



ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

For the six-month period February - September, 2010:

budgeted income \$1,999,907 **actual income** \$1,940,047 (97%)
budgeted expense \$1,999,907 **actual expense** \$2,004,808 (\$4901 over budget)
Current income shortfall of \$64,761 as compared with actual expenses.

During these challenging economic times, the Rocky Mountain Synod is grateful for the continued strong support by our 170 congregations together in mission. Having received 97% of budgeted income at the eight month mark is an excellent symbol of our ministry together. Partnership offerings are often lower for the summer months.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING: NOVEMBER 19-21

"Whatever?!" is the theme of the gathering that will take place at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park. Aaron Tidwell, a respected speaker, workshop, seminar, and retreat leader, will be the featured speaker. Information is posted on the Rocky Mountain Synod website at rmselca.org/shyg. Late fee after October 15. Final Deadline November 1.

SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN TRAINING

Safeguarding God's Children provides participants with a basic understanding of the dynamics of child sexual abuse. The 3-hour course includes information on how to respond, prevent and protect the children and youth in one's congregation and ministry. The training will be offered prior to and at the conclusion of the 2011 Theological Conference. Dates are Monday, January 24, 2011 from 1:30 to 4:45 p.m. OR Thursday, January 27, 2011 from 10:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Cost is \$10. If attending the Theological Conference, register with your conference registration. Otherwise, contact the synod office to register.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERING: JANUARY 14-16

The Middle/Jr. High School Youth Gathering will once again take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs, January 14-16, 2010. More information on cost and registration as well as permission and covenant forms to download and review will be posted on the Rocky Mountain Synod website. Final registration deadline is December 10. Info rmselca.org/msyg.

Exercising our calling to strive for justice & peace



The Affirmation of Baptism rite asks specific questions of us. *Do you intend to **continue** in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism, to **live** among God's faithful people, to **hear** the word of God and **share** in the Lord's supper, to **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to **serve** all people, following the example of Jesus, and to **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth?*

Hearing the Word of God, receiving the Lord's supper, proclaiming the good news in word and deed, serving and striving for justice and peace, are all done in the community we call the Body of Christ. Baptism empowers and enables us to serve others, including the wider community arena of our daily life and vocation.

In this season, it is good to remember that Christians exercise their calling to strive for justice and peace by being wise and active citizens. For some, this may

include service in public office. But for all of us, thoughtful, prayerful, reflective participation in the ongoing public dialogue is a baptismal imperative. We are advocates, those who plead the cause of others, not just our own. In this way, as the prophet Micah urges, we do justice.

Christians struggle together, in community, to discern how to live faithfully and responsibly in their callings. In dealing openly and creatively with disagreement and controversy, this church hopes to contribute to the search for the individual and the common good in public life. The Holy Spirit works to effect God's will in and through society. And society, let us remember, includes each of us.

Bishop Allan Bjornberg

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry NM Advocacy Conference

\$15 includes lunch. Sessions on advocacy basics, homelessness, health care & more.

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Albuquerque, NM**

Sat., Nov. 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To register, call 505.984.8004 or email
rh@lam-nm.org

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry CO Day at the Legislature

**First Baptist Church
Denver, CO**

Monday, February 21

Details will be posted at
www.lam-co.org



Rocky Mountain Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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So what (and where) is the “synod office?”

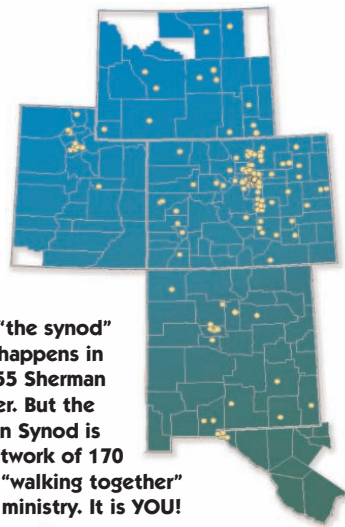
Let's start with a better question: “What is a *synod*?” The word, *synod*, comes from the Greek *synodos* which means quite literally *walking together*. It is a powerful symbol of the ministry that we do *together* in this place and time.

