

Region IV Newsletter

WINTER 2010 • VOLUME XXII • NUMBER 3

Choral Evensong
1st Congregational
Boulder, CO

2010 Region IV Gathering A Grass-Roots Success

A Reflection by Carole Lea Arenson, Gathering Chair

The Region IV “Gathering in Boulder” was a success! It was a success measured by the number of people in attendance (100 attendees plus another 100 local participants), the dialogue which actually came into fruition, the pervasiveness of the theme “Faith: A Compass for Leaders”, the financial contribution to the national above expenses, the reviews, and the continuing conversation.

Thankfully, it can also be labeled a “grass-roots” success. Truthfully, without the support of the many of you attending and participating in dialogue, the grass-roots idea of a “gathering” would have failed. Speaking for the Steering Committee, we all say “thank you”. The “Region IV Core” has been strengthened and enlarged! Together, and separately, we will continue to make a difference wherever we find ourselves.

During the two years of planning we kept the word “grass-roots” in our conversations. Why? Because we realize the world around us is changing and that people are unsettled. Currently people tend to feel frustrated and left out when a direction of top down prevails. We see it in the politics of our country, in the established mainline churches with dwindling numbers in worship, in the frustration of educators over mandated directives,

and the list goes on. ALCM continues to talk about making some changes to better serve people. Region IV took all the discussions seriously and tried to do something a little different in Boulder. We tried to be more Grass-Roots!

First, we **focused on individuals and their ministry**. The theme, “FAITH: A Compass for Leaders”, directed attention to the spiritual growth of the leaders in attendance. We began the gathering by remembering how we came to be at this place. “Who were the saints who guided us?” and “How has the Spirit worked in our life?” became personal questions. The first service began by contemplating the questions. In the stillness we heard individual voices singing snippets of heritage songs in English, Swedish, German and Norwegian ending with a joyous “Halle Halle” with the children’s choir helping us all join the song. The Steering Committee took great pains to have EVERY Keynote, every Focus Session, every Worship Service, every Recital, every Forum, etc. to be planned under the banner of the faith theme.

The second way we supported the idea of grass-roots, was to schedule **“discussion time”** at the end of each Keynote and Focus session. It was a time reserved for questions, answers, and ideas to be shared by the attendees. In addition, we added two

(con’t. on pg. 2)



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Submission Deadline	Issue
January 15	Spring
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The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians's Region IV Newsletter has a circulation of 12 states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming; Three Canadian Provinces: Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan; Australia and New Zealand. It also includes members of the National Board of Association of Lutheran Church Musicians and selected leaders in Canada and the United States. It is the main source of communication between and for the leading Lutheran Church Musicians of the West.

**Grass-Roots (con't.)**

Forums to encourage major discussion on current topics. The three keynoters, Dr. Ted Peters, Sally Morgenthaler and Dr. Gregory Peterson, took this to a new level as they decided upon and discussed two current issues: "Nurturing Faith in the 21st Century" for Forum I and "Worship Today" for Forum II. Each keynoter gave a short introduction on the topic followed by an active discussion time facilitated by a moderator.

Third, we planned **worship to include individuals who were in attendance**. Members of the Steering Committee, College Students, Keynoters, volunteers from the Pre-Gathering, and individual presenters were given the opportunity to be our worship leaders. We wanted worship to be, with/by/for the attendees, an integral part of the whole. Worship's goal was to foster the connection with God in this place, at this time, for all in attendance. Two newly composed pieces, by members of the Steering Committee, were part of the opening worship service. Tom Keesecker composed *We Come and Gather Here Today* as our Gathering Song and Erik Whitehill composed *I Lift My Eyes* based on Psalm 121 for the children's choir.

The fourth way we stayed grass-roots was by **including Boulder in the event**. We wanted the people of Boulder to notice that the Lutherans were in town. About 100 Boulder area singers and instrumentalists had the opportunity to participate. There were young singers in the children's choir for the opening service, adult singers from local congregations for Evensong with Bradley Ellingboe, the Atonement Lutheran Worship Ensemble for the Thomas Mass, the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Women's Gospel Ensemble, recital organist Dr. Joyce Shupe Kull from Grace Lutheran and additional individuals from the area. Via newspaper announcements and interviews, plus other media forms, we publically welcomed the entire Boulder area community to the two organ recitals and the Choral Evensong on Wednesday evening.

