



PEAKS AND VALLEYS

DISTRICT NEWS



The Christmas season has ended; over for another year. Or has it? Wait! Christmas continues! What about Jan. 6, frequently called the “Christmas of the Gentiles”?

Epiphany celebrates the coming of the Wise Men to worship the One who is born the King of the Jews.

A shining star led the Magi. It brought them first to Jerusalem, then a few miles further to Bethlehem.

That’s amazing! It’s incredible how a star brought these men hundreds of miles from the east to Jesus! How could it be? Speculation abounds. One theory suggests that the appearance of the



Rev. Roger Schlechte
District President

star was the triple conjunction of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. The three planets impinge upon one another every 800 years. It’s plausible since it matches closely with the birth of Christ.

Regardless of how it took place, it’s amazing that the star “went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was” (Matt. 2:9). Furthermore, it is amazing that the Magi knew there was a significance associated with the appearance of the star. They traveled hundreds of miles to Jerusalem to inquire about the location



of the birth of the One who had been born King of the Jews because they had come to worship Him.

Did the Israelites — in captivity in Babylon — speak of their faith and hope in God’s provision of a Messiah to come? Was the information of this hope passed down through the generations in a foreign nation? Could these Wise Men be some of those who heard about this hope of a deliverer? No matter how they knew about the Christ, God had to be at work.

God continues to be at work! Epiphany means to make known, to reveal, to make manifest. The celebration of Epiphany makes known that Jesus is for all people. As God made Christ known to the Magi, He continues to work through the Church to make Christ known to the world.

Another intriguing factor: King Herod wanted to know about this King. It’s not that he was interested in knowing the One who is the truth, but rather he was being deceitful. His reason for inquiry was to destroy Christ, erroneously thinking this One would be competition for his throne. He didn’t understand the spiritual nature of God’s kingdom.

Christmas continues! It’s the beginning of Christ’s journey to complete His mission on earth, that of His suffering and death for the sins of the world. His death and resurrection open the gates of heaven.

As members of God’s kingdom, we witness to the world of the One who was

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Blessings in Clovis

Rev. Thomas N. Reeder Jr. was installed as pastor of Immanuel, Clovis, N.M., on Dec. 1.

Pastor Reeder, formerly of Platteville, Wis., was welcomed by pastors from as far away as Alamogordo and Hobbs, N.M., along with members of Immanuel and other congregations.

The sermon — given by Rev. Gary Piepkorn, pastor of Faith In Christ, Portales, and Rocky Mountain District first vice-president — was based on Titus 3. Paul “insisted on” the core teachings of the faith, especially of distinguishing between Law and Gospel in teaching and preaching.

The service was followed by a dinner in the parish hall. The turnout was quite impressive, especially for a Thanksgiving holiday weekend.



Participating in the installation service are, from left, Revs. Kyle Brown, Brian Flamme, Jason Rust (liturgist and circuit visitor), Thomas Reeder, Gary Piepkorn (preacher and officiant), Scott Blazek, William Heithold and David Symm.



Plan to attend CONVENTION

The LWML Rocky Mountain District will meet for its 50th convention June 5-7 at the Keystone Resort and Conference Center in Keystone, Colo. Keystone Resort is 90 minutes from Denver, in a beautiful mountain setting.

The convention theme is “BE STILL,” based on Ps. 46:10. You are invited to get away from the busyness of daily life and join in Bible study, fellowship, celebration and service with the women of the LWML Rocky Mountain District.

All are welcome to attend! Registra-

tion begins Feb. 1. Visit lwmlrmd.org for more information and registration forms.

Featured events include a celebration anniversary banquet, worship and singing, hands-on activities, devotional time — plus lots of fun and fellowship.

The LWML Rocky Mountain District has secured reasonable hotel and condo rates that will also be available for three days before and after the convention. A

meal package is also available.

Pastors are invited as guests and do not pay a registration fee. Spouses, including pastors’ wives, may attend at a reduced registration fee.

Come and celebrate our past, be a part of our present, and plan our future as the LWML Rocky Mountain District.

— Submitted by Debbie Yocky,
LWML Rocky Mountain President

SHOW UP. CONFESS CHRIST.
BE LUTHERAN.
JOIN US IN D.C. TO MARCH FOR LIFE

MARCH FOR LIFE
Jan. 24

eyesoflife.org

lcms.org/march-for-life

A Thanksgiving tradition



THE HOLIDAY SEASON COMES WITH MANY TRADITIONS, and for Our Father Lutheran Church, Centennial, Colo., spending the Thanksgiving weekend serving meals to people in El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Mexico, has been a tradition for 24 years.

