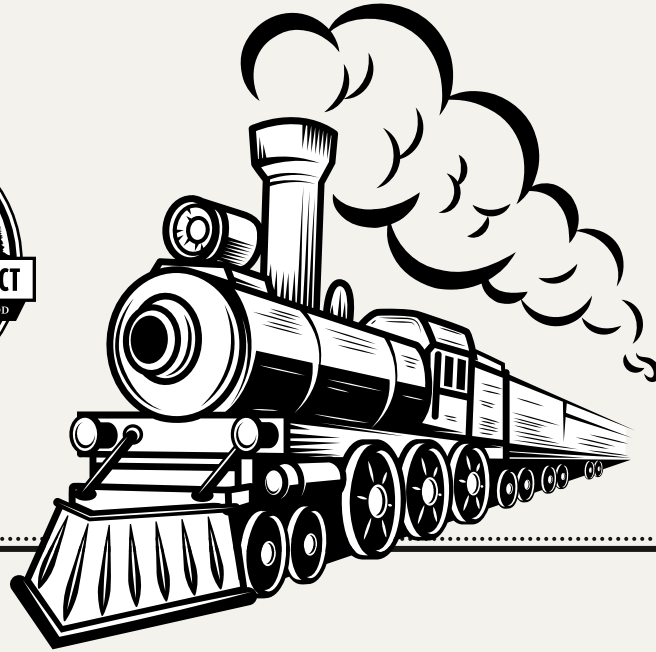
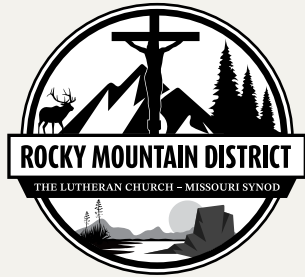


Rocky Mountain Express

August 2025



Welcome to the LCMS Rocky Mountain District Newsletter!

In this issue you will find...

- A Note from the President
- Ordinations & Installations
- 2025 All Workers Conference
- Upcoming Events
- Around the District
- Extras

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

August 2025

O Lord, as summer is over and another school year has begun we ask that you would

Be with our students, both the very tiny taking their first big steps away from mom and dad to sit in circle time and color and those who are finally leaving the nest in different ways. Invite them to joyfully explore all that this good creation of yours has to offer for their learning.

Be with all those who teach... may they be patient in their instruction and compassionate for all who learn. May they find gladness in that one lost sheep who finally gets a difficult concept.

Be with those who support the teachers, the ones who quietly work in the background. May we not forget to thank them this year.

Be with all principals and school administrators as they find ways to encourage their staff. May they smile this year at what God accomplishes.

Be with all pastors as they pray over all of this. May they be ready to speak your word throughout this year in a whole host of different circumstances.

Be with all parents as they hope to raise their children to know You! And lastly,

Be with all those this simple prayer inadvertently overlooked. You, Lord, know who else is in need of prayer. May this school year be blessed and may your will be done among us! In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Rev. James B. Maxwell



ORDINATIONS & INSTALLATIONS

August 2025

Rev. Solomona Rakotonirina was installed Saturday, July 26 at Immanuel/Las Vegas, NM.

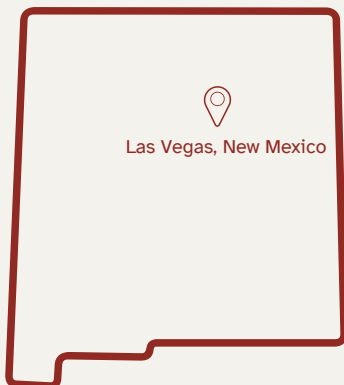
Along with the approximately 50 people in attendance for the afternoon event, there were a total of eight pastors and one SMP Vicar. Immanuel congregation members hosted all following the service to a delicious buffet luncheon at the church.

Special thanks go to President Maxwell for attending and serving as Installer. We look forward to welcoming Solomona (pronounced, Sol-o-mon) and Myhobi (pronounced, Mee-u-bi) into our circuit.



