



■ **OFFERINGS & PLEDGES**

Offerings received at opening worship for ELCA World Hunger was \$5,091. Offerings received at closing worship for the Seminary Scholarship Fund was \$2,966. Pledges for the ELCA Malaria Campaign are \$7,205.

■ **FINANCES**

The fiscal year which ended on January 31, 2011, ended about as expected. Actual income was \$2,944,788 and actual expenses were \$2,978,684 resulting in a shortfall of \$33,896 which was funded through operating reserves. The 2012 budget was approved for \$2,951,042.



■ **ELECTIONS**

**Secretary**

Earline Bohling

**Synod Council**

Border Clergy: Bruce Freeman  
Utah Lay Female: Deb Elstad  
New Mexico Lay Male: Jerry Etheridge

**Consultation Committee**

Jan Krakow  
Walt Meyer

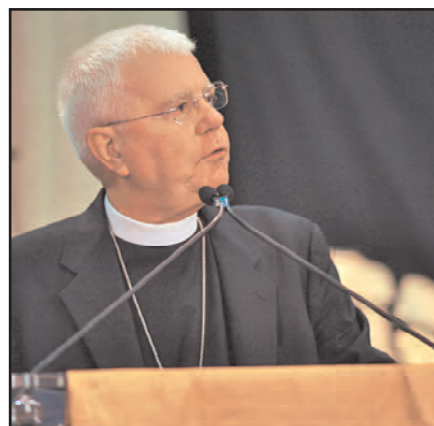
**Committee on Discipline**

Ben McCracken  
Ralph Yernberg  
Lillian Filegar  
Jerry Jagers  
Richard Nehring  
Charlie Pineda

## Give us Today our Daily Bread

*Bishop Allan Bjornberg asks, "How broad and inclusive is God's call?"*

Using the image of "living stones" from 1 Peter, Bishop Allan Bjornberg invited the Rocky Mountain Synod, gathered in assembly May 12-14, to ponder what it might mean to be a *living stone*. "It takes a lot to shift a good-sized stone, such as an earthquake, a landslide, or a flash flood," he said.



"But we are an Easter people, and our resurrected Lord is a roller of stones. Even we can be moved by the Tsunami of Grace, which has shifted the axis of creation," he said. "We are being built, shifted, by baptismal water, and grace-gathered, to our call as proclaimers of the light."

Acknowledging that these past years have been challenging with seven Rocky Mountain Synod congregations having disaffiliated with the ELCA, we reiterate the Book of Acts, which is the story of the first believers trying to make sense of the Empty Tomb and to live into the new reality of Christ Risen. "What shall be our witness?" he asked. "Who is welcome? What are the signs of discipleship? How broad and inclusive is God's call?"

Bishop Bjornberg celebrated who we are, at this moment in time as 167 vital congregations. "Communities of every size, shape and background. Worshiping in at least five different languages. On the plains, on the border, in the mountains, in the city, in the suburbs, in partnership with Episcopalians, Presbyterians, United Methodists, and the United Church of Christ. From 125 to one years young."

He noted that the controversy surrounding decisions about full communion partner several years ago seems distant now, and we are seeing the fruits of those decisions. He challenged the assembly to "pray for the courage to choose the response, the truth, and the action, trusting God to forgive our short-sightedness. "It is the Holy Spirit that builds us." he said.



**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

## Assembly adopts five resolutions

The voting members at the 2011 Rocky Mountain Synod assembly considered and adopted five resolutions. One of them also took the form of a memorial to be forwarded to Churchwide for consideration. Visit [www.rmselca.org/assembly](http://www.rmselca.org/assembly) for full texts.

### MINISTRY TO MILITARY AND THEIR FAMILIES

Be It Resolved, that all congregations of the Rocky Mountain Synod will support active, reserve, national guard, and retired military personnel and their families. In particular, our congregations will seek to provide a welcoming and supportive environment for those military members who are returning from combat areas, and their families who served at home.

