

Times of Devotion

Pastor Josh Schmidt || Grand Junction, CO || 6/3/19

“Welcome to Colorful Colorado.” The sign stood out to me as I made my way to my new home. After accepting my first call out of the St. Louis seminary to the Lutheran Church and School of Messiah here in Grand Junction, I really did not know what to expect. I had traveled in the West before—even living in Utah and California—but, now at my first call this was bound to be my new home.

With my parents living a 24 hour drive away, it would have been easy to feel a little isolated or stranded out here in the high desert. But, this location offers a place to “get away” in a good sense. No matter how far or distant it may seem from the Midwest—separated by mileage and culture—here, at Messiah, we offer an outpost for strengthening the faith and Christian community; a place to refresh one another.

Not too long after my move here, I was glad to welcome one of my seminary professors from St. Louis, Dr. Timothy Saleska. In his workshop, he walked us through Psalm 23, making this song we all seemed to know and love come alive again. He reminded us that the Psalms are prayers that we can pray too. That when we are found “wanting,” our Lord, Jesus Christ, becomes all that we could ever need.

Just this summer, Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez made the trip out to visit. He offered a summer camp that encouraged us to live in the Holy Ghost, recognizing the models that the third person of the trinity offered in his book *Sculptor Spirit*. It was a time that we all needed to recognize how to live and rest, to be renewed and defended by our God who dwells in us.

These seminary workshops have allowed our church to become a bridge between the heartland of Missouri Synod Lutheranism and its outskirts. Being the sole LCMS congregation in the area, we need the strength and the support. Our pastors are encouraged, our lay people are taught, and we even have a few perspective seminary students who get a first-hand experience learning from (perhaps their future) professors. But, besides providing for our own benefit, we see the need to give *you* a mountaintop to come to in order to become refreshed, renewed, and strengthened by the time together. Whether you're from the area or from around the world (we have had visitors from Arizona, Illinois, and Kentucky for these workshops), this is a place you can come.

We look forward to hosting another conference through the St. Louis Seminary next year and many more years after that. As we continue to grow in our ability to be there for you, we will also be having a conference focused on the Reformation this upcoming October!!! Dr. Bob Rosin has graciously offered to fly out here with his wife to have this fellowship with us and bask in the freedom to witness the colors of Colorado. *Mark your calendars and join us October 24th through 26th!!!!*

Pastors, wives, lay people, *all* are invited to look at the renewal of grace found in the Reformation with one of its foremost scholars!!! Stay tuned and/or like our Facebook page (Lutheran Church and School of Messiah) more information on registration, pricing, and events together. Our Congregation, our Senior Pastor, Mike Redeker, and I would love to make you feel at home *here* as you prepare to go back out *there* sharing the Gospel we all so desperately need and love.