

MAKING CHRIST KNOWN



Central States Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

March 2011

Number 210

From the Bishop



Rev. Dr. Gerald Mansholt

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love (Joel 2:13).

Lent is a time for coming home, a time for returning to God when we have wandered far away, perhaps even lost our way. Returning home to God we discover anew who we are and what God has promised.

My 85 year-old father entered assisted living recently and I was able to visit him shortly after the move. We had one of our longer conversations of recent years if not the longest ever. It was a conversation that wandered all over the place for nearly 4 hours, from his childhood to mine to this point in time. I left knowing some-

thing more about myself because of what was shared, because we revisited the home that shaped me.

Our lives are restless until they rest in thee, proclaimed St. Augustine. In our restlessness we journey down paths that do not satisfy our longings. We make decisions that take us in one direction or another. While part of the journey may be unto good, it is also a journey into addiction, wasted energy, lost opportunities, wrong-headed priorities, destructive behaviors. It happens to individuals, to families, to congregations. We lose our way.

Lent is a time to turn around, to recalibrate the spiritual GPS and head toward where we belong, from whence we came, where life and salvation is found. Lent is a time for all to find their way home, for congregations to rediscover their spiritual roots, for pastors and all the baptized to tend to the life of prayer.

As we lean into the Lenten season, I pray this might be a time of renewal for us all, a deepening of a life of prayer, a grounding of our lives in the grace and

mercy of God in Jesus Christ. I pray this for pastors who labor faithfully in challenging days and a vexing culture. I pray this for diacodal ministers who lead us in service to the world and associates in ministry whose gifts help faith to grow in praise of God. I pray this for lay leaders who want their congregations to be gatherings for growth in faith, life and mission. I pray this for all the baptized of our congregations, that we might all turn toward home.

We all know of people who could never return their earthly home, their homes being places of judgment and abuse, their families broken and estranged. We give thanks that God our Father meets us in Jesus Christ, in the cross and resurrection, with grace and mercy toward all.

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love (Joel 2:13).



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Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provided by CIGNA. Go to www.cignabehavioral.com for more information.

Making Christ Known

A publication of the Central States
Synod

Published monthly by the Central States Synod, ELCA. Deadline for submission of materials is the 15th of the month for the subsequent issue. News may be directed to Dan Glamann, Email: dglamann@css-elca.org.

Permission is granted to ELCA congregations and members to reproduce any portion of this newsletter.



Pr. Kris Dietzen (St. Mark, Olathe KS, pastorkrisd@aol.com) and her family as they provide support for their mother, Marcheta Dietzen in Springdale AR, who is recovering from a broken right ankle and sprained left ankle;

The ELCA Conference of Bishops as they meet this week;

Faisa Atomsa (leader of the Oromo community meeting at Gloria Dei in KCMO, TEEM candidate, faisat6@yahoo.com) as he travels to Ethiopia to be with his sister, Rachel, who is gravely ill. Faisa has not been to Ethiopia for 11 years, when he left to go to a refugee camp and subsequently came to the States;

Lord, in your mercy ...

All those who grieve the death of Pr. Dale Gregoriew, who died on February 4 in Allen, Texas. Pr. Gregoriew served First Lutheran in Topeka 1976-1989. <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dallasmorningnews/Obituary.aspx?pid=148439608>

Pr. Rod Nordby and Nancy Anderson, our missionaries in Papua New Guinea (nbanderson47@gmail.com), at the death of Rod's mother on February 13 in North Dakota. Rod and Nancy are traveling to the States to be present with family during this time of grief and hope;

Pr. Anita Strommen (serving Clyde United Methodist, revdavidstrommen@sbcglobal.net) at the death of her grandmother, Rosie Powell, in Concordia KS;

Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine on them...

Pr. Orin Cummings (wincummings@gmail.com) and the people of Blue Ridge Trinity in Raytown, MO following his installation, Feb. 13. Pr Cummings was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana, and comes to us after pursuing his PhD at Luther Seminary;

Pr. Kimberly Knowle (kimberlyknowle@gmail.com) and the people of Christ & Trinity in Sedalia MO following her installation, Feb. 27;

For God's good and amazing grace, we lift our prayers of thanksgiving ...

To receive prayers throughout the month by email and/or be added to the prayer list, please email Rev. Janice Kibler at jkibler@css-elca.org.



BY MS STEPHANIE MCDOWELL, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Bethany signs Exchange Agreement with Karlstad University

LINSDBORG, KAN. —Bethany College signed an exchange agreement with Karlstad University, Värmland County, Sweden, on January 26, 2011. The agreement established a partnership with Karlstad, and it will encourage the exchange of students and faculty between the two institutions.

The agreement pays tribute to historical connections as well as forges new ones. President Edward Leonard III of Bethany College said, "This is a way Bethany College can honor its Swedish heritage. In today's globalized world, exchange programs like this can help connect Bethany's students with other cultures and prepare them for future interactions. We look forward to building our relationship with Karlstad University."

Bishop Esbjörn Hagbergs of Karlstad welcomes the agreement: "I am very happy that the link between Värmland and Lindsborg is still developing, and a sign of that is the relationship with Bethany College. It is so important to meet, learn from each other, and build relations between institutions and people. To build bridges to history is to build a world of peace!"

The agreement provides Bethany's students with another opportunity for international travel and study. Bethany recently formed a relationship with Harlaxton College in Grantham, England, and has sent both students and faculty there. Dr. Eugene Bales, Provost and Dean of Bethany College, says, "Now we are taking the next step by creating a working relationship with Karlstad University."

Professor Thomas A. Wennstam, a political science instructor at Karlstad University, signed on the university's behalf. Wennstam had visited Bethany College as a lecturer for the course "A Swedish Per-

spective on World Politics. He said, "Karlstad University welcomes students from Bethany College to take part in our programs as well as everything else that Karlstad can offer—nature, culture, sports, and a good social life."

Bethany has scholarships available to assist students studying abroad, including the Wayne Forsberg Scholarship, which aids students studying in Sweden. In the past 3 years, Bethany students have studied in Australia, Spain, Italy, England, Brazil, Argentina, and Japan, and faculty has taught in England and Sweden. Also, international students have comprised on average about 5% of Bethany's student

body in the last 3 years, representing 38 countries from six continents.

