



**KNOW THE TRUTH  
UNDERSTAND THE CULTURE  
LIVE THE FAITH**

**52<sup>ND</sup> CONVENTION**

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT  
LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD**

**JUNE 9-10, 2022  
MARRIOTT SOUTH PARK MEADOWS - LONE TREE, CO**

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# CONVENTION FORWARD

## 52nd District Convention Greetings

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus, who as Scripture states, "is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8)!

While neither Christ nor the gift of salvation through His death and resurrection change, matters in the Church change. A significant change occurred because of the pandemic, COVID: the normal three year cycle of conventions was extended to four. Thanks to those elected to positions of service in the District in 2018 for their willingness to serve an extra year! God be praised!

As we gather for the 52nd Rocky Mountain District Convention, we do so under the theme (District Focus): Know the Truth, Understand the Culture, Live the Faith. The Focus captures the essence of the work of the Church and how we live as God's people in our communities.

We are blessed to have Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa as our Convention speaker. His writings encapsulate and put flesh around the District Focus. His book, *Faith That Engages the Culture*, will be given to each delegate, thanks to the generosity of LCEF and a supporter of Rev. Dr. Espinosa's work.

This year the Rocky Mountain District celebrates its 100th anniversary. In 1921 the Synod authorized the formation of the Colorado District which took effect in March 1922. Convention action in 1982 changed the name to the Rocky Mountain District to more accurately reflect the geographic area of the District. Thanks to LCEF for sponsoring an evening social event after our first day of business to celebrate this anniversary.

Rev. Al Schroeder, District Archivist, along with assistance from former District President, Rev. Roger Krause, has undertaken the project to produce a sequel to the three volumes of *Faith That Moves Mountains*, a history of the Rocky Mountain District. The fourth volume will become available soon after the Convention.

I look forward to our time of gathering for worship, study, learning, and conducting the Lord's work in our district. God's blessings to you as you prepare for the Convention and may He give you safe travel!

In Christ's love and service,



Pastor Roger Schlechte  
District President  
The Rocky Mountain District LC-MS  
[rschlechte@rm.lcms.org](mailto:rschlechte@rm.lcms.org)

*"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21)*

# CONVENTION OFFERING



March 29, 2022

The Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors has selected the Siberian Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk Russia to be this year's Convention offering recipient, and is asking each congregation to bring a special gift toward this offering. You will hear much more about this mission at the Convention and be introduced personally to Rev. Dr. Alexey Streltsov, seminary rector.

The Board has been learning about the tremendous work being done through The Siberian Lutheran Seminary and is excited to propose to the Convention that our District congregation's embrace this international mission throughout the next triennium. Through the Holy Spirit's power this seminary, and the pastors graduating from it, are once again evangelizing Russia, a place where God's light was nearly put out under communism in past decades. People are responding to the Gospel and are hungry for God's Word and Sacrament. Our prayer is that the Rocky Mountain District will make a difference in this seminary reaching financial self-sufficiency as it continues to educate, serve, and minister to the people of Eurasia. You can learn more about it at [savetheseminary.org](http://savetheseminary.org).

Thank you for remembering the seminary and the people of Russia in your prayers! Thank you for sharing this opportunity with your congregation in support of this ministry in a special offering during the 52nd Rocky Mountain District Convention.

In Christ's love and service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Schlechte". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Roger Schlechte  
District President  
The Rocky Mountain District LC-MS

*"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21)*

# HOTEL INFORMATION

## Denver Marriott South at Park Meadows

10345 Park Meadows Drive  
Lone Tree, Colorado 80124  
303-925-0004



Our Denver hotel is surrounded by a plethora of prominent Denver destinations, **Denver Marriott South at Park Meadows** helps take the stress out of travel. From going on a shopping spree at Park Meadows to having a day full of fun in the city's Entertainment District, you'll find everything you need within just moments of our doorstep. Our on-site Starbucks® provides the ideal opportunity to get your morning off on the right foot with a fresh cup of coffee and delectable pastry. Tantalize your taste buds with an unforgettable meal at Sonoma'z Grill, our restaurant offering various Colorado-inspired cuisine for dinner in a casual atmosphere. When you need a moment to yourself, there's no better place to unwind than in the serenity of our spacious accommodations featuring a blend of high-tech and high-touch amenities such as marble bathrooms, flat-panel TVs and scenic views of the Rocky Mountains.

## ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Check-in: 3:00 PM  
Check-out: 12:00 PM

## Parking

Complimentary on-site parking

# HOTEL INFORMATION

## DIRECTIONS

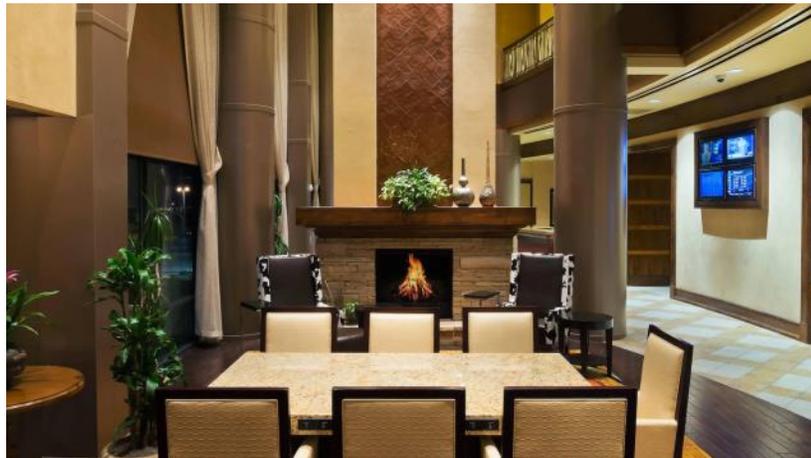
**10345 Park Meadows Drive  
Lone Tree, Colorado 80124  
303-925-0004**



### Directions from Denver International Airport

- This hotel does not provide shuttle service

From Pena Blvd take the E-470 toll way South/E-470 S. exit 6A toward I-70. Merge onto E-470 S. (Portions toll). Take the I-25 exit 1A toward Colorado Springs/Denver. Merge onto I-25 S. via the exit on the left toward Colorado Springs. Take exit 193 / Lincoln Ave from I-25 S. Turn Right on Park Meadows Dr .he hotel driveway will be on the right at 10345 Park Meadows Dr. (32 Miles)



## DINING OPTIONS IN HOTEL

### Sonoma'z Grill

Get a taste of Park Meadows at our restaurant, serving a diverse array of locally inspired dishes paired with refreshing beverages from our full-service bar. Casual