Solomona is a recent graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN. The above photo shows Solomona and his wife, Mihoby, with the Sonchar's.

Solomona and Mihoby are from Madagascar. Solomona attended CUW—Mequon and got a B.S. in Management and B.A. in Biblical Languages. Solomona is looking forward to preaching Christ to this area and witness the Gospel at work.



ALL WORKERS CONFERENCE

August 2025

Called Upward
Rocky Mountain District Conference 2025
Philippians 2:12-15



Educator Registration

(Click above to register teachers, principals, directors, DCEs, aides, music directors, and lay leaders.)

Pastor and Deaconess Registration

(Click above to register pastors and deaconesses)

School Leaders' Conference

(Click above to register for the Tuesday PM-Wednesday AM conference)

Registration closes September 22, 2025

Check out the [RMD website](#) for more information about the All Workers Conference

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2025



24



Concordia Lutheran Preschool Celebrates 40 Years

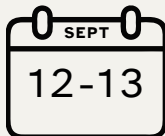
of Faith-Based Early-Childhood Education in Lakewood, CO — On **August 24, 2025**, Concordia Lutheran Church and Preschool is observing the school's 40th anniversary with a free community event.

Please join us from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the church parking lot at 13371 W. Alameda Pkwy., Lakewood. Bring your stories and memories and help us kick off another great school year!

The 40th anniversary celebration includes:

- Food trucks and a Kona shaved-ice truck
- Games and activities for children and adults
- A bounce house
- Photo displays and teacher appreciation

[See About Concordia Lutheran Preschool in Lakewood](#)



12-13

Sandia Circuits present

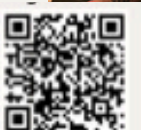
A THEOLOGICAL
CONFERENCE
WITH DANIEL EMERY
PRICE

STORYTELLING,
EVANGELISM
AND THE KINGDOM
OF GOD

COME LEARN FROM
THE GREATEST
STORYTELLER OF ALL
TIME - JESUS.



Grace Lutheran Church
September 12-13, 2025



The **Sandia Circuits** invite you to a theological conference on September 12-13, 2025. Storytelling, Evangelism, and the Kingdom of God.

Presenter: Daniel Emery Price, Director of Operations for 1517.org Grace Lutheran Church will host this Friday evening and Saturday morning event.

Cost: \$20. Please use this QR code or [link](#) to register.

These sessions will take a look at how God uses stories to teach us about how the Kingdom of God works, why repentance is a gift, and what we do as recipients of grace and forgiveness. Come learn from the greatest storyteller of all time, Jesus.

Friday, Sept 12 6p-8p

Saturday, Sept 13 8:30a - 12noon

7550 Eubank Blvd Albuquerque, NM 87122

(505) 823-9100

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2025



Save the Date: Redeemer, Salt Lake City 75th Anniversary Celebration!

Sunday, September 14



9:30 Worship, 11:30 Potluck Lunch

Preacher will be Rev. James Maxwell,
Rocky Mountain District President

Pulled Pork and Fried Chicken will be provided.

Redeemer members are being asked to bring side dishes
and desserts for 10.

Water provided – feel free to bring another drink for
yourself. We ask that all in attendance bring a few non-
perishable food items for the food bank as we want to
bless others as we gather for this celebration event!



S.O.A.R. (Serving Our Awesome Redeemer) Adult Ministry Committee Fall Seminar Flyer

Theme: “Anchored In Faith”

When: September 20, 2025

Cost: \$30/person

First time guests are \$15/person

Location:

Peace Lutheran Church
5675 Field Street
Arvada, CO 80002



UPCOMING EVENTS

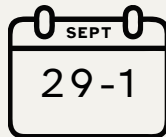
August 2025



Christ Lutheran Church in Murray, UT is hosting a **Higher Things Retreat** - "All the Cool Kids Aren't Doing It"

When: September 26-27, 2025
Where: Christ Lutheran Church Murray, UT
Who: Middle and High School Youth
Cost: \$50 per person
Contact: Adam Losser, ajrlosser@gmail.com

See Flyer [Murray-UT-HT-Retreat](#)
See flyer for registration form.



