



## ROSTER CHANGES

### APRIL 2011

**Margaret Schmitt Ajer**, Diaconal Minister, Region 2 Coordinator from Pacifica Synod to Rocky Mountain Synod 4/1/2011

**The Rev. Michael Stadtmueller** from Associate Pastor to Senior Pastor Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Fort Collins, Colorado 4/10/2011

**The Rev. Gordon Young**, from Pastor St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Salt Lake City, UT to On Leave from Call 4/30/11

### MAY 2011

**The Rev. Eugene Zeller**, from Pastor Peace Lutheran Church, Sterling, CO to On Leave from Call 5/1/2011

**The Rev. Michael Fick** from Pastor Epiphany Lutheran Church, Denver, CO to Metropolitan Chicago Synod 5/1/2011

**The Rev. G. William Nabers** from On Leave from Call to Virginia Synod 5/1/2011

**The Rev. Marsha Hendrickson** from on Leave from Call to Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod 5/1/2011

**The Rev. James Peters** from Pastor Christ the King Lutheran Church, Denver, CO to Central States Synod 5/8/2011

**The Rev. Sara Wirth** from Pastor St. Philip Lutheran Church, Littleton, CO to Pastor Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Boulder, CO 5/22/2011

### JUNE 2011

**The Rev. Janice Johnson** from Pastor All Saints Lutheran Church, Austin, CO to On Leave from Call 6/1/2011

**The Rev. Michael Lohmann**, reinstated, Pastor Epiphany Lutheran Church, Denver, CO 6/1/2011

**The Rev. Timothy Sersen** from Pastor Faith Lutheran Church, Lander, WY to South Dakota Synod 6/19/2011

**The Rev. Keith Hedstrom** from Pastor Ascension Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO to Retired 6/30/2011

### JULY 2011

**Cynthia Buschagen**, Associate in Ministry from On Leave from Call to Retired 7/1/2011

**Derek Harkins**, Rocky Mountain Synod Candidate, Ordained 7/8/2011 to First Call Western North Dakota Synod

**Closing Worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**, Denver, CO 7/24/2011

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

*For the first six months of the fiscal year, February-July, 2011:*

**actual income** \$1,464,291

**actual expense** \$1,461,545

**Balance of** +\$2,746

*We are filled with gratitude for the strong ministry partnership of our congregations who are supporting the ministries of the synod and churchwide with generous offerings. Thanks be to God!*



**Rocky Mountain Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

455 Sherman Street, Suite 160, Denver, CO 80203  
303.777.6700 / 800.525.0462 / rmsynod@rmselca.org / www.rmselca.org

## Prayer labyrinth dedicated at Risen Lord

**O**n July 24 Risen Lord Lutheran Church in Pine Junction, CO, celebrated the dedication of their newly-constructed Prayer Labyrinth. "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence," said Pastor Stefan Rickman as the congregation dedicated the Labyrinth. It was made possible by many hours of planning and implementing by the people of Risen Lord.

The Prayer Labyrinth was built with six circuits fashioned after the Chartres Cathedral labyrinth in France. The uniqueness lies in the center, which is a mosaic of Martin Luther's Rose constructed by 18 members of the congregation. All are invited to walk the labyrinth 25 miles southwest of C470 at Highway 285 and Pine Junction, CO. Turn at the stoplight onto Mount Evans Blvd., and follow the sign to Risen Lord Lutheran Church.



SUZANNE PRELIPP

## Video series is a resource for fall



**O**ur Daily Bread is a video resource for congregations to hear the stories of others who are sharing together in ministry in the Rocky Mountain Synod. Together, as a synod, and with the wider church, we are the "Bread of Life," given for others. It is excellent for fall adult classes, forums, and group gatherings.

A DVD of three video stories was distributed at Synod Assembly. These videos focus on urban ministry in Denver, CO, ministry at the border in El Paso, TX, and hunger outreach ministries in Alamogordo, NM, and Gypsum, CO. Each video is eight minutes. Companion materials are included as text files on the DVD or available on the synod website. The videos, Bible study, and devotional materials are at [www.rmselca.org/videos](http://www.rmselca.org/videos).

Three more videos are in various stages of production and will be distributed this fall. They highlight seniors' ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Casper, WY, the House for All Sinners and Saints mission congregation in Denver, CO, and the outdoor ministries at Rainbow Trail and Sky Ranch.

# The April 2012 Synod Assembly is the culmination of the bishop election process

*All clergy on the ELCA roster are eligible nominees*

In the Rocky Mountain Synod, the term for bishop is six years, and there are no term limits. Bishop Allan Bjornberg, our current bishop, will have served for 18 years when a new bishop is elected. The election will take place at the 2012 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly in Colorado Springs, April 26-28, 2012.

As the process commences, the goal is that an intentional discernment process take place, that there be wide participation across the synod, and that lay and rostered assembly voting members are equally equipped.

A Ministry Audit performed by the ELCA Office for Research and Evaluation will provide the foundation for a position description for the Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop. Materials for Bible study and discernment will also be provided to each congregation. The process is divided into four stages:

## ■ Fall Gatherings

Conference Deans will schedule and organize gatherings to equip lay and rostered leaders for the election process and to lift up names of individuals who embody gifts for the ministry of serving as bishop. These gatherings will take place prior to December 15, the deadline for submitting names of potential nominees. Instructions for submitting names will be communicated in early fall.

## ■ Notification of Potential Nominees

Those whose names were submitted as potential nominees will be invited to submit their biographical information, as well as responses to questions about their vision for the ministry of the

Rocky Mountain Synod. Potential nominees will have ample time to discern whether or not to complete and submit the information and questions.

## ■ Lent Gatherings

Conference Deans will schedule spring conference and/or cluster gatherings of pastors and congregational Synod Assembly voting members. These gatherings will be to educate voting members about the discernment and election process, to begin discernment in light of the potential nominee biographical and ministry materials available to them, and to identify initial questions to be presented to nominees at the assembly. Bible study and discernment materials will be provided.

## ■ Election at the 2012 Assembly

Congregations are encouraged to elect Synod Assembly voting members by January 31, 2012, so the voting members may have ample time to participate in the discernment process. At the assembly, which takes place April 26-28, 2012, in Colorado Springs, the first ballot is an "Ecclesiastical Ballot" in which each voting member has the opportunity to write down the name of his or her nominee for bishop. This is the official nominating ballot. Names submitted may or may not have been raised up in the earlier process of identifying potential nominees and disseminating biographical information. The bishop is elected after subsequent ballots in which the field of nominees is gradually reduced.

The newly elected bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod begins serving on August 1, 2012. The Festival Liturgy of Installation will take place on Sunday, September 23, 2012, at 7:00 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church, in south metro Denver. ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson will be present to install the newly elected bishop.