The fifth way we attempted to stay "grass-roots", was to **focus on the here and now while looking forward** towards strengthening the future of music ministry as it continues to make a difference in congregations. We have already mentioned using newly composed music in worship and the use of a myriad of instrumental support for worship currently in use throughout our region. Additionally, we made an effort to invite more than *just* the current ALCM members to the event. The 2nd person discounted fee's intention was to encourage the musician/pastor to bring someone along who could help make a difference in the home congregation after the event.

Finally, we had the dream of having **college students connect with ALCM** by being personally invited to attend. We not only gave them a discounted registration fee, but offered them "Free Bed and Breakfast". We included them as mentors for the Pre-Gathering Children's Choir, participants in worship and expected them to have an active voice in the discussions so prominent in the Gathering. The good news is this. It worked! When you read their reflections in the *Special Gathering Edition* you will agree they are now ALCM members and know they can make a difference in congregations both now and in the future. The college students have forged new friendships among themselves and with others. And - many say they will be at the Seattle National in 2011!

There are many "reflections" found in the *Special Gathering Edition* (separate file). By putting them all together you can, if an attendee, re-live the event. If you were not able to attend, the reflections will hopefully give you the scope and mood of the Gathering in Boulder.

Faith: A Compass for Leaders

Psalm 121: "I Lift Up My Eyes"

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From the Editor

Carole Lea Arenson
Region IV Newsletter Editor



This is our second online Region IV Newsletter. We also have a *“Special Gathering 2010 Edition”*. Together they are jam-packed with information!

We are pleased to welcome our new and returning officers: Joy Berg as president, Katherine Crosier as vice president and Carol Churchill returning as secretary/treasurer. This newsletter contains their welcome plus a farewell from our former officers: Norma Aamodt-Nelson and Karla Devine.

The Gathering in Boulder was a huge success for our region. Check the “Gathering 2010 Edition” for the “Reflections” from the vantage point of musician, pastor, college students, seminarian and chair. We

have lots of photos most of which were photographed by one of our college students, Taylor Thoenes. We also thank Marty Schaefer for additional photos.

Region IV is pleased to host the 2011 ALCM National in Seattle and you will find Arletta Anderson’s invitation a “must read” if you are considering a “family vacation” coupled with the conference attendance. Marshall Bowen is the chair and has assembled a great committee. You will hear more about the national in the next newsletter.

As usual this newsletter features ideas for the “here and now”. We have Tom Keesecker offering a choral piece on “Justice”, Jerry Gunderson writes about including “all comers to create”, and Bryn Hamilton Cannon shares an Advent Service idea.

Our next newsletter will have a new feature called “Question Box: Ask a Pro”. We have two “pros” answering your questions (please do submit some good questions ASAP). They are Dr. Gregory Peterson as church music expert and Bradley Ellingboe as choral expert. Both of them were presenters in Boulder. Check out the announcement in this newsletter on page 11. Deadline for submitting your questions for them is December 10th.

Also in the next newsletter we will include the address by Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer intended to share until he was elected a Canadian bishop.

A big “thank you” to all the writers both for this newsletter and the special “Gathering Edition”. Many voices make us much more authentic, inclusive, and grass-roots.

Deadline for the next issue is January 15th. Please consider yourself invited to become a writer for the first 2011 issue. Submit material to: carole.arenson@cox.net

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From the Desk of the President: An Introduction

Dr. Joy Berg
ALCM Region IV President

James Milligan, Canadian journalist in the mid 1920s, penned the following to begin his only known hymn text:

*There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!*

This text (based on Isaiah 40) reflects our calling and role as church musicians. We are to prepare the places for God to come. We are to lift and focus the congregation, in creative and musical ways, both into worship and into hearing God's Word. From our protestant roots in the 1500s, Martin Luther's insights into the role of music in worship, "*That music would carry and uphold the Word of God as well as enable the community to worship together*", remains a focus for us as modern-day church musicians in North America. ALCM desires to participate in this calling and this heritage both as a community filled with resources and as a community which encourages personal connecting-points between church musicians.

I am thrilled to be stepping into the role of president of our Region IV for ALCM. For the past year and a half, I have been on the steering committee for the Boulder Gathering, and through that experience grew to know and admire several ALCM leaders and church musicians. We have been gifted with an incredible group of people in our region, full of creativity, knowledge, excitement, and fervor for church work and for their Lord.

