

REGION IV NEWSLETTER

2010 Region IV Gathering

Faith: A Compass For Leaders

Psalms 121: I Lift My Eyes Up to the Hills...



Pre-Gathering: Sunday, July 11 (12:30 PM) - Monday, July 12 (noon)
Gathering: Monday, July 12 (noon) - Thursday, July 15 (noon)
 Post-Gathering: July 15 (1-6 PM)

There is so much in the full schedule for the **Gathering**, starting with the **Pre-Gathering** (Children, Music & the Church) on July 11, and ending with the **Post-Gathering** (Denver Organ Tour) on July 15. Besides our three stellar keynoters, we have about 20 additional presenters with a variety of topics. Hopefully some of them are “exactly what you have been looking for”. Our website has a wealth of information including descriptions for all the keynotes, focus times, forums, worship, recitals, reading sessions, etc. www.region4boulder.org

We are purposely using some new wordage to help convey our intent towards a “grass roots” orientation. ***The idea of discussion and feed-back are important in this Gathering.***

- **FOCUS** is meant to convey a “narrowing down” to a specific subject. Our Focus sessions will usually include two presenters so more than one viewpoint is shared. Each session will include time for discussion and dialogue.
- **FORUM** has a broader subject scope with interactive dialogue for a major part of the hour. We have two Forums scheduled with all three keynoters on topics yet to be determined. The topics need to be relevant to music and worship in the 21st century. If you have a suggestion let us know. We have begun collecting topics and will choose two topics next summer before the Gathering. Send to: carole.arenson@cox.net
- **KEYNOTE** sessions will be offered by our three Keynote speakers. They too will save a few minutes for “Q & A”.
- **SING!** is exactly that; a time for all of us to sing together “Alice Parker Style”, led by Dr. Bradley Ellingboe.
- **GATHERING** is an inclusive term meant to include a wide variety of people, welcoming church musicians, clergy and lay people of all ages and backgrounds.

We also have a “**Dream**”. We hope to have college students in our midst. We are looking for students majoring in church music, music and other fields, and/or those who have been faithfully serving in their home congregations. Their registration fee has been kept relatively low. For those not already members, the student membership is ½ price. Another plus is when they take advantage of the offer to serve as mentors for the children in the Pre-Gathering, the Boulder Hosting Committee will find them *4 nights of free bed and breakfast!* Please go to www.region4boulder.org and click on *college students* for more information.

How can you help enrich the Gathering experience?

- Consider bringing a second person from your congregation who could benefit from the offerings (*see 2nd Person registering with ALCM Member*) on the Registration Brochure.
- Know a college student who should be with us? See if your congregation, synod, choir, etc. would consider a

small stipend to help with travel and the registration fee. Tell them ALCM is offering free “bed & breakfast”.

- Know someone who would benefit from being an ALCM member? Encourage them to do so now since first-time membership is available for ½ price when they register for the Gathering.
- Invite others to join you in Boulder. ALCM members are not limited to only their region for summer events. Feel free to invite your friends wherever they may be.
- Sign up early so you make use of a discounted rate and we have income to offset the early expenses.

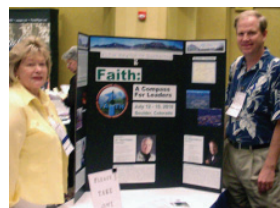
We are happy to have the 2010 Registration Brochure included in this issue. Much information can be found in it, but remember more information is available on the website: www.region4boulder.org. If you still have questions, please do feel free to contact any one of us on the Gathering Steering Committee. See you in Boulder!

Gathering Steering Committee: Dr. Joy Berg, Carol Churchill, Kim Cramer, Jerry Gunderson, Valerie Hess, Tom Keesecker, Gerry Luethi, Dr. Timothy Snyder, Helen Thoenes, Erik Whitehill and Carole Lea Arenson, chair.



Chautauqua Auditorium est. 1898

Region IV in Milwaukee



Carole Arenson and Jerry Gunderson in Milwaukee

Last August at the National ALCM Conference in Milwaukee the Region IV display table boldly announced - **Faith: A Compass for Leaders**. Our Boulder Gathering display table included flyers and a computer highlighting our website. This was a great opportunity to meet people and talk about the many events scheduled for the **2010 Gathering in Boulder**. There was much excitement about the varied offerings scheduled for July 11-15, 2010. Many people suggested it would be worth their while to attend even if they *only* heard the three marvelous keynote speakers! And of course, they coupled this with the fact that Boulder is “an exquisite summer vacation destination”.



