



PEAKS AND VALLEYS

DISTRICT NEWS

Guard and share the deposit!

By Rev. Roger Schlechte
District President



What would you name as your most important treasure? A family heirloom? Retirement savings? A collection of things? A vintage car?

What security measures do you use to protect items of value? These frequently range from safety deposit boxes, insurance policies, savings accounts, locking devices and security systems. Protection of valuables requires effort.

Have you ever hidden money at home? People may still use interesting hiding places to avoid discovery by unwanted individuals.

My late first wife had such a place for Christmas and birthday monetary gifts. One day I overheard her reveal that to a small group. She felt that an intruder would never look in a folder in a file cabinet titled "Teen Suicide." After she passed away, I found a \$100 bill in the "Teen Suicide" folder! Believe me, I looked carefully in her many other files before disposing of them!

We tend to take special care of things that are important to us. We expend time, resources and energy ensuring their protection. A downside of preserving important treasures is that

we seldom or never really use or enjoy them. Is that true for you?

Similar happenings can occur with spiritual treasures. St. Paul speaks of "guarding the deposit entrusted" to you (1 Tim. 2:14). The deposit represents the valuable Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation have been given to each one of us as the Holy Spirit worked faith in our heart.

That's a treasure! What joy and peace to know that all of our sins are forgiven! What a blessing to know that we have a sure, certain and confident hope when tragedy descends upon our family!

As we remember the Reformation, we celebrate the treasure of God's Word, how the Gospel is revealed to us, and that we are saved by God's grace through faith, worked by the Spirit.

We guard the deposit. In no way do we want to lose what has been deposited in our hearts. Nor do we want anyone — family member or any other individual — to lose faith.

However, the deposit is not to be locked away for safe keeping. Scripture exhorts us to be witnesses of our faith, to share the Good News of Jesus



KNOW THE TRUTH
UNDERSTAND THE CULTURE
LIVE THE FAITH

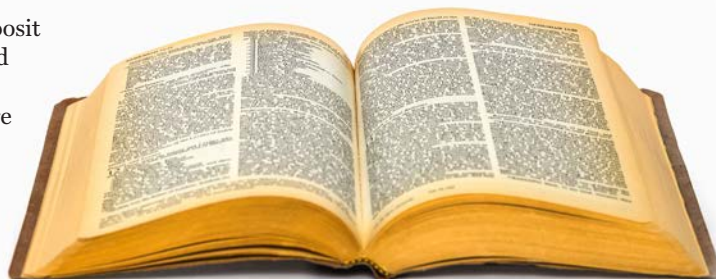
Christ with our neighbor and the whole world.

It's not an either/or matter of guarding or sharing the deposit! It's a both/and matter. It's all too easy to fall into the either/or trap.

Reformation Day reminds us of the importance of the Gospel, of maintaining the truth of the Gospel, of guarding the deposit entrusted to us. However, it's not only a matter of guarding the Gospel. It's also to get it out to the world, especially to those with whom we have a relationship — family members, friends, fellow workers, neighbors.

Guard the deposit of the Good News and share it! Happy Reformation Day!

Pastor Schlechte
rschlechte@rm.lcms.org



Churches share space – temporarily



“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

— Matt. 18:20

The members of Christ Lutheran Church and University Hills Lutheran Church in Denver are living out Jesus' promise that, no matter where worship services are held, He is present among us.

Since March, the two congregations have been sharing Christ's sanctuary for worship while University Hills (UHills) goes through a one- to two-year building program, tearing down their old church and building a new one.

The two congregations are not merging, but UHills uses Christ's building for worship and for meetings. On Sundays, Christ has a service at 9 a.m., then both congregations have Sunday school and Bible classes together, followed by University Hills' service at noon. Periodically, the two congregations have joint worship, such as on fifth Sundays of the month in which there is also a potluck after Sunday school; and for holiday and seasonal services — Lent, Holy Week, Easter.