The members of Our Father work together all year to raise the funds necessary to feed more than 1,000 people in three days. For many of the members who make the long trip from Colorado to west Texas, this mission trip has become a Thanksgiving tradition they cannot imagine not being involved in.

On Thursday, the team joined San Pablo Lutheran Church for a beautiful Thanksgiving service, in which its leader, Carol Hill, shared how much being a part of the Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care (YLM) family means to her, and how blessed and thankful she is to her church family for giving of themselves to people they don't know during a time known for family and friends.

With 16 people of all ages on this year's mission team, they were more than ready to get to work soon after arriving

Wednesday evening. From picking up groceries to feed more than 150 on Thursday, and even more families on Friday and Saturday, every single servant worked diligently as soon as they got started early Thursday morning. The young volunteers put together treat bags for children, filling the bags with little wooden cars and candy donated by the children of their congregation from their Halloween stash. The teenagers worked non-stop wrapping up silverware, as well as helping in the kitchen as needed, while the adults did the cooking and baking.

Mireya Loomis, 19, has been helping YLM with the Thanksgiving meals since she was 8 years old.

"We involve the children and teenagers in tasks that they can do," Hill said. "They feel like they're contributing, and that's exactly what they're doing. Several of these kids look forward to coming — the trip into Anapra and Kilometro is especially exciting for them."

As people arrived and were served with smiles and kindness, it was truly a thankful experience. People sat together and ate while sharing and catching up

with each other. The food was enjoyed, along with the music by Mariachi San Pablo, which was another tradition the Our Father mission team was looking forward to.

It was an exciting weekend for this mission team as they reconnected with people they've built friendships with and made new friends along the way. Even though they only come once a year, connections are easily renewed over the gift of food, and each visit makes those friendships just as sweet as the cake that was served.

This story and more photos appear at ylm.org/a-thanksgiving-tradition.

MESSAGE

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born to save all people.

The star made Christ known to the Magi. Our mission, in the Epiphany season and all seasons, is to make Christ known in our words and deeds. Happy Epiphany!

Pastor Schlechte
rschlechte@rm.lcms.org

WANTED: SUMMER STAFF

Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) is a camp located in the beautiful Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Visit lvr.org to see what it has to offer and to sign up for sessions.

LVR is also now hiring for its 2020 summer staff, which will help with a variety of tasks during summer camps. LVR is part of the National Lutheran Outdoors Ministry Association (NLOMA), an organization of Lutheran camp professionals. This is a great opportunity to learn a lot while having a great time and making extra money.

If you or someone you know might be interested in working for LVR this upcoming summer, follow these steps to apply:

1. Go to nloma.org/employment/summer.
2. Complete a Candidate Profile.
3. Your first-choice camp will contact you to set up an interview.
4. Get ready for the best summer of your life!

Thank you for taking the time to learn even more about LVR.



SERVANT EVENTS

Registration is now open for nearly 70 Servant Events to be hosted from May through August by various LCMS congregations, camps and service organizations.

These events, primarily designed for high schoolers but often open to middle schoolers and other ages, are for groups of all sizes and offer a variety of opportunities to serve, including construction, human care, environmental care, outreach, multicultural ministry and crisis response.

As a program of LCMS Youth Ministry, Servant Events are designed for the benefit of youth participants as well as of the communities they serve.



Visit servantevents.lcms.org for more information and a full list of upcoming Servant Events.

DISTRICT CALLS/ CHANGES

Calls accepted

- ▶ **Rev. Joshua Hayes**, University Lutheran Chapel, Boulder, Colo., to St. John, Palmer, Kan.
- ▶ **Rev. Christopher Gerdes**, candidate status, to Our Savior, Pagosa Springs, Colo., assistant pastor/headmaster
- ▶ **Kristen Howe**, Crean Lutheran High School, Irvine, Calif., to Colorado High School Association, Parker, Colo.
- ▶ **Rev. Thomas Reeder Jr.**, Apostles, Platteville, and St. Luke, Richland Center, Wis., to Immanuel, Clovis, N.M.
- ▶ **Rev. Dr. Jeff Williams**, Good Shepherd,

Leadville, Colo., to Trinity, Slayton, Minn.

Calls declined

- ▶ **Rev. Joshua Brown**, St. Luke, Reno, Nev., to Immanuel, Haxtun, Colo.
- ▶ **Rev. Jeremy Rhode**, Faith, Capo Beach, Calif., to Hope, Aurora, Colo.

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