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NEWSLETTER

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<u>Submission Deadline</u>	<u>Issue</u>
January 15	Spring
April 15	Summer
October 15	Winter

The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians' 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 is also sent to 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.

Advertising Information

The **Region IV Newsletter** is published three times per year in February, May, & November.

Single issue rates

- Half Page 5" X 8" \$ 50.00
- Quarter Page 4" X 5" \$ 30.00
- Business Card 3" X 2" \$ 20.00

1. Submit ad in JPEG or PDF format.
2. Send 2 months before publication.
3. Send payment check (payable to ALCM) to Carole Arenson, editor.

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From the Editor...

Carole Lea Arenson, Region IV Newsletter Editor

We continue to focus on the upcoming Region IV **2010 Gathering in Boulder** and are pleased to include the **Registration Brochure** inside this newsletter. Also included, are more articles about the Gathering helping you to be well informed and ready to share the information with others who may not yet be members.

Thanks to members, Chris Rogers and Charles Freitag, for submitting articles and it is good to see three ads from Region IV members in the newsletter.

You are invited to contribute articles as together we strive to be a newsletter for our region. Carole.arenson@cox.net The next deadline is January 15, 2010.

From the Desk of the Prez!

Norma Aamodt-Nelson, Region IV President



YOU ARE ESPECIALLY INVITED TO MEET ME IN BOULDER

Included in this newsletter are awesome plans for the Gathering (another name for *regional conference*) which I hope is on your calendar for July 11-15, 2010 in Boulder, Colorado. I hope you will allow your congregation to help finance your trip as an encouragement to your ministry, and that you will encourage any student you might know with an interest in music/worship to think about attending, as the plans to support students in this gathering are thoughtfully planned and could be extremely appealing to their budget limitations (I am a college-student parent myself!). Since I am married to a fly-fisherman, I believe I'll even have him along on this trip, since he knows what awesome trout streams can be found in

Colorado (as well as extraordinary scenery and mountain air!).

Our planning team, under Carole Lea Arenson's expert work, has moved quickly to assemble an awesome list of speakers and musicians who will share from their hearts. Mindful of the need for educational sessions, these have been built into the schedule, in addition to experiential sharing from many of our members. Each offers this as a gift and in turn, we all look forward to spending some relaxing time debriefing our work together.

On my desk is a huge pile of resources I brought home from the national ALCM conference in Milwaukee this past August. In the months to come, I'll find places on my shelves and in the music files for the variety of ideas and resources.... and I encourage you to use our ALCM conferences and gatherings each year as your energizing time. See you in Boulder!

Mark Your Calendar

2010

January 15

Last day for **Early Bird** Discounted Gathering Registration
Last day for Region IV Newsletter submissions

January 24 (4 p.m.)

Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, Scottsdale, AZ
Dr. John Ferguson leads Hymn Festival with choirs from the Phoenix area.
Contact: Brent Hylton bhylton@pinnaclepres.org

May 1

Last day for Discounted Registration

July 11 – July 15

ALCM Region IV Gathering in Boulder

2011

ALCM National Conference in Seattle



Six Questions You May Have

ALCM REGION IV GATHERING IN BOULDER



1. What hotel should I choose?

Our website gives you information on three suggested hotels, plus links to other Boulder hotels (www.region4boulder.org, click on *Housing*).

If you wish a better-than-average room located closest to the action, it would be the **Boulderado**. This is a grand, beautifully restored 1909 hotel with a newly added section built in the same 1909 style. It is billed as “*Boulder’s Original Luxury Hotel*”. This is the most expensive option.

The **University Inn** is priced in the middle with easy access to the *Gathering* via the “Skip” bus.

The least expensive choice is the **Broker Inn**. If you have a roommate and split the \$89.99 double at the **Broker Inn**, it would cost you about \$45 per night.

Another idea: If you want to be at the **Boulderado** and have three friends to share a room, consider a room with two queen beds for \$189. There is a \$15 charge per extra person, bringing the room total to \$219, divided by 4 = \$55!

Whatever you decide, we encourage you to book early. We have “*discounted room agreements*” with these three hotels and not a block of “*guaranteed rooms*”. Discounted booking codes and more information on these hotels can be found on the website under *Housing* www.region4boulder.org.

Take a few minutes NOW to secure your room so you can be assured of getting exactly what you want. **We want you to be happy in Boulder!**

2. How do I get to Boulder?

If flying, use the Denver airport with easy public transport to Boulder. We have made arrangements with *SuperShuttle* for a discounted roundtrip price of \$40 which delivers you to the door of all three hotels. There is more information under *Transportation* on the website: www.region4boulder.org.

