



## Ending Hunger Summit

**Saturday, October 17**

**8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Bethany Lutheran Church,  
Cherry Hills Village, CO**

### VIDEOCONFERENCE SATELLITE SITES:

**St. Luke, Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**St. Timothy, El Paso, Texas**

**Zion, Salt Lake City, Utah**



Don't miss this fourth Rocky Mountain Synod summit on hunger and poverty! Be enlightened AND challenged by outstanding speakers and presentations that will focus your thoughts and actions on the impacts of the global economic recession around the world and in our nation.

#### *Speakers include:*

**Nancy Armison**, Director of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal

**David Crech** Director of ELCA Hunger Education

**Ellen Teller** Director of Governmental Affairs for the Food Research and Action Center

The afternoon will feature "snap shot" looks at specific international and domestic issues. You will have ample opportunity to be involved in the conversation!

An exciting optional workshop on the new Taking Root hunger education curriculum for children and youth will follow the summit at Bethany.

Cost is \$15 per person, \$5 additional for Taking Root. Includes all materials PLUS simple snacks & lunch. For additional information contact Carol McDivitt: 970.669.4090 or [mcdivittc@mindspring.com](mailto:mcdivittc@mindspring.com). Registration information will be posted on [www.rmselca.org](http://www.rmselca.org).

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Our weekly email newsletter, **eConnection**, will keep you informed with news, information, and resources. Sign up at [www.rmselca.org](http://www.rmselca.org). To submit names and emails of all church council members, leaders, and staff, send an email to [kmueller@rmselca.org](mailto:kmueller@rmselca.org).



**Rocky Mountain Synod**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

455 Sherman Street, Suite 160, Denver, CO 80203

303.777.6700 / 800.525.0462 / [rmsynod@rmselca.org](mailto:rmsynod@rmselca.org) / [www.rmselca.org](http://www.rmselca.org)

## Youth gathering = gospel centered service

**767** high-school age youth and caring adults from 47 congregations in the Rocky Mountain Synod headed by bus, vans, and planes to New Orleans for the ELCA National Youth Gathering, July 22-26. A dozen young adults from the RMS joined 400 more to serve as Servant Companions to the 36,000 youth. They arrived at Tulane University for three days of training in Peer Ministry prior to the Gathering.



**Young adults from the RMS were part of the 450 Servant Companions who attended three days of Peer Ministry training at Tulane University before helping welcome and accompany the 36,000 youth to New Orleans. Christine Kirkpatrick and Linda Staats were two of twenty Coaches for the young adults.**

Based on Philippians 2:1-8, the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering looked and felt more like a servant school. At the center of the Gathering was a deepening awareness of God's call to servanthood and an application of the basic Christian practices by which we live our baptismal calling.

Programming for the Gathering followed a gospel-centered service learning model that included preparation this past year, action through service in the community, reflection in the New Orleans convention center turned Learning Center and celebration and worship in the Dome. With over 37,000 young Lutheran youth and adults called to serve, it could easily be considered the largest service project in the United States. Each day, twelve thousand youth and adults went into the community, connected with local residents through hearing their stories and served at sites or in roles selected by the residents of New Orleans.

The mayor and daily headlines in the local newspaper welcomed "The Lutherans" with excitement, amazement and joy.

Go to [www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Youth-Ministry/Youth-Gathering](http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Youth-Ministry/Youth-Gathering) to view blogs, videos, photos and twitter conversations that tell the Gathering activities, stories and highlights. Watch for more stories yet to come from our own RMS congregations and young servant leaders.

— Linda Staats, Assistant to the Bishop for Youth and Household Ministry

# Leadership Team attends LYO Convention

Rocky Mountain Synod delegation gathers with 200 youth leaders

**O**pen Eyes, Open Mind, Open Heart was the theme as leaders of the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) engaged in the business of their organization July 26-30 in Hattiesburg, Miss.

The LYO is an organization of nearly 100,000 high-school age members of ELCA congregations across the United States and Caribbean.

The LYO meets in convention every three years. In addition to business related to the structure of LYO, delegates adopted other resolutions to limit the use of disposable water bottles, promote service opportunities among youth across the church, support a peaceful end to the violent acts in Darfur, "raise awareness and to advocate for the issues of poverty in the United States," and urge ELCA congregations to provide safe places where young people can engage in open conversations about unhealthy behaviors.

The convention "implored" youth across the ELCA to involve themselves in synod assemblies. Congregations of the ELCA are organized into 65 synods, which meet in assemblies annually.

Delegates passed a resolution supporting adoption of a proposed social statement on human sexuality that the ELCA Churchwide Assembly

will consider when it meets Aug. 17-23 in Minneapolis.

The convention urged ELCA congregations to consider including a statement in their mission statement or other church documents to welcome all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or "questioning" people.

As part of its leadership development program, an afternoon of the convention was devoted to delegates understanding Hattiesburg's



**The Rocky Mountain Leadership Team attends the LYO Convention: (Back row) Pastor Paul Judson, LYO Advisor, First, Longmont, Joe Jedrzejewski, First, Longmont, Zach Sterns, Atonement, Denver (Front row) Allison Johnson, First, Longmont, Melanie Ferraro, Hope, Broomfield, Linda Staats, RMS Staff Liason, and James Siegel, Atonement, Denver.**

contribution to the U.S. civil rights movement.

Some of the delegates took a bus tour of Freedom School sites in the area. Others learned and wrote freedom songs, and watched documentaries on the civil rights movement.



## Senior high youth gathering registration opens September 14

The planning team has been busy in preparation for the Senior High Youth Gathering, November 20-22 at the Estes Park YMCA. The theme is "One." Registration will open September 14 and close October 14. Information will be posted online at [www.rmsselca.org](http://www.rmsselca.org). Registration per person is \$135.

A late registration fee of \$100 will apply to congregations registering after the deadline.

## RMS Roster Changes

**Jan Krakow**, AIM, from On Leave from Call to Retired. 5/31/2009

**The Rev. Patrice Von Stroh** from Associate Pastor Bethany Lutheran Church, Cherry Hills Village, to On Leave from Call. 5/24/09.

**The Rev. Geri Cunningham** from Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit to On Leave From Call. 6/22/2009

**The Rev. Frank Lay**, retired from Rocky Mountain Synod to Northern Illinois Synod. 6/5/2009.

**The Rev. Pam Gonzalez** from On Leave From Call to Off the clergy roster. 7/1/2009

**The Rev. Melvin T. Ostlin**, retired. Deceased 7/17/2009

## BOP regional rep in Colorado

Andrea Arey, the regional rep for the ELCA Board of Pensions, will be in Colorado August 31 through September 3 for workshops and appointments. Details will be in the eConnection email newsletter. Contact her for an appointment: [aareay@elcabop.org](mailto:aareay@elcabop.org) or 612.19.4990.

## Mark your Calendar

visit [www.rmsselca.org](http://www.rmsselca.org) for details

2009

**SEPTEMBER 19**  
Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization Gathering  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

**OCTOBER 17**  
RMS Hunger Summit  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
Cherry Hills Village, Colorado

**NOVEMBER 20-22**  
Sr. High Youth Gathering  
Estes Park, Colorado  
2010

2010

**JANUARY 15-17**  
Middle/Jr. High School Youth Gathering  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

**JANUARY 25-28**  
Theological Conference  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

**APRIL 23-24**  
Passing on Vibrant Faith Conference  
Cherry Hills Village, Colorado

**MAY 27-29**  
2010 Synod Assembly  
Denver, Colorado