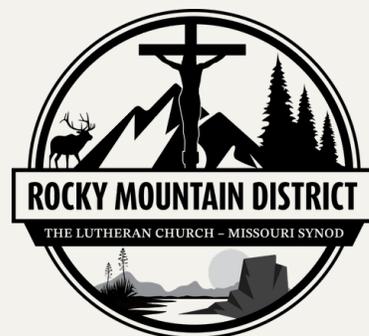
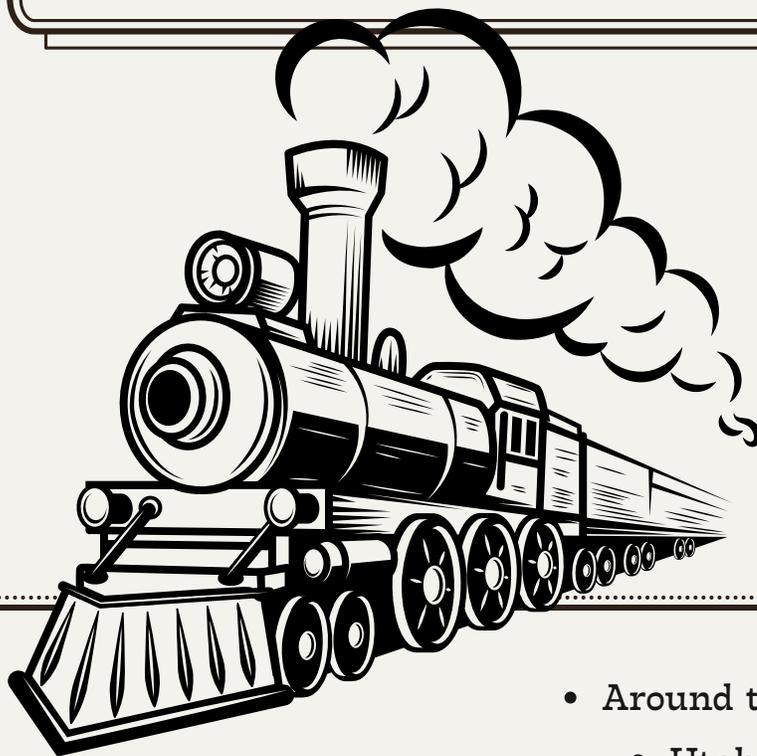


Rocky Mountain Express

March 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
 - Utah Mission
 - Thank you for Pastor Abel
- Save the Date
 - Seven Circuits Spring Conference
 - Southern Region Pastor's Conference
 - LWML Convention
 - March for Life
 - Call Day for Seminaries
- Extras

A Note From the President

March 2026

I notice things now as a district president that I never noticed when I was only serving as a pastor. As I was reflecting upon my Lenten disposition this year, i.e. the things I'm doing and things I'm not doing to meditate upon my Savior, I realized that I have to be much more intentional about things. When my day-to-day life was active parish ministry, it was so much easier to have a consistent rhythm which in turn made it easier to keep the Lenten fast. Is this what the laity feel all the time? In this way, the importance of what our workers do for the sake of

God's people cannot be underestimated! For both young and old!

I still remember in kindergarten when my teacher Mrs. Dal Ferro taught us about Good Friday and Easter.

The craft was simple. We planted grass seeds in a pot and placed a cross in the center of the pot, but it was timed in such a way that if we watered it regularly, on Easter Sunday the grass would be starting to come up all around the cross symbolizing the resurrection. It makes me wonder how many others remember that very simple lesson if I too still remember it.

We have so many people that are influenced by our teaching. There are so many people every day who know anew what our Almighty can do because of our workers! To our Pastors, teachers, DCEs, deaconesses, as you have worked harder during this time of the church year to help our people see their salvation anew, thank you! It truly makes an eternal difference to folks who may not know it otherwise!



In Christ,
Rev. James B. Maxwell

Installations

March 2026

DEACONESS NAOMI MOON

Rocky Mountain District Communications

Naomi Moon was commissioned and installed on February 22, 2026, as a Deaconess serving the Rocky Mountain District as Assistant to the President for Communications. Naomi graduated from Concordia Seward with an undergraduate degree in Theology and DCE and completed her deaconess education in the summer of 2025 from Concordia Seminary St. Louis in the Online Deaconess Program. Naomi continued online studies through Concordia Seminary St. Louis and is currently finishing her final semester for a Master's of Spiritual Care.

Naomi's husband, Aidan, is currently Associate Pastor at Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs but has accepted a call from the Office of International Mission to be an Army Chaplain. Naomi and Aidan have three children, four and under.

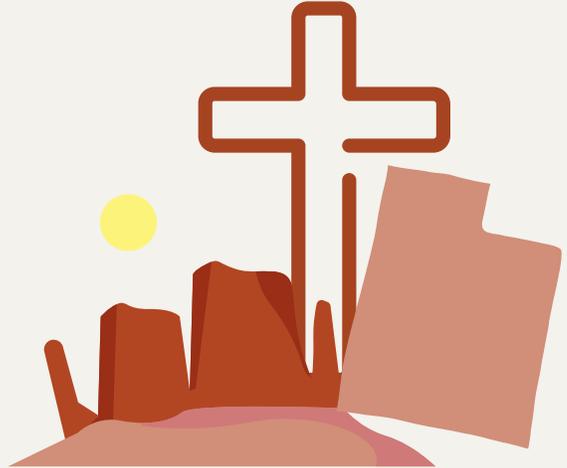


Around the District

March 2026

UTAH MISSION

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



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



President Maxwell, Deaconess Melissa DeGroot, and Pastor Jason Cody met with Utah leaders in March to discuss upcoming opportunities for ministry, connection, and collaboration.