3. Do I need a car in Boulder?

No. Boulder prides itself on being “Green”. This is reflected in the easy public transport, coupled with downtown parking charges for vehicles (*even the church parking lots are leased during the day*). We offer you the prepaid discounted \$18 transit pass on the registration form for those of you not staying at the *Boulderado Hotel*.

4. What if my family joins me in Boulder? Are there things for them to do?

Boulder is known as a “vacation destination” full of interesting things to do. The entire region is a paradise for hiking, cycling, rock climbing and almost every kind of outdoor activity except surfing. Pearl Street Mall is an area filled with culture, food, street musicians, beautiful flowers, shops, etc. If someone in your family is into science, NCAR (*National Center for Atmospheric Research*) is open to the public, and NOAA (*National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration*) has a 1 pm tour on Tuesdays. There is much more; check the *Boulder Links* on website: www.region4boulder.org.

5. What is Chautauqua?

The Colorado Chautauqua is one of three remaining *Chautauquas* in the United States, and the only site west of the Mississippi River, in continuous operation, with its original structures intact. Before radio and television, the Chautauqua Movement united millions in common cultural and educational experiences. Orators, performers, and educators traveled a national Chautauqua circuit of more than 12,000 sites bringing lectures, performances, concerts, classes, and exhibitions to thousands of people in small towns and cities. Theodore Roosevelt called *Chautauquas* “the most American thing in America”. Located at the base of Boulder’s Flatirons, Chautauqua Park is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a local landmark. The Auditorium, built in 1898, is included on the National Register of Historic Places and is where we will attend the Tuesday night concert. It has been voted one of the top ten places artists love to play because of its superior acoustics and intimate feel.

6. Do I need to purchase the \$40 concert ticket if I only want to be at Chautauqua?

No. Everyone will be transported to Chautauqua. If you would like an excellent concert seat at a discounted cost, pre-purchase the \$40 ticket. If weather permits, you may sit on the grass to listen for free since the huge doors will be open to the lawn or you can take a short, guided mountain hike.

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Three Stellar Keynoters Present at the “Gathering in Boulder 2010”



The Steering Committee intentionally sought three people who would satisfy the three component parts needed to be a successful church musician: Musician, Teacher and Theologian. Of course, it is true that the three people, listed below, are more than a mere part of the formula and so we call them “Stellar”. We know you can expect to be nurtured, educated and inspired by their presence in Boulder. Each one will have two keynote addresses and participate together in two forums. Each forum will deal with a question pertinent to “faith” in the 21st century. You are welcome to submit questions to us which you feel are worthy of discussion. The two questions will be chosen a month prior to the Gathering.

Dr. Gregory Peterson: Musician

Assistant Professor of Music, Luther College
Decorah, Iowa



“Greetings members of ALCM Region IV! I am very pleased to be a part of **the TEAM of presenters** for next summer’s Region IV Gathering in Boulder, “**Faith: A Compass for Leaders.**” I cannot think of a more beautiful setting to “**lift up our eyes to the hills**” and in which to be challenged, encouraged and inspired in our faith and vocation. I look forward to exploring this most important topic of leadership which encompasses

faith, education, musicianship, pastoral skills and most importantly servanthood. I also look forward to renewing friendships and having fun with you, the members of Region IV, of which I was president in the late 1980’s. It will be a great homecoming. I look forward to seeing you there!”

Short Bio

(see website for more information www.region4boulder.org)

Dr. Peterson joined the music faculty of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa in September of 2005, returning to his alma mater. At Luther he teaches applied organ and church music, conducts the Luther Ringers and serves as College Organist and Cantor to the student congregation, playing for daily and Sunday chapel in the College’s Center for Faith and Life on the 42-stop mechanical action organ by Robert Sipe. A dedicated and expert professional church musician for more than twenty years, he served the historic Old South Church on Boston’s Copley Square as Organist and Minister of Music from 1997-2005. At Old South he directed the Old South Choir and Old South Ringers and performed regularly with the Old South Brass, Organ and Timpani Ensemble including the ever-popular annual First Night Concerts on New Year’s Eve. Prior to his appointment in Boston he was Christ Chapel Organist and Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. He was Region IV President from 1988 – 1989 and ALCM President from 1997 – 2001.

