



Rocky Mountain Synod Events

Senior High Youth Gathering: November 21-23

The High School Gathering theme is "Fear Not" and will take place at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, November 21-23. Registration closes on or around October 16. Be sure to begin the process of obtaining background checks for adults who are attending

Middle / Junior High School Youth Gathering: January 16-18

The Middle School/ Junior High School Youth Gathering will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs January 16 - 18, 2009. "Eyewitness" will be returning to provide the music and Mike Carlson, an ELCA pastor and member of the Youth and Family Institute will be the speaker. In addition, the Planning Team is adding Saturday classes for the Rocky Mountain Synod adults. Registration ends November 1.

2009 Theological Conference: January 26 - 29

Each year rostered leaders and other church leaders in the Rocky Mountain Synod gather for a time of education, worship, and fellowship. The conference will take place in Colorado Springs at the Embassy Suites and nearby Episcopal church. Our presenters this year are:

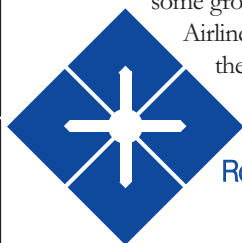
- Ann Graham Brock, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO
- Roland Martinson, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN
- Larry L. Rasmussen, emeritus, Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY

Assembly in El Paso, Texas: April 30 - May 2

Milagro de la Frontera is the *Miracle of the Border*.

Registration for the El Paso Assembly, April 30 to May 2, 2009, is underway. In order to secure appropriate travel

arrangements, every congregation should be identifying their voting members as soon as possible. Register now by visiting www.rmselca.org/elpaso. The synod office has secured some group reservation opportunities departing from Denver on United Airlines (the only nonstop flights). You may secure those reservations on the assembly online registration form. This will be a "different kind of assembly."



Rocky Mountain Synod ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Financial foolishness for the sake of the gospel

Be energized to acts of even greater generosity

Someone wiser than I has often said that the Church lives and proclaims an alternative story to that lived in the dominant culture, a fancy way of saying Christ's followers do some weird things in the eyes of the worldly-wise.

Probably one of the weirdest things we do as Christ-ones is be generous with our treasure... giving to those we never will know, with no full knowledge that our gifts will prove to be a good "investment," especially as we consider the present economic times.

All this reminds me of a congregation I once served, and the congregation's building. It had the classic look of a church building designed in the late 20's, early 30's of the 20th Century.

An older member proudly once shared the history of its construction. "I was just a kid back then," he began, "but my dad was on the council when they started talking about building. It was the fall of 1929."

"Then the stock market crashed, and the Great Depression hit hard." Then with a twinkle in his eye, my old friend said, "The money people said they should wait to build, but you don't tell those Northern European Lutherans what to do!"

Contrary to the wisdom of the day, they broke ground in the spring of 1930. In the midst of the Depression, they built that beautiful building, a faith-based act that startled some.

In these tough economic times for both family households and Households of Faith, I think of those Depression-era stewards and their generosity. They built, not only with bricks and mortar, but also in proclamation and servanthood, and I was a fortunate latecomer who was blessed by their "foolishness" in Christ.

Such stories in the ELCA are many, thanks be to God. May we, too, be energized in tough economic times to acts of greater generosity. Perhaps because these are tough times economically, financial foolishness for the sake of the Gospel makes more sense than we might think.



*Pastor Daniel Bollman
Assistant to the Bishop*

Where does my dollar go?

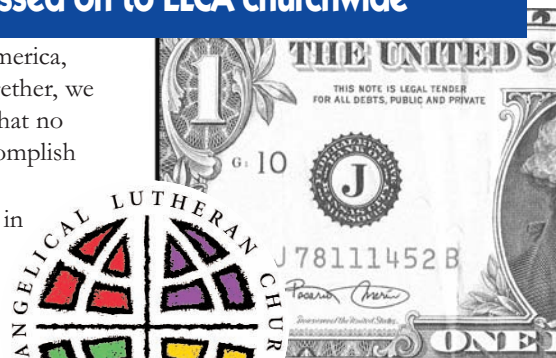
One dollar in support of the Rocky Mountain Synod travels the world.