More about Bethany: www.bethanylb.edu.

Changed by Love, Sent in Love to Serve Shaping the Church for God's Mission

The Central States Synod Mission Fund Appeal

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (continued)

Q: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT I GIVE? WHAT IF MY SITUATION CHANGES?

A: We share a common mission to enable God's people to grow in faith and put faith into action. Ministries of the Central States Synod represent faith in action and are enabled through our financial support. Individual gifts are necessary for us to live into a new day and our promised future. If your financial situation changes contact the Central States Synod office to modify your support.

Q: HOW CAN I FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THIS FUND APPEAL?

A: You can make a gift to Changed by Love, Sent in Love, to Serve – Shaping the Church for God's Mission by completing a Statement of Donor Intent (pledge form). This form lists choices as to how an actual gift or payment of a multi-year pledge may be fulfilled. Options include payment by: major credit card; check; or through a gift of stock or property.

If you would like to be contacted in regard to making a pledge please contact the Central States Synod office 866-915-3548 (toll-free) or 913-948-9701 or email svantuyi@css-elca.org.

Q: IS MY GIFT TAX DEDUCTIBLE?

A: Yes, the Central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is recognized as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, contributions to which are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. You will receive an acknowledgement of your gift for tax purposes.

We will run FAQs from time to time in the newsletter. If you would like a complete Frequently Asked Questions booklet, click [here](#).



Dr. Eugene Bales, Provost and Dean of Bethany College (left), Professor Thomas A. Wennstam of Karlstad University (center), and President Edward Leonard III of Bethany College (right) review the exchange agreement between Bethany College and Karlstad University after they spoke at the signing ceremony.



The SIMPLE Life

Plan to join in the learning community:
2011 Missional Church Convocation

THE SIMPLE LIFE: GOD'S QUIET REVOLUTION OF LOVE, FORGIVENESS, AND UNITY

**July 14-16, 2011
Chicago**

For more information, visit [The Center for Parish Development](http://www.CenterforParishDevelopment.org)

God's Quiet Revolution of Love, Forgiveness, and Unity

Lenten Devotional Booklet

Each day during Lent, one of our gifted writers, using the theme "We've a Story to Tell," describes how knowing Jesus has made a difference in his or her life. As you make the journey to the cross this year, use the Society of St. Andrew devotional booklet to think of how a relationship with Jesus has changed your life. Then ponder the question: "Are you willing to share your story, and the story of our Savior, with others?"



To obtain a free sample church packet, or personal packet of our devotion and giving program and the Good Friday Fast, go to <http://www.EndHunger.org/lent.htm>.



LOST AND FOUND PRESENTS THE LUTHER 500 FESTIVAL
JUNE 20-26, 2011

ENTER THE DOORS OF WITTEMBERG AND YOU WILL NEVER BE THE SAME

The Luther 500 Festival is an eight-day cultural immersion experience that brings the Reformation to life as you learn, serve, and celebrate in the places where Martin Luther did the same 500 years ago. This pilgrimage to Germany will revitalize your school or congregation as participants come face to face with the breadth and importance of the Reformation, make new friends, connect with their heritage, and experience firsthand how Church history can be a whole lot of fun. Prepare to be transformed, or rather, re-formed.

Learn more and register at www.luther500.com.

News from Bethany House of Studies

NEW CLASS:

*Jesus, the Jewish Messiah:
An In-depth Study of the Gospel
According to St. Matthew*

During the Lenten season, you will have an opportunity to take a careful look at the Gospel according to St. Matthew. This study is particularly appropriate since this year many of our Gospel lessons on Sunday morning will be taken from Matthew's Gospel. In this scriptural investigation, you will examine why Matthew tried to emphasize the "Jewishness" of Jesus in an effort to stress that the followers of Jesus needed to adhere to Jewish Law. Yet, at the same time, Matthew attacked the Jewish leaders of his day. How can Matthew have it both ways?

To explore this question and many others, attend this class sponsored by the Bethany House of Studies and taught by Rev. Richard Monson.

This genre will be offered at Bethany Lutheran Church in Lindsborg, meeting on five Wednesday afternoons during Lent from 4-5:30p.m. Dates for the sessions are March 16, 23, 30, and April 6 & 13.

Tuition is \$25.

To register, contact Bethany Lutheran Church at 785-226-2167. A minimum number of five registrants is needed for this class.

If you have questions, please email [Sharon Custer](mailto:SharonCuster@bethanyhouseofstudies.org).

Spring Event 2011 *Trends in Christian Education*

Saturday, March 12, 2011
9:15 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Messiah Lutheran Church
402 North 1st Street
Lindsborg, Kansas

[Click here for more information and registration form.](#)



2011 Book of Faith Jubilee: Inspiring everyday people to engage the bible

April 29-May 1, 2011
Luther Seminary

Through presentations, conversation and practical takeaways, this conference is designed for congregational leaders, both lay and clergy, to inspire and equip you to lead your congregation into reading the Bible in engaging new ways. Spread the word about the 2011 Jubilee.

For more information click: [2011 Jubilee](#).

Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice

Come to the 9th annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days, as we explore **Development, Security & Economic Justice: What's Gender Got to Do with It?** Join faith-based advocates from across the U. S. in the nation's capital **March 25-28, 2011** to be inspired and equipped to speak boldly on behalf of people-centered sustainable development and economic justice, physical safety, security and peacemaking, with a particular focus on those most impacted — women, girls and families. Experts will train participants on policy issues and advocacy, culminating on Monday with lobby visits on Capitol Hill.

More info: <http://advocacydays.org/>

Registration is Open!



Central States Synod Assembly 2011

June 2-5, 2011 -- Holiday Inn Waterpark SE -- Kansas City, Mo.

Pre-assembly activities will begin Thursday evening, June 2.

The Assembly will officially open with worship at 1 p.m. Friday, June 3.

Assembly Registration and initial Pre-Assembly materials have been posted. Click <http://css-elca.org/assembly2011.html>.

