



ELCA video contest to depict "God's work. Our hands."

Two years ago, the Rocky Mountain Synod had its own video contest. (Results may be viewed at www.rmselca.org/vision/videos.htm. Now, the ELCA is inviting video submissions depicting how is God at work in this world through congregations throughout the ELCA.

Perhaps your congregation runs a local soup kitchen or food pantry. What about youth groups that mow lawns and fix neighborhood park benches? How about a women's circle that knits prayer shawls?



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Tell us about a ministry that excites you. Use your creativity to tell a story that inspires you—a story that will inspire others. The possibilities are endless! Tell us a funny story too; after all, God blessed us with a sense of humor.

Grab a video camera and start shooting your 30-to-90-second videos today. Then, on June 15, 2009, visit www.elca.org/videocontest to enter your videos.

Prizes include a \$5,000 ministry grant for an ELCA congregation or a \$2,500 cash prize for an individual. If a congregation has multiple stories to share, record and enter them all. You can enter as many videos as you'd like. The top 10 most popular videos will be finalists for the prizes. Videos will be received between June 15 and July 15, 2009. Additional information is available at www.elca.org/videocontest.

The Tour de Revs is in Denver July 30–August 1 to fight world hunger



The Tour de Revs is coming to Denver July 30–August 1, 2009! You may have met them at the Hunger meeting last August at Holy Shepherd in Lakewood, CO, read about them on the ELCA website or visited www.tourderevs.org and experienced the excitement of this historic ride: 3 Guys, 1 Bike, 100 Days, 13,000 miles, 65 cities. A Mission to Fight World Hunger.

These three ELCA pastors began May 13 and will be making stops at the Youth Gathering and the Churchwide Assembly riding their bamboo bicycle built for three. They will be in the Denver area and want to speak with as many folks as will gather. They need housing and meals and places to speak. So join the congregation and community of Atonement Lutheran Church in Lakewood who have already volunteered to help. Please call Sandy Olson or Pastor Michael Mortvedt at Alternatives for Simple Living (970-468-2375) to volunteer to help with this great event. You may want to ride with them part of the way in or out of Denver.

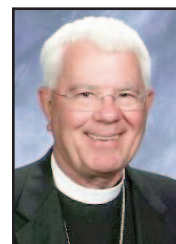


Rocky Mountain Synod ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Pray for and be proud of your church



Pray for and be proud of your church, this Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, of its capacity for persistent dialogue in the face of wide differences and deep emotion. We have taught the whole Church something, and learned much ourselves.

Pray for and be proud of your church for the quality of its leadership, both rostered and lay. Of its strong system of education and the spiritual foundation it instills.

Pray for and be proud of your church for its ministry to the poor, the hungry, and the marginalized. For its long history of refugee resettlement, its continuing assault on hunger, its commitment to standing with those in deep poverty.

Pray for and be proud of your church for its place in the global community. A leader in the Lutheran World Federation and World Council of Churches, this church was invited by the United Nations to partner in the Anti-Malaria initiative.

Pray for and be proud of your church for its continuing care for those devastated by natural disaster. Around the globe, on the Gulf Coast, in the Red River Valley, this church is present and continuing to support recovery.

Pray for and be proud of your church for its ministry with young people. Faith formation is a priority of this church.

Pray for and be proud of your church for its public voice, in the local, city, state, national and international arena, advocating human rights and dignity.

Be proud of your baptismal identity, shaped by Word and Sacrament, nurtured by faith communities large and small, urban and rural, old and young.

Pray for and be proud of your church for its determination to support and encourage faith communities among people of every color and nationality and background.

We can rejoice in these things, because they are evidence of the Holy Spirit's ongoing work in and through us.

Finally, I would say to you, don't lose hope. Remember St. Paul's witness, that nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In *Life Together*, Bonhoeffer writes, "Whoever seeks to become a new human being individually cannot succeed. To become a new human being means to come into the church, to become a member of Christ's body. The new human being is not the single individual who has been justified and sanctified; rather the new human being is the church community, the body of Christ, or Christ himself."

— an excerpt from Bishop Allan Bjornberg's assembly address on April 30 in El Paso, TX

RMS Welcomes Linda Staats to staff

She serves as the Assistant to the Bishop for Youth and Household Ministry

The vision for a staff person in the Rocky Mountain Synod to support and encourage youth and household ministry has been in place for many years. Now, the vision is a reality, as Linda E. Staats has accepted the invitation to serve one-half time as the Assistant to the Bishop for Youth and Household Ministry beginning July 1.

