



word **image** story

Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly
May 27-29, 2010 + Denver Downtown Hyatt Regency

We center on our "Book of Faith" to increase biblical literacy and fluency for the sake of the world

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has made a commitment to encourage all members of our congregations, from children to adults, to dig deeper into our book of faith, the Bible. The Book of Faith Initiative recommends a new model for our church—a grass-roots approach embracing a common vision in which all are invited to open scripture and join the conversation.



Online registration is at rmselca.org/assembly.
The deadline for early registration is **April 22**.
Registrations received after April 22 are subject to a \$25 late fee for each registrant.

We welcome Diane Jacobson, director of the Book of Faith Initiative

Dr. Jacobson is Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. In her presentations at our assembly, she will challenge us to deepen and broaden engagement with the Bible for all ages, all cultures, and to draw on our heritage of faithful ways to let the Word engage us.

We Experience the Word

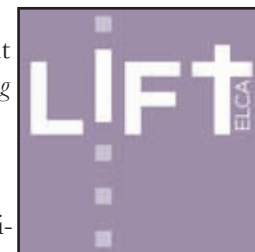
On Friday afternoon, we will *Experience the Word*, through workshops at the Hyatt and mini-excursions throughout Denver. We will engage the Word through art, through urban ministry experiences, through music, through stories, and more.

ELCA: Living into the Future Together (LIFT)

The word "ecology" is most often used in relation to the environment and stewardship of the earth. But it also is *the branch of sociology that is concerned with studying the relationships between human groups and their environments.*

Presiding Bishop Mark Hansen said, "The image of the ELCA as an ecology of interdependent ecosystems communicates that we are a community in Christ of vitality and life. And within this vitality and this community, there is rich diversity and there's complexity that can't be described or captured or understood in a kind of flat, one-dimensional way."

An ELCA task force has been asking questions about how the ELCA will be "Living into the Future Together" (LIFT) as a dynamic ecosystem, responsive to ever-changing cultural shifts and institutional realities. Their work is guided by two questions:



- **What is God calling this church to be and to do in the future?**
- **What changes are in order to accomplish these tasks more faithfully?**

Response needed from all church members and leaders

The LIFT Task Force requests your participation in their work in the following ways which are all available on liftelca.org under the "Get Involved" heading. Responses are requested by mid-June.

INDIVIDUALS

- complete an online questionnaire or download, print, and send it in
- comment: [facebook.com/liftelca](https://www.facebook.com/liftelca)

GROUPS

- download group discussion questions and enter responses online.

Two task force members are from the Rocky Mountain Synod: Vice President Linda Bobbitt, a member of Cross of Christ, Broomfield, CO, and Scott McAnally, pastor of Lutheran Church of Hope, Broomfield, CO.

"The LIFT task force is asking how the ELCA might be reimagined as it approaches 25 years of ministry," said Bobbitt. "Many of the assumptions about the 'new church' prior to the 1988 merger that established the ELCA need to be imagined anew."



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

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Mission Partners: Fun, Fellowship & Faith

Salt Lake City church and South Jordan mission congregation partner together

It all began when Zion Lutheran Church, Salt Lake City, Utah, decided to retire their building debt. They raised \$300,000 and pledged 10% off the top to Christ the King Lutheran Church, a mission development congregation about thirty minutes away across the Salt Lake Valley in South Jordan.

Pastor Steve Klemz of Zion said, "We're on the receiving end of this partnership because it calls us outside of ourselves to step out in faith and see the benefits of mission."

Pastor Scott Stein of Christ the King said of their mission partner, "It's like having an invisible support system. We know we're not in this alone."



Pastor Scott Stein celebrates Easter with the children at Christ the King Lutheran Church, a congregation under development in Utah.

Both congregations view the accompaniment relationship as beneficial to their spiritual health and well-being.

That \$30,000 was a gift handled with great care. It gave Christ the King the ability to get on their feet and pay initial bills. "I handled it frugally and it certainly made life easier," said Pastor Stein. The seed money from Zion also gave the Christ the King congregation a security blanket with some funds put aside for construction of a future site.

On Palm Sunday 2007 the first attendees of Christ the King gathered in a movie theater. The support from Zion Lutheran was tangible from the start. Zion members attended and their choir enhanced the worship. Now three years later, the \$100 monthly check is valued just as much as the weekly petition in Zion's prayers on Sunday morning.

Ministry in Utah has its challenges

and for Pastors Klemz and Stein the relationship is mutually supportive. Pastor Stein was on call for Pastor Klemz when he went on sabbatical. And when Zion celebrated 125 years of ministry, Pastor Stein preached.

"We can only stand here and imagine all the baptisms and celebrations of those who have completed their baptismal journey over the last 125 years," said Pastor Stein. "Now we can only imagine the ministry flowing from Zion through Christ the King in coming years!"

The mission congregation is averaging twenty-seven in worship and they have moved into a storefront. It is their goal to increase membership and giving. The congregation is committed to giving 35% of Sunday morning offerings to local ministries, the Rocky Mountain Synod and salary payback. But it's not all about numbers.



Pastor Stein donning a Notre Dame hat. Since Pastor Stein is a Purdue University grad and Pastor Klemz is from South Bend Indiana, home of Notre Dame, once a year following the Notre Dame/Purdue football game, the loser has agreed to wear the hat of the winning team as they welcome people into worship. Notre Dame has won 2 of the last 3 games, but Pastor Klemz is convinced that Purdue is sure to win this year!

It's fun. It's fellowship. And it's all about faith! *God is at work.*

Because of the gifts from Zion and other Utah congregations, Pastor Stein wants every congregation to know that mission partnerships are essential for developing congregation.

Pray and discern if God is calling your congregation to increased mission giving or a partner relationship!

May God bless Zion Lutheran Church and Christ the King Lutheran Mission in their ministry.

— by Ruth Ann Loughry, associate pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Cherry Hills Village, CO, and member of the RMS Mission Partners Committee.

Roster Changes

FEBRUARY 2010

The Rev. William W. Bruggeman from retired to Pastor, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Roswell, NM. 2/1/2010.

The Rev. Julie Brooks from On Leave from Call to Pastor, Saron Lutheran Church, Strasburg, CO. 2/1/2010.

The Rev. Barbara Martens from On Leave from Call to Pastor, Advent Lutheran Church, Westminster, CO. 2/16/2010.

The Rev. Ludwig Scholl, retired, deceased 2/19/2010.

Marcel Narucki from candidate to Pastor, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Aurora, CO. 2/20/2010.

Lutheran Church of the Cross, Evergreen, CO voted to leave the ELCA 2/21/2010.

Faith Lutheran Church, Security, Colorado voted to leave the ELCA 2/28/2010.

MARCH 2010

The Rev. William Nabers from Virginia Synod to Pastor, Lord of the Valley, Granby, CO. 3/15/2010.

Jeremy Marburger from candidate to Associate in Ministry as Director of Youth Ministry, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Broomfield, CO 3/21/2010.

Become a Mission Partner

Rocky Mountain Synod Mission Partners foster mutual partnership with mission-minded congregations and individuals. Information online at rmselca.org/partners. Specific needs include:

Camino de Vida, Albuquerque, NM

cross, candlesticks, flower vases
table and pulpit paraments
candles
offering plates
communion ware
sound system
digital piano (Yamaha P-85) and amplifier

New Horizons, Falcon, CO

One month's rent for worship at elementary school facility \$980

Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey, El Paso, TX

one month of support for the building monthly payment \$2,175

HKBP/Montclair, Denver, CO

Sunday School Supplies (curriculum for elementary, middle and high school ages)