Registration for lodging is done through the Holiday Inn Waterpark Hotel SE, Kansas City, Mo.; Call 1-800-465-4329 (mention the CSS Assembly).

All Assembly information will be posted on the website. To receive printed materials, please contact the Rev. Cynthia Schnaath by email at cschnaath@css-elca.org or call 913-948-9701, ext. 205, or 866-915-3548.

PMA Convo - 2011



Ministry: It's a Way of Life

May 6-7, 2011

Heartland
Presbyterian Center
16965 NW 45 Highway
([map it](#))
Parkville, MO 64152

For additional information and registration go to:

www.css-elca.org/PMAconvo2011.html



BY MARY HUNT, PMA

This material is taken from the notes of Ron Richardson, an Executive Director of a Shepherd's Center. Ron did tell many of us, who asked his permission, to use the material. (It is so full of wisdom, that lots of folks asked for permission.) I have taken the liberty to paraphrase some of his thoughts.

We spend a lot of our time trying to define ourselves, as a person and as a child of God. To some extent, people can be defined by age (i.e. "a normal seven-year-old girl".) But, what if we say that a person is "a normal seventy-three year-old woman"? We would need more than age to get a clear picture of this individual. She could be in a nursing home with a chronic disease. She could be off hiking somewhere on a favorite trail. She could **even** be taking an eighty year old friend to the grocery store or to the drug store. She might be doing that as a volunteer for her church or another organization. enjoying good health and the opportunity to be of help to someone.

What it means to be old, as we see on birthday cards or in commercials on TV is not always accurate. There was a time when even a 65 year old was a burden on the health care system and society. But, that isn't the case today! Most older adults are contributing to society, to church and enjoying good health. It is long overdue for people of all ages to stop making false assumptions, perpetuating false expectations based on age alone. We can't define older adults in this way any longer.

Those who work with older adults find that most are active, productive and interested in life! Instead illness, think wellness. Instead of anti-aging, think of active aging. Instead of decline, think of potential. Instead of 'cared for', think responsible and independent. Instead of promoting ageist concepts, promote ageless concepts.

We know that whatever the age or condition, providing ministry to other is sharing the love of God to all.

For more information about older adult ministry and ALOA visit: ALOserves.org


Celebrate Lutheran Schools Week!

March 6 - 12, 2011 - Celebrate the great work that ELCA Schools and early childhood centers do across the country, and what you are doing at your school or center. It's also a great time to begin celebrating ELEA's 50th birthday! Click to download: [Bulletin inserts](#), [A Litany for Schools and Centers](#), and [All School Activity Ideas and Resources!](#)

The Evangelical Lutheran Education Association's new video, "Why, Why Now, Why ELEA?" nicely captures the mission of schools and early childhood education centers as vital children's ministries. ELEA stands ready to help all schools and centers fully achieve their potential in their work with children, families and communities. Whether already operating a school or planning to open one, congregations will find the best in resources and advice for schools and centers through ELEA.

-Rev. Dr. Mark Wilhelm, Program Director for Schools, ELCA

To view the video, please follow this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBSvskV-NPk>



NATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS

March 6-12 is the [National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS](#). This week of prayer brings national attention to the AIDS epidemic and engages faith communities in AIDS prevention, education, service and advocacy.

The ELCA invites members to join in prayer during this week with purpose, compassion and hope for the [healing of AIDS](#).

[Learn more](#) | [Give](#)

Wheat Ridge Ministries Congregation Health Ministry Grant Program Open

Itasca, IL – Wheat Ridge Ministries invites and encourages Lutheran congregations to submit proposals for its Congregation Health Ministry (CHM) Grant Program.

The CHM Grant Program enables ministry leaders to move inspired [whole person health and wellness](#) ideas into action within congregations through \$2,000 matching grants. These one-year grants for new and innovative health ministry programs are open to Lutheran congregations and organizations they partner with to become centers of health and hope in their community.

The CHM Grant Program will not fund health ministry programs that have been in existence for over three years. The amount granted by Wheat Ridge must be matched dollar for dollar by the congregation. Grant proposals are due April 15, 2011 with funds to be distributed by June 15, 2011.

Application materials will be available for download on the Wheat Ridge Ministries website after March 1, 2011. Any questions may be referred to the Wheat Ridge office at 800.762.6748.

Wheat Ridge Ministries is a non-profit organization that helps a variety of health and human care initiatives get off the ground by providing the initial funding and support they need to thrive. Our efforts are focused on improving the health of the whole person, by addressing wellness of body, mind and spirit. Currently, more than 100 ministries nationwide are receiving assistance through Wheat Ridge. To learn more, visit our website at www.wheatridge.org.

What's UP with Campus Ministry?

THIS MONTH BY PR. SHAWN NORRIS, KANSAS UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MINISTRY



Popcorn, Queso and Leadership

12:48 a.m. Allen Fieldhouse is still full of shredded newspaper, spilled coke cups, and the Mizzou fans have dumped popcorn everywhere. We were supposed to be done cleaning an hour ago and eating breakfast together by now, but the more we work, the worse the newspaper, popcorn, and nacho cheese seem to get. This could be a long night.

1:27 a.m. We've had two meltdowns in the last half hour. And, the leaf-blowers have just sprayed popcorn over sections 15 and 16, which four people just spent the last hour sweeping. We're probably going to have a few more meltdowns.

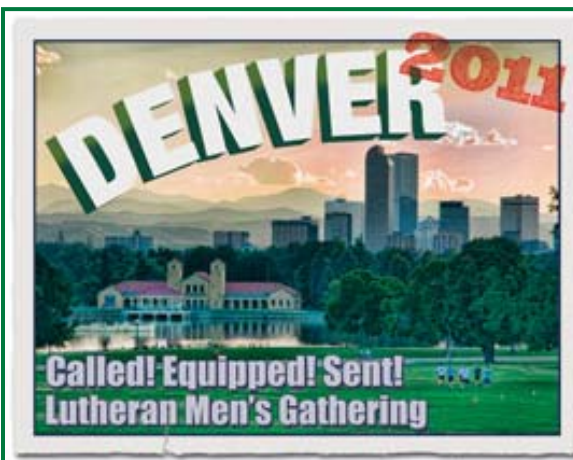
1:36 a.m. Something seems to have kicked on in Dayna. She's getting louder and more urgent, and making the rounds of the fieldhouse.

