



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

For the six-month period February - November, 2010:

**budgeted income** \$2,499,884    **actual income** \$2,432,847 (97.3%)  
**budgeted expense** \$2,499,884    **actual expense** \$2,509,704 (\$9820 over budget)  
**Current income shortfall of \$76,857 as compared with actual expenses.**

During these challenging economic times, the Rocky Mountain Synod is grateful for the continued strong support by our 170 congregations together in mission. Having received 97.3% of budgeted income at the eight month mark is an excellent symbol of our ministry together. Partnership offerings are often lower for the summer months.

## eCONNECTION IS WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Each week read about synod events, prayers for congregations and leaders, resources, and more. Stay connected every week. Subscribe online at [www.rmselca.org/news](http://www.rmselca.org/news).

## SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN TRAINING

*Safeguarding God's Children* provides participants with a basic understanding of the dynamics of child sexual abuse. The 3-hour course includes information on how to respond, prevent and protect the children and youth in one's congregation and ministry. The training will be offered prior to and at the conclusion of the 2011 Theological Conference. Dates are Monday, January 24, 2011 from 1:30 to 4:45 p.m. OR Thursday, January 27, 2011 from 10:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Cost is \$10. If attending the Theological Conference, register with your conference registration. Otherwise, contact the synod office to register.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERING: JANUARY 14-16

The Middle/Jr. High School Youth Gathering will once again take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs, January 14-16, 2010. More information on cost and registration as well as permission and covenant forms to download and review will be posted on the Rocky Mountain Synod website. Call the synod office for information about late registrations. Info at [rmselca.org/msyg](http://rmselca.org/msyg).



**Rocky Mountain Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

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303.777.6700 / 800.525.0462 / [rmsynod@rmselca.org](mailto:rmsynod@rmselca.org) / [www.rmselca.org](http://www.rmselca.org)

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

*How still we see thee lie!*

**W**hile Christians around the world light candles and sing these familiar words, crowds gather in Manger Square in Bethlehem. Although there are fewer pilgrims since the Israeli security wall has been built, Bethlehem's Christmas celebrations are an occasion for hope as the whole community assembles in Manger Square—Muslims and Christians, boy scouts, bagpipes and drums—all celebrating together.

Traveling from Nazareth to Bethlehem today, Joseph and Mary would have to wait in long lines at several check-points. And, as a BBC reporter found out, Mary would probably have to walk; donkeys need special permits to pass from Israel into the West Bank.

*yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light...*



## We can help

Rocky Mountain Synod leaders are raising \$50,000 for a music room at the college. You can help:

- Support this work with your gift
- Provide a college scholarship
- Donate to the capital campaign

Visit: [www.brightstarsbethlehem.org](http://www.brightstarsbethlehem.org)

Contact:

**Pastor Arnie Voigt, 303.218.8122**  
**Pastor Paul Gilbertson, 303.912.8680**

*Bright Stars of Bethlehem is a 501c3 organization:  
6957 Olde Creek Road, Suite 2300, Rockford,  
IL 61114*



the wall surrounds Bethlehem

Even in the shadow of a 25-foot high wall, the Lutherans at the Christmas Lutheran Church just up the hill from Manger Square have much to celebrate this year. In November, they dedicated the first building of the only Lutheran College in the Middle East, Dar al-Kalima College

The college is a beacon of hope for future generations. Citing its young people as Palestine's most valuable resource, these Lutherans have created a college committed to building a culture of democracy, critical thinking, and free expression, preparing leaders for the strengthening of the civil society in Palestine.

Members of the Rocky Mountain Synod Peace Not Walls committee who have traveled to the Holy Land are available to lead discussions on the Israel/Palestine conflict. Contact Jan Miller: 303.332.1263.

# Assembly 2011: Give us today our daily bread

May 12-14, 2011  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther described “daily bread” as much more than the food on our table. It encompasses all that sustains us: shelter, clothing, farm & fields, good weather, health, peace, good friends, and much, much more.

