets, bed linens, toys, shoes and school supplies are also in demand.

If you or your church would like to learn more about this ministry or how

you might support it, please contact Dave Baumhefner at 303-499-9897 or Alex Cordova at 720-236-3156, or write them at Roadrunners for Christ, Inc., P.O. Box 1932, Wheat Ridge, CO 80034-1932.

MESSAGE

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in Christ. As we serve, God will orchestrate occasions to speak of the One who has served us through His death and resurrection.

That brings us full circle to the first phrase of the district focus: "Know the Truth." In order to share the truth, we need to know the truth of Jesus, the One who is the way, the truth and the life.

Raising Young Leaders and the Lutheran Young Adult Corps

By **Julianna Shults, DCE**

Program Manager, Lutheran Young Adult Corps, LCMS Youth Ministry

When I was in sixth grade, the director of Christian Education at my church asked me to be one of several teen representatives on the Youth Board. It might sound silly to ask an 11-year-old to sit through the business agenda of monthly meetings, but I took on the responsibility with genuine passion. This one person saw me, challenged me, equipped me and ultimately moved me toward pursuing professional church work. Raising up young leaders can be a powerful thing.

In 2017, LCMS Youth Ministry did a research project on millennial retention in the LCMS. We found that congregations with a decision-making leader under 32 showed several markers of increased LCMS retention from confirmation to young adulthood. It didn't matter how many young adults were in the congrega-

tion; the impact was the same. Raising up young leaders helps children and teens stay in the church.

Rural and small-town ministries are uniquely designed to mentor new young leaders. These congregations tend to be close-knit where young people are known deeply. This can give special insight into where a young leader can best use their skills, passions and abilities and prevent ill-fitting or token leadership roles. These congregations can provide a critical safe space for young leaders to try and fail with grace.

Smaller congregations can be more open to empowering young leaders, sometimes out of necessity. When they do, leaders of all ages must work together for the sake of the Gospel. While established leaders have experience, knowledge of systems and a critical understanding of history, young leaders bring a fresh perspective and new strategies. Young leaders can learn and grow in new skills while established lead-

ers can be re-energized and help manage change.

One example of raising up young leaders is Lutheran Young Adult Corps, which provides full-time service opportunities for LCMS young adults in urban settings. Participants grow in community and share their faith in Jesus through acts of service for 10 weeks in the summer or 10 months as a gap year.

During their service, our 18- to 26-year-old participants serve in roles such as volunteer coordinators, after school tutors, communications and administrative help.

The power of young leaders should not be underestimated. Consistently the young leaders in Lutheran Young Adult Corps prove to be self-motivated, passionate, adventurous, independent, and have a desire to grow in the areas of faith formation, service and community outreach. This is true of the young people in your congregation as well. Engaging young leaders helps ministry, keeps young people connected to the church and provides a chance for all ages to live out their vocation.

Reprinted from the March 2018 LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission newsletter.

DISTRICT CALLS/CHANGES

Calls extended

- ▶ Family of Christ, Colorado Springs, Colo., senior pastor, to **Rev. Dr. Mark Moreno**, Hope Viera, Melbourne, Fla.
- ▶ Redeemer, Salt Lake City, Utah, to **Tessa Lohman**, Zion, Dallas, Texas

Calls accepted

- ▶ **Rebecca DeHoyos**, candidate status, Mesa, Ariz., to Christ, Phoenix, Ariz.

Calls declined

- ▶ **The Rev. Joseph Murphy**, Grace, Parker, Colo., to Trinity, Traverse City, Mich.

Change of status

- ▶ **The Rev. Lawrence Dye Sr.**, Haxtun, Colo., candidate status to emeritus
- ▶ **Kimberly Eman**, Westminster, Colo., candidate status to emeritus

- ▶ **The Rev. Duane Feldmann**, Centennial, Colo., candidate status to emeritus
- ▶ **The Rev. Daniel Rohlwing**, Grace Fellowship, Gypsum, Colo., associate pastor to emeritus

Transfers

- ▶ **The Rev. Clare Skov**, emeritus, Sun City, Ariz., Rocky Mountain District to Pacific Southwest District
- ▶ **Donald Wischmeyer**, O'Fallon, Miss., emeritus, Rocky Mountain District to Missouri District

Resigned/removed

- ▶ **Katie Nelson**, Wichita, Kan., candidate status
- ▶ **Dolores Van-Laningham**, Denver, Colo., emeritus

June-July issue deadline: April 15



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