1:56 a.m. Still no sign of breakfast, but the feel in this place has changed. Dayna has walked around, talked to everybody in here, and put new energy into this whole cleanup. She hasn't been shy about telling people what to do, but there's a sense of hope that we might not be here all night.

3:31 a.m. Done. Time for some biscuits and gravy.

2:20 p.m. Notes for next year: Not our best cleanup ever, but we owe a lot to Dayna. She stepped up when we needed it. She got people moving again. Most of all she gave them hope that somebody knew what was going on, that there was organization and that there was hope. She did a great job of reading the situation, recognizing that we didn't need to stop and rest or talk about our feelings or process how things were going. We needed somebody to come in and lead. She stuck her neck out. I hope she comes back next year.

2:35 p.m. The church is lucky to have leaders like Dayna. Leaders willing to risk stepping up and taking charge. Whatever congregation she goes to will be jumpstarted and kicked into gear.



Assembly starts July 21 at 2 pm, ends July 22 at 3 pm
Gathering starts July 22 at 7:30 pm, ends July 24 at Noon

Early Registration discount ends March 15.

Visit the [Lutheran Men in Mission](#) website for info, and see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Faith **Action** **LANET 2011**
Biennial Conference
April 11 & 12
Minneapolis, MN



Lutheran AIDS Network (LANET)

Central Lutheran Church
333 S. 12th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Updates – Workshops – Prayer – Banquet
Inspirational Speakers – Worship – Networking

Special hotel rates from \$84.95 - \$94.95 + tax per night are available at the Holiday Inn Express in downtown Minneapolis.

Visit the conference website for up-to-date information on registration categories, individual banquet tickets, scholarships & hotel reservations.

More information available online at
www.lutheranaids.net/conference2011
Or e-mail: info@lutheranaids.net

The mission of the Lutheran AIDS Network is to keep the issue of HIV and AIDS in front of the Lutheran Church with an emphasis on HIV and AIDS in the United States.

2% discount — What, how and why we need you

What: \$38,700

How: All congregations and organizations in our synod will earn a 2% discount on all 2011 ELCA health contributions if 65% of the eligible ELCA-primary plan members and spouses in our synod take the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment January 1 – April 30.

Why we need you: If you're an ELCA-primary health plan member, we need you to take the health assessment. Will you be the one to push us over the 65% discount threshold?

Take the assessment at www.elcaforwellness.org. Find instructions for taking the assessment in *Understand my benefits* at www.elcabop.org.

Festival of Sharing is Keeping Gardens Green across the state

The last week of February, 225 pounds of garden seeds were shipped or picked up for Community gardening projects across the state. A few churches have gardens and share the produce with local refugee families and the local food pantries. We even have a couple of food pantries that provide the seeds for their clients to grow their own produce. Education and gardening tips is available from local University extension offices and master gardeners. The garden seeds brought to the Festival of Sharing each fall extend to the spring and summer with fresh produce grown locally.



Agencies that received seeds are Community Garden Coalition, Columbia; Gateway Greening, St. Louis; Kansa City Community Garden; Cross-lines, Kansas City; West Central Community Action Agency, Versailles; Boys and Girls club, Columbia; Restorative Justice MO Department of Corrections; Interfaith Gardens Columbia; The wardrobe, Hayti MO; Hickory Gardens, Springfield.

For more information about the Festival of Sharing contact Terri Williams, 573-474-3332 or festival@socket.net. You can also visit our web page at www.umocm.com.



Lake Challenge Grant WE DID IT!

Thanks to the support of many caring donors we made our goal. We have raised the \$30,000 to match the challenge of The Earl Bane Foundation. We will now receive a grant from them in the amount of \$20,000 and we can begin the project. We cannot wait until this project is complete and we have campers using the lake.

A highlight of attending camp is the opportunity to engage in water activities. For many young people, camp is the place where they catch their first fish, learn to paddle a canoe and gain an appreciation for the beauty of God's creation. Our new lake will be four acres and will support boating, fishing and lots of other fun water activities.

Central States Women's news

BY IRIS TURNBULL, PRESIDENT



As the Women of the ELCA of the Central States met in convention last July, the Lutheran Malaria Initiative was the center of a resolution urging each family unit within our synod to donate \$10.00 toward the initiative. Since that time I have been contacted as to where to send that \$10.00.

Lutheran World Relief is a partner in the LMI, which is mobilizing Lutherans in the United States to take part in this global effort to eliminate malaria deaths in Africa by 2015. You can go to <http://lwr.org/malaria/> where further information is available, as well as how to donate via the internet, but many of us may be more inclined to send donations via the U.S. post office, and the LWR address is:

Lutheran World Relief
Box 17061
Baltimore, MD 21298

At our September 2011 convention in Great Bend, Kansas, we will hold a **Splash and Pray** session on Friday evening, asking participants to bring monetary donations in support of the Malaria Initiative. (In the past we have held Run, Walk and Roll events, and even had a Bowl-a-thon!) So, you might begin now to solicit donations, and bring with you to convention, adding to the Central States W of the ELCA contributions to the Lutheran Malaria Initiative.

The United Nations Foundation is providing a grant through LWR to underwrite the administrative expenses of the LMI campaign, so 100 percent of every gift will go toward malaria prevention and treatment programs in Africa.

Additional opportunities for support and more information are also available at [ELCA Malaria Campaign](#).

