

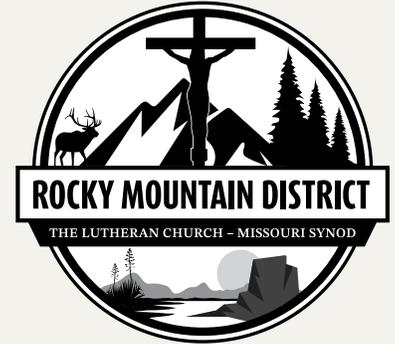
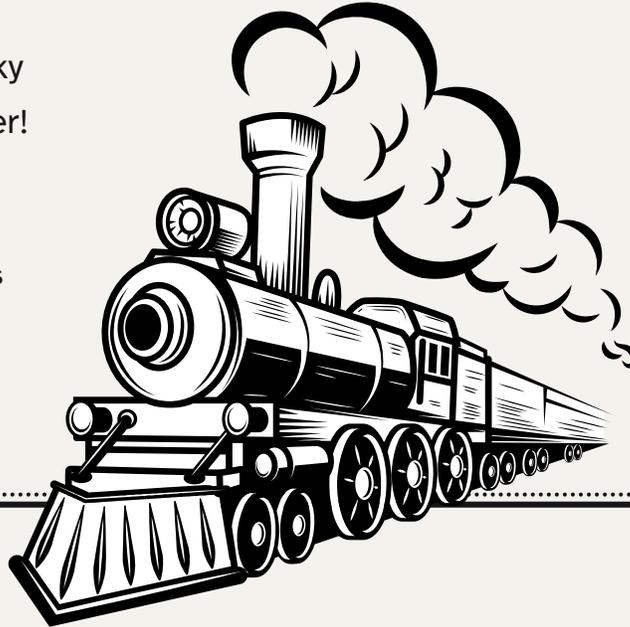
Rocky Mountain Express

February 2026

Welcome to the LCMS Rocky Mountain District Newsletter!

In this issue you will find...

- A Note from the President
- Installations and Ordinations
- Around the District
- Save the Date
- Extras



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I still feel like Christmas was just yesterday, but here we are on the door step of Lent. I pray that it is a most blessed season of self-reflection for each and every one of you as you ponder what it meant for our Lord to go to the cross for our redemption.

Whether you fast, give something up, or are much more intentional in your devotional life, may you see your Savior's suffering anew. Indeed we are dust and to dust we shall return.

Not one of us on our own has any merit or worthiness in us, but thanks be to God for Jesus! May God bless us as we meditate on His passion!



In Christ,
Rev. James B. Maxwell

INSTALLATIONS

February 2026

Rev. Joseph McCalley

Trinity, Cedar City, UT

The installation of Rev. Joseph M McCalley as Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Cedar City, Utah took place on Wednesday, February 11, 2026. The Presiding Minister and Installer was Rev. Justin Clark, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Murray, Utah and also the Utah Circuit Visitor. The guest preacher for the installation was Rev. Brian Flamme, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Roswell, New Mexico. Pastors from the other churches in the Utah circuit attended along with Rev. Dr. James Voelz, emeritus from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Approximately 60 people were in attendance for the installation and the members of Trinity look forward to having Rev. McCalley serve them in Cedar City, Utah.



From left to right:

Rev. Dr. James Voelz - St Louis Sem, Rev. Justin Clarke - Christ, Murray, Rev. Hank Malone - St. John's, SLC (front), Rev. Joe Pierson - Holy Trinity, Logan (back), Rev. Joseph McCalley - Trinity, Cedar City, Rev. Robert Bennett - First Lutheran, Tooele & Good Shepherd, Richfield (back), Rev. John Manweiler - Trinity, St George, Rev. Jeremy Lamont - Grace, Sandy, Rev. Alan Bennett - Holy Trinity, Riverton, Rev. Brian Flamme - Immanuel, Roswell, NM, Rev. Mark Christ - St. Paul, Ogden

INSTALLATIONS

February 2026

Pastor Doyle Boykin

Good Shepherd, Edgewood, NM

Originally from rural South Texas, Pastor Doyle Boykin was raised in the Lutheran church and recalls that church related activities were always an important and formative part of his youth. Sunday School, Youth Choir, Luther League, Boy Scouts & Confirmation were important activities for him and helped establish his fundamental love of service in Christ. Pastor Boykin is married to Terri, who, with his daughter Emma are his life's passion. Terri is a Registered Nurse and long-time Pediatric Intensive Care clinician. Emma is a bright and involved 8th-grader at Edgewood Middle School, she loves the Youth in Government program, choir, cats and hanging out with friends. Together, the three of them enjoy anything outdoors, especially hiking, biking, and gardening.

