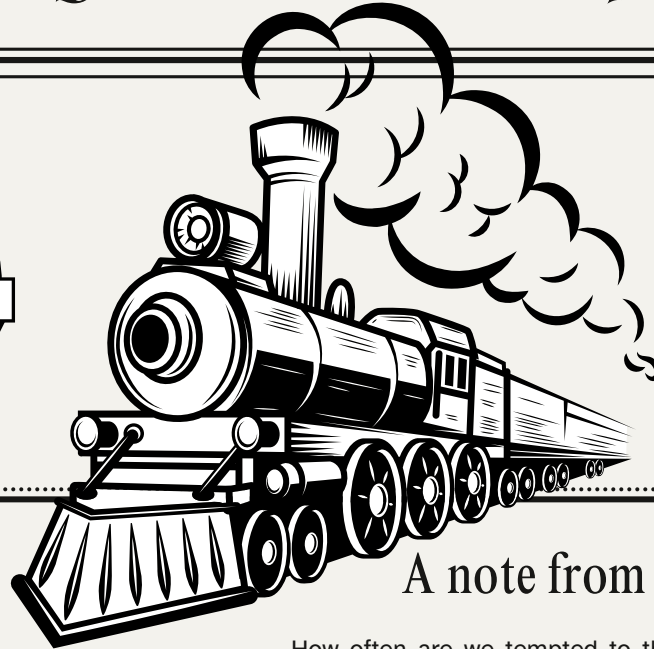


# Rocky Mountain Express

July 2025



## A note from the President...

Welcome to the LCMS Rocky Mountain District Newsletter!  
In this issue you will find...

- A Note from the President
- Texas Flooding Report
- Ordinations & Installations
- Convention Recap
- Upcoming Events
- Around the District
- Extras

How often are we tempted to think that everything we do needs to be absolutely amazing? They did that, so mine should be better! And when we see what everyone else is doing on social media, the problem exacerbates. But why? Does everything need to be amazing all the time?

I no longer remember where I first heard this illustration, nor do I remember if it is true, but once a pastor was lamenting about how he was in a preaching rut. He was trying so very hard to give fantastic sermons, come up with creative illustrations, but recently he was running out of energy.

One of his elders shared with him: "Pastor, I've been married for 50 years. Over the course of those 50 years, my wife has prepared some wonderful meals for me. And she is a fantastic cook! But how many of those individual dinners do you think I remember? ...but she kept me fed and I knew I was loved. You're a good preacher, pastor, but just tell us that because of Jesus we're forgiven of all we've done wrong. That's all we really need to know."

For all of you who are tempted to think that you or your work is not enough, thus says the Lord: "I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine!" And that will not change!

Thank you for all you do in service to our Lord's church! Remember that you are making an eternal difference!



In His service,  
Rev. James B. Maxwell

# TEXAS FLOODING

*July 2025*

Due to the enormity of the devastation in Texas, the Texas District is overwhelmed with individual donations. To aid in simplicity, please send all donations to the Rocky Mountain District, who will then send one check to the Texas District.

Please keep all of those affected in your prayers, as well as the first responders, search and recovery teams, and all of those involved in the restoration process.

Please make checks payable to RM District LCMS and mail to:

88 Inverness Circle East

Unit A-210

Englewood, CO 80112

attn: Business office

Please write Texas Flooding Relief on memo line



# ORDINATIONS & INSTALLATIONS

July 2025

Pastor Ben Oesch was ordained and installed on June 15, 2025 at Shepherd of the Hills in Centennial, Colorado.

The Oesch Family:

Ben, Amelia, and Olive currently reside in Centennial, CO. However, their routes are on the west coast. Amelia grew up in Orange County, California, and Ben grew up about an hour north of Seattle (no, that's not quite Canada yet). They met and started dating at Concordia University, Irvine in 2018. A few years later, in June 2021, they got hitched! Together they love hiking, walking, traveling, exploring, reading, eating good food and drinking good drink, playing board games, spending time with friends in fun and enriching conversation, and most of all they love parenting their daughter, Olive, who was born on March 25, 2025. In particular, Amelia delights in coffee, education, and creative things. Ben enjoys playing sports, watching Seattle sports, and pondering theology and culture. Olive loves to eat, sleep, poop, and smile!