Members of Christ and University Hills gather for a joint worship service on June 30. At left in the front row is Rev. Roger Wohletz (Christ) and at right is Rev. David Vanderhyde (University Hills).

Since every congregation has its own worship traditions, it took some balancing and communication as the congregations first started sharing space, but the responses from both congregations about working together have been positive.

“I love sharing our church with UHills. It helps me remember that we have sister congregations nearby, working toward the same goal — sharing God's love,” one Christ Lutheran member said.

“To offer to share our church with UHills was simply the right thing to do. Never a question in my mind it is what Jesus would have wanted Christ Lutheran to do. It is a blessing,” another Christ member shared.

Members from both congregations have talked about the blessings of having combined Bible study each week and meeting new people. It has also been a great blessing to eat new dishes at the shared potlucks.

Christ Our Redeemer welcomes Rev. Naeem



Rev. George Naeem was installed as pastor of Christ Our Redeemer, Bennett, Colo., on July 7. Participating in the installation service are, from left, Revs. Dwight Hellmers, Rocky Mountain District third vice-president; Dr. Brad Stoltenow; Naeem; John Larson; and Craig Patterson.

Call for LWML mission grant proposals – DUE NOV. 1

When you think of the LWML, we hope that missions are the first thing that comes to mind. Over the past 76 years (and counting!), our mighty mites have funded mission work locally and globally.

Our new national president, Debbie Larson (of the Rocky Mountain District) represented the LWML at the LCMS convention in Tampa in July. She greeted the delegates and was thanked many times for the dedication and work of the LWML. President Debbie, who also served as a delegate, commented on her blog recently how much joy the mission work brings to the world around us.

Now is the time to continue the task of “Serving the Lord with Gladness” by way of mission grants. The LWML Rocky Mountain District is welcoming applications for mission grants to be funded in the 2020-22 biennium. All proposals must be submitted by Nov. 1 in order to be considered. Each mission grant proposal should be submitted by a LWML member or group. More information can be found at lwmlrmd.org/gospel-outreach.

The LWML Rocky Mountain District is about three-quarters of the way to fulfilling our 2018-20 district mission grant goal of \$82,314. At the time of this report, \$55,514 had been paid. Please consider increasing your mite offerings so that these grants can be paid in full.

— Submitted by Amy Schultz, VP of Gospel Outreach

Educators conference is Oct. 9-11

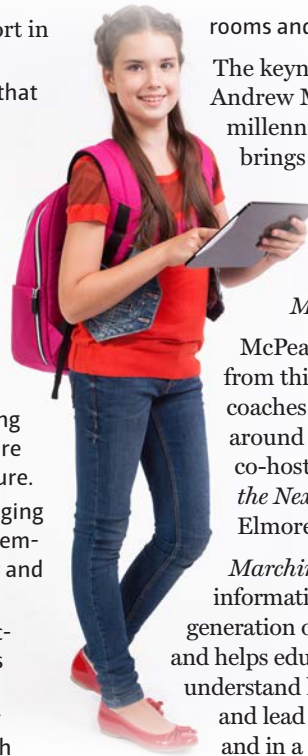
Ministry these days seems to be moving into uncharted territory. Our students receive and process information differently. Social lives are formed and maintained as much online as face to face. Families are struggling with mental health issues at an unprecedented rate. Technology and its implications for professional and personal lives seem to change daily.

In a culture that is constantly evolving and shifting rapidly, educators, students and parents are struggling to keep up with constant change. How can we best prepare our students for the inevitability of future change? How can we teach them to function in a world that we are attempting to understand even as it continues to change? We are operating often outside of our comfort zones and off the map.