Pastor Boykin is a graduate of the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Specific Ministry Program (SMP). Ordained in 2016, he has served as the associate pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Cedar Crest, NM, as well as a substitute and vacancy pastor for local LCMS congregations. Since ordination, he has served regularly at some fourteen churches in central NM, including one of our smallest and one of our largest. Until now, he has served as a bi-vocational pastor, working in ministry, and as a registered nurse. An executive at Presbyterian Healthcare Services, he most recently, served as Vice President of Home Healthcare & Hospice Services. As of this Spring, he will retire from Healthcare and become Good Shepherd's sole pastor.

Pr. Boykin will serve as the third pastor in the history of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church--founded in 1988--succeeding the Rev. Ed Maas and the Rev. Philip Spomer, respectively. As an SMP graduate, Pr. Boykin had served as Associate Pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Cedar Crest, NM, prior to accepting the call to Good Shepherd.



Standing in the sanctuary of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, participants included:
 (Front Row, from l to r): Rev. Douglas Escue, Rev. Doyle Boykin, RMD President Rev. James Maxwell
 (Back Row, from l to r): Crucifer Peter Filipczak, Rev. Dustin Kear, SMP Vicar Previn Hudetz, Rev. John Raess, Rev. Michael Feuer, Rev. John Heffelfinger

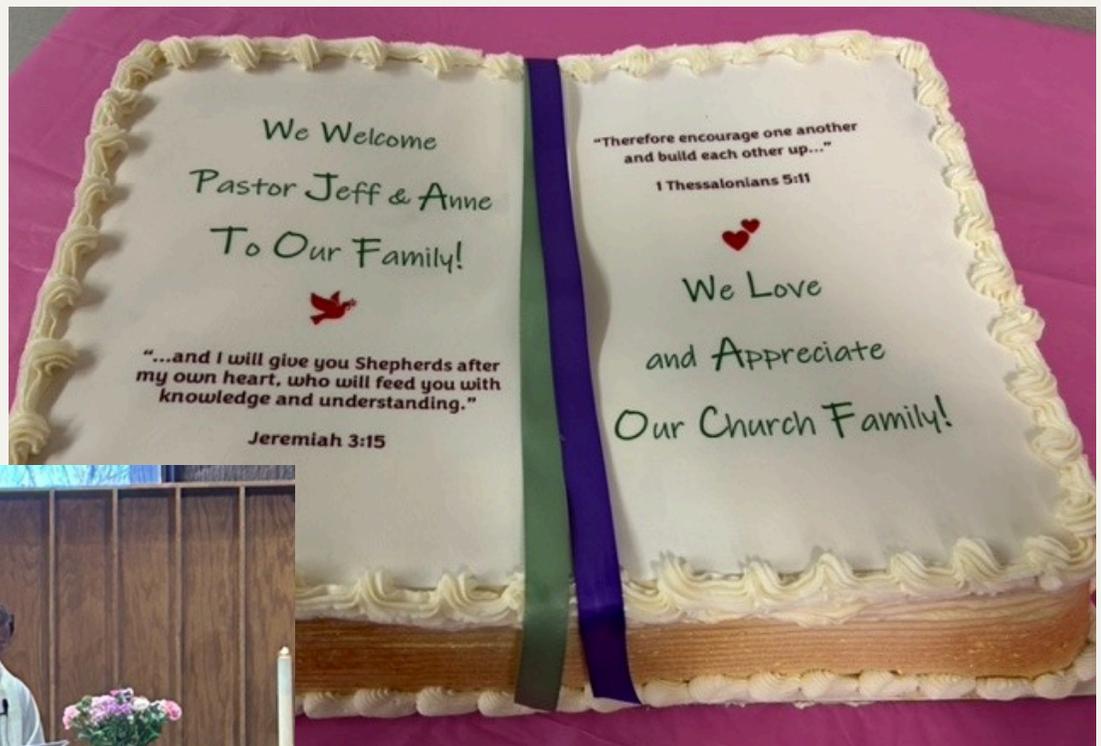
INSTALLATIONS

February 2026

Pastor Jeff Shearier

Intentional Interim of King of Kings, Arvada

Installed on February 15, 2026



AROUND THE DISTRICT

February 2026

In mid-January, Rev. Jason Cody and Deac. Melissa DeGroot, Assistants to the President for Mission, Advancement, and Mercy, visited several congregations and pastors to continue conversations surrounding mission opportunities in Utah. Key sites included Grace Lutheran Church in Moab and St. John's Lutheran Church in Salt Lake City. Please join us in prayer as clarity and direction continue to emerge, and as interest and support grow out of the 2025 District Convention vote to include Utah in a Million Dollar Mission Campaign over the next triennium.



