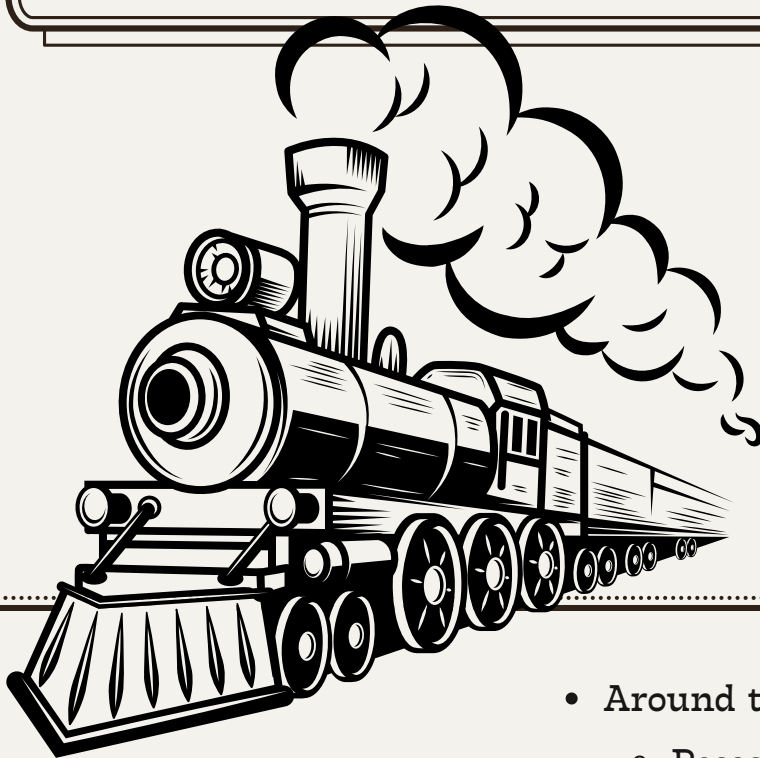


Rocky Mountain Express

April 2026



WELCOME TO THE LCMS ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT NEWSLETTER!

In this issue you will find...

- A Note from the President
- Installations
- Around the District
 - Pecos Circuit Winkel
 - March for Life
 - LHF Candidates
- Save the Date
 - Pastors' Wives Retreat
 - Immanuel All-Years Reunion
 - Southern Region Pastor Conference
 - Seven Circuit Conference
 - LWML Convention
 - Call Day Dates
- Extras

A Note From the President

April 2026

No sooner did we remember the new life given to us by our Savior on Easter than we participated in the Colorado State March for Life. Thank you to everyone who came out to walk with us! Below please find the prayer we Lutherans offered to close the rally based on Psalm 46:

“O Lord, You are our refuge and strength, our very present help in time of trouble – even today...We pray that we would not fear though so much on earth continues to give way, and often easier would it be for the mountains to be moved into the heart of the sea...

we watch as waters roar and foam around us... and we with the mountains tremble... And yet, you provide... streams of living water make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High, and because you are in our midst, may we not be moved... For you will be our help when morning dawns.

And though the nations rage, and kingdoms rise and totter, you but utter your voice, and all melt before you...

You are with us. And you, the God of Jacob, you are our fortress.

Even on this day, may we behold your works... and be that desolation or the end of war... may your will be done... breaking bows and shattering spears... and chariots of fire...

May we be still, and know that You God... May you again be exalted among the nations, indeed exalted in all the earth!" May we remember today that You are with us. You are the God of Jacob, and you are our fortress."

In your name we pray.
Amen.



In Christ,
Rev. James B. Maxwell

Installations

April 2026

INSTALLATION OF AIDAN MOON INTO MILITARY CHAPLAINCY

Pastor Aidan Moon was installed as a Chaplain to the U.S. Army on April 19, 2026. His first station will be Fort Drum, in upstate NY.