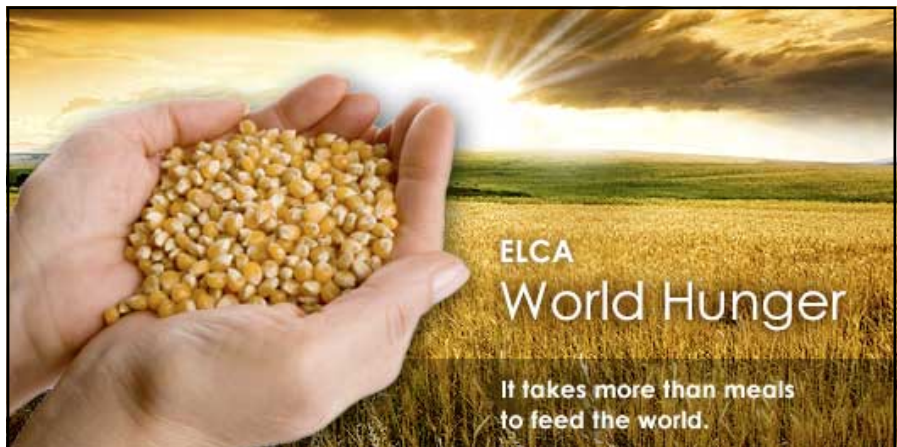
If you have questions concerning the Central States Women of the ELCA, please contact me at classic@bluevalley.net or 785-736-2887 or 1433 27th Road, Axtell KS 66403.



United Marriage Encounter®

**A United Marriage
Encounter Weekend**
Clarion Hotel
Manhattan, Kan.
March 25-27, 2011

You and your spouse will focus on each other throughout the Weekend. For more information and to register, visit www.unitedmarriage.org.



Around the synod . . .

New start fills a void

BY TRAVIS SCHRAM

In December 2007 Pastor Roger Gustafson of Advent Lutheran Church in Olathe approached a group of families within Advent who were living in southern Johnson and northern Miami counties with the idea of starting a new congregation in the area. They eagerly agreed. Advent was started in 1982 as the southernmost congregation in the Kansas City Area and continues to hold that distinction; this new group, known as Hillside Community, intends to fill the 105-mile void between Advent and the next ELCA church to the south, St. John's in Pittsburg, Kansas. Over the past three years Hillside has continued to grow in depth and numbers.



During 2010 Hillside Community made some solid steps towards becoming a Lutheran church. They received recognition as a "New Start" by the ELCA. They incorporated and have been recognized as a non-profit organization in the state of Kansas. They were able to obtain funding commitments from the ELCA, the Kansas City Mission Table, Kaw Prairie Community Church, The Trinity Lutheran Foundation, Advent Lutheran Church, and several other private donors.

In their quest to locate a place to meet on a regular basis God has opened a tremendous opportunity for this group. They have reached a lease-to-own agreement on a former Baptist church in Spring Hill located on 6+ acres. This facility not only gives them a current place to meet for Bible study and eventually worship but it was fully stocked with many of the supplies need to get this ministry started. The property is located on the main street of Spring Hill and is just across the street from the new aquatic center that was opened last year.



The recent economic downturn has created an environment that has been extremely difficult on non-profit organizations. Nowhere has this been more true than in the ELCA. It would have been extremely easy to have become discouraged. It would have been easy to place this project on the back burner until the economy improved. The members of Hillside Community boldly stood in the face of adversity and continued to work vigorously toward the goal to which God had called them.

While Hillside Community has been richly blessed in 2010 there is still much work ahead. The Central States Synod is in the process of indentifying a Mission Developer to lead this group. There are areas of funding that need to be addressed and awareness about the group needs to grow in the Lutheran community and the community surrounding Spring Hill. If you would like to learn more about Hillside Community and its quest to become Hillside Community Lutheran



Church, please visit the website www.HillsideCommunityks.org or e-mail them at info@hillsidecommunityks.org.

Good Shepherd Lutheran hosts Lenten Lunch Bunch

The Lenten Lunch Bunch has found a new home beginning Thursday, March 10.

Lenten Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on Thursday for six weeks during Lent at the Washington [Kan.] Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 4th & D St. The Lunch Bunch combines fellowship with a short Lenten lesson. The program wraps up by 1 p.m. for those who need to return to work. For all church members and walks of life anyone who is interested are welcome to come to the church Fellowship Hall.

Members of the Washington Ministerial Alliance will present the lessons.

Bring a sack Lunch or call Friendly Corners who will deliver meals to the church for anyone who would like to order a meal. Interested people are encouraged to call Friendly Corners by 8:30 a.m. the day of Lunch Bunch to reserve a meal. Please specify that it will be for the Lunch Bunch at the Lutheran Church. Drinks & cookies will be provided by various churches.



Hillside Fall Festival

Parishes in the Call Process

- (a) intentional interim/interim
- (b) developing congregational profile
- (c) interview phase
- (d) call pending

Area Ministry 2

Kensington, St. John (a)

Area Ministry 3

Beloit, Zion (a)
Marquette, Elim (b)

Area Ministry 5

Derby, Cross of Glory (b)
Haysville, Resurrection (c)
Wichita, Christ (a)

Area Ministry 6

Atchison, St. Mark (part-time) (c)
Bendena (St. John) and Lancaster (St. John) (a)
Rock Port, First (a)
Topeka, Trinity (a)
Topeka, First — associate (c)

Area Ministry 8

Nevada, St. Paul (a)
Springfield, Prince of Peace (c)

Area Ministry 9

Sedalia, Christ & Trinity (d)

Area Ministry 10

Manchester, Good Shepherd — associate (b)

Pastor from Papua New Guinea to visit

Rev. Hans Giegere, a Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG) will be visiting congregations, participating in worship and speaking to groups as part of the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the arrival in Papua New Guinea of the first Lutheran Missionary, Rev. Johan Flierl in 1886. Rev. Giegere is a native of Papua New Guinea and comes from a family of Church leaders. He will be participating in a celebration of the anniversary at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, IA on Thursday and Friday, March 31- April 1. That event is open for anyone to attend -- see flyer at end of this newsletter. [Read more.](#)

SYNOD CALENDAR

March

- 1 Campus Ministry Meeting — Synod Office
- 3-8 Conference of Bishops — Itasca, Illinois
- 9 Ash Wednesday
- 10 SA11 Local Arrangements — Synod Office
- 11-12 Synod Council Meeting — Synod Office
- 12 Beth Lewis at Synod Office
- 19 *Standing at the Crossroads* — Redeemer Lutheran, Salina
- 23-24 Fund Appeal Steering Committee — Synod Office
- 29 Synod Staff Retreat
- 31-1 125th Anniversary of Lutheran Mission in PNG — Wartburg

April

- 8-11 ELCA Church Council -- Chicago
- 13-14 Lutheran Planned Giving Advisory Mtg/Dinner — KCMO
- 17 Palm Sunday
- 21 Maundy Thursday
- 22 Good Friday — Synod Office closed
- 24 Easter Sunday
- 25 Easter Monday — Synod Office Closed
- 29-5/1 Book of Faith Jubilee — Luther Seminary
- 30 Candidacy Meeting — Synod Office



Augsburg Fortress CEO in KC

All are welcome to join in a conversation and presentation with Beth Lewis, President and CEO of Augsburg Fortress about developments and state of affairs with our publishing house.