"Linda brings a combination of experience, connection, and vision that will be a gift to the ministry of the Rocky Mountain Synod," said Bishop Allan Bjornberg. "Her partnership will amplify the abundant gifts in our existing ministries, and will encourage us to explore the future we have envisioned."

She will retain her primary residence in Phoenix, Arizona, while spending one week a month in the Denver office and then travel and connect with additional RMS congregations and geographic areas from Phoenix.

"It is an absolute privilege to have the



opportunity to serve in a synod where keeping the promises made at baptism is taken so seriously," she said. "The foundation laid in this synod for faith formation is solid. I am eager to walk along side the leaders, congregations, camps and families, as together we build a partnership for effective children, youth and household ministry."

With a Masters degree in Human Development and the Family from the University of Nebraska, Linda brings a life span approach to ministry. Her deep roots in the Lutheran church and her broad experience with families through all of life's stages fuels her passion for

improving the energy efficiency of their churches, homes and businesses.

Recycling, light bulb replacements, programmable thermostats, reusable cups and weatherization are the most common projects. Some very helpful comments were received in relation to future actions and these are highlighted in an article at the Creation Care site where you can also link to the survey Visit www.rmselca.org/creationcare. Thanks to all who took the time to complete this survey!

Earthkeeping church survey results are in

Results are in from the Rocky Mountain Synod Earthkeeping Church Survey conducted during March of 2009. Of the 177 churches in the synod, 38 completed surveys on their efforts to care for creation.

Many congregations are becoming informed about earthkeeping and are

passing on faith from generation to generation.

Pastor Dan Bollman, assistant to the bishop, explained that the search team was blessed with getting to know very qualified and gifted candidates. "But when we encountered Linda, there was no question that God had gifted us with the very person we sought," he said. "I am excited at the opportunity to work along side Linda, not only because of what all can happen for the synod, but also for all we can learn from her about Christian faith formation."

Known for her knowledge of resources and for her ability to combine research, theology and people's own holy stories, Linda will empower all ages to serve at home and in the world. She serves the larger church as an Associate with The Youth & Family Institute; a member of the ELCA Book of Faith Advocate's Leadership Team and the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Board.

Her previous experiences includes: Minister for Faith Formation on the Grand Canyon Synod staff; Adjunct Faculty for the Center for Youth Ministry at Wartburg Seminary; Minister for Faith in Daily Life in an 1800 member congregation; Statewide Director for Building Developmental Assets in Youth for the Arizona Ecumenical Council; college faculty and family enrichment therapist; and creator of new ministries based on successful grant writing.

Linda and her retired clergy spouse, Richard, have been married for 41 years. They enjoy restoring their historic home in downtown Phoenix. Their oldest son, Kai, lives in Loveland and their second son, Jae, lives in Phoenix. They have introduced her to short films, pro sports, the night sky, bouldering, and the Linux operating system.

2010 Mexico City trip is June 8-16

The 2010 Rocky Mountain Synod Trip to the Lutheran Center in Mexico City has been scheduled for June 8-16, 2010, and is open to clergy or lay persons, high school age and older. The number of participants will be limited to 8 to 20 persons. The program:

- Listen, learn and grow through dialog and relationships with those on the margins of life
- Go into the city streets, local barrios and rural villages
- Experience the reality of Mexico
- Biblical reflections on the struggles of God's people and God's reign
- Experience the hope: visit Christian base communities, community projects, worship
- Group reflection

Registration information will be available in the future.

RMS Roster Changes

The Rev. Daniel Hoeger from Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Louisville, CO to Metro Chicago Synod. 5/1/2009.

The Rev. Steve Leiser from On Leave From Call to Shepherd of the Mountains, Park City, UT. 4/1/2009.

The Rev. John Bergren, retired from Southwest Washington Synod to Rocky Mountain Synod. 3/24/2009.

The Rev. Andrew Edstrom, retired Pastor, deceased 2/6/2009.

The Rev. Paul Hanson, retired pastor, deceased 2/22/2009.

The Rev. Ivan Anderson, retired pastor, deceased 4/5/2009.

The Rev. James Keller, retired pastor, deceased 4/26/2009.

The Rev. Henry Sickinger, retired pastor, deceased 5/7/2009.

The Rev. Julie LaHam from On Leave From Call to Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM. 5/5/2009.

The Rev. James Strader from Lutheran Church of Grace, Craig, CO to On Leave From Call. 5/1/2009.