Two Keynotes:

1. **Organ Recital: “I Lift Up My Eyes”:**
Organ music based on the Psalms
2. **A Church Music Curriculum for the 21st Century**

Sally Morgenthaler: Teacher

S.J. Morgan Productions
Centennial, Colorado



“Life is changing and God is with us. **Momentum and Emmanuel**, together. Church musicians are going to gather at the foot of the Rockies in stunning Boulder, Colorado to explore what opportunities these two divine realities might mean for worship and the people of God. Come ready to push through artificial boundaries, false dichotomies, and labels. Come ready to deepen connections, strengthen your purpose, and breakthrough to new ministry possibilities. Hope to see you there.”

Short Bio

(see website for more information www.region4boulder.org)

Sally Morgenthaler has been a major influence in the worship world for fifteen years and often termed a “Worship Innovator”. Known best for her book, *Worship Evangelism*, her current work focuses on missional practices that emphasize a strong community presence and worship that reflects a congregation’s servant, outward identity. As part of her missional focus, Morgenthaler consults with congregations on the collaborative leadership styles that help them move from the maintenance patterns of organization to the innovative dynamics of organism. She is currently writing a book for Intervarsity Press: *Dead Men Walking: Leaders and the Loss of Soul*. Sally Morgenthaler is founder of SJ Morgan Productions located in Denver, Colorado.

Two Keynotes:

1. **Momentum and Emmanuel:**
Life is Changing and God is with Us
2. **The Screen as a Stained Glass Window**

Dr. Ted Peters: Lutheran Theologian

Professor of Systematic Theology
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
Berkeley, California



“The famous Swiss theologian, Karl Barth, once remarked: ‘when the angels offer music for God they play Bach; but when they listen for themselves it’s Mozart.’ Our ears of faith and our aesthetic sensibilities hear heaven’s melody in both Bach and Mozart. However, when we listen to the discordant notes of globalization contrasted with pluralism, postmodernism pitted against tradition, and atheism attacking religion,

we yearn once again for harmony. Can a faith rooted in Christ crucified, risen, and returning strike the first notes of harmony? ‘Yes’, will be our proposed answer, as we find ourselves **bolder in Boulder.**”

Short Bio

(see website for more information www.region4boulder.org)

Dr. Ted Peters is Professor of Systematic Theology at Pacific Lutheran Theology Seminary in Berkeley, California. He defines "The Gospel" as *telling the story of Jesus with its significance. Our task in this third millennium is to tell this story in such a way that the people of our emerging post-modern culture will perceive its significance for them.* Prior to coming to PLTS in 1978, Dr. Peters was Assistant Professor, Newberry College; Associate Professor, Loyola University; and served pastorates in Illinois and New York. Dr. Peters is a prolific author on numerous topics and especially on the relationship of Theology and Science. Other books include: *The Gift of Grace: The Future of Lutheran Theology* described as "The meaning of Lutheranism for a new Millennium" and *Anticipating Omega* (V&R). In this book Ted Peters asks how the eschatological vision of God's ultimate future (omega) fits on a map of reality along with physics, evolutionary biology, genetics, and technical prognostications for a post-human future.

Two Keynotes

1. **Biblical Faith, Critical Doubt and Post-Critical Faith**
2. **The Challenge of Evangelical Atheism**

A Twenty-Five Year Celebration!

Kathy Eggleston Retires

Charles Freitag, parishioner



September 27th was the 17th Sunday after Pentecost. However, at *Bethany Lutheran Church* in Cherry Hills Village, Colorado, we took the day out to deviate from the lectionary and have a "**Celebration of the Ministry of Kathy Eggleston**". She is our now-named *Minister of Music Emerita*.

Kathy started her ministry of music three weeks before a fire on November 15, 1984, consumed the original Bethany Sanctuary. The

12 years old building was a typical Midwest-style nave and heavily carpeted with very "dry" acoustics. Kathy had the privilege of participating in designing a new sanctuary, with a nave entirely designed around the music area with a 48-rank Schantz organ. After the new building, worship and events just took off. With a 65-ft-high ceiling and all hard surfaces it is possible for all music to be performed sans amplification; only voices need mikes. As Pastor Ron Glusenkamp remarked, "the organ is a favorite throughout the Rocky Mountain region for recitals and concerts".

