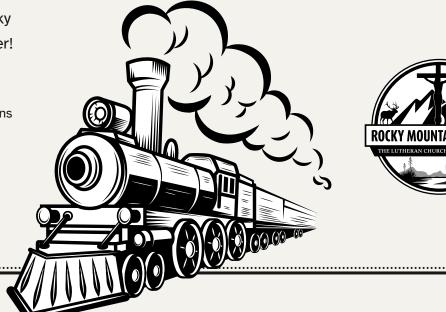
# Rocky Mountain Express

November 2025

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

- · A Note from the President
- · Installations and Commissions
- 2025 Award Recipients
- Anniversaries
- · Around the District
- · Board Updates
- Extras



#### A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I sat staring at a blank page... I did something else... I came back to the page... still nothing.

Then I did something very uncharacteristic for me: I asked for help. I don't ask for help. When I burn the candle at both ends, I go buy another candle. I will sooner go to the dentist than ask for help...

So in this, please know that I'm admitting to all of you that I did the unthinkable today: I asked for help. The following is a devotional thought from Pastor Cody. Thank you, brother, for helping me! And thank you to everyone in the District for all your work!

May God bless your Thanksgiving and bless all who travel!

Rev. James B. Maxwell



#### ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

# **DEVOTION**

November 2025

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Holiday Anxiety - A Caring Problem

By Rev. Jason K. Cody

Assistant to the President - Rocky Mountain District - LCMS

Pastor - Trinity Lutheran Church & School - Alamosa, Colorado

Matthew 6:25-33 (ESV)

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"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

As Thanksgiving approaches, many of us feel the pull toward feeling gratitude and joy, but for just as many, this season brings a rise in anxiety. The holidays have a way of magnifying our worries, draining our energy, and stealing the joy meant for this time of year. All the while Holy Scripture invites us to consider that even our anxiety can be used by God for a higher purpose that can draw our focus back to Him, to teach us to trust Him in deeper ways than we knew we could. The Greek word Jesus uses for "anxiety," \*merimnaw\*, can also mean "care" or "concern." This is showing us that anxiety isn't random; it becomes the feeling we experience when our caring is directed at the lesser things of life rather than the One who holds all things. Jesus, by His Word, gently redirects our focus and reminds us that life is more than food, clothing, or material worry. Instead, He calls us to seek first His kingdom, trusting that "all these things" will be added in His perfect way.

Simply put, anxiety is a "caring problem." The problem is our "high-power caring" gets placed on things that cannot carry the weight we're trusting them to bear. And when we try to keep or control those things all on our own, we feel not only anxious, but alone. But all the while, Jesus assures us we are never alone. He invites us to look at the birds and the lilies who live in full reliance on God's presence and provision. What if we trusted Him like that? What if we truly believed Him when He says He will handle the things that trouble our hearts? The truth is that God has already claimed you in Holy Baptism and has already promised to care for your every need through His Word and Sacraments. He tells you to cast all your cares on Him because He cares for you. As the holiday season approaches, refuse to give the lesser things your highest concern. Instead, lift your eyes and your requests to God in prayer with thanksgiving, and His peace, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. May His faithful care for you bring His real and lasting peace in this season. Amen.

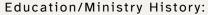
### **INSTALLATIONS**

November 2025

Rev. Sean Berry
Installed at Risen Savior, Broomfield on 11/16

My wife, Hope, and I got married nearly a year ago in November. We met back in 2008 at our home congregation, Shepherd of the Hills in Centennial, when we were just awkward, nervous teenage youth. It took us 15 years to get married!

We're both originally from Colorado-- I grew up in Castle Rock and the Highlands Ranch area. Graduated from Castle View in Castle Rock. Hope grew up in Littleton and Parker, graduating from Lutheran High in Parker. My immediate family is scattered all over southern Denver, and my twin sister moved back to Castle Rock a couple of years ago.



- -Concordia University, Nebraska, Class of 2015 in the Pre-Sem program. Best preparation for Seminary hands down, and enduring friendships.
- -Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Vicarage was at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Garden City, New York. Wonderful congregation, great location and learned a lot. M.Div. Class of 2019.
- -Stayed another year for the S.T.M. (earned in 2022). In April 2020 during COVID I watched the call service from my friend's living room. My face popped up on the screen, and I was called to be the Sole Pastor at St. Timothy Lutheran in Edmonds, WA. Straight north from Seattle.
- -The last 5 years have been adventurous to say the least. Highs and lows of ministry in the area. But working with a wonderful congregation and people. Sharing in so many joys and in their sorrows.

#### New Ministry:

-Sad to leave my first call and the exciting ministry in the Northwest district. Yet, I am eager to serve in the new ministry at Risen Savior and return to my home state. Broomfield is not far from family, and we're very excited to be near them. I also think God has prepared me for a ministry such as Risen Savior, a collaborative ministry of discipleship and mission. Looking forward to those opportunities to utilize my gifts and join the amazing work of the Rocky Mountain District.