Around the District

March 2026

THANK YOU!

A big "thank you!" to Pastor Abel for presenting on the ultimate questions of life - identity, purpose, truth, freedom, and hope - and equipping church workers, educators, and families to recognize how the influences of the world can mix with biblical truth. He discussed how to engage in thoughtful, Christ-centered conversations with confidence and compassion.



Pastor Abel had four presentations districtwide in New Mexico, North and South Denver, and Utah to over 350 participants of principals, directors, teachers, educators, and church workers.

nurturing
the faith

Save the Date

March 2026

SEVEN CIRCUITS

PASTORS SPRING CONFERENCE - 2026

DATE:

April 20-22 at
YMCA, Estes Park,
Colorado

SPEAKER:

Dr. A. Andrew Das,
Professor
Department of
Religious Studies at
the Elmhurst
University in
Elmhurst Illinois.

TOPIC:

Paul, the Mosaic
Law, and
Remarriage, with a
Little Thessalonian
Detour.

REGISTRATION:

[Click here for registration form](#)



[Click here for full schedule](#)



Save the Date

March 2026

THE LCMS RMD SOUTHERN REGION PASTORS' CONFERENCE SPRING CONFERENCE

DATE:

The Southern Region Pastor's Conference is scheduled for **April 27-29, 2026**, Mon. - Wed., at the Drury Plaza Hotel, Santa Fe, NM.

The Spring Conference was held in 2022 and 2023 at the Drury Plaza Hotel. In addition to a special room and parking rate offered by the Drury.

All rooms will be further discounted due to a generous donor.

Sandia North Circuit is the hosting circuit.

GUEST

SPEAKER:

Dr. Adam Francisco, a Fellow with 1517.org. Before joining 1517.org, Dr. Francisco served as professor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Concordia University/Chicago, and Concordia University/Irvine.



TOPIC:

"After Christendom" Dr. Francisco's presentation will consider what it means to be Lutheran in a rapidly de-christianizing, post-Christian culture.

Information about conference and hotel registration will be coming soon.

Please contact Pastor Escue with any questions.



Click here for flyer



Save the Date

March 2026

LWML ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT CONVENTION



DATE:

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, based on Matthew 17:20b. We have planned a Spirit-filled gathering of women from all walks of life!

GUEST SPEAKER:

Pastor Gary Piepkorn is our keynote speaker.

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. Bible studies and inspirational mission speakers are a highlight.

REGISTRATION:

Early discount registration ends April 1, 2026. Register now! 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 and to register visit our website:

lwmlrmd.org.



Save the Date

March 2026

COLORADO MARCH FOR LIFE

APRIL 17, 2026

Let's have a large LCMS presence at the Colorado March For Life!

Rev. James Maxwell, President, RM District LCMS will be leading the opening prayer.

Whether you are driving or need transportation, please register. We will gather at the rally to represent the Rocky Mountain District (LCMS) - look for the lime green flags and signs. Please note: Bus seats require registration to reserve a spot.

Register by April 10th!

[Click here to register](#)



[Click here for individual registration](#)



Bus Transportation

We will charter a bus from the north again, with stops at Faith in Johnstown (8:30 am) and Mt. Zion in Denver. Plan to join us for the Prayer Service at Mt. Zion and reserve a seat on the bus to the event.

For more information, please contact Deaconess Melissa DeGroot districtlifecoordinator@gmail.com, 401-301-1880 (call or text).



SCHEDULE:

8:30 am - Bus departs Faith Lutheran Church 3999 So. 1st. St., Johnstown to Mt Zion, Denver
 9:30 am - LCMS Prayer Service - Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, 500 Drake Street, Denver
 10:15 am - Bus departs to Rally
 11:00 am - Rally - Colorado State Capitol, 200 E. Colfax, Denver
 12:00 pm - March - Colorado State Capitol
 1:15 pm - Bus departs back to churches

Save the Date

March 2026

CALL DAY DATES



Vicarage & Diaconess Internship
Assignment Service
Tuesday, April 28, 7:00 p.m.
Preacher: Rev. Eric T. Lange
Redeemer Lutheran Church,
Gresham, Oregon, and First Vice-
President of the Northwest
District

Candidate Call Service
Wednesday, April 29, 7:00 p.m.
Preacher: Rev. Dr. William A.
Harmon
President of the Southeastern
District

[Click here for CTSFW Call Day
Website](#)



CSL Call Day is April 28, 2026.
Assignments and calls will be
announced and celebrated
during two worship services in
the Chapel of St. Timothy and
St. Titus:

Assignment of Vicarages and
Diaconess Internships Tuesday,
April 28, at 3 p.m. (CDT)

Assignment of Calls
Tuesday, April 28, at 7:00 p.m.
(CDT).

[Click here for CSL Call Day
Website](#)



Extras

March 2026

QUESTIONS

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

Will Vann; Assistant to the President for Education

Dcs. Naomi Moon; Assistant to the President for Communications

Monique Hjalmquist; Administrative Assistant to the President

Jim Kuehnert; Business Office