Save the Dates

Registration now open!

BECOMING HUMAN: A THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FOR TODAY

**LUTHERAN LAY
CONFERENCE**

SATURDAY, SEP 27, 2025
9:00AM TO 4:00PM



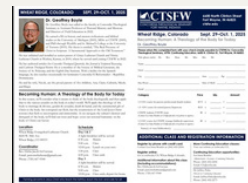
**CONTINUING ED.
WORKSHOP**

SEPT. 29-OCT. 1, 2025



SEE EVENT LINK [HERE](#)
SEE BROCHURE [HERE](#)

In this course, we'll consider what it means to think of the body theologically and then apply that to the various assaults on the body in today's world. We'll apply this theology of the body to marriage & divorce, gender & sexuality, death & burial, and the sacramental gift of Christ to the body. Sin corrupted our flesh, but the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ restores that flesh to incorruption and immortality. As we navigate the culture's distrust and disregard of the body, we'll find our trust and hope--even our restored humanity--in the body of Christ our Savior.



SEE EVENT LINK [HERE](#)
SEE BROCHURE [HERE](#)

PRESENTER: REV. DR. GEOFFREY BOYLE,
Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions Director of Field Education

WHEAT RIDGE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH (WHEAT RIDGE, CO)
8600 W 38TH AVE
WHEAT RIDGE, CO 80033-4366

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

FAITH TO MOVE MOUNTAINS... ONE STONE AT A TIME

rm.lcms.org

AROUND THE DISTRICT

August 2025

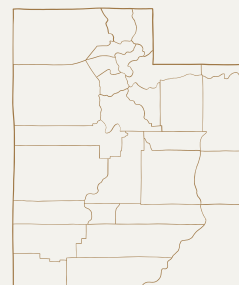
On Sunday, August 3, Zion Lutheran Church celebrated Pastor Rahe and his wife Diane's 50 years at Zion and 50 years in the ministry. The morning worship service was conducted by President James Maxwell. After the worship service, a dinner was served in the Rahe's honor.



In photo left to right: Rev. Richard Von Steinman, President James Maxwell, Rev. Gary Rahe, Diane Rahe, Rev. Tim Hahn, Rev. Zach Roll, Rev. Pedro Jofre

Utah Mission Work

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



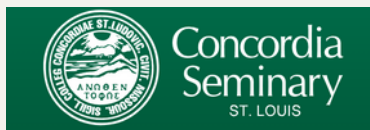
AROUND THE DISTRICT

August 2025



The Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Does your church or school have families whose first language isn't English? Why not share a Lutheran book about Jesus with them in their heart language? Get FREE resources from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, including children's Bible storybooks and Luther's Small Catechism in more than 180 languages! Visit [the LHF website](https://www.lutheranheritagefoundation.org/) for more information.



BY GAVIN ANDERSON

Dan Hampton, a trained Director of Christian Education, is a current seminarian at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He, his wife, Christine, and their two children, William and Abigail, moved to St. Louis in 2023 from Colorado Springs, Colo., so that Dan could attend the Seminary's Christian education program as a communication specialist for the LCMS Mission District.

Q

Such is a Director of Christian Education (DCE). What's the difference between a DCE and a pastor?

A A pastor is one who is responsible for the whole congregation. Paul speaks to this in Eph. 4:11-12: "To him [Christ] we owe the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers." The DCE, or "shepherd," is a more formal translation of the Greek word *poimēn* (*poimen*), emphasizing the role of guiding and protecting God's people.

A DCE (Director of Christian Education), on the other hand, is a teacher trained to focus on Christian educational ministry across all ages. While pastors and DCEs serve in different capacities, both are called to nurture and equip God's people in faith within the congregation.