After graduating high school in 2014, Ben attended Skagit Valley College and studied park services and protection; at the time, he was considering a career as a park ranger. However, God had other plans. Throughout the years, Ben's interest in apologetics and theology grew. He ultimately decided to shift his life's direction and attend Concordia University, Irvine in the fall of 2016 to study theology. Ben's time at CUI was incredibly formative: he met his wife, Amelia, spent a semester abroad, learned the foundations of theology, and expanded his understanding of different ministry opportunities. After he graduated with his Bachelors of Arts in theology in 2019, he went on to work as a youth director at Watermark OC Church in Costa Mesa, CA. At Watermark God cultivated a passion for practical ministry and a pull towards Lutheran theology. This experience was the push he needed to attend the place many nudged him toward: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Ben is excited to work with a congregation that has been super welcoming and loving to their family. They have taken them in with open arms and have made it abundantly clear that they are excited for them to be there. This is a special community of believers and Ben is honored to now be a part of it. Ben is excited to preach and teach the Word of God and apply that Word to the lives of people. This is his dream job. He actually enjoys going to work! Ben thinks that Shepherd has a lot of potential to make an impact in their local community, in their Early Learning Center, and within the church itself. Ben is excited to work with a hungry group of people eager to follow Jesus and connect people with the love of Christ. Ben is particularly excited to preach every week, connect with kids and families in our Early Learning Center, teach confirmation, teach bible study, and connect with the youth in the church.

Ben is also thrilled to be working with his co-pastor in crime, Rev. Brad Stoltenow. He has been an amazing leader thus far in terms of kindness, encouragement, empowerment, work-life balance, friendship, and guidance.



# CONVENTION RECAP

July 2025

Thank you to all our delegates who came and represented their congregations! It was a great convention focused on spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth!

We are especially thankful to Warren Graff for giving us a better understanding of race and how we can be better prepared to respond to a rising group of white supremacists. His paper will be available on our website soon.

We are also grateful to the delegates for their overwhelming support of a concerted mission emphasis in Utah! We are anxious to see what God has in store!



Besides these highlights, the following resolutions were passed.

Passed:

Resolutions

- 2025-1-01A To Support a Mission Effort in Utah for the Next Triennium
- 2025-1-02A To Utilize Regional Strategic Teams to Assist Planting Congregations in the Rocky Mountain District
- 2025-1-03 To Retire the Circuit-Based Mission Model (Gospel Gap Paradigm)
- 2025-1-04A To Support Rural Congregations Through District Mission Resources (includes 2025-1-06)
- 2025-2-02A To Uphold the Scriptural Teaching of "Generations/Lineages"; To Reject the Modernistic Teaching of "Races" (Also Replaces 2025-2-01)
- 2025-2-03A To Amend Bylaws 3.03 Term of Office (Also Replaces 2025-2-04)
- 2025-2-09A To Open Access to the Lutheran Confessions
- 2025-2-10 To Delegate Circuit Realignment Authority to the Board of Directors
- 2025-2-11 To Ratify the Circuit Visitors of the Rocky Mountain District

Omnibus A- Resolutions

- 2025-1-05 To Study and Implement Hybrid Electronic and
- 2025-1-07 In- Person Pastoral Ministry to Small Congregations
- 2025-1-08 at Risk of Closing
- 2025-2-05 To Encourage the Rocky Mountain District to Seek Liturgical Unity
- 2025-2-06 To Encourage the Rocky Mountain District to Establish Informal Network Between Young Singles Ministries so they can Organize Events
- 2025-2-07 To Encourage the RM District to Establish Three Networks of Campus Ministries

Failed:

- Omnibus B - Resolution: 2025-2-08 To Support International Mission and Church Relations

Thank you again for a great convention! Thank you for being the Rocky Mountain District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2025



### **CSP Center for Biblical Studies presentations in Denver**

January 19: Lent/Holy Week: Job: Blessed be the Name  
of the Lord (Plus an Easter series on 1 Peter)

February 21: The Book of Revelation: Explained and  
Applied (plus a hundred-page Bible study and seven-part  
sermon series on Revelation 2-3)

### **The Book of Psalms and the Christ**

Presenter: Dr. Adam Hensley, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

Date: July 30-August 01, 2025 (three days)

Location: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Santa Fe, NM

Registration: Summer Continuing Education Immanuel Santa Fe Registration 2025

Cost: \$150 (pastor and laity); CEUs available

Workshop focus: Our Lord often quoted the Psalms and said that they testify about Him (Luke 24:27; John 5:39). In doing so, Jesus confirmed the psalter's prophetic witness about Himself as Israel's coming Messiah. In this workshop we will consider how the psalter's arrangement contributes to the Psalms' rich picture of Christ. We also will explore ways we hear Christ speaking as He identifies with sinners. Together, we will join Him in prayer, praise and thanksgiving to God.