When: Saturday, March 12 – noon to 2:30 p.m. (lunch available for \$6)

Where: Central States Synod Office, 21 N. 12th St., KCKS [\[map it\]](#)

Ms. Lewis is also available on Sunday morning for time in a local congregation. Contact Pr. Jennifer Thomas, pastorjennifer@kc.rr.com to schedule and to RSVP for lunch.

Now through March 31, Fortress Press books are on sale for 40% off when purchased through the Fortress Press webstore.

Visit www.fortresspress.com to shop!

Sale

Gatherings set around the country

God's work in mission always propels us to encounter the neighbor, particularly in the stranger. Glocal Mission Gatherings equip us for God's work in today's global and local realities and their "glocal" intersections. So what is mission? Who is the neighbor? Let's answer these questions together for our migrating and immigrating world. Come, join some the most relevant mission conversations of our time. The ELCA Glocal Mission Gathering(GMG) gathers leaders for a day and a half of worship, workshops, and sharing around global and local mission.



You are invited to gather a congregational team and register for an upcoming event. For only \$35 per person and in only 1-1/2 days, your team can:

- Enhance your connections with the local and global Christians
- Gain practical skills for mission
- Learn how churches are changing how they proclaim and serve
- Lead inviting worship that includes global voices
Serve in a way that is sustainable, respectful, and cross-culturally sensitive
- Give, receive, lead and serve in every facet of ministry

A significant part of the Glocal Gatherings will be skill-building workshops so that team members can better understand how to work within a specific area of mission. Skill-building workshops include: Mission 101; Short Term Mission; Stewardship, Cross-Generational Engagement; Social Action; Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services; New and Renewing Congregations; Worship and Mission-Music.

Click www.elca.org/glocal for a full schedule and more information but mark your calendar now for the event in Central States Synod — September 30 - October 1, 2011, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kan.



March 2011

Connect to the global church through elca.org

Egyptian protests and refugees
Amid the chaos in Egypt sits a forgotten community, tens of thousands of refugees currently in

Egypt awaiting the outcome. See www.elca.org/disaster.

Australian floods

Flash flooding overwhelms the city of Toowoomba. The Lutheran Church of Australia responds. See www.elca.org/disaster.

Young people are connecting globally through Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

Over 200 young people from 27 groups in different countries have already registered for LWF together -- the earth needs you, an innovative program sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation. Each group will be matched with two groups in other continents for a six-month period of Bible study, environmental projects, and building relationships through the Internet. Register your group of 2 to 15 members, with a majority in ages 15-30, by April 1, 2011, and receive a handbook and guidelines for the time period of May through October. See <http://lwfyouth.org/lwf-together/>.

Raising of Lazarus

Make the connection between the story of Lazarus (the Gospel reading for Sunday, April 10) and the ELCA's work around the world to help communities overcome the crisis of HIV and AIDS. Find a powerful 30-minute documentary and discussion guide on *The Lazarus Effect* at www.elca.org/aids/lazaruseffect. Find prayers, litanies, biblical notes and sermon starters at <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Poverty-Ministries/HIV-and-AIDS/Pray/Worship-Resources/The-Lazarus-Effect.aspx>.

How can goats change a village?

Watch as gifts of livestock help the Lingson family in Malawi end hunger. See www.elca.org/hunger/video.

Global Links contains highlights from *elca.org* of ELCA ministry or connections in other countries. See a current issue, subscribe, or follow on Facebook or Twitter at www.elca.org/global-links. Send your suggestions and comments to lanny.westphal@elca.org or to Pastor Lanny Westphal, ELCA Global Mission, 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631.

Lutheran Planned Giving

Arkansas-Oklahoma & Central States Synod

March 2011

Which Gift Annuity is Right for You?

Do you know about charitable gift annuities? You donate a certain sum (\$10,000 or more) to the ELCA Foundation and receive annuity payments for the rest of your life. Your payment rate is based on your age and a portion of your payment may even be tax-free. The most basic form is called an immediate payment gift annuity because it begins paying you income right away.

Donors like this gift vehicle because it guarantees them a specific amount each year. The payments come at the same time, and the amount never changes. There is also an immediate income tax charitable deduction for donors who itemize on their tax returns.

What many donors do not know is that gift annuities come in various forms. For example, gift annuities can have delayed start dates. You can establish one now and defer the payments for 10 years or however long you wish. The longer you delay payments, the higher the payments will be. This is because the money you contributed is prudently invested and compounds tax-free until the payments begin.

Another possibility is to establish a deferred gift annuity for a child or grandchild to help with college expenses. You calculate when

your child or grandchild will enter, or complete, college and direct the gift annuity payments to be paid for a specific number of years. Whatever is left goes directly to your selected ELCA ministry*. Again, an income tax charitable deduction is available when the gift annuity is established.

Joyce "JP" Palmer, our regional charitable gift planner, welcomes the opportunity to provide you with personalized examples to show how the various gift annuities work in your situation. She welcomes the opportunity to discuss the importance of estate gift planning and gift annuities are one of various ways to do legacy gift planning.

