



Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly in El Paso, Texas



“A different kind of Assembly” is April 30 – May 2
Milagro de la Frontera is the Miracle of the Border. Planning has been underway for over two years for this “different kind of assembly.” Please note the dates and deadlines below. Contact Janice Ladd-Horkey in the synod office with questions. More information is at www.rmselca.org/el Paso including links for registration and resolutions.

VOTING MEMBERS: Registration deadline for all voting members is March 1. An early deadline is necessary because of the time needed to determine the immersion groups and communicate with those involved. The registration fee is \$305 and includes program fees and meals. It does not include your hotel.

VISITORS: Registration deadline for visitors is also March 1. Cost for visitor registration with meals is \$200. Cost without meals is \$100.

PAYMENT DEADLINES: Please submit registration payments made out to the Rocky Mountain Synod by April 1. Payment for Group Travel arranged through the synod is due March 1, also made out to the Rocky Mountain Synod.

CAMINO REAL EL PASO: Our hotel rate for the assembly is \$95 per night. Parking at the hotel is \$5 a day. You will make your own hotel reservation by calling 1-915-534-3000 or 1-800-769-4300 and asking for the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly group rate. This rate is also in effect before and after the actual dates of the assembly. The Camino Real is conveniently located one block from the El Paso Convention Center where the assembly will take place.



RESOLUTIONS: Any resolutions to be considered are to be submitted by March 1.



Rocky Mountain Synod ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

■ email rmsynod@rmselca.org ■ web www.rmselca.org

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Are you discerning a call to ministry?

Discover gifts for ministry and learn about candidacy at a day-long retreat

Recognizing and responding to a ministry call requires a time of discernment.

Whether you are ready to commit to the Candidacy process or just beginning to ask the questions regarding this vocational call, you are invited to attend the Discerning God's Call retreat on April 16 in Denver.

The event will take place April 16 at Bethany Lutheran Church, located at 4500 E Hampden Avenue, Cherry Hills Village, Colo. Registration deadline is March 15.

The Director for Admissions from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary will be with us on behalf of all ELCA seminaries, along with members of the Candidacy Committee. During this retreat we will:

- Explore how we do faithful vocational discernment.
- Discover gifts for ministry.
- Learn about the variety of opportunities for services through the three rosters of the ELCA: Ordained pastors, Consecrated diaconal ministers, Commissioned associates in ministry.
- Answer questions about the ELCA Candidacy process.

Anyone planning to attend seminary in the Fall of 2009 should make immediate contact with Madelyn Busse, assistant to the bishop, in the Synod office to begin the Candidacy Application process. Also, for questions, she can be reached by calling 303-777-6700 or by emailing her at mbusse@rmselca.org. To register or to submit names for invitation, please call Janice Ladd-Horkey at 303-777-6700 or 800-525-0462.



“Where heaven and earth come together”

New Horizons in Falcon, Colorado, is a community of vision



Pastor Tim Singleton and members of New Horizons Lutheran Church dedicate property purchased by Mission Investment Fund for a future church site.

The name for a new Lutheran community in Falcon, Colo., **New Horizons**, was chosen because "*horizon* is the place where heaven and earth come together and *horizon* is also the extent of our vision," said Pastor Tim Singleton, mission developer. The community is forming for the people of Falcon, Peyton, and NE Colorado Springs.

"New Horizons Lutheran Church seeks to be a place where heaven and earth come together and where the vision of the people is expanded in the ministry of Christ," said Singleton. "This faith community strives to be Jesus-centered, grace-focused, welcoming and disciple-making for the sake of the world."

New Horizons Lutheran Church welcomes all people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and seeks to equip, empower and send them for the sake of the world. Central to their values are: prayer and bible study, respect for diversity, youth and

family ministry, grace-filled worship, and loving relationships. Presently, they worship with about forty people.

New Horizons' mission partner congregations are Black Forest, Christ the King, Ascension, and Bethel Lutheran Churches in Colorado Springs. In addition to financial support, these congregations regularly keep New Horizons in their prayers during Sunday services. As they pray for New Horizons, Pastor Julie Britsch indicates their partnership helps the members of Christ the King to remember their roots when they were a newly formed congregation fifteen years ago.

Pastor Ken Hoag from Black Forest and Pastor John Witkop from Bethel welcome their partnerships because it promotes an outward focus where people see beyond themselves and their local church to the mission of Christ in the world.

Additionally, Pastor Keith Hedstrom indicated that New Horizons is the fourth mission congregation with whom Ascension has partnered and these mission relationships help them stay focused on being Christ's hands and feet beyond their congregation.

Pastors of the SE Colorado conference of the Rocky Mountain Synod extend encouragement and spiritual support to Pastor Singleton for this important ministry. His presence and participation in the Rocky Mountain Synod has been a welcomed gift.

New Horizons Lutheran Church extends appreciation for these mission partner congregations. They will celebrate their third anniversary on Easter 2009. Worship services are Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. at Banning Lewis Ranch Academy in Falcon, Colo. For more information, visit www.newhorizonslc.org.

Accompaniment Faith Stories from Madagascar are a Lenten resource

This Lent you can walk with sisters and brothers from Madagascar—share the road and share stories.

Accompaniment Faith Stories is a volume of eleven stories brought to the Rocky Mountain Synod by our guests from Madagascar who attended the Accompaniment Summit and Fifamangiana this past August.

In these stories, our Malagasy sisters and brothers describe events that

shaped their lives as Christians. The stories make wonderful devotional reading. They can easily be used as the centerpiece for your congregation's Midweek Lenten services. They are an excellent resource for Adult Forums or discussion groups at your church. And they serve as an invitation for us to tell the stories that have shaped and defined our own Christian identity.

A copy of *Accompaniment Faith Stories* has been distributed to each RMS congregation along with ashes from Madagascar to be used for your Ash Wednesday liturgy. You can also download a copy for reproduction; go to www.rmselfca.org/globalmission. A copy of a discussion guide is also available at the same site.

RMS Roster Changes

Keith Prekker, from Rejoice, Erie, CO, to retirement

Sally Ponfick from Our Savior's, Anton, CO, to retirement

Joel Martin from Lord of the Valley, Granby, CO, transferred to St. Paul Area Synod

Teri Hermsmeyer, newly ordained to Our Savior's, Anton, CO

Sandy Olson, AIM, to specialized ministry as Co-Director for Alternatives for Simple Living

Dave Denzer, from St. Stephen's Northglenn, CO, removed from roster, going to an LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) congregation in Iowa

Scott Beebe, from Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Centennial, CO, to Mount of the Holy Cross, Vail, CO

Roberta Flood on disability, transferred to St. Paul Area Synod



Mexico City Trip is June 9-17

The Global Mission Committee of the Rocky Mountain Synod is sponsoring its sixth annual trip to the Lutheran Center in Mexico City from June 9-17, 2009. Consider joining this transformational immersion program where you will have the chance to listen, learn, and grow as you are in dialog and relationship with our neighbors to the south. Scholarship monies are available. An information sheet and registration form are available at www.rmselfca.org/globalmission. Register by April 15.