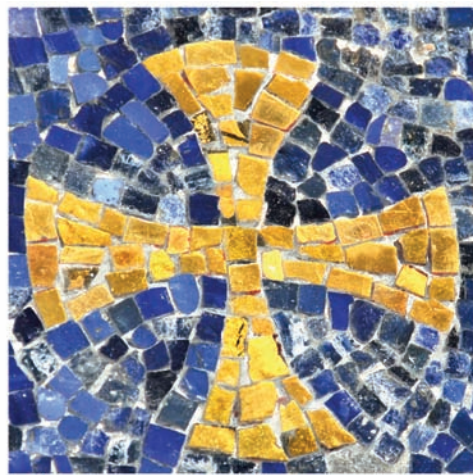
As we gather for the 2011 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly, we will be considering what sustains us *today* as people who live in community. In our changing world, how do we proclaim the Good News *today*? What is the church’s prophetic response *today* to all that threatens life in abundance? What is our narrative of hope?

Leading our conversations together will be Dr. Barbara Rossing, professor of New Testament at Lutheran School of Theological in Chicago.



Dr. Barbara Rossing

She is a frequent lecturer in ecumenical and ELCA settings. Previously Rossing served as chaplain to Harvard Divinity School, pastor and teacher at the Holden Village retreat center, and pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minn. She serves on the executive committee and council of the Lutheran World Federation, where she also chairs the Lutheran World Federation’s theology and studies committee.



## GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD

In addition to our worship, our fellowship, and our business together, voting members will participate in workshops around the themes of “daily bread” as described by Luther.

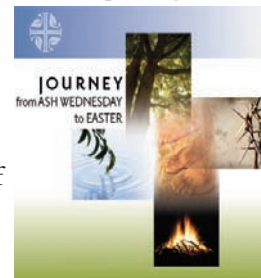
Registration for each voting member will be \$300. Cost for each hotel room at the Crowne Plaza will be \$100 with single or double occupancy. Parking is free at the Crowne Plaza, and free internet will be provided to all participants in hotel rooms and public spaces.

As the people of God marked with the sign of the cross at our baptism, we are empowered to live as the people of God, grounded in the cross of Christ. Thus, the assembly graphic is a mosaic from a 6th century Roman baptistry. The mosaic also reminds us that we are joined together in mission and ministry. Alone we are a unique, individual congregations. Together we shine with the Light of Christ.

## Journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter 2011 Theological Conference

January 24-27, 2011  
Harvest Millenium Hotel and  
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church  
Boulder, Colorado

The 2011 Rocky Mountain Synod Theological Conference takes place January 24-27, in Boulder, Colorado. We will worship using the liturgies for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter, and provide resources and ideas for Lent and Holy Week worship next spring.



Registration and information is at [rmselca.org/tc](http://rmselca.org/tc). Call the synod office for late registrations after December 23.

## Mission Partners Keep the Work of the Church Alive

We give thanks for all Mission Partners congregations for their prayers and financial support of mission congregations in the Rocky Mountain Synod. Your gifts are needed and greatly appreciated!

Please consider giving a gift to support one of the mission congregations in the Rocky Mountain Synod. Details at [www.rmselca.org/partners](http://www.rmselca.org/partners). Or contact Pastor Jim Hytjan, Assistant to the Bishop, at [james\\_hytjan@rmselca.org](mailto:james_hytjan@rmselca.org) or 303-777-6700 or 800-525-0462.

## Rocky Mountain Synod Roster

### OCTOBER 2010

The Rev. Robert Sachs from Pastor Trinity Lutheran Church, Evanston, WY to On Leave from Call, disability 10/8/2010

Grace Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO  
Organized 10/24/2010

The Rev. Joshua Bruns from Candidacy to Pastor Covenant Lutheran Church, Wheatland, WY  
10/31/2010

### NOVEMBER 2010

The Rev. Todd Payne from Southwest California Synod to Pastor King of Glory Lutheran Church, Arvada, CO 11/1/2010.

The Rev. David Nichols from Eastern North Dakota Synod to Pastor Mount Tabor Lutheran Church, Salt Lake City, UT 11/1/2010

The Rev. Jeffrey Loudon from Pastor Mount Tabor Lutheran Church, Salt Lake City, UT to On Leave from Call 11/1/2010 (now serving an interim position at St. David’s Episcopal congregation in Page, AZ)

The Rev. Stefan Rickman from Minneapolis Area Synod to Pastor Risen Lord Lutheran Church, Conifer, CO 11/18/2010

The Rev. Gabi Aelabouni from Metropolitan Chicago Synod to Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Collins, CO 11/29/2010

The Rev. Meghan Aelabouni from Metropolitan Chicago Synod to Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Collins, CO 11/29/2010

## eConnection

is the weekly email newsletter for  
the Rocky Mountain Synod

sign up at [rmselca.org/news](http://rmselca.org/news)