Chaney Zinn, Amanda Sutliff, Pastor Hank Malone (of St John's Lutheran Church and Childcare) with Pastor Cody and Deac. DeGroot



St. John's Lutheran Church



Pastors Below and Fischer w/ Pastor Cody and Deac. DeGroot- in SLC



Christ Lutheran Church



Pastor Justin Clark of Christ Lutheran Church- Murray, UT with Deac. DeGroot



Grace Lutheran in Moab with Pastor Cody. He spoke with childcare directors and head elder, TC Garcia

AROUND THE DISTRICT

February 2026

Utah Mission Summits

The Rocky Mountain District adopted Utah as our mission effort for the triennium 2025-2028.

Come discuss mission opportunities with President Maxwell, Mission Executives Pastor Jason Cody and Deaconess Melissa DeGroot and how we can support the Gospel in Utah together!

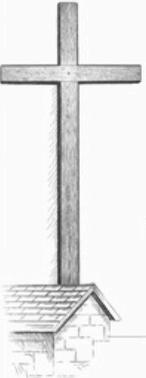


These events are for any and all interested in partnering together for the sake of Christ's Gospel in Utah, so please encourage your people to come!



To donate to the Utah Mission, please click [here](#).

YOU'RE INVITED



Utah Mission Summit

February 20, 2026 • 6:30PM
Trinity Lutheran Church • St. George, UT

Come discuss the mission opportunities with the District President and how we can support the Gospel in Utah together!

Contacts:
jason@rm.lcms.org
melissa@rm.lcms.org



YOU'RE INVITED



Utah Mission Summit

February 21, 2026 - 9:30AM
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - Riverton, UT

Come discuss the mission opportunities with the District President and how we can support the Gospel in Utah together!

Contacts:
jason@rm.lcms.org
melissa@rm.lcms.org



AROUND THE DISTRICT

February 2026

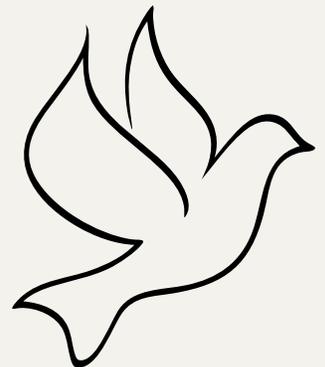
St. John, Canon City

baptized 8 people in worship



Hello, 8 on the 8th day!

Click here to read a devotion about these baptisms by Pastor Kletke



SAVE THE DATE

February 2026

Join us for
Beautiful Savior
Lutheran School's

22nd Annual Auction

March 7th, 2026

Doors open 3:30pm

Come along as we travel to...



Please join us for a night filled with Broadway lights, city sights, and the unmistakable energy of New York! The auction is our biggest fundraising event of the year where ALL proceeds go back to the school and our children!

July 20, 1957 stands as the first Sunday that the saints at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church of Broomfield gathered for regular Sunday morning worship. In the fall of 1980, our Lord blessed the community and congregation with a Preschool. As a ministry to the city of Broomfield, what began with a Preschool quickly grew to include a kindergarten class the following year. In 1989, our Christian Day School received its first principal and we continue to serve the surrounding communities with care for children from infancy to eighth grade.

Over the years, the Rocky Mountain District has been blessed with many congregations who have fought to give quality Christian education to their communities. Yet, many have had to shut their doors or scale back their service to the families around them due to various reasons. Thus, we give thanks to our Lord for allowing us to continue even as the challenges remain. With that, if you would like to join us for an evening of good food and fun, please join us for our annual auction on Saturday, March 7th.

The theme of this year's auction is, "New York" and doors will open at 3:30. We will start the festivities with a silent auction followed by a formal auction with a meal. Tickets begin at \$35 for an individual, \$60 for a couple, or a table for 8 at \$400. Auction items, donations, or ticket purchases can be made through the school office.

Please call 303-469-2049, or email office@bslcms.com for any questions.

SAVE THE DATE

February 2026

Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion and 75-voice choir from Concordia Nebraska



The 70-voice Concordia University Choir from Seward, Nebraska is coming to our area on their spring tour.

They will give a concert within the 10:30 service at Ascension Lutheran Church in Littleton on Sunday, March 15, under the direction of Professor Kurt von Kampen.