I am a Canadian, and a college professor, living and working in Edmonton, Alberta (somewhat near both mountain destinations of Jasper and Banff, but still on the prairies). I teach at Concordia University College of Alberta ("not the Concordia in Montreal, but the Concordia in Edmonton" could be my quote from meeting people this summer!). We have about 1700 students within our walls. The School of Music includes music majors, music minors and 'concentrations', with studio instruction in voice, piano and almost every instrument



you can think of (we even have a couple of bagpipe students)! I teach the church music classes, conduct the choirs, and am the chapel cantor for daily chapel. Along with the long history of choral music through both the Concert Choir and Community Chorus here at Concordia, a women's choir began last year, and this year we have added a men's choir to the fold. We are enjoying the diversity of repertoire and experiences these two new choirs bring to our musical family.

My area of research through the past few years has been towards Canadian hymnody, to which my sabbatical next year (2011-12) will continue to focus. I have worked as a church musician in North Carolina and Iowa, as well as in Canada. I love being a church musician! I truly understand there are so many rewards in this work, as well as many challenges. I hope the resources ALCM offers will be practical for your work and that these resources will inspire your own creativity as well as support and encourage your efforts within your groups and in your own musicianship. Please feel free to contact me (joy.berg@concordia.ab.ca, or phone 780/479-9368) to share ideas, to talk about church music or ALCM, or to offer suggestions.

The last verse of Milligan's hymn continues being our prayer today as we think of our communities of worship and music-making and also of our leadership position in the life of the Church:

*But the word of our Savior is faithful;
the arm of our God is strong,
who stands in the midst of the nations
and soon will right the wrong.
Lord, feed your flock like a shepherd,
the lambs so gently hold;
In pastures of peace now lead them,
and bring them to your fold."*

From the Vice-President: An Introduction

Katherine Crosier
Region IV Vice-President



I started piano lessons at age four with my mother as my first teacher. At age thirteen I began organ lessons and was immediately mesmerized by “The King of Instruments.” After high school graduation, I had the fortune of studying with French virtuoso, Marcel Dupré, and then obtained a Bachelor of Music from the University of Southern California and a Master of Music from Westminster Choir College, both in Organ Performance.

Since my move to Hawaii in 1973, I have been active as a teacher, recitalist and church musician. 2010 marked my 32nd year as Organist at the Lutheran Church of Honolulu, where we are blessed with a wealth of fine musical instruments, including a 33-rank Beckerath tracker organ, a 3-rank continuo organ, a five-octave set of handbells, a two-octave set of handbells and two harpsichords. My husband, Carl, and I oversee an ambitious music program with four choirs, plus a concert and vespers series. In addition, I have served as Chapel Organist of Iolani School, an Episcopal day school, for the last 16 years. I am active in the American Guild of Organists and have been a member of ALCM since 1987. I have a special interest in teaching organ to young children and maintain a private studio of over twenty organ students.

I understand that the Vice-President focuses on Membership. It has always been my dream to encourage the people with whom we make music in our churches to join ALCM. To me this means our Worship and Music chairs, choristers and other volunteer musicians. So often we have come back from ALCM conferences and thought, “Wow, the people in my church would have LOVED this!” I would like to encourage all present members to invite someone in their area to join this wonderful organization.

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Mark Your Calendar

2010	
12/10	Deadline for questions for the “Question Box”
2011	
1/15	Deadline for Region IV Newsletter submissions
7/31- 8/3	ALCM National in Seattle

From the Secretary/Treasurer

Carol Churchill
Region IV Treasurer



Autumn greetings from Washington!

I am honored to serve a second term as your Region IV Secretary/Treasurer, and always welcome your conversation by phone or email.

The Region IV Gathering in beautiful Boulder, CO was outstanding. The presence and commitment of the college student-mentors to the young choristers was inspiring – and lively.

I extend my deepest thanks to all who gave their time, energy and resources to offer this remarkable gathering.

There is growing excitement around the 2011 Biennial Conference in Seattle. It is going to positively burst with opportunity! I’m eager to greet and welcome you here.

I am so very grateful for the extraordinary leadership within our ALCM organization. Thank you for allowing me to serve you in Region IV.