In the ELCA there are 65 synods, which are geographically connected groups of churches. Some synods are smaller in area—there are seven synods in Minnesota. In comparison, the Rocky Mountain Synod is four states and El Paso, Texas, the largest synod geographically in the lower 48.

Each synod has a “synod office,” but a better title would be “office of the bishop,” where the bishop's call to serve as the synod's pastor and to exercise leadership in the mission of the church is carried out.

The Synod Council recently completed a study of our office needs, location, and facilities in light of a ten-year lease expiring in February of 2012. The council considered

Some refer to “the synod” as if it is what happens in Suite 160 of 455 Sherman Street in Denver. But the Rocky Mountain Synod is actually the network of 170 congregations “walking together” in mission and ministry. It is YOU!



While the question of “lease versus own” is an important one, leasing does have some advantages: the lease includes custodial services, utilities, landscaping, snow removal, maintenance, repairs, property insurance, fire alarm protection, security, restroom use and supplies, and building upgrades. No staff time is required for building management.

Additionally, with the changing face of the ELCA and fluctuations in mission support, the exact needs for office space in the future are not static. The size of an owned building cannot easily be adjusted—downward or upward.

Finally, with the election of a new bishop to take place in April 2012, Synod Council determined that it would be advantageous to remain in the current office space for a time period of a year or more following the election.

Thus, Synod Council authorized an early renegotiation of the lease for the current space, which resulted in a reduction of 19% in lease costs since office space rates have declined in the Denver market. The new lease terms are for three years, and went into effect on October 1, 2010, ending September 30, 2013. The new lease provides a savings of about \$6,000 in our current fiscal year, and around \$17,000 next year.

Journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter 2011 Theological Conference

January 24-27, 2011
Harvest Millenium Hotel and
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
Boulder, Colorado

Registration is now open for the 2011 Rocky Mountain Synod Theological Conference, January 24-27 in Boulder, Colorado. We will worship using the liturgies for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter, and provide resources and ideas for Lent and Holy Week worship next spring.

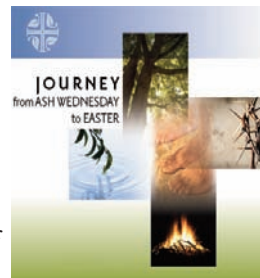
Rostered leaders, worship planners, liturgical artists, worship leaders, musicians, and media teams are all invited to attend. The conference is designed both for those who know these liturgies deeply as well as those who may be experiencing these services for the first time.

Three tracks are offered for in-depth study and reflection:

- pastoral/theological
- musical
- artistic/practical

All sessions will help participants imagine ways to make these liturgies come alive in their own unique context.

registration and information is at rmselca.org/tc and the registration deadline is December 23



Rocky Mountain Synod Roster

JULY 2010

The Rev. Jane Jebesen: from Metropolitan Chicago Synod AIM, to Pastor of Spiritual Formation, Faith Lutheran Church, Golden, CO 7/1/2010 (First Call)

The Rev. Christopher Luke Seamon: from Candidate to Pastor Trinity Lutheran Church, Hobbs, NM 7/9/2010 (First Call)

The Rev. John Bell: from North Carolina Synod to Pastor for Youth & Family Ministry Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Los Alamos, NM. 7/15/2010

AUGUST 2010

The Rev. Leta Behrens: pastor from Abiding Hope Lutheran Church, Littleton, CO to On Leave From Call. 8/1/2010

The Rev. Tracy Hinkel: from Candidacy to Pastor St. Stephen, Northglenn, CO 8/1/2010 (First Call)

The Rev. Geoffrey Beebe: from Saint Paul Area Synod to Pastor Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Salt Lake City, UT. 8/3/2010

The Rev. Justin Nickel: from Candidate to Pastor Centennial Lutheran Church, Englewood, CO 8/10/2010 (First Call)

SEPTEMBER 2010

The Rev. Carrie Ann Baylis: from Candidacy to Pastor First Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO 9/1/2010 (First Call)

The Rev. Ronald Bock: from Eastern North Dakota Synod to Pastor Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wheat Ridge, CO. 9/8/2010

eConnection

is the weekly email newsletter for the Rocky Mountain Synod
sign up at rmselca.org/news