The repertoire for this tour includes a new composition by Benjamin Culli titled "Gratia Illuminat" for a cappella choir, as well as Kyle Pederson's a cappella dual choir setting of "Awake! Arise!" and an English translation of the fourth movement of Johannes Brahms' Requiem, "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place" for choir and reduced piano score.

The choir will also perform "Find the River Flowing On", a new piece arranged by David von Kampen with lyrics by Andrea von Kampen. The piece was premiered at the university's 2025 fall Honor Choir Day.



Ascension Lutheran Church
1701 W Caley Ave, Littleton, CO 80120

SAVE THE DATE

February 2026

Registration open for **Vocatio: Retreat** April 12–15, 2026

Prospective students explore path to ministry

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 13, 2026 — Vocatio: Retreat, an annual visit event held on campus at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is set for April 12–15, 2026. The three-day retreat offers college students and second-career adults an introduction to life as a seminarian.

The retreat provides opportunities for participants to explore preparation for service as a pastor, deaconess, missionary or chaplain through time spent at worship services, in conversation and at sessions focused on ministerial formation, with an optional fourth day to extend the visit. Participants will worship in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus, spend time in God's Word, engage in conversations with Seminary faculty and students, and explore the Seminary campus. The retreat also provides opportunities to connect with others who are discerning a similar call.

"The Lord of the harvest invites us to pray earnestly for more laborers to be sent into His harvest fields," said Rev. Jesse Kueker, director of Enrollment. "The fields are ripe, and for those discerning the possibility of serving the church as a pastor, deaconess, chaplain or missionary, Vocatio: Retreat offers the perfect opportunity to come, pray and get your questions answered. Please come! We cannot wait to welcome you, receive the Lord's gifts alongside you, and pray for you throughout all the steps ahead."

Registration is free and low-cost lodging options are available, but space is limited.

The registration deadline is Sunday, March 22.

About Concordia Seminary: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis provides Gospel-centered graduate-level theological education for pastors, missionaries, deaconesses, scholars and other leaders in the name of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). To learn more, visit csl.edu.



SAVE THE DATE

February 2026



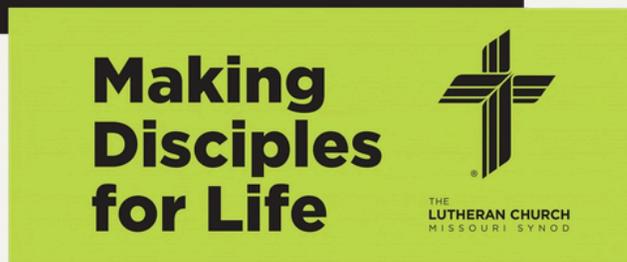
Colorado March for Life

Save the Date: April 17, 2026

Rocky Mountain District online registration will open March 1.

Please stay tuned for additional details regarding the event schedule and bus transportation.

For inquiries, please contact
Deaconess Melissa DeGroot at melissa@rm.lcms.org



EXTRAS

February 2026

**CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL****Concordia St. Paul Direct Admit Program:**

Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP) has announced a new Direct Admission Program guaranteeing admission to all graduates of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) high schools into any of CSP's undergraduate programs, both on campus and online, effective immediately for Fall 2026 enrollment. This initiative strengthens the Lutheran education pipeline by removing unnecessary barriers to admission and affirming CSP's confidence in the academic preparation and faith formation provided by LCMS secondary schools. It reflects the university's commitment to walking alongside LCMS families, congregations, and schools as students continue their academic and vocational journeys. Learn more [HERE](#).

**Concordia St. Paul's Denver Nursing Program:**

CSP is excited to announce its newest location in Denver with its Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program. Designed to fit busy schedules, CSP's program offers hands-on learning, expert faculty, and practical skills for career growth or transition. Earn your degree in as little as 16 months, with three start dates each year—January, May, and September. Learn more [HERE](#).

**CSP Announces \$0 Tuition for Church Work Programs**

Concordia University, St. Paul's Church Work Tuition Guarantee provides free tuition to all students preparing for full-time church work vocations beginning fall of 2026. This initiative affirms CSP's long-standing mission to prepare workers for the church wherever and however they are called to serve. Learn more [HERE](#).



EXTRAS

February 2026

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



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

District Employee Contacts

Dcs. Melissa DeGroot; Assistant to the President for Mission & Mercy

Rev. Jason Cody; Assistant to the President for Mission & Advancement

Naomi Moon; Assistant to the President for Communications

Monique Hjalmquist; Administrative Assistant to the President

Jim Kuehnert; Business Office