



PEAKS AND VALLEYS

DISTRICT NEWS

KNOW — AND LOVE — YOUR NEIGHBOR!

By Rev. Roger Schlechte
District President

With the advent of summer, people enjoy more outdoor activities. In addition to parks and open spaces, residential streets become a focus of activity for children’s bike and scooter riding, tossing footballs, playing catch or kicking soccer balls.

Homes, especially those constructed many decades ago, often had front porches equipped with chair glides, rocking chairs or other seating options. Parents or grandparents watched children play, giving guidance in their activities or urging caution with regard to approaching vehicles.

Front porches provided opportunities for conversation with neighborhood residents or passers-by, which enabled people to get to know one another better, to learn about families and to speak about community concerns. One could build relationships with neighbors.

In more recent years, the trend in housing construction shifted from front-yard activity to backyard patios for family and for entertaining extended family and guests. The shift offers privacy, especially when fences surround property.

So why would I bother to draw attention to the shift? Because it challenges our *living the faith*, namely the encouragement of Scripture to “love your neighbor.” The shift frequently dimin-

ishes contact with our neighbors.

A similar thing might be noted regarding apartment buildings, condos, townhomes, assisted living facilities or skilled-care units. Where are the opportunities for contact? The mailbox area, an activity room, fitness center or where planned group activities occur? Farmers, ranchers and those who live on acreages have neighbors, albeit perhaps not in close proximity. However, connections can take place over fences, property lines, in coffee shops and other places.

In order to love our neighbor, we need to know who our neighbors are! We need to intentionally seek places where we can become acquainted and develop relationships. Then in times of need — tragedy, death of a family member, a broken relationship, loss of employment and on other occasions — we listen, we care, we love and we appropriately serve our neighbor.

On the flip side, we will also have opportunities to rejoice and celebrate the happy events in their lives!



No matter where we live, we are challenged to “love our neighbor.” Many needs exist in the world. Loneliness abounds, even in the hearts of people who live in close proximity to hundreds and thousands of other human beings.

As you connect with your neighbor, it may not be long before you discover an opportunity for caring, loving and serving. When you do, you demonstrate the love of Christ, the One who has and continues to serve you. The ultimate goal, as the Holy Spirit provides opportunity, would be to speak about Jesus, the One who loved and served you through His perfect life, death and resurrection!

Who is your neighbor in need?

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Seltz is speaker for SOAR event

Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty and former Lutheran Hour speaker, will be the keynote speaker at the District Active Adult Ministry Gathering Sept. 16-17 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Colo.



Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Dr. Seltz was the keynote speaker of this event two years ago, and everyone was so impressed by his presentation that he was unanimously invited to return.

The theme of the Gathering is “Religious Liberty—Set Free to Live Freely.” Dr. Seltz will make three one-hour presentations, which are called “God at Work—Two Kingdoms, One Mission.”

Another presentation will be given by Rev. Dr. Norbert Kleidon, called “First Amendment—The Separation of Church and State.”

Joan DePuy, Boulder Community Health Outreach and Injury Prevention coordinator, will present on medical topics, including bleeding, CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED) use.

There will be time for audience questions for the two speakers.

Mailings for the Gathering will be sent out in late June.

LCRL is a religious liberty organization in Washington, D.C., and Seltz is its first executive director. LCRL provides input, education, advice, advocacy and resources on religious liberty. Find out more at lcrifreedom.org.

Outreach through Lutheran Braille Workers

Do you know anybody in your church or community who is elderly or sight-impaired? An aging population is an issue facing almost every church and town in the United States. Church leaders face increasing challenges regarding how to share the Gospel with individuals who may be visually impaired.

Helping Christians with vision impairment

Many churches offer hearing assistance technology on their websites or in the pews. Very few churches advertise support for people who struggle with their vision even though there are about 300 million people in the world who are moderately or severely visually impaired, 95 percent of whom are unchurched.

While there are many resources available within urban areas, rural communities can struggle to serve individuals who are losing their vision. This is especially true within rural areas with large numbers of senior living communities. It is in these small towns that Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) can provide a significant amount of free assistance and outreach support.

What does LBW offer for free?

LBW offers free specialized large print, braille and audio materials for individ-



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uals who are blind or visually impaired, including the Bible, *Lutheran Service Book*, *Small Catechism*, devotionals and other Christian materials.

Churches and other organizations are invited to order these materials for free! These materials can be a great benefit to members of a church who are getting older, losing their vision, home-bound or otherwise not able to enjoy the same connection with the Word they used to. Pastors can use these resources to make house calls or hospital visits. Members of rural communities can use these materials during inclement weather when getting to church may not be a possibility.

For a complete listing of LBW's free resources, visit lbwinc.org or call 800-925-6092. Please also visit LBW's Facebook page: [facebook.com/lutheranbrailleworkers](https://www.facebook.com/lutheranbrailleworkers).

Contributed through the LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission monthly newsletter. The article was written by Daniel Jenkins, vice-president of Ministry Advancement, Lutheran Braille Workers

September issue deadline: July 15

Send news to Jan Hoener: > communications@rm.lcms.org
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Call Day 2019

Candidates for the pastoral office, and deaconess students and second-year seminarians recently found out where they will serve as Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL), and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (CTS-FW), held their call and assignment services.