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Reflection Upon the Gathering

A Poem by Dr. Joy Berg

*There were many (around 100) people to meet!
And meet them we did – and then we’d eat!
We workshopped together, and met to parlay
“Faith: A Compass for Leaders” in various ways;
And share time ‘round coffee and other such pleasures,
And shop at the ‘music store’ for some new treasures!*

*The highlight for me, though, was worship together;
First thing in the morning, quiet as a feather,
Times when God spoke through word and through song.
St. Thomas Mass, Hymn Fest – we knew we belonged!*

*I’m sorry that only us two Canadians were there!
There’s so much for us – to gain and to share.
I hope that many more Canucks will come on to see
The multitude of friendships and opportunity
To Gather together under ALCM,
To hear others’ stories, to tell of our own,
As we live and work together under the chief Cornerstone.*

A Word From Our Former Region IV Officers

Prayer Candles
Sending Worship

Norma Aamodt-Nelson
Former Region IV President



Onward we go...

It has been a privilege to serve as Region IV President these past four years and I thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity. Having served in that capacity for Region III over twenty years ago, I did come to the position with some experience, but I quickly learned the vastness of our region and over time, felt more knowledgeable in representing you to the national board.

The national board is a treasury of personalities, enthusiasm, dedication and hard work, and I will miss the conference calls and face-to-face meetings which were stimulating and exciting. However, I feel as though I'm still quite involved in the organization, as I help with the next biennial, Seattle 2011, and I do look forward to welcoming you to our Emerald City, and in particular, you to my parish as the site of the closing service.

It has been a great joy to attend our regional biennials and I am deeply grateful to all who have worked so hard to pull off those events, in particular, the ones closest to my four year term: Seattle 2006, San Francisco 2008, and Boulder 2010.

Thank you again, and blessings to the new officers!

Karla Devine
Former Region IV President



It has been a great honor to serve as Vice President of Region IV of ALCM for the past four years. What an active and talented region this is! It has been a blessing to serve with such wonderful leaders as Norma Aamodt-Nelson and Carol Churchill. And it has been a joy to meet so many of you and to have the opportunity to work with you.

Over the past four years I have learned that the best way to increase membership in ALCM is through personal invitation. I have tried to encourage people to join us at every opportunity, and I plan to continue to do so. I urge all of us to invite colleagues at neighboring churches, participants at reading sessions and church music students to join. *We are such a well-kept secret!*

Currently I am serving on the planning committee for the Biennial Conference in Seattle next summer. It is going to be an amazing conference. Please plan to attend. And bring a friend! It's so exciting to experience an ALCM conference with someone who has never been to one before. It's kind of like taking a child to Disneyland for the first time. They will be filled with wonder and the Spirit. Please share our abundance, challenges, and joy!

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve!
God's Blessings to you!

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Advent's Longest Night: A Worship Service

Bryn Cannon
Seattle, WA

Several years ago, a woman in our congregation found herself grieving and depressed at Christmas time. In counseling with one of our pastors, she laid out her situation: still single; grieving the recent loss of her mother; struggling with college and career issues; and uncertain of the right path. She just didn't feel like celebrating. Merely hearing Jingle Bells in the mall made her want to scream. (Well, some of us who aren't depressed have the same reaction!)

That year, the pastor asked me to help him put together a liturgy for a *Longest Night* service. Sometimes called "Blue Christmas" (which, I'm sorry, makes me think of Elvis, and implies that it is only for people who are depressed). *The Longest Night* is an Advent worship service which provides the opportunity to celebrate the coming of the Light while acknowledging the darkness we are currently experiencing. In this way, it focuses our attention on hope and healing without ignoring or discounting those areas that need the hope and healing.

Advent is the perfect time of year for this type of worship service. Especially up here in the Northwest, where during December we have daylight (I use that term loosely, because even the "days" are dark with rain!) from about 9:00 to 3:00, the "Longest Night" of the year is a very real thing. But more significantly, Advent is about anticipation. Yes, we anticipate the return of sunlight and longer days, but even more, the coming of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. We look forward to the yearly celebration of His birth; we anticipate His second coming and the restoration of all things, natural and spiritual; and some of us, maybe many of us, anticipate His ongoing work of coming into the dark places of our lives: those places which are broken, where we hurt, where we are tired or empty, where we are confused, and where we wait and wait for things to work out.

