



## What's happening in the Rocky Mountain Synod?

It isn't easy communicating with 175 congregations in five states. Our efforts to do so focus on these four ways to stay in touch:

### ■ **rmselca.org** is all new

After months of careful planning, the new website for the Rocky Mountain Synod is designed to make it easier than ever to find information and make connections. One pastor described the new website like this: "Amen! The new website is amazing. Wonderful. Beautiful and functional. Navigation makes sense, the layout is spot on, and the color scheme is easy on the eyes." Come and see!



The new Rocky Mountain Synod website has a fresh look and improved navigation.

### ■ **weekly eConnection**

Our weekly email newsletter enables us to communicate with you more often at less cost than the printed newsletters of days gone by. It is overflowing with news about the Rocky Mountain Synod and ELCA, coming events, announcements, resources, and links. Read a recent issue and subscribe at [rmselca.org/news](http://rmselca.org/news). To submit names and emails of all church council members, leaders, and staff, send an email to [kmuller@rmselca.org](mailto:kmuller@rmselca.org).

### ■ **The Lutheran magazine** quarterly supplement

The Lutheran magazine is the official publication of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A quarterly center spread includes news and features from the Rocky Mountain Synod. View past RMS supplements at [rmselca.org/news](http://rmselca.org/news). For subscription information, visit [thelutheran.org](http://thelutheran.org).

### ■ **The Rocky Mountain Synod Landscape**

You're reading it now! It is designed to be reproduced in newsletters or bulletins of any size, flat or folded. There are six issues for the "odd" months. Download at [rmselca.org/news](http://rmselca.org/news).



**Rocky Mountain Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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## You are planting new congregations

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America currently has 204 congregations under development. Since 2008, 49 new starts are underway, with another 18 on the drawing board awaiting funding.

We all belong to congregations begun by the larger church body. Even the 125-year-old congregations in our synod were begun by missionary pastors sent from our predecessor churches. This is the Great Commission in living, breathing form. And the ELCA supports 240 missionaries in 46 countries, working with our partners around the globe to develop and deepen the Church of Jesus Christ.



Members of New Horizons in Falcon, Colorado, dedicate the property for their future church home.

You have a direct hand in this ministry. Of the 1.8 billion dollars given by ELCA members to support congregational ministry in 2008, 3.4% was shared to support synodical ministries. An additional 3.4% was sent from synods to support churchwide ministries. Rocky Mountain Synod congregations and individual members also provide Mission Partner grants to regularly support developing and redeveloping ministries.

You are planting new congregations. Your tithes and offerings, a response to the Gospel, make living proclamation possible. It's God's work through your hands.

— Bishop Allan Bjornberg

### **RMS Congregations Under Development**

#### **Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey**

Denver, Colorado  
Pastor Armando Gallego  
*Spanish-speaking ministry*

#### **New Horizons Lutheran Church**

Falcon, Colorado  
Pastor Tim Singleton

#### **Christ the King Lutheran Church**

South Jordan, Utah  
Pastor Scott Stein

#### **Oromo Lutheran Ministry**

Denver, Colorado  
Seyifu Fufa  
*Ethiopian ministry in the Oromo Language*

#### **House for All Sinners and Saints**

Denver, Colorado  
Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber

#### **West Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Pastor Guillermo Yela  
*Spanish-speaking ministry*

#### **Kairos in Greeley, Colorado**

Pastor Chris Davis  
*Second ministry campus of Our Savior's Lutheran Church*

# Blessed to be a blessing to others

Mission Partners are congregations linked through prayer, presence, and presents

**M**ission Partners are ELCA congregations linked together in dynamic relationships to empower and expand the mission outreach of both partners.

Mission Partners utilize the Accompaniment Model, walking together in solidarity, practicing interdependence and mutuality. Gifts, resources, and experiences are shared with mutual advice and admonition to deepen and expand all efforts within God's mission.

Through supportive relationships—Prayer, Presence, and Presents—these congregations share in the excitement of proclaiming God's love. They understand that God has blessed them to be bless-

ings for others.

