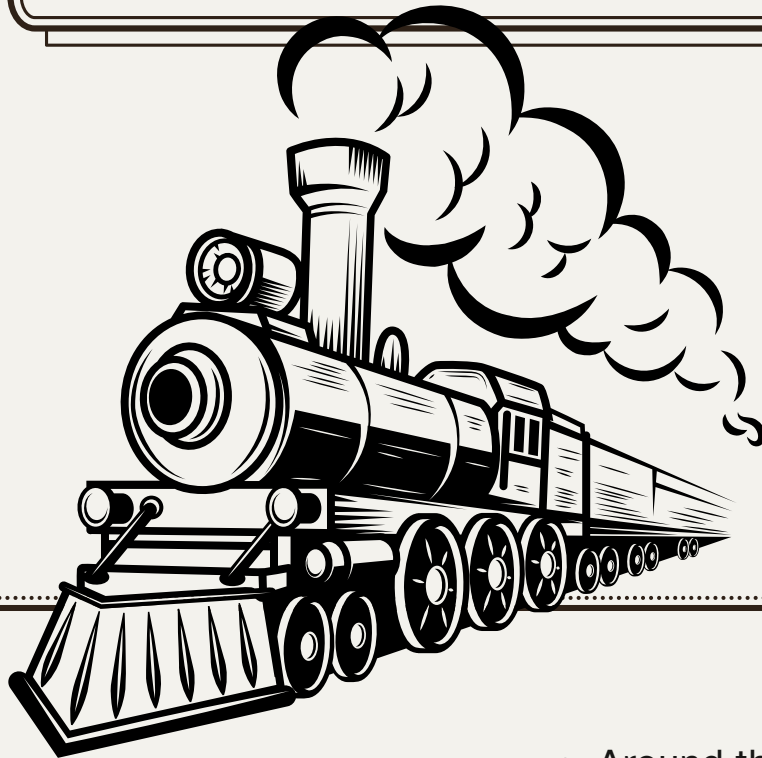


Rocky Mountain Express

July 2026



Welcome to the LCMS Rocky Mountain District Newsletter!

In this issue you will find...

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

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A Note From the President

July 2026

How often when we pray, “Thy will be done” do we really mean, my will be done? I write this as a number of things are not lining up with my expectations, and of course this is incredibly frustrating when time and energy have been devoted to such things. To not succeed leaves us in question and sometimes implies failure, and not many of us are good at eating humble pie. And yet God constantly reminds us that His word does not return empty (Isaiah 55)

And He always works all things for the good of those who love him (Romans 8:28).

May we continue to pray “Thy will be done.” Be that in our personal lives or our life together as church. As we pray for something, and the Lord does not bless it. May we still praise His name.

As a Call is returned. As an offer is not accepted. As a direction in ministry needing to change trajectory. May His will be done!

As our Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod meets in Convention next week, may all our proceedings be guided by our Lord. May His will be done! And may He work all things for the good of those who love Him.



In Christ,
Rev. James B. Maxwell

Installations

July 2026

Rev. Tim Norton

Trinity, Gallup, NM

My family is my wife Heidi (who is the District Vice President of Christian Life for the Rocky Mountain District LWML), my son Philip starting his vicarage at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Gresham, OR, and my daughter Leslie who is at her D.C.E. internship at Christ Lutheran Church in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. I graduated from Concordia University in Portland, OR in 1995 with a B.A. in Director of Christian Ed.



I served two congregations in Fresno, CA and Portland, OR as a D.C.E and I was a missionary in West Africa from 1999-2011. I completed two Master of Arts degrees, one in 2013 from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary (Master of Arts in Mission and Evangelism) and the other in 2017 from Concordia University Irvine (Master of Arts in Theology). This latter one was the program I went through to become an ordained pastor in the LCMS. It is called the CMC. It is a program run jointly with CUI and Concordia Seminary St. Louis.

I have been serving as a missionary on the Navajo Reservation since 2013, first as a D.C.E. and then I was ordained in 2017. I am excited by the opportunities to share the gospel in this place. Trinity Lutheran Church in Gallup is 43 miles away from Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, nevertheless the two have become a dual point parish. We have many children in both communities, so we can teach them the faith from a young age. There are many non-Christians in this area as well as those who do not know the comfort of Christ crucified for them. It is our joy and privilege to announce this Good News to this place.

Installations

July 2026



Pastor Eric Borchers

Christ Lutheran in Breckenridge,
Sunday, June 28

*Back Row (L to R): Pastor Dale Critchley, Pastor Roger Schlechte, Pastor Larry McGurer,
Pastor Jon Muhly*

Front Row (L to R): Pastor Pete Scheele, Pastor Eric Borchers, Pastor Guy Roberts

My wife, Christa, and I are blessed with a wonderful blended family of five adult children, a son-in-law, a daughter-in-law, and one precious granddaughter. With our children now grown, we are enjoying this new season of life together and are grateful to call Summit County home. We look forward to serving this wonderful community for years to come.