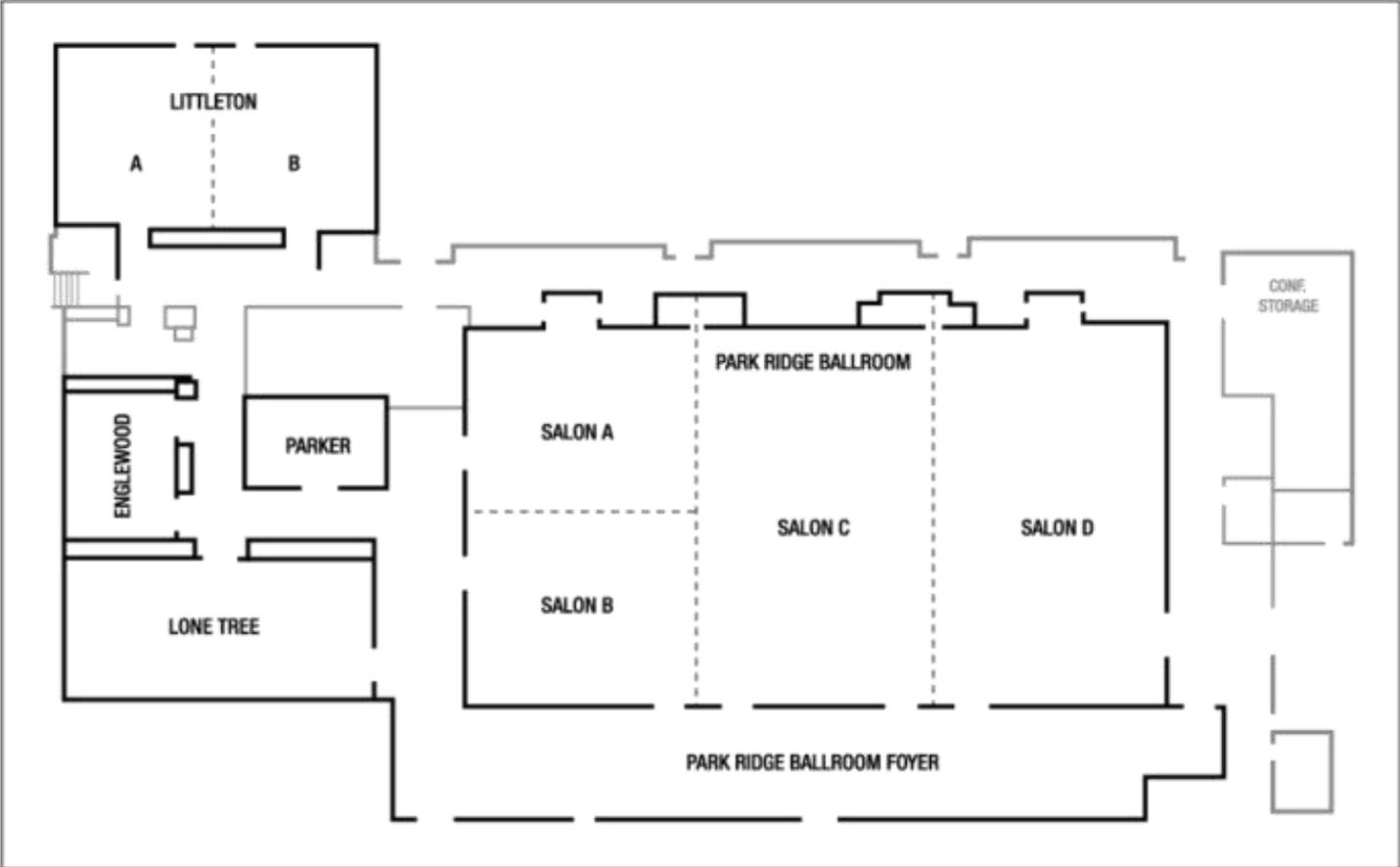
### Starbucks®

Wake up and start your day in Lone Tree with a revitalizing Starbucks® beverage, fresh pastry or snack.

# AREA RESTAURANTS

· Chili's Grill & Bar	.5 Miles
· Chipotle Mexican Grill	0.9 Miles
· Cranelli's Italian Restaurant	0.8 Miles
· Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar	4.0 Miles
· Five Guys	0.6 Miles
· Hacienda Colorado Mexican Restaurant	2.0 Miles
· John Holly's Asian Bistro	1.0 Miles
· Maggiano's Little Italy	4.0 Miles
· Panera Bread	1.5 Miles
· Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant	1.0 Miles
· Sazon Mexican Restaurant	1.3 Miles
· Via Baci Italian	1.2 Miles
· Yogurtini	1.2 Miles