Practically speaking, our Longest Night service consists of about an hour of music, prayer, candle lighting, scripture reading, and a brief message. We do not always plan it for the literal longest night of the year, but pick a Friday evening during Advent. Though the service starts at 7:30, music begins around 7:15 and continues for about a half hour in a sort of gentle rolling start. During this time, people can light candles at the front, pray, read, or just listen. It's a place to just be, to find relief from all the expectations and busyness so typical during this time of year.

Music

Pre-service music is entirely instrumental, and with a small ensemble. We often play relatively unfamiliar carols and renaissance-era music (such as *Wexford Carol* and *Wir Singen*

Dir) interspersed with the more meditative familiar tunes such as *What Child is This* and *Lo, How a Rose*.

A couple times we have also used a chamber choir, which sings an introit and something during communion. Pieces such as *O Nata Lux* (Morten Lauridsen) and *Lux Aurumque* (Eric Whitacre) work really well because they highlight the theme of Light.

Congregational singing does not have to be all somber, but it does need to be familiar, singable, and more on the meditative side. We found the hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* as a good way to begin the service and *Dona Nobis Pacem*, with its lovely countermelodies, as a beautiful way to end the service.

People

This service is not only for the depressed and grieving, it is also a good opportunity for our deacons and prayer ministers to participate in a worship service. These folks serve as ushers and prayer teams before and after the service. We use our congregational care department's mailing list to help publicize the service, and include a note in the bulletin about our Stephen Ministers for anyone who has need of their services.

Scripture

John 1:1-5, Isaiah 9:1-4, Isaiah 60: 1-3, Luke 1:68-79, Habakkuk 2:1-3, and so on. Any verses which speak of the coming Light, hope, waiting, and promises of redemption will work.

One year, in addition to Scripture readings, we incorporated a poem called "Leaves in Solstice" by Dennis Kennedy (text on next page). I love the way the poem addresses both the

(con't. pg. 8)



Advent (con't.)

anxious activity we often get caught up in during the holiday season, as well as the emptiness of loss. It's a paradox that we need both rest and renewed energy. And Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever, is the only one who can and does give us both – in abundance.

Leaves in Solstice

Dennis Kennedy

*Withered leaves panic
Before the knives of wind.
They scurry directionless,
Longing for peace,
Burial in a swansdown of flurries.*

*Dead blown, yet swirled into false life,
Their nature calls for a return to earth –
To become bits and pieces of the kingdom
From which new life will grow.*

*Darkness drives down the sun,
Loosing night cold as blue metal;
Together we beg the return of fire
And you hear, O Lord.*

*Sun's slow revolve enthrones a
Little one on wood warmed with straw.
Childbirth is risky – he comes
As he goes
In a rush of blood and water.
In the night, with loaves and wine,
We become the little one;
Blood brothers and water sisters,
Bits and pieces of the kingdom.*

Bryn Cannon is the Ministry Coordinator for Instrumental Music at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, WA

Editor's note: The tree artwork is by Bryn's daughter, Jessie, and available by contacting: brync@upc.org

"We Give Thee but Thine Own, Whate'er the Gift May Be"

Jerry Gunderson, All Saints Lutheran, Phoenix, AZ



According to this wonderful hymn text, we are called to use our gifts to worship and serve God. As church musicians, we are called to help others to use their gifts in worship, and we are often approached by members of our congregation who would like to share their particular talents. Sometimes these requests are somewhat challenging to accommodate. Over the years, I have found ways to include everything from harmonica to bagpipes in worship. Recently, the unusual request came from within my own home!

My 14 year old son Ryan is one of those creative kids. He plays the piano, but prefers improvisation rather than note-reading, and loves to create and compose music. He enjoys listening to grand orchestral soundtracks from movies such as: Lord of the Rings, Star Trek and Avatar. Ryan started using Finale software about a year ago, and has been exploring the world of music composition with a little help from Dad and

his piano teacher. For his school internship project in May, he did a one week internship with the Phoenix Chorale and their composer-in-residence, Ola Gjeilo (www.olageilo.com), and that experience was very inspiring for him. He decided he would like to adapt one of his original piano compositions into a choral piece, and asked if it could be sung by our adult choir. While I did not say it at the time, I was a bit skeptical about the idea, but I nevertheless encouraged Ryan to give it a try. As he worked on the piece, I offered suggestions and assistance along the way. Perhaps the greatest difficulty was that the original music was composed as an instrumental piece with no lyrics, so we needed to find a text to fit the tune. After exploring the ELW for awhile, we finally found a nice "fit" in the Service of Morning Prayer:

"O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen."