* *Congregation, Bethany Home, Oaks Indian Mission, Lutheran Family & Children's Services, LSTC, Hollis Renewal Center, Camp Tomah Shinga, Bethany College, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Synod and ELCA churchwide ministries.*

Lutheran Planned Giving Joyce "JP" Palmer

Director/ELCA Regional Gift Planner
9911 N. Hawthorne Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64157
Cell: 816-204-5181
E-mail: jcpalmer49@aol.com

ELCA Lutheran Planned Giving is a service to ELCA congregations and individuals to help them plan for themselves, loved ones and the work of the Lord, by providing education and consultation in the area of stewardship of accumulated assets.

All services are available without cost or obligation.

ELCA congregations have permission to reproduce this insert for newsletters, bulletins or other congregational use.



Celebration of 125 Years of Lutheran Mission in Papua New Guinea

March 31 - April 1, 2011

Meet friends and former missionaries –
Share exciting stories of mission

...

Welcome a pastor from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of PNG

...

Gain information about the ELCPNG current work and mission

...

Meet current authors who have written about Lutheran mission work

...

Visit the Papua New Guinea Museum at Wartburg Seminary

...

See and hear how Wartburg Seminary is serving God's mission in the 21st century by forming leaders—women and men—for that mission—local and global!

The **Celebration of 125 years of Lutheran Mission in Papua New Guinea** will begin Thursday, March 31st at 9:30am with worship in the Chapel and will continue with speakers, panels, and conversation through the day, and a banquet in the evening. Friday's session will begin at 8:00 am concluding with lunch.

A more detailed schedule will be provided on the Wartburg website by March 1st - www.wartburgseminary.edu

Cost including program and meals: \$50 per person if registered by March 20th, \$60 per person after March 20th.

Meals include Thursday's lunch, Thursday evening's banquet, and lunch on Friday. Breakfast on Friday morning is a la carte in the Wartburg kitchen or at your hotel.

Registration – Registration form attached.

For questions please contact:

Judy Bailey, 563-557-1793, email: jimjudybailey@gmail.com

Else Schardt, 563-582-2713, email: schardtsville@q.com

Wartburg Seminary, 563-589-0200

email: frontdesk@wartburgseminary.edu

Sponsored by Wartburg Theological Seminary–Center for Global Theologies



www.wartburgseminary.edu



Celebration of 125 Years of Lutheran Mission in Papua New Guinea

EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

Thursday, March 31 and Friday, April 1, 2011
Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA

Name(s): _____ Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Email: _____

Confirmations will be sent electronically if email is provided

Church Name: _____ Synod: _____

Please check here if you are flying to Dubuque and need transportation between your accommodations and WTS.

REGISTRATION FEE: *(Registration fee covers program and meals. Meals include lunch and evening banquet on Thursday and lunch on Friday)*

By March 20th \$50 \$ _____

After March 20th \$60 \$ _____

Special Meal Needs: _____

Gift to Wartburg Seminary \$ _____

Total \$ _____

I have enclosed a check for the total amount. *Check number* _____

Please make checks payable to Wartburg Theological Seminary.

MasterCard Visa Discover American Express *Credit Card Number* _____

Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Please send registration and payment to:

Office of Mission Support
Wartburg Theological Seminary
PO Box 5004
Dubuque, IA 52004-5004



www.wartburgseminary.edu
1-800 CALL WTS
missionsupport@wartburgseminary.edu

Lutheran Men in Mission – Lutheran Men’s Gathering

Called! Equipped! Sent!

The 2011 Lutheran Men in Mission Gathering is scheduled for July 22-24, 2011 in Denver, Colorado. This is a great opportunity for all men to come together for a time of fellowship, to listen to exciting and inspirational speakers and musicians, and to hear about men’s ministry in congregations around the country. We have an exciting line up of speakers and a program for all ages.

The Gathering is an opportunity for fathers, sons, and grandsons or other family members to spend time together in a Christian setting to share your faith with each other. I hope and pray that you will consider coming to this event. Please talk with other men in your congregation and invite them to come also; note the savings if multiple men in your congregation register together! It is an opportunity for you to jump start men’s ministry in your congregation as you listen to leaders who have exciting ministry in their congregation.

The high level Gathering schedule is: (More detail later)

Friday, July 22, 5:00 p.m. LMM Recognition Banquet – if you are interested in attending this banquet please contact me.

7:30 p.m. Opening Session of 2011 LMM Men’s Gathering

Saturday, July 23, 8:30 a.m. Full day of activities

Sunday, July 24, 8:30 a.m. Worship, Installation of new LMM Board

Noon Closing of 2011 LMM Men’s Gathering

Following is a brief summary of the event and also a registration form. Please note that you can register on-line, by fax or by mail. Also a You Tube address that has additional information on the Gathering is: http://www.youtube.com/user/LutheranMenInMission#p/a/u/2/3C77fRB_c0A

If you have any questions or need help in registering please contact me at 913-706-0291 or normanlsmith@earthlink.net.

Norm Smith

913-706-0291

CALLED! EQUIPPED! SENT! GATHERING JULY 22-24 – DENVER

Something's happening here!

Our vision for the 2011 Lutheran Men's Gathering is that every man attending would be a new man in Jesus Christ, living a life that makes a difference. And, our vision is that every man will leave the Gathering with the tools and inspiration to do just that.

What on earth are you here for?

Whether your answer is hazy like a valley fog or as crystal clear as a mountain stream, we invite you to come to the Lutheran Men's Gathering: **Called! Equipped! Sent!** This event is about you. Who are you? Whose are you? What difference do you make? How are you going to live out God's call where God has put you?

If you're interested in attending a 'One Year to Live' retreat prior to the gathering contact Peter Ewers at 303-902-9009 or peter@ewersarchitecture.com

This is life changing stuff.

The **speakers** and the fellowship with your brothers in Christ will challenge you and help you to focus on what's important. **Music and worship** will inspire you to go deeper with God. **Workshops** and connections with other men will guide you in living out your call. Casual conversations around coffee and sitting in the sun will connect you with new people and places. Gifted men's leaders will share their experiences and insights with you on how to have an effective, life changing men's ministry in your congregation. It's all good!

We want you in Denver.