# MEETING ROOM MAP



# GUEST SPEAKER

## REV. DR. ALFONSO O. ESPINOSA



Rev. Dr. Alfonso O. Espinosa, Ph.D. in Theology and M.A. in Christian Apologetics was on the study notes team for *The Lutheran Study Bible* (2009), the author of the chapters in *The Lutheran Difference* on creation and christology (CPH 2014). He was the drafter for the CTCR book *Confession and Absolution* (2018). He wrote *Faith That Sees the Culture* (CPH 2018) and *Faith That Engages the Culture* (CPH 2021). He is contracted to submit the manuscript for *Faith That Shines in the Culture: How Jesus Calls Christians to Live in the Family, Church and State* on March 1, 2023. The three books are presented as a trilogy so that Christians might gain more confidence to live in the faith (book 1); be equipped to witness to the faith (book 2); and be taught how to shine the faith in and through holy vocations (book 3). Other writings pertinent to our convention include *A Biblical Response to Liberal Christianity* (CPH due out this year) and his essay in the book *Theologia et Apologia* (Wipf & Stock 2007) entitled, "Apologetics as Pastoral Theology." He is currently serving (since 2014) on the Board for National Mission of the LCMS while advocating Marriage, Life, and Family. He is celebrating his 31st year since holy ordination on June 9, 2022. He and his wife Traci have eight children, five children in law, and nine grand-children. He serves as senior administrative pastor at Saint Pauls Lutheran Church of Irvine, California.

# SPEAKER HANDOUT

Engaging The Culture for Christ  
Rev. Alfonso "Al" Espinosa, Ph.D.

## Part I: External Barriers to Engaging with the Saving Gospel of Jesus Christ

- A. 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:1-3a: note plural "teachings" compared to the saving faith.
- B. Acts 17:32-34 on possible responses to the Gospel
  1. Some mocked.
  2. Others wanted to hear more.
  3. Some believed.
- C. A fourth response: "Who cares?"
- D. How did we get here? Sin has manifest through:
  1. Radical Individualism
  2. Relativism
  3. Skepticism
- E. We are back to Genesis 3:5: "you will be like God"
- F. Fine by us! Judges 21:25b and SELF-SUFFICIENCY
- G. Gene Veith on self-sufficiency: vocations become occasion to wallow in pride
- H. Luther called the problem the \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness and \_\_\_\_\_ religion.
- I. The startling similarities to the U.S. and Rome before she fell
  1. A mounting love of show and luxury (affluence)
  2. A widening gap between the rich and the poor
  3. An obsession with sex
  4. A freakishness in the arts and enthusiasm pretending to be creativity
  5. An increased desire to live off the state
- J. Matthew 24:12: Because of lawlessness, what happens?
- K. The "Durkheim constant"
- L. Leave It to Beaver versus Better Call Saul
- M. The destruction of the three ESTATES or ORDERS
- N. Young adults losing their religion & their fathers
- O. Further reasons for drifting from the faith:
  1. Demise of the Soviet Union
  2. Backlash against the Religious Right
  3. The rise of political polarization
  4. Internet

# SPEAKER HANDOUT

- P. Contributing to the Mental Health Crisis among U.S. Teens
- Q. Loneliness from frenetic lives and information overload
- R. Loneliness leads to despair
- S. Frenetic lives, online interactions, lack of face-to-face interactions
- T. The threat of "Three Pieces of Glass"
- U. How Do We Witness to This? The Engagement Triangle

## Part 2: The Engagement Triangle part 1

- A. Three goals of the Engagement Triangle:
  - 1. What is the NEED?
  - 2. Where's the COMMON GROUND?
  - 3. How does the culture CONNECT the Gospel?
- B. Our sin and the world try to get us to chicken out (consider Moses' 5 objections)
- C. Tolkien and The Battle (think Rom 7 and Gal 5)
- D. Stott's analogy for daily winning the battle
- E. What 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:9 priests DO
  - 1. Talk to God about their \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Talk to their neighbor about \_\_\_\_\_
- F. "O LORD, O-PEN MY LIPS!" "AND MY MOUTH WILL DE-CLARE YOUR PRAISE"
- G. The three "P's": Perspective, People, and Place (Engagement Triangle explained)
- H. The FIRST "P": Perspective: 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:15
- I. The three steps of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:15:
  - 1. "but in your hearts honor Christ the LORD as holy"
  - 2. "always being ready to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you"
  - 3. "yet do it with gentleness and respect"
- J. The FIRST STEP: Engagement begins BEFORE we say anything to the other person! FIRST STEP is between you and the LORD.
- K. Preparing ourselves to be there for people when life comes crashing in.
- L. Story time: Rick Justice!
- M. The LORD wants people to notice how you "handle" the world.
- N. Illustration: raging waters, where you stand, and the Light House
- O. The SECOND STEP: What is "make a defense" (muy importante!)