In Christ, Sean Berry







### **INSTALLATIONS**

November 2025

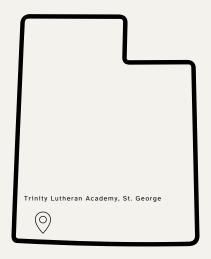
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Julianne Wiegand- Colloquy CM- Trinity Lutheran Academy, St. George, Utah Commissioned and Installed on 10/26

I am a lifelong Lutheran, who grew up in the New York City area. I attended Lutheran School during my middle school years, and graduated from Concordia College, Bronxville with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. While my first choice was to be a social worker, God had other plans. He called me into the teaching ministry right out of college, allowing me to serve in Lutheran schools in Florida (both in the classroom, and as a Preschool Director), New York, New Jersey, and now in Utah, for 30 years, having earned my Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education in the process.

I was blessed to be married to my husband, Jon, who also served as a commissioned minister of religion, for almost 29 years until God called him home this past June. We have 3 amazing children, who live with me in St. George, Utah, where I am serving as the PreK teacher, as well as Spanish teacher, at Trinity Lutheran Academy. I am currently in my 4th year of serving at Trinity, and am so excited to be part of an amazing ministry team, moving toward the future sharing Jesus and His love with children

Blessings, Julianne Wiegand





## **2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS**

November 2025

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EARLY CHILDHOOD
DIRECTOR
SAM WATE

Beautiful Savior - Broomfield





EDUCATOR

PWC- Aurora



ADMINISTRATOR

Immanuel - Loveland



PASTOR MICHAEL REDEKER

Lutheran Church and School of Messiah at Grand Junction, Colorado



CASSIE SCHERMBECK

Our Father - Centennial



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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

November 2025

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# 50th Anniversary "Jubilee" Concordia Seminary Class of 1975 Alumni Reunion

Scott R. Blazek presentation to Pres. Egger St. Louis, Oct. 9

Concordia Seminary President Dr. Thomas Egger addressed various Alumni marking significant Class Anniversaries, including 1965, 1975 (50th Jubilee) and 2020 (Covid -19 shutdown). After a very informative presentation about current matters at CSL, Dr. Egger invited questions and comments, Scott Blazek (class of '75) respectfully asked permission to approach the podium for an unofficial presentation.

Being of the very small class of '75 returning from vicarage immediately after the "Seminex Walk-Out" in 1974, Blazek presented Dr. Eggert three gifts expressing humble thanksgiving for God's gracious past fifty years. They included: 1) a copy of Blazek's "50th Anniversary of Seminex - First Hand Reflections," describing Blazek' "journey to CSL, his four years at CSL (two years under "the faculty mjority"), and his three calls that followed reflecting the impact of what he encountered at CSL; 2) a copy of Blazek's "500th Anniversary of the Reformation, a True Story to be Retold, Full Color" edition, signed and dated Oct. 31, 2017; and 3) Blazek's designed and produced bronze gold-plated "500th Anniversary of Dr. Luther's marriage to Katherine von Bora" Commemorative Medallion celebrating the sanctity of God-ordained marriage, even for clergy. Its accompanying informative trifold includes a "professor's reflection" from Dr. Robert Kolb honoring Katie, pastors' wives and the establishment of the parsonage 500 years ago this year. Dr. Kolb oversaw Blazeks' four year project in '75!

Before the day was over, Dr. Egger approached Blazek and personally handed him a "thank you" card containing a very kind hand-written expression of appreciation for the three gifts. Scott R. Blazek, Class of '75 responded with, "Super nice and classy personal touch, Dr. Egger; you're most welcome; and hearty thanks to you and your team for a wonderful two days (Oct. 9 & 10) recognizing Concordia's Alumni. My wife, Margaret, and I thoroughly enjoyed every planned event!"



## **ANNIVERSARIES**

November 2025

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#### Zion Lutheran Church Celebrating 125 Years in Brighton

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Celebrating 125 years of God's blessings, Zion Lutheran Church invited the community to a Christ-centered worship service on November 9. The service was led by Pastor Albers, Pastor Boernke, Pastor Rasmussen, and Pastor Schilling and there were 300 in attendance.

The congregation began in 1900 after opening the Zion School the previous year on Brighton's South Main Street. In that day, downtown stores were open on Sundays. Area farm families shopped and waited for the whistle announcing the train from Denver. This signaled that the pastor had arrived and it was time to walk to the church.

The growing congregation moved into its newly built church at 4th Ave. and Strong St. in 1908. The new school was completed in 1915. These buildings were on the site of the current Brighton Post Office. In 1965, they built the first of the mid-century modern style facilities at Skeel St. and 14th Ave. where the 125th celebration took place. Facilities there have expanded over the decades as Brighton has grown.

Zion Lutheran, then as today, is the result of God working through His people to proclaim Christ alone, by faith in Him alone, based on Scripture alone. The congregation was founded by settlers from the U.S. Midwest and immigrants from Germany, as well as immigrants of German descent from present day Ukraine. Those faithful saints of the past are honored even as new saints from all nationalities and occupations find their purpose in Zion's timely proclamation of Christ for all with forgiveness for all.