With some minor adaptations, the music and text came together quite well. We completed the work, and with just the use of the church's copier, this was our least expensive new anthem of the year! Here are a few excerpts:

The piece begins with an unaccompanied solo...

Glory

Text adapted from
Service of Morning Prayer

Ryan Gunderson

Soprano

Lord, O Lord, o-pen my lips, and my mouth shall pro-claim your glo-ry, for - ev-er-more.---

(con't. pg 9)

“We Give Thee...” (con't.)

The piece alternates between 3/4 and 4/4 meters...

more. — Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

This musical score shows a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a rest followed by the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'. The piano accompaniment features a mix of 3/4 and 4/4 time signatures, with chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

The lyrical soprano melody briefly reaches high G at times...

Glo - ry be — to the Fa - ther and to the Son, and to — the Ho - ly Spir - it, — ev - er -

Glo - ry — to the Fa - ther and to the Son, ev - er -

Glo - ry — to the Fa - ther and to the Son, ev - er -

This musical score shows a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line includes the lyrics 'Glo - ry be — to the Fa - ther and to the Son, and to — the Ho - ly Spir - it, — ev - er -'. The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time, with chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

The accompaniment provides simple support to the choral parts, with some occasional harmonic “surprises” like the C major chord in the right hand above the Bb choral harmony...

more. — *ff* As it was in the be - gin - ning

more. *f* Glo - ry! *ff* Al - le - lu - ia,

more. Glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia,

This musical score shows a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line includes the lyrics 'As it was in the be - gin - ning' and 'Glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia,'. The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time, with chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *p*, *f*, and *ff*.

Ryan appreciated our willingness to allow him to use his gifts, and he is thrilled that his music will soon be an offering of praise in one of our worship services. Wonderful things can happen when we encourage others to use their musical gifts in worship!

An Invitation: Come to Seattle!

Arletta Anderson, Local Hosting Chair



ALCM 2011 Local Planning Committee encourages you to come to Seattle for the ALCM Biennial Conference. The Pacific Northwest is vacation land ...waiting for you to explore! Plan to come early to extend your stay with friends and/or family for adventure and fun. Whale watching, float plane excursions on Kenmore Air, San Juan

Islands, traditional Native American Salmon Bake at Tillicum (just a short ferry ride away from downtown Seattle), are just a few of the many things to do. The natural beauty is amazing and spectacular—two mountain ranges frame the area, the Cascades and Olympics. Mount Rainier and Mount Baker are stunning; lakes and the Puget Sound are beautiful!

Or after a very inspiring, filled with abundance conference with so much to think about and ponder, plan to spend a week reflecting at Holden Village, early reservations required, or take one of the many cruise ships leaving for Alaska.

Other places to visit include: Boeing Museum of Flight, the Future of Flight Museum, and Paul Allen's Historic Aircraft at Paine Field. Microsoft, Amazon, and Starbucks headquarters are all in the Seattle area; as well as three major Boeing plants with a tour available at the Everett plant. Mount St. Helens Volcanic Park and Monument is just a 2.5 hour drive south on I-5; the Victoria Clipper sails between Seattle and Victoria, BC daily; and the ocean beaches are within a few hours' drive. And last but not least, for all you Twilight fans, the town of Forks, Washington is only a ferry ride and a few hours' drive away.

Our conference happens at the same time as SEAFAIR, a great party of special events for Seattle "connecting and celebrating the community spirit of Puget Sound". The weekend BEFORE our conference is the famous and well-loved Torchlight Run (5,000 runners in 2010) and the Torchlight Parade in the early evening. If you are nestled in the conference hotel by then, the Red Lion Hotel on Fifth Avenue, the parade will be merely one block away. The ethnic richness and diversity of the Pacific Northwest is celebrated in this parade. The weekend AFTER our conference, SEAFAIR continues with hydroplane races on Lake Washington and an air show featuring the Blue Angels. Did we mention the SEAFAIR Clowns? Rumor has it the clowns and the pirates are having a duel next year!

Seattle's airport code is SEA. Seattle is also served by Amtrak; the station code is SEA.

