



PEAKS AND VALLEYS

DISTRICT NEWS



There's no graduation from sharing the Gospel

By Roger Schlechte
District President

May brings untold numbers of graduations, from pre-school students to graduate students at universities, with numerous cap and gown events in between. A graduation signals completion of a program, accomplishment in earning a degree, movement to the next level of instruction or entrance into the job market.

The end of a learning period is a time to celebrate! It's a time to look forward to the next chapter of life.

Yet, learning doesn't stop, or at least it shouldn't stop with graduation. In occupations there frequently are new technology, more sophisticated equipment and new procedures that need to be mastered. On-the-job learning,



additional classes or specialized training may be required. Years ago, when automotive technology changed, I recall a congregational member struggling when he needed to become schooled in electronics. In order to continue his job, he needed to learn new skills.

So, how does that apply to the Church? Unfortunately, confirmation may be viewed as a "graduation." The student, teen or adult may consider mastery of the materials learned during instructional classes to be sufficient for the remainder of a lifetime.

While the truths of Scripture do not change and nothing needs to be added or removed from the Bible, culture certainly changes. When confronted with new and controversial issues in society, the norms of Scripture still apply. The Bible will provide wisdom and guidance for spiritual, moral and ethical issues of every age until the end of time.

However, not everyone agrees. Years later, some who have confirmed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word may not feel that it is still the word of truth or that it remains pertinent for today.

Many of us have experienced family members or friends who no longer adhere to the truth of God's Word. We grieve over those who have departed from the faith. One of the greatest heartaches is when nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren or others are deprived in their homes of the message of Jesus.

See MESSAGE, Page 3



Excited for the grand opening of the Luther House are, from left, Amelia Everhart (holding Tanner), Sadie Smith, Rev. Josh Schmidt, Jasmine Waples (the sign's graphic designer), Bettina Bostelman and Lisa Skoog.

Luther House opens at CMU

Christ charged His Church to reach out to all nations. Some of these nations attend **Colorado Mesa University (CMU)**, located within two blocks of the Lutheran Church and School of Messiah, Grand Junction, Colo.

A ministry to these students has been prayerfully considered for several years and has recently come to fruition. This ministry outreach of the Rocky Mountain District and the LCMS gained support from the Rocky Mountain District LWML, which at its 2018 convention voted to help fund the start-up of the Lutheran campus ministry at CMU with a \$6,000 grant. On March 9, the Luther House celebrated its grand opening.

The Rev. Paul Albers, Congregational Services director for the Rocky Mountain District, attended and blessed the Luther House. Music, food, fun and excitement were the themes of the day as members of sister LCMS churches and other churches throughout Grand Junction gathered to celebrate this special occasion. Pastor Albers remained at Messiah to preach at the Joyful Praise

Service on Saturday evening and at both Sunday morning services, along with teaching the adult Bible study classes.

This event was exciting to both the members of Lutheran Church and School of Messiah and to the college students participating in the activities of this campus ministry.

Rev. Joshua Schmidt, associate pastor of Lutheran Church and School of Messiah, wrote in his report to the congregation: "The Mavericks of Messiah (college students at CMU) began meeting in July 2018 on Thursday evenings for Bible study at a local coffee shop. Twelve was the average attendance, but due to inconsistent schedules,

only three to four were able to make it any given week-night. The time and discussion spent with them has been encouraging and faith-inspiring, both to pastor and the students. It is important to have something available geared directly for their age and a group both informal and intimate enough to bring personal questions."

He continues: "The name was established. One student-age girl came up with variations on a logo. The sign was developed. Shirts and stickers were ordered. We inquired and began working at booths at the school — which has been more than willing to work with us. This helped to establish name recognition on campus and in the area. Most of our students have an LCMS background, but becoming more active around campus and providing different opportunities for young adult fellowship is bound to lead us toward a 'community amongst diverse worldviews.'

"The students began by helping in a soup kitchen on Black Friday and providing blankets for the local homeless population through a Thrivent grant."

"The 1156 Hill Avenue building (Luther House) would be ideal for a meeting place and help form the trajectory of the future of this ministry. There are seven comfortable and peaceful rooms

available for counseling, Bible studies, prayer, relaxing, eating and cooking."

All who happen to be in the area are invited to stop by to visit this "Christian outpost for fellowship, faith and future." Spread the word to college students from your area who are attending or plan to attend Colorado Mesa University!



Scholarship call for applicants



Rocky Mountain District scholarship grants are available for any candidate who meet the following requirements:

- ▶ Applicants must be members of an LCMS Rocky Mountain District congregation.
- ▶ Applicants must be registered to attend as a full-time student at a Concordia college/university or seminary.
- ▶ Applicants must be studying to become a full-time LCMS church worker.

The scholarship awards are for tuition only and the funds will be sent directly to the school. Applicants must submit the necessary application forms for each year that they seek a scholarship.

The Scholarship Committee must receive all the necessary application forms by the end of June in order for the applicants to be considered for the next school year.

The Rocky Mountain Scholarship Committee will meet in July to decide the award amounts and who will receive scholarships. Scholarship awards will be weighted larger for those applicants who are closer to graduation than those who are just beginning their education, as deemed appropriate by the committee.

Those seeking a scholarship should contact Ron Schuldt, chairman of the district Scholarship Committee, at ronschuldt@msn.com.

DISTRICT CALLS/CHANGES

Calls extended

- ▶ **Alla Shvetsova**, deaconess, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., to Immanuel, Roswell, N.M.