The Rocky Mountain District Fall Educators Conference, “Uncharted: Ministry off the Map,” to be held

Oct. 9–11 at Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge, Colo., will:

- ▶ focus on building systems that can and do respond to the change occurring in our culture.
- ▶ consider the unique potential of Lutheran schools and ministries in forming the kind of character that can face a changing world with resilience and confidence.
- ▶ discuss strategies for coming alongside parents to prepare them in this changing culture.
- ▶ suggest strategies for engaging 21st century learners academically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.
- ▶ provide intentional connections with fellow educators around the challenges and changes being faced in our classrooms, hallways, youth



rooms and sanctuaries.

The keynote speaker will be Andrew McPeak, a sought-after millennial communicator who brings a unique generational perspective to audiences.

He is the co-author of Dr. Tim Elmore’s latest book *Marching Off the Map*.

McPeak has shared insights from this resource with educators, coaches and business leaders around the country. He also co-hosts the podcast *Leading the Next Generation* with Tim Elmore.

Marching Off the Map presents information on the world’s newest generation of students (Generation Z) and helps educators, coaches and parents understand how to best connect with and lead them in our classrooms and in a rapidly changing world.

Wheat Ridge welcomes Pastor Lietzau

Our merciful God continues to bless Wheat Ridge Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wheat Ridge, Colo. He sent Rev. Elisha (Eli) Lietzau to shepherd this congregation so it may continue with its mission to share the Gospel of His salvation to the world. The installation of Pastor Lietzau was held on May 5 with many in attendance to thank and praise the Lord for His goodness and mercy.

From left, (front row) Revs. Pete Scheele, Roger Schlechte (district president), Lietzau, John Rolf, Wayne Woolery; (back row) Tim Lindeman, Larry McGurer, Robert Macina, Warren Graff, Dwight Hellmers (district third vice-president), Jared Melius and Tim Wendelin.



Comfort dogs help heal in El Paso

Teams of golden retrievers in the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry traveled to El Paso, Texas, after the mass shooting on Aug. 3.

These amazing dogs brought comfort to victims, families, first responders, hospital staff and even the mayor of El Paso, Dee Margo.

For a full story and photos, visit ylm.org/bringing-comfort-to-el-paso.



DISTRICT CALLS/CHANGES

Calls extended

- ▶ Immanuel/Immanuel Artesia /Carlsbad, N.M., to **Rev. Edward Schmidt**, candidate status, Rocky Mountain District.
- ▶ Immanuel, Clovis, N.M., to **Rev. Danny Chambers**, Evangelists, Kingsbury, Texas
- ▶ Mount Calvary, Gunnison, Colo., to **Rev. Karl Schloeman**, Faith, Cottonwood, Ariz.
- ▶ Redeemer, Cisco, Texas, to **Rev. Benjamin Delin**, St. Paul, Durango, Colo.

Calls accepted

- ▶ **Rev. Joel Dieterichs**, Resurrection, Col-

orado Springs, Colo., to Calvary, Parma, Ohio

- ▶ **Martha Hischke**, candidate status, Brighton, Colo., to Bethlehem, Lakewood, Colo.
- ▶ **Rev. Jason Krause**, Cross of Christ, Bountiful, Utah, to Immanuel/Immanuel, Loup City/Merna, Neb.

Calls declined

- ▶ **Rev. Dr. Brad Stoltenow**, Shepherd of the Hills, Centennial, Colo., to St. Paul's, Prior Lake, Minn.
- ▶ **Rev. Greg Zillinger**, Shepherd of the Hills, Centennial, Colo., to Christ, Norfolk, Neb.

Transfers

- ▶ **Rev. Peter Woodward**, emeritus, Aurora, Colo., California-Nevada-Hawaii District to Rocky Mountain District
- ▶ **Rev. Brian Earl**, chaplain, VA Hospital, Albuquerque, N.M., New England

District to Rocky Mountain District

Called to Glory

- ▶ **Rev. Frederick A. Skov**, emeritus, Aurora, Colo.
- ▶ **Rev. Warren Wille**, emeritus, Longmont, Colo.



December issue deadline: **Oct. 15**

Send news to **Jan Hoener**:

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