There is plenty for vacationers to do in the Seattle area.

Go to www.ALCM.org, click on Biennial Conference 2011:



Seattle, Washington and then Destination Seattle to check out the following vacation ideas:

Islands of Puget Sound

(Bainbridge Island; Whidbey Camano Islands; Tillicum Village; Lake, lock, or harbor cruises; San Juan Islands)

Whale watching

(San Juan Safaris; Mystic Sea Charters)

Water tours

(Kenmore Air Seaplane; Ducks of Seattle; Seattle Seaplanes)

Historic Seattle

(Pioneer Square District; Seattle Center; Space Needle; Pike Place Market)

Museums and Zoos

(Woodland Park Zoo; Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium; Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture; Seattle Aquarium; The Museum of Flight; Seattle Art Museum; Rosalie Whyel Museum of Doll Art)

City tours

(Bill Speidel's Underground Tour; Let's Tour Seattle!; Seattle CityPass; Seattle Chinatown Tour)

See you in Seattle!

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ABUNDANCE
CHALLENGE
JOY**

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Challenge of discernment, breadth and quality.
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JULY 30 - AUGUST 3
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ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH MUSICIANS

A Timely Anthem Shared with ALCM Colleagues

Tom Keesecker, Billings, MT



I have written a new anthem entitled "Acceptance."

Here is the text:

*Acceptance, acceptance,
for all of God's children.
Acceptance, acceptance,
let all of God's children
be clothed in light.*

*We are created in God's holy image,
Called by Christ to share mercy and peace.
Acceptance, acceptance, for all of God's children now.
Now is the time, let justice reign.
Why do we arm ourselves with hate?
Come, loving Spirit, teach us how to live.*

*Acceptance, acceptance, for all of God's children.
Acceptance, acceptance, let all of God's children
be clothed in light.
Transform this kingdom, open up our hearts,
May we love as Christ taught us to love.
Acceptance, acceptance, for all of God's children now.
Hear now our prayer, we stand in need.
Heal all our hurtful words and deeds.
Come, loving Spirit, make us one in you.*

Acceptance, acceptance, for all of God's children now.

It has been professionally engraved and is in a soft pop style - SATB, piano, guitar, trumpet or another instrument (there are C and B^b parts plus a guitar lead sheet).

I am thinking about trying to get this published, but I believe this plea for "acceptance" is very topical now and I'd rather not wait to see this in print in a year or two down the road.

I offer you copies at \$1 per copy, which you print. If you make 20 copies for your choir, yourself and accompanist, send me twenty. If you make 15 send me fifteen. The choir part has eight pages - four sheets of paper back-to-back.

If you're interested, let me know and I'll send off a PDF and let you decide. You do not have to "purchase" it until you've looked it over. We'll just use the honor system.

plk0254@bresnan.net

Question Box: Ask a Pro



New in this issue is the "Question Box" addition. It is a place to ask questions which will be answered by a "pro". Your name will not be published, but your question will be. One of our pros will have answers in the next Region IV Newsletter.

The first professional is **Dr. Gregory Peterson** who was a key-noter at the Gathering in Boulder 2010.

He will answer questions and provide valuable advice about organ related issues, anything related to supporting the congregational song, music in worship, using global music, new cultural challenges, and more.

Dr. Gregory Peterson is on the music faculty at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa teaching Applied Organ and Church Music. He conducts the Luther Ringers and serves as College Organist and Cantor to the student congregation. He has also served as a church musician in Boston and on the faculties of Gustavus Adolphus College and Pacific Lutheran University.

The second professional is **Bradley Ellingboe** who was a presenter and choral director at the Gathering in Boulder 2010.

He will answer questions about adult choirs, the human singing voice, church choirs and related issues.

Bradley Ellingboe is Professor of Music and Regents Lecturer at the University of New Mexico. He has spent 19 years as Director of Music at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Albuquerque, is a well known composer and arranger, and was with us in Boulder serving as director of the Evensong Choir plus being a presenter.

Details: Email your questions to carole.arenson@cox.net by December 10th and the answers will appear in our next newsletter.

Member Update: Tim Snyder

Tim Snyder, who was our hosting chair for the Gathering in Boulder, has accepted a new position and now is in Region II. We thank him for all he has done for Region IV and wish him well on his new adventure. He wanted you all to know his new contact information:

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Director of Choral Activities
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