Calls extended

- ▶ **The Rev. Kyle Verage**, St. John/Good Shepherd, Laona/Crandon, Wis., from Christ the King/Hope, Los Lunas/Socorro, N.M.
- ▶ **The Rev. C. Bryan Wolfmuller**, Hope, Aurora, Colo. from St. Paul, Austin, Texas
- ▶ **The Rev. Steven Weiss**, Gloria Christi, Greeley, Colo., from St. Peter, Stratford, Ontario, Canada
- ▶ **The Rev. David Hall**, candidate status, Monument, Colo., from Trinity, Sheridan, Ore.

Calls accepted

- ▶ **Chelsea Erickson**, Redeemer, Salt Lake City, Utah, to Child of God, St. Peters, Mo.
- ▶ **The Rev. Elisha Lietzau**, Faith, Albuquerque, N.M., to Wheat Ridge, Wheat Ridge, Colo.
- ▶ **Courtney Limmer**, Peace, Eau Claire, Wis., to Our Father, Centennial, Colo.

Calls declined

- ▶ **Tessa Lohman**, Zion, Dallas, Texas, to Redeemer, Salt Lake City, Utah

- ▶ **Kathrine Onnen**, candidate status, Branson, Mo., to Redeemer, Salt Lake City, Utah

Transfers

- ▶ **Katelin Austin**, Omaha, Neb., candidate status, Rocky Mountain District to Nebraska District
- ▶ **The Rev. Terry Small**, Sweetwater, Tenn., emeritus status, Rocky Mountain District to Mid-South District

Resigned/removed

- ▶ **Alicia Scott**, Hot Sulphur Springs, Colo., candidate status

August issue deadline: June 15

Send news to Jan Hoener:

- > communications@rm.lcms.org
- > 5446 Knoll Place, Highlands Ranch, CO 80130

Rocky Mountain District Office

14334 E. Evans Avenue
Aurora, CO 80014
303-695-8001
rm.lcms.org

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

In such cases, what do we do? We pray. We remain faithful ourselves. We witness as we have the opportunity. We recall the example of Timothy. One of the teachers of the faith was his grandmother.

Grandparents, godparents, aunts, uncles and others have a unique opportunity. Children love you, look up to you and desire to spend time with you. Use the special relationship and moments that you have to read or tell stories of Jesus. Children love stories! The Holy Spirit will work through the message of

the Gospel as ears hear.

At Christmas, we have an opportunity to give gifts that point little ones to the Babe born in Bethlehem, such as Christmas story books or nativity sets. Birthdays and other special events grant additional opportunities for being a witness of Jesus.

Look for opportunities to share Jesus! There's no "graduation" from speaking about our Savior!

Pastor Schlechte
rschlechte@rm.lcms.org



CONVENTION BIBLE STUDY, ‘Joy:fully Lutheran,’ now available

In preparation for the 67th Regular Convention of the LCMS, planned for July 20–25 in Tampa, Fla., a new Bible study on the convention theme, “Joy:fully Lutheran” (1 Thess. 5:16–18), is now available for free download.

Written by the Rev. Timothy Pauls, pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boise, Idaho, the Bible study consists of five lessons exploring what joy is and where it is to be found.

Pauls writes in the introduction to the study: “In a world so joyless as this one, we have the message of Christ that gives grace and peace, enlightening hearts and enlivening souls.

“There are so many pressures to hide the Gospel under a bushel basket, or to downplay our confession of faith. It is time to do the opposite. Let us proclaim what we believe, loud and clear, knowing why we do so.”

Each lesson of the study includes a Collect, “Warm Up” and specific Bible verses that relate to the lesson’s topic, along with discussion questions and answers.

The conclusion of each lesson includes suggestions for carrying what has been learned into daily life under the headings: Rejoice! Give thanks! Pray! Sing!

Pauls writes in his closing thoughts for the Bible study, “I’ll be honest. Some days, I’m not feeling the joy,” but notes, “We walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). By faith, we know that where Christ is, there is joy.”

In a video recommending the Bible study, LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison says it’s for everyone, not just those attending the convention, adding, “Pastor Pauls asks the hard questions and invites everyone to find the joy of Christ every day. ...



Through and through, you’ll see how God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament bring Christ to us. And that is joy.”

Watch the introductory video and download the “Joy:fully Lutheran” Bible study at lcms.org/convention/biblestudy.



CTSFW to give glimpse of student life

Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne is offering offering Christ Academy High School June 16-29.

This two-week academy for high school students enables them to experience life at the seminary and learn more about pastoral or diaconal ministry. The academy operates with two tracks: Timothy School for young men and Phoebe School for young women. Students will worship in Kramer

Chapel, participate in classes taught by seminary professors and enjoy fellowship with other like-minded youth while forming lasting friendships on the seminary campus. The academy is also filled with fun events, both on and off campus.

For more information or an application, visit ctsfw.edu/CA; call 260-452-3140; or email ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu with questions.

Next CSL visitation is Nov. 15

Green & Gold Days are held at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, for men and women college-age and older who are thinking about becoming pastors or deaconesses. The next event is Nov. 15

These one-day events provide a quick opportunity for prospective students to come and see all the seminary offers. Participants interact with current students, attend classes, worship in the chapel, and speak with members of the faculty.

There is no registration fee. Housing and all meals during the event are provided at no cost to participants.

For more information, visit csl.edu/admissions/visit/green-gold-days.