The Rocky Mountain District received three candidates and one vicar. They are pictured with Rev. Roger Schlechte, Rocky Mountain District president, and his wife, Karen.



From CSL, from left, Joshua Rusnak (with his wife, Hope) was called as pastor of Rock of Ages Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Brenden Harrell will serve as vicar of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Colo.; and Luke Scheele (with his wife, Hope) was called as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Cortez, Colo.

From CTSFW, Kyle Brown was called as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Hobbs, N.M., and Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lovington, N.M. He is pictured with his wife, Brittini.



The LCMS Council of Presidents enters the Call Day service at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, on May 1.

Your mites support missions near and far

The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) has always been mission-minded. For 77 years, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) has also taken up that mantle. How do we do that? We prayerfully collect coins and dollars in little cardboard boxes called mite boxes. Millions of dollars have been collected and sent on to mission projects all over the world.



The LWML Mite Goal for the 2017-19 biennium was \$2,075,000. Through the prayerful support and generosity of faithful women and men, the LWML not

only met that goal, but exceeded it by \$10,000. Thank you!

But our work is not done. Each district also sets mite goals and chooses mission grant recipients. As of March 31, we are halfway through our 2018-20 Rocky Mountain District biennium. Our mission goal for the biennium is \$82,314.

See **MITES**, Page 4

DISTRICT CALLS/CHANGES

Calls extended

- ▶ Christ the King/Hope, Los Lunas/Socorro, N.M., to **Rev. Thaine Kister**, Trinity/Grace/Trinity, Bellingham/Correll/Odesa, Minn.
- ▶ Immanuel, Albuquerque, N.M., to **Pamela Arguto** (candidate status), Pueblo, Colo.
- ▶ Immanuel, Albuquerque, N.M., to **Dean Scheele**, First, Glencoe, Minn.

Calls accepted

- ▶ **Rev. David Hall**, Monument, Colo., candidate status to Mount Hope, Boulder, Colo.
- ▶ **Rev. Paul Rockrohr**, St. Luke's, Golden, Colo., from the LCMS Board for International Mission, military chaplain
- ▶ **Rev. C. Bryan Wolmueller**, Hope, Aurora, Colo., from St. Paul, Austin, Texas

Calls declined

- ▶ **Pamela Arguto** (candidate status), Pueblo, Colo., to Redeemer, Salt Lake City, Utah
- ▶ **Rev. David Hall** (candidate status), Monument, Colo., to Trinity, Sheridan, Ore.
- ▶ **Rev. Kyle Verage**, St. John/Good Shepherd, Laona/Crandon, Wis., to Christ the King/Hope, Los Lunas/Socorro, N.M.
- ▶ **Rev. Steven Weiss**, Gloria Christi, Greeley, Colo., to St. Peter, Stratford, Ontario, Canada

Change of status

- ▶ **Rev. Alston Kirk**, Family of Christ, Colorado Springs, Colo., to emeritus

Transfers

- ▶ **Rev. Julius Claussen**, emeritus, California-Nevada-Hawaii District to Rocky Mountain District
- ▶ **Rev. Andrew Dimit**, emeritus, Rocky Mountain District to Wyoming District
- ▶ **Lauren Hannemann**, candidate status, Texas District to Rocky Mountain District
- ▶ **Rev. Alston Kirk**, emeritus, Rocky Mountain District to Texas District

- ▶ **Trevor Kunze**, candidate status, North Wisconsin District to Rocky Mountain District
- ▶ **Carolyn Ristow**, candidate status, Texas District to Rocky Mountain District
- ▶ **David Wacker**, emeritus, Missouri District to Rocky Mountain District
- ▶ **Rev. Michael Zehnder**, candidate status, Pacific Southwest District to Rocky Mountain District

Resigned/removed

- ▶ **Gwen Marshall**, Trinity, Denver, Colo. (voluntarily)

Called to glory

- ▶ **Rev. Daniel Rohlwing**, emeritus, Eagle, Colo.



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MITES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)



We have received about 55 percent of the mite offerings needed to fund our mission grants.

We invite you to partner with us to support these mission grants. How can you join us?

▶ **Continue to pray** daily for our mission grant recipients. Information about our grants is available at the LWML Rocky Mountain District website: lwmlrmd.org. Visit the site for updated information on our Mission page and how to send in donations on our Treasurer page.

▶ **Be involved.** Share information about the LWML Rocky Mountain District and our mission grants. Bulletin inserts, mite calendars, updates and devotions are available for use on the website.

▶ **Involve others** in collecting mite offerings.

▶ **Consider enrolling** in the *Joyful Response* program. You can set up scheduled donations to the LWML Rocky Mountain District deducted directly from your bank account. This also supports the national LWML mite goal.

▶ **Use Amazon Smile** or GoodSearch to donate directly to national LWML.

▶ **Consider enrolling** in a new program for LWML called Donate Your Change (DYC). With DYC you create a Roundup Giving account in which you can choose to round up credit card purchases to the nearest dollar and donate the difference to the LWML. It acts like a digital mite box. The LWML Rocky Mountain District receives 20 percent of your donations.

Contact Debbie Yocky, LWML district president, for more information at president@lwmlrmd.org. She would be happy to talk with you or your congregation about our mission emphasis.