### STUDY OF THE KAIROS PALESTINE DOCUMENT

Be It Resolved: that the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to call upon and urge all of its congregations, laity, and clergy to (1) Read and discuss the Kairos Palestine document, (2) Seek ways to achieve a deeper understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and (3) Seek ways in which they can act to help end the occupation, bring about justice for all, and foster reconciliation among all the people of the Holy Land.

### SUPPORT FOR CAMPUS MINISTRY

Be It Resolved that the Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA gratefully acknowledges the faithful and fruitful proclamation of the Gospel among young adults by Lutheran Campus Ministries in our synod; that the Synod Campus Ministry Committee and the Lutheran Campus Ministry sites be encouraged to create

materials and programs for synodical use which develop, support and review an integrated, synod-wide approach to continuity of care for post high school young adults, with a focus on leadership development; and that congregations and members select a campus ministry site for intentional financial support.

### A NEW COMPANION SYNOD

Be It Resolved that the Rocky Mountain Synod joyfully establishes a Companion Synod relationship with the Sofia Synod of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. (The Mahajanga Synod has experienced such growth in congregations and members that it has divided its territory into two synods, creating a new Sofia Synod. The geographical territory of our companion relationship is unchanged.)

### TO PREVENT BULLYING, HARASSMENT AND RELATED VIOLENCE

*A similar memorial to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly was also adopted.*

Be It Resolved: that the Rocky Mountain Synod encourages new partnerships to support and offer preventative programs addressing bullying, harassment, and other related violence, especially with higher risk populations; and that these partnerships be encouraged to create or join with existing preventative programs which: (1) utilize positive, inclusive, empowering and developmentally appropriate materials, (2) raise participant's awareness about the issue, (3) focus on prevention, (4) seek to change bystander behavior into ally behavior, (5) create partnerships between youth and adults, (6) offer tools and counsel to decrease the vulnerability of those who experience and/or are at risk for bullying and harassment.



## Thank you, Katherine Cruson, for eight years of service as Secretary

Katherine Cruson has served as Rocky Mountain Synod Secretary for eight years. Bishop Bjornberg gave thanks for her years of dedicated service by presenting her with a framed calligraphic art piece. She said she is looking forward to more time with her grandchildren!

## Dr. Barbara Rossing:

*Scripture comes to life in stories of Daily Bread shared with all*

The assembly welcomed Dr. Barbara Rossing, Professor of New Testament at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, as Bible Study leader.

Dr. Rossing brought good news from the Gospels and Paul's letter to the church at Rome. In each of the four Gospels Jesus feeds large multitudes from an abundant supply of daily bread. He teaches his disciples to break bread with others, a kingdom behavior that welcomes all people to the banquet. In the Lord's Prayer Jesus teaches "us," not "me" to ask for daily bread.

Karl Barth once urged preachers to hold "the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other." Dr. Rossing responded to the news of the day regarding Harold Camping's prediction that Jesus will return to earth on Saturday, May 21, 2011, at 6 p.m.

Although Jesus "will come again to judge the living and the dead," scripture comes to life not in predictions and time lines but in stories of daily bread shared with all God's children, not in fear and judgment, but in love and the promise of healing.



Dr. Barbara Rossing

St. Paul speaks clearly of God's call to Christians to care for creation. We live "in hope that the creation will be set free from its bondage to decay and will

obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God." (Romans 8:20)

Dr. Rossing believes God calls us as a church to face the future with hopeful determination in this "kairos," this urgent moment of environmental struggle. "Jesus sees that our planet is ill and Jesus wants to heal us." She urges us to choose life in this moment that really matters—to live with a new vision of an abundant future of daily bread for all the earth.

*Dena Williams, Jim Drury, Madelyn Busse, and Kent Mueller contributed to the summaries of the 2011 assembly in this issue of Landscape. Photos are by Dale Horkey. More photos and links to the full resolutions are at [www.rmselca.org/assembly](http://www.rmselca.org/assembly).*