Q

How are their roles in ministry different, and how are they the same?

A A pastor and a DCE share the same goal, which is to proclaim the message of life and salvation through Jesus Christ. However, they focus their efforts in different ways. As a pastor, I will have the privilege of administering the Sacraments, speaking God's Word and walking alongside people in life's most significant moments — such as officiating weddings and providing care for the sick — and shepherding those entrusted to my care. As a DCE, my role centered on equipping the pastor by leading the church's education, ministry and encouraging God's people to grow in faith, hope and love. While the responsibilities differ, both callings are deeply connected in their mission to guide and nurture God's people.

Q

Why did you become a DCE? Did you feel called into the ministry then?

A My journey to becoming a DCE began in high school when I discovered the joy and gift of teaching through God's Word with others. This passion deepened when my home congregation, The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer in Bensenville, Ill., called a DCE. I was intrigued to learn that someone could serve the church by leading Bible studies and events that bring Scripture to life in the hearts and minds of people. This led me to attend Concordia University, Nebraska (CU NE), where I studied to become my Bachelor of Arts in youth and family ministry.

Throughout my life, many people encouraged me to consider working in a church or becoming a DCE. I was drawn to the opportunity to work with

people of all ages and the excitement of knowing that no two days would be the same. Now, after almost 13 years in parish ministry, I can confidently say this is true — you never know what each day will bring. But above all, my greatest hope and desire is that God will use me to help others hear and experience the love of Jesus.

Q

How did your calling change over time?

A The calling hasn't changed, but the context certainly has. In 2008, I was placed as an intern at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church and School in Indianapolis, Ind., which became my first call. In 2010, I was called to serve as the Director of Growth Ministries at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs, Colo. That same year, I completed a Master of Science in Family Ministry at CU NE.

Over the years, my passion for sharing the Good News to creative and engaging was not only grown, but also refined. It became a continuous journey of growth. Through it all, Jesus has been shaping and preparing me to share His Good News with His people.

Q

How has God made a way for you and your family to come to Concordia Seminary?

A God has truly opened the door for us to attend the Seminary, and we are incredibly grateful for the many people who have encouraged and supported us on this journey. Specifically, their generous financial support has made it possible for me to enroll in the M.Div. Program. We can't imagine how we could afford this transformative experience without their kindness and generosity.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

people. Yes, the Seminary I've learned as a DCE will always step with me, shaping how I continue to serve God and His people in this new capacity.

Q

Whom did you realize that the Holy Spirit was doing a new thing by calling you out of one ministry and into another?

A Through the prayer and the encouragement of many others, my wife and I felt that God was leading us to pursue pastoral ministry. One of my big "aha" moments was discovering how much I would enjoy many of the jobs of a pastor. I am excited to preach and teach, as well as marry and bury people. I look forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit will continue to use me in new ways for His glory.

(Dan Hampton is a fourth-year seminarian and student pastor at the communication department at Concordia Seminary St. Louis.)



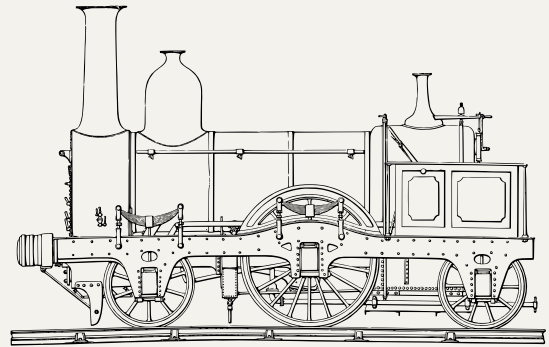
Check out this spotlight of Seminarian Dan Hampton, a former DCE of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs! See the full article [here](https://www.rm.lcms.org/news/dan-hampton-a-new-ministry-same-goal)

EXTRAS

August 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

Newsletter Deadline - First of Each Month

Send news to
communications@rm.lcms.org

To contact the Rocky Mountain
District, please email
info@rm.lcms.org