Around the District

April 2026

The Pecos Circuit gathered in Ruidoso for their monthly Winkel, welcoming Deaconess Melissa DeGroot to share updates from the district. During her visit, Rebecca Rust graciously gave a tour of the area and shared the stories of the devastating fires and floods that have affected the community over the past three years.



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church—where Pastor Jason Rust serves—has been deeply involved in disaster response efforts, partnering with Synod, Recognized Service Organizations, and local responders to care for those impacted.

Please keep this congregation and the Ruidoso community in your prayers as they prepare for the coming summer season.



Around the District

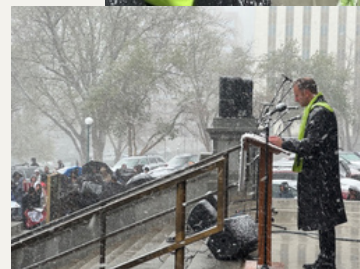
April 2026

COLORADO MARCH FOR LIFE APRIL 17, 2026

Despite a true taste of Colorado spring—complete with snow, freezing temperatures, and blustery winds—the Colorado March for Life on April 17 proved to be a meaningful and well-attended witness for life. The day began with Morning Prayer and fellowship at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Denver, where participants gathered for breakfast before traveling together to the State Capitol for the rally and march.

The Rocky Mountain District was well represented, with over 100 participants, including youth, pastors, and church members. Approximately 50 students from Lutheran High School helped lead the march, while the rest of the LCMS group followed, singing beloved hymns with gusto—a bold and joyful witness amid the cold.

While the weather added an extra layer of adventure, spirits remained strong as marchers stood together in support of life at every stage. We were especially grateful that President Maxwell led the closing prayer, bringing the day to a Christ-centered conclusion and reminding us that our work is rooted not only in advocacy, but in hope, mercy, and the Lord's steadfast care.



Around the District

April 2026

LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION SEEKING CANDIDATES:

Due to LHF Executive Director Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise's upcoming retirement, the Lutheran Heritage Foundation has begun the search for a new LHF Executive Director. As an LCMS recognized service organization, qualified candidates must be an ordained LCMS pastor who is passionate about LHF's work of translating and publishing the good books of our Lutheran faith for churches in nearly 100 countries around the world.

To learn more about this position AND to submit your name (or the name of a person you believe would be qualified) for consideration of this Call, please go to www.LHFmissions.org/lhf-executive-director-search.



Save the Date

April 2026

A RETREAT FOR PASTORS' WIVES

The Rocky Mountain District is pleased to announce the beginning of plans for our first Pastors' Wives Retreat, scheduled for April 2027. Our planning committee has been meeting since the beginning of the year and is gaining wonderful momentum as they begin putting the details together.

Please take a moment to meet our committee members— affectionately nicknamed “JAMME” (Joy, Alyssa, Melanie, Melissa, and Edie)— who are enthusiastically dedicating their time to plan a meaningful

and refreshing gathering for the pastors' wives of our district. See their bios on the following pages.

DATE:

APRIL 2027

**REST, RENEWAL,
AND FELLOWSHIP**

Save the Date

April 2026

PASTORS' WIVES RETREAT COMMITTEE MEMEBERS

Deac. Melissa DeGroot, Chair
RMD Assistant to the President
for Mission and Mercy
Transplanted by God from the
Northeast to the Southwest eight
years ago.

My husband, Adam, serves as sole
pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church
in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, and
our son, Knox, recently turned 15.
I am delighted and honored to
serve as chair of the Pastors' Wives
Retreat Planning Committee.



Questions? Please reach out
to Deaconess Melissa
DeGroot at
melissa@rm.lcms.org

It is our prayer that the
Rocky Mountain District's
first retreat will help foster a
lasting community of
encouragement and care for
our pastors' wives. While our
pastors are faithfully
supported in their callings,
we also want their wives to
feel seen, strengthened, and
uplifted in the important
vocations they carry.