I grew up on my family's cattle ranch in South Texas, where I learned the value of hard work, faith, family, and community.

After one semester of college, I was blessed with the opportunity to serve with a missionary from my church. Over the next two and a half years, I traveled throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico helping recruit volunteers for mission projects in Mexico.

Once the volunteer teams had been gathered and prepared, I moved to a small mountain village in the San Pablo region of Mexico, where I lived for eight months. I later served for ten years in the United States Air Force, first in Counter Intelligence and later in Combat Control serving Joint Special Operations. During my military service, I earned degrees in Aerospace Science and Tactical and Strategic Intelligence. Following a medical retirement due to a head injury, God opened the door for me to attend Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to prepare for pastoral ministry.

Since graduating from the seminary, I have been blessed to serve Trinity Lutheran Church in Gardnerville, Nevada; Zion Lutheran Church in San Francisco, California; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas; and now Christ Lutheran Church in Breckenridge, Colorado.

Christa and I are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve in this new call. This is a unique mission field! It brings together lifelong residents, young families, seasonal workers, retirees, and visitors from around the world. That diversity creates countless opportunities to build relationships and share the hope that is found in Jesus Christ.

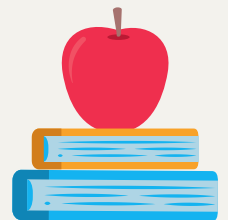
I am excited to walk alongside people in every season of life—celebrating joyful moments, offering Christ's comfort during difficult ones, and helping people grow deeper in their faith through God's Word and Sacraments. My prayer is that Christ Lutheran Church will continue to be a place where people are welcomed, encouraged, and equipped to live as disciples of Jesus both here in Summit County and wherever God leads them.

Around the District

July 2026

In honor of Colorado's 150th anniversary, the Colorado Department of Early Childhood encouraged people to nominate 150 individuals who exemplify excellence in education and serve as advocates for young children and their families. The following 5 individuals who serve in Lutheran schools were recognized this spring.

Sonya Acker – director/principal Beautiful Savior, Broomfield
 Sami White – assistant director Beautiful Savior, Broomfield
 Anita Yanke – preschool teacher Beautiful Savior, Broomfield
 Kristi Bower – director Mt. Olive, Aurora
 Gwen Marshall – director/teacher Trinity, Greeley



Around the District

July 2026

Click [here](#) for a link to the
Rocky Mountain District Disaster
Response fund



These financial resources are used to deploy local LCMS churches and ministries in being the hands and feet of mercy within their community, meeting the material and spiritual needs of those affected by a disaster, including wildfires, flooding, tornadoes and other events.



Save the Date

July 2026

Summer Continuing Education Course

Topic: Theological Anthropology

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Detlev Schulz, CTSFW

When: July 27-29, 2026

Where: Grace Lutheran Church,
7550 Eubank NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122

[Register Here](#)



Save the Date

July 2026



One Stone

AT A TIME
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All Worker's Conference - Speakers

General session and special speakers will include:

Rev. Dr. Justin Hanneman - The Trinity of Vocation: A Path Toward Security in Ministry, The Developing Mind in the Digital Age

Rev. Dr. Richard J. Serina - The Office and Vocation of the Lutheran Pastor—Past and Present

Mrs. Liane Henkell - Pastor's Wives Event

Bil Hood - The Genesis of Creativity

Sarah Salzberg - Educator's Session



Click [here](#) for all information on website



Click [HERE](#) for more detailed information about speaker biographies and topics.



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Save the Date

July 2026

All Worker's Conference Sponsorship Information

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS AND BENEFITS

Platinum – \$5,000

- Prime Placement of Two Exhibitor Tables
- 3 minutes of “face time” or a Video in one of the Educator AND Pastor Conference General Sessions
- Ability to Place a Flyer or Swag on Educators Conference Tables
- Listed on Event Web Page as Platinum Sponsor
- Inclusion on List of Sponsors in Conference Emails to the List of Attendees with a Clickable Link to URL of Your Choice

Gold – \$2,500

- Exhibitor Table
- Inclusion in Sponsor Slides that Run Before and After Each General Session
- Ability to Place a Flyer or Swag on Educators Conference Tables
- Listed on Event Web Page as Gold Sponsor
- Inclusion on List of Sponsors in Conference Emails to the List of Attendees with a Clickable Link to URL of Your Choice

Silver – \$750

- Exhibitor Table
- Inclusion in Sponsor Slides that Run Before and After Each General Session
- Inclusion on List of Sponsors in Conference Emails to the List of Attendees with a Clickable Link to URL of Your Choice

Exhibitor Only – \$250

- Exhibitor Table
- Participation in breakfast offerings

Extras

July 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