Currently, Zion Lutheran Church has a membership of over 900. Enrollment in Zion School numbers over 250 students, preschool through 8th grade, making it the oldest and largest private school in the area.

Live stream of the anniversary celebration worship service with special music is available on YouTube and Facebook via <u>zionbrighton.org</u> where more details can be found.











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# **ANNIVERSARIES**

November 2025

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A celebration honoring Rev Scott Blazek's 50th anniversary of his ordination was held Sunday, October 12, 2025 at Immanuel, Clovis, NM.

Blazek was recognized during the service by Pastor Thomas Reeder, pastor of Immanuel, Clovis, NM and presented a certificate recognizing Blazek's service signed by LCMS RMD President Maxwell and a letter thanking him for his years of service from LCMS President Harrison.

A reception honoring Pastor Blazek and his wife, Margaret, was held at Immanuel, immediately following the Worship Service on the 12th.

At the reception, guests were invited to see some of the of the Blazeks' history through his 50 years of ministry. Pastor Rose from St. John, Lariat, TX

and Pastor Reeder visited with pastor Blazek during the reception.









## AROUND THE DISTRICT

November 2025

#### Family Discipleship Facilitator Training

Concordia Center for the Family, a Registered Service Organization of the LCMS, is uniting homes and congregations in making lifelong disciples of Jesus. Through foundational training events, Family Discipleship Facilitators are being equipped and inspired to strengthen the marriages and families served by our LCMS congregations and schools. CCF wants YOU as a Family Discipleship Facilitator! This training opportunity is for called and commissioned leaders of LCMS congregations and schools, along with lay family ministry leaders. Find out more about our 2026 trainings HERE. Also consider CCF's Faith & Life Survey tool to assess how well you're serving families. Find out more HERE.



CONCORDIA CENTER
FOR THE FAMILY







## AROUND THE DISTRICT

November 2025



# 2027 NE DISTRICT LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE (LLL) CONVENTION

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Julesburg,

Colorado on April 10, 2027.

Lutheran Hour Ministries, Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler - featured speaker.

All of RMD is invited to attend the 2027 Nebraska District LLL Convention in Julesburg, CO.

More information to come as time nears for the convention.

In the meantime, any questions, feel free to contact:

Rev. Trenton D. Christensen

St. Paul and Zion

Julesburg, CO and Big Springs, NE

pcstpaul@hotmail.com

#### **Scholarship Opportunity**

Together with Concordia University Wisconsin, LCEF is sponsoring scholarships to enroll in an upcoming professional development program: Business Skills for Faith-Based Organizations.

This course equips leaders with the skills they need to manage their operations effectively and implement useful solutions in their community. Completion of this course can also serve as the first step toward beginning the MBA program at Concordia University Wisconsin.

Please share this excellent opportunity with RCWs and those employed by an LCMS church, school or organization in your district who might benefit from this course and scholarship.

The deadline to apply is December 1, 2025. Learn More

### AROUND THE DISTRICT: LWML

November 2025



All women are invited to join with Lutheran Women in Mission in attending the 2026 LWML Rocky Mountain District Convention, June 5-7, 2026.

Theme: Faith that Can Move Mountains

For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you (Matthew 17:20b).

We have planned a Spirit-filled gathering of women from all walks of life! Join us for a weekend of worship, fellowship, renewal, and inspiration as we seek to grow deeper in our faith and shine brighter in our daily lives.

Young woman (age 22-35) or teens (13-19) are encouraged to apply to serve as a Young Women Representative. If selected by your Zone to serve as a YWR, your convention expenses will be covered by your Zone. Applications are due April 1, 2026 and are available on the website.

Mark your calendar now to join together at The Antlers, Colorado Springs this summer. Come expecting God to move in your heart and in your life! For more information visit our website: <a href="https://limbe.com/limb





Check out the LWML "Tidings"

The Tidings nameplate was redesigned for the 2022-2024 biennium to reflect a quietness and peacefulness that we sometimes need to have in our busy lives. See previous issues in their archives.



And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. — Philippians 4:7



## **BOARD UPDATES**

November 2025

The Rocky Mountain Board of Directors met for its final Board Meeting of 2025 on November 3-4, 2025.

Summary Bullet Points of Meeting

- -Discussion regarding our policy governance structure and organization.
- -Preliminary look at the 2026-2027 Mission and Ministry Plan.
- —Discussion on how can the Board better engage with the congregations, schools, and other ministries of the District.
- -Date of our next meeting is January 26-27, 2026.

The peace of our Lord be with you, Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors



#### ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

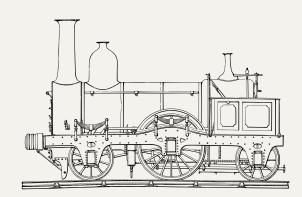
## **EXTRAS**

November 2025

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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 <u>here</u>



### **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