# SPEAKER HANDOUT

- P. The THIRD STEP: Gentleness towards \_\_\_\_\_? Respect towards \_\_\_\_\_?
- Q. The SECOND "P": People
- R. Universal Head Problem (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:14)
- S. Universal Heart Problem (Jeremiah 17:9)
- T. WE KNOW what to expect!
1. People are predisposed to RESIST!
  2. We are called to be PATIENT!
  3. We will share Law and Gospel over and over again without becoming obnoxious or rude...we show great TOLERANCE in the face of INTOLERANCE
- U. Rev. Mark Jasa keeps it simple (Guilt and Death) and Rich Math Professor
- V. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:19-23
- W. Servanthood (Poi and Mexican Food) &...
1. Compassion
  2. Empathy
  3. Sympathy
- X. St. Paul was "chameleonlike": explain

## Part 3: The Engagement Triangle Part 2

- A. The THIRD "P": Place
- B. Culture is both good and bad
- C. St. Paul in Athens and the Areopagus: Acts 17
- D. How did St. Paul connect to the Athenians?
1. Found common ground...not kissing up; not offending...
  2. He observed an "in"
  3. He quoted their pagan poets (connected to Gospel)
- E. Engagement in Action:
1. Something that says, "Your life is important enough for me to know something about it."
  2. Something that says, "I can relate to this thing, and so we have something in common."
- F. Saint Paul's Example:
1. Something that says, "What you already know about is a way to know something about God."
  2. Something that says, "Let me tell you more about Him."
- G. Self-sufficiency is a façade and a "suppression": Romans 1:18

# SPEAKER HANDOUT

- H. Beach-ball in the swimming pool analogy
- I. We need to get to the CORE (think concentric circles)
- J. Apologetic towards secularism as expressed by Dr. Yuval Noah Harari
- K. Our ANSWER (apologetic) must address:
  - 1. His assumption that reinterpretation of sacred texts ruins everything and assumes “fictional stories”
  - 2. His inference that science supports his position.
  - 3. His conclusion that ANY story that answers the meaning of life is out of necessity untrue *precisely because it is a story.*
- L. Answers beginning with point 3 above and going backwards:
  - 1. “STORY” etymologically refers to history. Some are about real people in real places in real history.
  - 2. So, in this instance secularism wants to have its cake and eat it too (secularism has a story too).
  - 3. Here secularism takes “science” beyond its purview.
  - 4. The assumption that reinterpretation cancels any correct interpretation or actual reliable truth.
  - 5. “Nobody consistently holds this standard in real life.”
- M. What the Law must emphasize as C.S. Lewis says, “A recovery of the old sense of \_\_\_\_\_ is essential to Christianity”
- N. The Gospel must emphasize what everyone yearns for: \_\_\_\_\_!
- O. Translate “propitiation”: conceptualize it, put it in a way anyone can understand.
- P. What makes the Gospel so special?
  - 1. Inclusive
  - 2. Exclusive
- Q. These two together NOT uncommon:
  - 1. There is complementarity in science.
  - 2. There is complementarity in relationships.
  - 3. There is complementarity in cultural artifacts.
- R. Complementarity according to Jesus!
  - 1. Matthew’s genealogy
  - 2. Matthew’s record of his call
  - 3. Luke’s record of the centurion’s servant
  - 4. Luke’s parable of the prodigal
  - 5. John’s record of the Samaritan woman
- S. Inclusive Love: what we share in the saving Gospel!

# SPEAKER HANDOUT

T. We believe, teach, and confess:

1. Gratia Universalis
2. Unlimited Atonement

U. Why Jesus must be Jesus for the universality of the Gospel

V. Exclusivity: John 14:6 and Acts 4:12

W. The sweet irony about self-sufficiency

X. Summary and examples of the application of The Engagement Triangle

--Soli Deo Gloria!