The *Denver Brass Five* donated their time to play for Kathy's last Sunday, and play they did. Prelude was "*Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals*" by Siegfried Karg-Elert, a 19th century Lutheran composer. Today was about as Evangelical Catholic as you will find in a Lutheran church in the Rocky Mountain region. While we don't do incense, we do about everything else. After we knelt for confession (yes, some Lutherans don't believe that kneeling is "too Catholic") our entrance hymn was "*A Mighty Fortress*", a concertato arranged

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for brass and organ. After the apostolic greeting we continued with "*Worthy Is Christ*" another concerted version.

The wonderful prayer of the day from ELW reads as follows (no, we don't all read it together, it is a presiding minister function): "*O God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship: pour out your Spirit on your servants who, with the gifts of music, enliven our praises and proclaim your word with power. Through this ministry give us new awareness of your beauty and grace, and join our voices with all the choirs of heaven, both now and forever: through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*" The lessons included Colossians 3:16-17 and the Gospel, Luke 2:8-14, which ends with the "Glory to God in the Highest". Pastor Ron gave one of his best homilies using the lessons as his base to recount Kathy's music ministry. Towards the end, he asked everyone to stand who had been married with Kathy as organist. A huge group stood. He went on to funerals, baptisms, confirmations, and concerts until finally everyone was standing. His rough calculation was that she had played about 5200 services at Bethany Lutheran Church over her 25 years.

"*When in Our Music God is Glorified*" was the Hymn of the Day and done again with brass. Following the Creed, prayers of intercession, and the peace, the choir offered *Dona Nobis Pacem* written by Stroope for choir, organ, brass and coloratura solo. We are so blessed to have with us Diane Paulsen, a graduate of the University of Richmond in opera performance. She was up to the demanding solo. All I can say is that it all was very riveting.

During distribution the *Denver Brass Five* played Sussex Mummer's carol and the choir sang "*Come to the Table*" by Jay Althouse. Kathy accompanied on the Steinway grand piano, which she was instrumental in securing for the church. We sang "*Day by Day*" and "*Take Oh, Take Me as I Am*" by John Bell of the Iona Community at the time as distribution. After the post-communion blessing and the post-communion canticle, we came to the time for the presentations to Kathy: a special cross, a photo of the nave decked out for

Christmas and a very special recognition for Kathy. A scholarship has been started in her name for a member of the parish who aspires to a career in church music either at a Lutheran college or at the University of Denver, her alma mater. Now came the thunderous and prolonged standing ovation. I would guess this is not unusual for an actor, but a bit unusual for a church organist. As our Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry remarked, "Kathy speaks through the keyboard".

The choir did not recess, but moved out across the front of the nave. Former choir members were invited to come join the choir. I would guess there were 80 or more singers for the arrangement of "Lift High the Cross" for congregation, choir, handbells, organ and brass. Finally we listened to the postlude, the *Toccata* from the *Fifth Organ Symphony* by Charles-Marie Widor. Of course, there was another thunderous applause with standing ovation. At this point we were invited to the fellowship hall for marvelous hors d'oeuvres and a short program. Well over 200 stayed for the event. Wonderful tributes by the *American Guild of Organists*, the *Denver Brass* and our own choir director Dan Grace, who is one of six choral directors who serve our music program. We ended by singing "My Life Flows on in Endless Song". The planning committee had a huge table with a montage of Kathy's life including photos of her husband Kent, her life in the church and a bulletin from the 1987 service of entrance to the new sanctuary. Another member had a video presentation of her ministry which played over and over with Kathy playing the organ in the background. Many family members were there to honor her: her husband Kent, their two sons Kirk and Kevin, her 93 year old mother Millie, plus a niece and nephew.

I would venture to say there was no better music heard in any parish, of any denomination, in the entire Rocky Mountain Region on September 27th. With an excess of 1300 at worship (7:30, 9:00 with wonderful Children's Choir and 10:30), it was a wonderful day for all of us who appreciate good church music and liturgy.

Next week it will be back to normal at Bethany with our interim organist, Sheree Weverstad, who is an excellent organist in her own right. We plan to have Bethany's new organist/minister of music present by next summer. Budgetary concerns, as well as a time for grieving, need to be heeded plus it will take time to conduct a proper search to find the right person to fill some very big shoes.

One final tribute to Kathy: our music program is so excellent that there is no need for paid soloists or section leaders; our talented musicians come because they want to be part of a wonderful classical music program!

"Brimmed for Pouring"

August 2009 ALCM National Milwaukee Conference
A Personal Review by Chris Rogers
Abiding Savior Lutheran Church • Lake Forest, CA



Even though I grew up in the mid-west, I had never been to Milwaukee. So the chance to "go back east", as the Californians say, to my roots and visit family on the way back was more than enough motivation to attend "*Brimmed for Pouring*" this summer. Plus the opportunities to see old friends, worship daily, take in new sights and sounds, didn't hurt either.