You are welcome to come to the Gathering by yourself, but your most meaningful experience will be if you participate with another person or a group. Think seriously about inviting and attending with your sons, dad, father-in-law, family members, friends, coworkers, neighbor, or guys from your church. However you participate, we'll send you home a new man!

Join us!

Join us in Denver, and plan some extra time after the Gathering to enjoy and explore Colorado and the great Rocky Mountains. Come to the 2011 Lutheran Men's Gathering and have your life changed.

Meet a few of our speakers and musicians

Jay Gamelin is a husband, father, pastor, musician, writer, and nationally acclaimed speaker. Jay shares a unique perspective of living for Christ in this post-modern era. His storytelling, humor, and engaging leadership communicate in down-to-earth ways the complexity of God and the walk of the disciple. Jay lives in Columbus, OH, where he serves Jacob's Porch, a campus mission to The Ohio State University.



Jay Gamelin

Larry Clark is pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Chicago, IL. He has a long history of leadership in the church, having served as a campus pastor, congregational pastor, youth director, Associate to the Bishop, and board member for organizations supporting African American leadership in the church. Known throughout the United States for his powerful preaching, Larry challenges men to apply God's Word to their daily lives. Larry is a current member of the board of LMM.

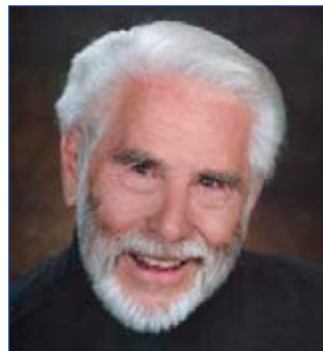


Larry Clark

Paul Hill is Executive Director of Vibrant Faith Ministries. He was a lead researcher for LMM's Young Men's Spirituality Project and co-author of *Coming of Age*. Paul is the co-developer of the "Hand in Hand: Partnering Home and Congregation" and "Four Key" training events, programs designed to equip congregations and leaders in effective faith formation practices.



Paul Hill



Lyman Coleman

Lyman Coleman is a pioneer of the small group movement. As founder and CEO of Serendipity, Lyman produced courses that trained over 500,000 small group leaders in seminars throughout North America. Lyman is the general editor of the Serendipity Student Bible, the Serendipity Bible for Group and Personal Study (The Master Builders Bible for Men), and developed the One Year to Live retreat for LMM.



Pat Morley

Pat Morley is chairman and chief executive officer of Man in the Mirror ministries based in Orlando, FL. For three decades he has been regarded as one of America's most respected authorities on the unique challenges and opportunities that men face today. In 1991, Pat founded Man in the Mirror, a ministry that trains and resources church leaders to be more effective in reaching men.



Peter Mayer

When **Peter Mayer** isn't playing lead guitar for Jimmy Buffett, he's often giving his services to Lutheran Men in Mission and other causes. After years of performing pop music as a world-renowned guitarist, Peter returned to his spiritual roots. "Stirrin' Up the Water", a collection of Peter's Christian music, was released at the Lutheran Men's Gathering in San Antonio in 2002.

Registration for CALLED! EQUIPPED! SENT!

JULY 22-24, 2011 – DENVER



Want to enjoy some Colorado outdoor activities prior to or after the Men's gathering? Fly Fishing, White Water Rafting, Hiking, Mountain Biking, and Golf to name a few. Interested...contact Bret Gardner via email at bret@sportingcultureadvisors.com

Register by mail: Registrar, Lutheran Men's Gathering
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631-4101

Register by fax: (773) 380-2115

Register online: www.lutheranmeninmission.org

Registration Fee:	Before 03/15/11	After 03/15/11
1 man	\$110 each	\$160 each
2 men	\$95 each	\$135 each
3 or more men	\$85 each	\$110 each

Total Registration Fee: \$ _____

Method of Payment:

Check (made payable to Lutheran Men in Mission)

MasterCard Visa Discover

American Express

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: Month: _____ Year: _____

Amount to be charged: \$ _____

Name as printed on card: _____

Signature: _____

Billing address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

First Registrant: _____

Preferred name on nametag: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Second Registrant: _____

Preferred name on nametag: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Third Registrant: _____

Preferred name on nametag: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Hotel Reservations on-line: https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=2669050&fromResdesk=true

Denver Marriott Tech Center: 1-800-266-9432. Ask for Lutheran Men in Mission: Single/Double \$99 includes hot buffet breakfast

TRANSPORTATION WHILE IN DENVER

The Denver Marriott Tech Center is located approximately 23 miles southwest from Denver International Airport. The special \$99/night room rate includes free parking, free high speed internet, and a hot buffet breakfast.

Super Shuttle from the airport to the hotel

Lutheran Men in Mission has negotiated a special \$30 round trip rate with Super Shuttle. You can book Super Shuttle reservations online.

Go to <https://www.supershuttle.com/default.aspx?GC=9SHLA>, then:

1. Select a Trip Type.
2. Select Airport, "Denver International Airport (DEN)", from drop-down menu.
3. On the Hotel Name window, enter Marriott and select your hotel.
4. Select Transportation Type, "Shared Van".
5. Enter your trip details and contact information.
6. At the payment screen the discounted fare of \$30 round trip or \$19 one way will appear. Follow the instructions and enter your credit card information.
7. Print your confirmation page (or you can e-mail it to yourself).

Reservations can also be made by calling 1-800-BLUEVAN (258-3826), give the code 9SHLA to the call taker. An additional \$1 is charged for reservations made through the call center.

Avis car rental discounts

Lutheran Men in Mission has negotiated a discounted rate for car rentals with Avis for all Gathering attendees. To receive the special Lutheran Men in Mission discount, please go to https://www.avis.com/AvisWeb/reservation/ReservationsInitializer?&AWD_NUMBER=B456699, or call 1-800-331-1600 and use the Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number: B456699.

Local transportation at the hotel

There is a Hertz car rental desk located in the hotel. The Marriott Denver Tech Center also provides free hotel shuttle service for shopping, restaurants, and other attractions within a 5 mile radius of the hotel. The Light Rail station is a 5-minute walk from the hotel and provides access to downtown.