Linkages developed between rural, suburban, and urban congregations, which encompass a variety of cultures and languages, enrich and invigorate the faithful. Linkages between existing, healthy congregations and new or renewing congregations provide encouragement and resources—for both—for growing in being God's people in their locations.

Specific Mission Partner needs in the Rocky Mountain Synod are at [rmselca.org/partners](http://rmselca.org/partners). Contact Pastor Jim Hytjan, Assistant to the Bishop for Evangelical Outreach, by email at [james\\_hytjan@rmselca.org](mailto:james_hytjan@rmselca.org).

## Spanish-speaking ministry takes root in west Albuquerque

On Sunday, September 27, 2009, Jamie Guillermo Yela was ordained as a pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and installed as the mission developer of a new Spanish-speaking ministry on the west side of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The new ministry (soon to be named) is a cooperative ecumenical effort of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the United Church of Christ.

Participating in the ordination service were Elder Maribeth Culpepper, Presbytery Moderator, and Bishop Allan



**Jamie Guillermo Yela is ordained and installed as the pastor developer of the new Albuquerque ministry.**

Bjornberg of the Rocky Mountain Synod, joined by thirty clergy from the three denominations throughout the Albuquerque area.

The new ministry start has been the dream of Albuquerque and North New Mexico Conference ELCA and Presbyterian churches for almost ten years.

Since starting his work this summer, Pastor Yela has been meeting with local civic and public school officials on the west side of Albuquerque, along with local residents who are interested in being part of this new Spanish-speaking congregation.

## United Church of the San Juans dedicates new worship facility

**T**he United Church of the San Juans (UCSJ) celebrated a dedication of their new church facility on Sunday, August 16 in Ridgway, Colorado.

A packed sanctuary of members and friends from the area celebrated the completion of their new space that began with the purchase of a site in downtown Ridgway just a few years ago and a groundbreaking in the fall of 2008.

The total project (site, building, and furnishings) totaling just over \$1.2 million has been well received by this new congregation of just under 100 adult members, with a plan to be out of debt in two years. Zion Lutheran in Montrose, Colorado, has provided an altar and pulpit for the sanctuary.

Formed in 2003, UCSJ is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the



United Church of Christ. UCSJ is served on a part-time basis by the Rev. Dr. Richard Engdahl, a pastor of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and Kathy Graff, associate pastor from the United Methodist Church.

The congregation is committed to worship, discipleship (equipping and education ministry) and a strong community presence in the Ridgway area.

## RMS Roster Changes

### AUGUST 2009

**The Rev. Marsha Hendrickson** from Northwestern Minnesota Synod to Covenant Lutheran Church, Wheatland, Wyoming 08/01/2009.

**The Rev. Delores Watson**, retired, from South Carolina Synod to Rocky Mountain Synod 8/1/2009.

**The Rev. Paul Carlson** from On Leave From Call to Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Denver, Colorado 8/3/2009.

**The Rev. Matthew Muters** from South-Central Synod of Wisconsin to Ascension Lutheran Church, Ogden, Utah 8/16/2009.

**The Rev. Barbara Johnson** from Southwest Minnesota to American Lutheran Church, Grand Junction, Colorado 8/30/2009

### SEPTEMBER 2009

**The Rev. Thomas Frey** from Northwestern Ohio Synod to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gillette, Wyoming 09/01/2009.

**The Rev. Ruby K. Naruki** from Delaware-Maryland Synod to Rejoice Lutheran Church, Erie, Colorado 09/01/2009.

**The Rev. J. Dana Peterson** from Saint Paul Area Synod to Shepherd of the Hills, Fort Collins, Colorado 09/01/2009.

**The Rev. James Strader** from On Leave From Call to Retired 09/01/2009.

**The Rev. Julie A. Brooks** from Rejoice Lutheran Church, Erie, Colorado to On Leave From Call 09/01/2009.

**The Rev. George Voeks**, Pastor retired, deceased 9/25/2009.