My flight arrived too late to jump on the bus to make the opening worship at St. Joseph Center, so I took a cab and got their just in time for communion. The setting was beautiful. Once again I was overcome by the sounds of the organ, choir, and congregation singing in this wonderful space. I caught the eye of my roommate,

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Karla Devine, and we both knew we had safely arrived. I pledged to myself I'd never be late for opening worship again!

Monday morning after our Starbuck stop, we headed to the Hyatt for our own Region IV Pastor Susan Briehl's plenary before the day's workshops. I enjoyed speaking with Jeff Reeves before his workshop on children's choirs since we had the Choristers Guild connection. It was also fun to meet the composer of "Create in Me", a favorite piece of my children's choir.

After dinner, I found myself trying to keep up with Karla, an avid walker, on our way over to the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist for the evening's hymn festival. Suddenly I recognized a piece my choir director had just introduced to our choir. It was "*Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying*" by Jeffrey Blesch, the festival organist of the night. Aha! That's what it should sound like with choir, organ, and congregation! Note to self: keep working on that anthem! The remodeled sanctuary was explained to us by Rev. Richard Patt. The design was not without controversy in the Catholic Church, but I think it turned out wonderfully. He pointed out that the baptismal font, the altar, and the lectern were all in a straight line showing equal importance in worship. I found out that the "wishbone" looking piece in the crucifix represented the Spirit of Jesus leaving his body when he died.

Tuesday found us riding the bus to Sherman Park Lutheran Church for a choir concert by the Milwaukee High School for the Arts. We were all encouraging them for being there in robes with the warm summer temperatures! Well done, choir! After a panel discussion and service of anointing, we headed out to a delightful organ concert at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church by Tom Trenney. This young man was not only a master at organ improvisation, but also had a wonderful sense of humor which he used to introduce his pieces. He

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I highly recommend the Ionian Psalter as a superb way for a choir to present the psalms. The congregation can easily sing the antiphon, aided by the short keyboard intonation that anticipates the melodic line to follow.

David Dahl, Christ Church, Tacoma, WA

www.ionianarts.com

said his most terrifying moment of this concert was playing Bach for a group of Lutheran musicians!

But the day wasn't over yet! We were off to the Milwaukee Art Museum for a buffet dinner and a concert by the Milwaukee Choral Artists. As soon as the women opened their mouths to sing, I knew we were in for a real treat! Their incredible choral sound coupled with precise diction was a wonder to behold. "If only my adults could hear this," I thought, "then they would know what putting on those beginning and ending consonants really should sound like!" After what seemed to be a 5 minute standing ovation for the group, we finished the evening with Compline before heading back to the hotel.

Wednesday, our last day all ready! The group was split into two. We went to different churches for Morning Prayer before heading to Grace Lutheran Church for our plenary. The moment I walked into this church I knew it was different. It felt warm, happy, and uplifting. The stained glass windows depicted Jesus blessing the children. Prominently displayed over the altar were the bright pink and gold colors declaring "by Grace you are saved". This is what being a Lutheran is all about, I thought! I decided I really liked this place, and the fact that they had their own coffee house was a treat! The afternoon brought more workshops and finally back on the buses for the closing Eucharist at St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Connections are always being made at these conferences. I ran into a lady on my bus who had been my youngest brother's music teacher in Iowa many years ago. Amazingly she remembered Terry. I had to slip out of worship as Robert Rimbo processed out of the church. I wanted to take his picture since he was a classmate of Tom, my husband, back in the seventies. Later that night, he and I shared a short polka around the floor at the Taste of Wisconsin Feast.

So much to absorb in a few short days! Reflecting back, it was a great experience for me. Conferences encourage me in my role as a Lutheran church musician. Thank you to all who had any part, big or small, in making it a big success!



Region IV Members:
Susan Briehl and Carl Crosier



Worship at St. Joseph Center Chapel (Convent)



Zebulon Highben presents the 2009
Faithful Servant Award to Paul
Westermeyer.



ALCM President and
Region IV Member, Katie
Adelman presents the 2009
Faithful Servant Award to
Jerry Evenrud.



Region IV Member: Samuel Torvent



Conference Choir under the direction of Kenneth Kosche

Photos by John Joseph Santoro



ALCM Region IV Newsletter

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**2010 Boulder Gathering
Registration Brochure Inside!**