### **Politics as Idolatry: Wrestling With Isaiah's Political Vision**

Presenter: Dr. Ryan Tietz, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN

Dates: July 28-30, 2025 (three days)

Location: Grace Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM

Registration: Summer Continuing Education Grace Albuquerque Registration 2025

Cost: \$175 (pastors), \$125 (laity); CEUs available

Workshop focus: Isaiah adamantly proclaims that God's kingdom has come. Within this proclamation, Isaiah confronts those such as Ahaz and Hezekiah who practice manipulative politics. This course will examine Isaiah's vision of the Kingdom of God and human responses throughout the entire book.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 2025

### Planting Apostolic Churches

Dates: 9:00 am Monday, Jul 21, 2025- 12:00pm  
Wednesday, Jul 23, 2025

Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Riverton,  
UT)

13249 S Redwood Rd  
Riverton, UT 84065-6108 US



Description: New church starts are wonderful, but how did the early church do it? The Gospels show us Jesus's way of spreading the Gospel and how the apostles and the whole church went about carrying out that mission. Apostolic motivations and methods in church planting will help us understand how to be faithful to the Great Commission today.

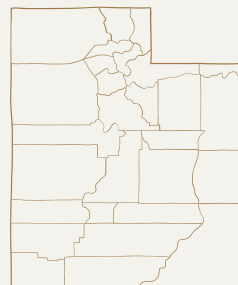
**S.O.A.R. (Serving Our Awesome Redeemer)** will be celebrating their 30 year anniversary in Sept. What an accomplishment of their faithfulness to the ministry over the years! They will be reaching a 5 year goal of raising \$540,000 along with Lutheran Bible Translators for the translation of the Old Testament for the Bandi language. For more info and to learn about their upcoming seminar, click [here](#).



For more upcoming events please  
visit the [RMD Events website](#)

### Utah Mission Work

Stay tuned for more information  
about Utah Mission Work. Planning  
will begin in the upcoming months.





# AROUND THE DISTRICT

July 2025

## LWML Executive Director

The LWML is seeking help in identifying candidates for the Executive Director position, someone with a strong vocational desire to lead the LWML staff and partner with the elected officers and board of directors to joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions and equip women to honor God by serving others.  
Find job description [here](#)



## Family of Christ Vacation Bible School



In June, Family of Christ—and over 100 incredible volunteers—got to share the best news ever with 275 amazing kids: Jesus is our true north!

We were able to come together for this awesome week with church members, community children, and kids from our CDC.

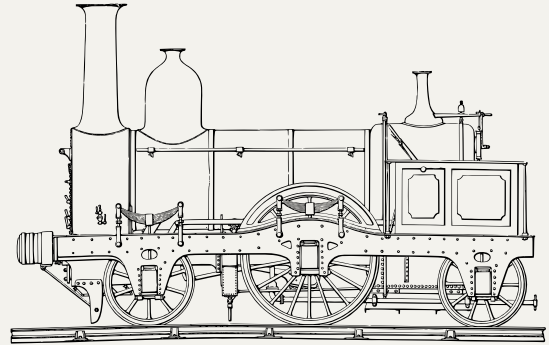
We had an unforgettable week filled with singing, playing games, getting creative with crafts, and making tons of new friends. Kids were able to do hands-on activities, engage in prayer and praise, and hear stories from the Bible every day! And the best part? We discovered that we can **trust Jesus**—when we're wondering, feeling alone, powerless, in need of help, or looking for hope!

## EXTRAS

July 2025

To update your roster paperwork, or if you have any other questions, please contact  
Ms. Monique Hjalmquist  
monique@rm.lcms.org  
Administrative Assistant to  
Rev. James Maxwell, District President  
Rev. Paul Albers, District Education  
Executive

To see any current vacancies within the District, please click [here](#)



### Contact Information

If you would like to  
communicate with the Rocky  
Mountain District, please  
email  
communications@rm.lcms.org  
or  
info@rm.lcms.org