## Rev. Dr. Alexey Streltsov

The Rev. Dr. Alexey Streltsov, Rector of the Theological Seminary of Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Novosibirsk, Russia since 1997, will speak to the Convention regarding the work of the Seminary in Russia. His degrees include an MA (1999) and a STM (2010) from Concordia Theological Seminary, a PhD (2018) from the Institute of Philosophy and Law, Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk, Russia, and a PhD (2020) from the Department of Philosophy, Tomsk State University, Tomsk, Russia.

Rev. Dr. Streltsov serves as the pastor of St Andrew's parish of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Novosibirsk, Russia. Since 2003, he has served as Assistant to the Bishop in the sphere of Church Relations. He further serves as an Instructor of the West Siberian Christian Mission, Novosibirsk, Russia

He is married to Elena Streltsov since 1995 with three children Tikhon (24), Kirill (21), and Anastasiya (15).



# SIBERIAN LUTHERAN MISSION

## About: *Save the Seminary Campaign*

In 1905 the Lutheran Church in Russia had grown to 3,600,000 members. In 1917, the Communist Revolution began its vigorous oppression on religion and the church. Lutheran churches were closed or destroyed and nearly all Lutheran pastors were imprisoned or killed. Atheism became the official "religion". The Lutheran laity went without pastoral care for decades. Not until 1989 did religious freedom return to Russia. It also brought a flood of confusing cults and sects.

In 1996 Concordia Theological Seminary launched the Russian Project to prepare Russian-speaking men to serve the Lutheran remnant in Russia. During its few short years, nearly 50 Russian students took the CTSFW course work. An intentional part of the Russian Project was to establish a seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia. It opened in 1997 relying entirely on visiting professors who taught with translators. The aim? To restore the Lutheran Church in Russia by preparing pastors to faithfully preach, teach, administer the Sacraments, and provide pastoral care traveling across the vast Eurasian countryside.

Fast forward to 2022: The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk (funded by a private charitable foundation) is now staffed by a first-class indigenous faculty. It handles its own administration and works in team with The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society, an RSO of the LCMS. The private funding, however, is soon coming to an end. LCMS Church Relations has asked The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society to build an endowment capable of making the Novosibirsk Seminary self-sufficient. The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk is one of the rare seminaries that remains open in the entire region of Siberia. It is evident again and again, that if an educational institution closes, even temporarily, it is unlikely in today's political environment to ever reopen.

Inspiring stories of God at work in Siberia, and up-to-date financial reports for the *Save the Seminary Campaign* can be found at [savetheseminary.org](http://savetheseminary.org) and also at [SiberianLutheranMissions.org](http://SiberianLutheranMissions.org). **"So My word that proceeds from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but it will accomplish what I please, and it will prosper where I send it."** Is 55:11



### **Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk**

The present seminary building was a former bank, now modified to house the seminary and the Siberian Ev. Lutheran Church.

# SIBERIAN LUTHERAN MISSION

## SEMINARY PROFESSORS



**RECTOR ALEXEY  
STRELTSOV**

Doctrine and Early Church



**DR. PAVEL BUTAKOV**

History and Doctrine



**REV. ANDREY LIPNITSKY**

Hebrew and Old Testament



**REV. PAVEL KRAMOV**

Pastoral Theology, Liturgy,  
Homiletics, and Catechesis



# EXHIBITORS

We are pleased to welcome the following exhibitors to the 52nd Convention of the Rocky Mountain District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Please take time during the convention to greet and get to know these organizations.