Each congregation shares a percentage of its unrestricted giving with the wider church. In the Rocky Mountain Synod, mission support from congregations in 2009 is expected to be \$3,350,000, of which 50% is passed on for the churchwide mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Our total income for 2009 of \$3,797,000 also includes \$224,000 from the ELCA and \$223,000 in endowment, grant, gift, and interest income. (Our gifts to the ELCA are, therefore, 44% of our total income.)

\$1,675,500 represents the Rocky Mountain Synod's partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, acknowledging that by working together, we are making Christ known in ways that no individual or congregation can accomplish alone. Our dollars:

- support global partner churches in 90 countries, 260 missionaries and overseas volunteers, and the work of the Lutheran World Federation
- start new congregations (52 in 2007), support over 200 under development, and encourage 150 existing congregations intentionally focused on outreach
- support eight ELCA seminaries, 185 campus ministries, 1,500 early childhood centers, 300 elementary schools, 14 high schools, and 145 camps and retreat centers
- support domestic witness, worship, evangelism, youth ministry, outdoor ministry, and resource development
- fund domestic social justice advocacy and education, including advocacy with the United Nations
- subsidize health care premiums of retired pastors & church workers
- assist the ELCA foundation in its work of helping members support ministry today and in the future.

50% of congregational mission support is passed on to ELCA churchwide



In 2007, your congregation and 10,448 others gave \$2.8 billion to support God's mission and ministry through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. 95.2% supported the local mission and ministry of congregations. 2.4% was shared with the churchwide organization. 2.4% was shared with our 65 regional synods.

\$741,075 supports territory ministries that foster hope and healing in the synod's five-state region, including eight campus ministries, advocacy ministries in Colorado and New Mexico, Lutheran camps, Lutheran Family Services of Colorado, Lutheran Social Services of Utah, Lutheran Social Services of the South, the Urban and Border Servant Corps, and ecumenical organizations in Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico.

synod territory ministries



figures are for the 2009 fiscal year which begins February 1, 2009

synod staffing and travel

\$852,800 provides the synod staffing and travel. As the synod's pastor, Bishop Allan Bjornberg is called to provide pastoral care and leadership for the synod, its congregations, and its rostered leaders. To carry out his responsibilities, he is assisted by Pastor Dan Bollman, Madelyn Herman Busse (diaconal minister), and Pastor Jim Hytjan. Additional staff include Pastor Kent Mueller, director for administration and communications, and three administrative staff: Cheryl Almquist, Janice Ladd-Horkey, and Willie Hobbs. Photographs of the staff, along with responsibilities and email addresses are at www.rmselca.org/staff.htm.

\$211,300 provides office rent, postage, office machines, telephone, printing, insurance, paper, and supplies.

bishop's office expense

synod ministries and leadership support

\$93,445 supports synod ministries and leadership support, such as the candidacy process, first call theological education, youth umbrella team, mission outreach, ministry incentive grants, hunger network, health ministries, global mission, congregational ministries, multicultural ministry, border immersion project, and communication.

new congregations

\$109,500 provides support for new congregations in the Rocky Mountain Synod, including Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey, Denver, CO; New Horizons Lutheran Church, Falcon, CO; Christ the King Lutheran Church, South Jordan, UT; Oromo Lutheran Community, Denver, CO; and House for All Sinners and Saints, Denver, CO. Salaries of pastor developers are paid by the ELCA Division for Outreach, representing additional ELCA funds returning to the Rocky Mountain Synod.

Pacific & Betela Seminaries

\$103,350 supports Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California, as the seminary in our region. Our three Companion Synods in Madagascar train pastors and lay church leaders at Betela Seminary. They are supported with \$10,000.