I am especially grateful to
serve alongside Joy, Alyssa,
Melanie, and Edie, who have
generously volunteered their
time to help plan this event.
Their experience, strength,
and hope in Christ will be a
great blessing as we prepare
for this retreat.

Stay tuned for updates on
Registration, Speakers and
Schedules via this
newsletter and our new
website.

See "JAMME"'s bios on the
following pages.

Save the Date

April 2026

PASTORS' WIVES RETREAT COMMITTEE MEMEBERS CONT.

Alyssa Hahn

Tim and I in the middle, our exchange student Ada next to Tim, and our niece Lisa next to me.

My family and I currently live in Haxtun, CO where Tim serves as pastor at Immanuel Lutheran. Our exchange student Ada from Romania has been with us since August and will be flying home in mid-June. Our niece Lisa has been living with us since last May. I work at a small insurance agency, but my passion is in the church, particularly with my junior high students and their youth group that I started. I also lead a young women's Bible study each morning 6 days a week. I am so excited to help plan with the PW Retreat because it's important for these ladies to be able to build relationships with others who are dealing with the same issues, how and heart breaks, those who can truly emphasize with what we each go through.



Joy Lietzau

I live in Arvada, CO, and my husband serves at Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church. We have 4 children: Emmaus-14, Nazareth-12, Arimathea-10, Salem-8. In addition to my role as a pastor's wife, I am also an Registered Nurse Care Coordinator at Denver Health in Denver, CO.

Why I am excited to help plan the Pastors' Wives' Retreat: Being a pastor's wife is a unique opportunity that comes with both joys and struggles. My hope is that a retreat will give other pastors' wives in the RMD the occasion to share with each other those delights and hardships and to be a support in creating a sense of normalcy in that role.



Save the Date

April 2026

PASTORS' WIVES RETREAT COMMITTEE MEMEBERS CONT.

Melanie Aardsvold

Hi, I'm Melanie Aardsvold! My family and I live in Denver, CO, where my husband PJ is called to serve Renewal Church, a multisite ministry with St. John's Church. We have a 5 year old son named Talek, a 2 year old daughter named Lilly, and a 10 month old little son named Levi. I am blessed to be working my dream job as a stay at home mom right now.

I am so excited to help plan the Pastors' Wives Retreat because we have such an awesome group of women in our district supporting ministry, and I am so happy we will get a chance to be encouraged and refreshed by the word of God together!



Edie Delin

Edie lives in Durango, CO where her husband, Ben, serves at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. She is mom to Gus, Gemma, and Charis. When she isn't chasing kids around, she also works at their school, leads the handbell choir, and coordinates a community Bible study. Edie is excited to help plan the Pastor's Wives Retreat because bringing people together in community is one of her greatest joys.



Save the Date

April 2026

Immanuel Lutheran School All-Years Reunion

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Colo Spgs, CO

Celebrating its 125th Anniversary

will host an All-Years Reunion of its school covering the
years 1951 – 2009

Saturday June 20th, 2026, 12:00pm

If you're a former student, teacher or volunteer from the
school, please join us for a time to reconnect with
classmates and friends.

- Tours of the School and Church will be available
- Refreshments will be provided
- Church Office: (719) 636-5011

Date: Saturday, Jun 20th, 2026

Time: 12:00-4:00pm

Place: Immanuel Lutheran School Gym
828 E. Pikes Peak Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903



*School
Reunion*

Save the Date

April 2026

SEVEN CIRCUITS

PASTORS SPRING CONFERENCE - 2026

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



THE LCMS RMD SOUTHERN REGION PASTORS' CONFERENCE

SPRING CONFERENCE

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



LWML ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT CONVENTION

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



Vicarage & Deaconess Internship
Assignment Service

Tuesday, April 28, 7:00 p.m.

Candidate Call Service

Wednesday, April 29, 7:00 p.m.

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



CSL Call Day is April 28, 2026.

Assignment of Vicarages and Deaconess

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](#)



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

rm.lcms.org

Extras

April 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