Concordia Plans - St. Louis, MO	<a href="http://concordiaplans.org">concordiaplans.org</a>
Concordia Publishing House - St. Louis, MO	<a href="http://cph.org">cph.org</a>
Concordia Seminary - St. Louis, MO	<a href="http://csl.edu">csl.edu</a>
Concordia Theological Seminary - Ft. Wayne, IN	<a href="http://ctsfw.edu">ctsfw.edu</a>
Concordia University, Irvine- Irvine, CA	<a href="http://cui.edu">cui.edu</a>
Concordia University, Nebraska - Seward, NE	<a href="http://cune.edu">cune.edu</a>
Denver Society of Creation - Denver, CO	<a href="http://denversocietyofcreation.org">denversocietyofcreation.org</a>
God Cares About You	<a href="http://godcaresaboutyou.com">godcaresaboutyou.com</a>
Lutheran Church Extension Fund - St. Louis, MO	<a href="http://lcef.org">lcef.org</a>
LCMS Foundation - St. Louis, MO	<a href="http://lcmsfoundation.org">lcmsfoundation.org</a>
LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces - St. Louis, MO	<a href="http://lcms.org/ministry-to-the-armed-forces">lcms.org/ministry-to-the-armed-forces</a>
Luther Classical College - Casper, WY	<a href="http://lutherclassical.org">lutherclassical.org</a>
Lutheran Heritage Foundation - Macomb, MI	<a href="http://lhfmissions.org">lhfmissions.org</a>
Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute	<a href="http://missionaryinstitute.org">missionaryinstitute.org</a>
Lutheran Hour Ministries - St. Louis, MO	<a href="http://lhm.org">lhm.org</a>
Rocky Mountain District Affirming Life - Englewood, CO	<a href="http://rm.lcms.org/rmd-missions-ministries/affirming-life">rm.lcms.org/rmd-missions-ministries/affirming-life</a>
St. John's Lutheran Church - The Sacred Writings of St. John the Apostle by Rev. Dr. Henry Malone	
Siberian Lutheran Mission - Fort Wayne, IN	<a href="http://savetheseminary.org">savetheseminary.org</a> A fundraising campaign of <a href="http://siberianlutheranmissions.org">siberianlutheranmissions.org</a>
The Summit Mission Alliance - Breckenridge, CO	<a href="http://summitmissionalliance.org">summitmissionalliance.org</a>
University Lutheran Chapel - Boulder, CO	<a href="http://universitylutheranchapel.com">universitylutheranchapel.com</a>

## TECH SUPPORT

**DJ Maestro**

# WELCOME TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has offered exclusive loans and investments to Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) rostered church workers for over 16 years. For over 40 years, our mission is to ensure you have the resources available to fulfill your call for God's glory. We do that through investments and lending, ministry and real estate solutions.

**You can feel good partnering with LCEF because we share your Lutheran beliefs and love of the church.**



## Investments

When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), your investment not only grows in numbers, but it also contributes to the growth of LCMS ministries all over the world.

Investing in LCEF is investing in the future of the church. We offer various investment options for LCMS individuals, congregations and organizations.



## Lending Solutions

LCEF provides a wide range of loans to congregations, schools, school associations and Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) of the LCMS.

Mortgage loans are available to Rostered Church Workers (RCWs) (Ordained and commissioned, active or emeritus) through LCEF. Features include low down payment options and no private mortgage insurance (PMI) requirement.



## Ministry Solutions

LCEF partners with LCMS congregations, RSOs and LCMS districts to offer ministry solutions that define opportunities, design solutions and align resources that propel the Kingdom forward.

We discover with you where God is leading and, with your leaders, design creative and relevant solutions for what is ahead. Call your me for a free demographic study.



## Real Estate Solutions

LCEF believes that "ministry should dictate real estate" and not the other way around, and so the RES team was formed to help you to help develop and/or execute the best strategy to support your ministry objectives.

Whether working with an individual church, organization or district, this team becomes an extension of your ministry to help you best steward your entrusted assets.



**Connect with us today.**

**KEVIN GREIN**

LCEF DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT | ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

303-408-1971 | [KEVIN.GREIN@lcef.org](mailto:KEVIN.GREIN@lcef.org)



**Lutheran Church Extension Fund**

> where investments build ministry

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer in sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, 10733 Sunset Office Drive, Suite 300, St. Louis, MO 63127-1020, 800-843-5233, [lcef.org](http://lcef.org), NMLS #3444, Illinois Residential Mortgage Licensee (MB.0006057). Loans made or arranged pursuant to a California Law License (6037619). For more information on LCEF's lending license go to [lcef.org/state-disclosures/](http://lcef.org/state-disclosures/) 0821C041