

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Lutheran Center

We have received commitments and gifts making it possible for us to move ahead with the parking lot rebuilding in early Spring. Work moves ahead on a partnership with Denver's Alliance for Music Education Equity as we imagine the Lutheran Center as a hub for the arts in an underserved area of metro Denver.

3E Grant Funds

The impact of your gift is multiplied because campaign gifts unlock 3E Lilly Grant funds that have already provided 27 grants to rostered ministers for student loans, medical needs, and emergencies. Also, 39 congregations are being strengthened in their stewardship and generosity through vital congregational programs.

Excellence in Leadership

Generous campaign gifts have already funded the EiL program through 2023. Due to the pandemic, the program was completely re-imagined to take place entirely online. Now, 87 individuals are currently taking part in EiL throughout every state in the RMS, with 15 more from other synods.

Campaign commitments surpass \$500,000 milestone

Our recent Zoom event in November has, so far, resulted in additional commitments of over **\$135,000**, and many participants are still discerning their gift. We are extremely pleased with the generosity that is being demonstrated by these gifts as we seek new and innovative ways to share the Love of Christ with the world. Thank you!

More than halfway to our First Step goal

Our First Step goal is \$950,000, and we are now well past the 50% mark, with commitments now exceeding **\$535,000!** That is also 34% of our Second Step goal of \$1,570,000. We are excited about the excitement the campaign is generating. One recent attendee even sent us a list of 15 others to invite to our next Zoom event on February 2!

next
faithful
step **BETTER
TOGETHER**

How to Give

Completing the online commitment form at www.rmselca.org/gift-form is the first step so that we have a record of commitments.

Gifts may then be given by check, credit card, IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), appreciated stock, or other asset. Contact Kent at kmueller@rmselca.org for information about stock gifts. Note that the full value of appreciated stock is realized with the stock transfer without you having to pay tax on capital gains.

The credit card link is at the bottom of our website home page: www.rmselca.org. Recurring donations may be authorized.

If you are interested in having your friends invited to a future event, email Kent at kmueller@rmselca.org.



**Donor Spotlight:
Generosity 20 years
in the making**

Twenty years ago a volunteer learned that Messiah Mountain Retreat Center was renovating the cabin bathrooms. Newly retired, he had some extra time on his hands. Since he lived a couple hours away, he would work for a couple days, staying overnight there. He enjoyed the opportunity to volunteer while also savoring the beauty of God’s creation.

He and his wife are inspired by the many campaign initiatives but especially Messiah Mountain. They made a *Better Together Campaign* leadership gift pledge over three years from an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). We are profoundly grateful! But that’s not all. They contact our regional gift planner, Tina Kvitek, and developed a strategy to provide a generous planned gift, naming the Rocky Mountain Synod as the beneficiary of an IRA account. (Planned gifts are not included in our campaign totals.)

If you would like to learn more about supporting the RMS, your congregation, or your favorite charity, contact **Tina Kvitek**, ELCA Gift Planner for the RMS. Her email is tina.kvitek@elca.org and her phone is **(720) 238-3763**.

**Bishop forms
racial justice
tithe task force**

Bishop Gonia has announced the members of the **Racial Justice Tithe Task Force** for the Next Faithful Step Campaign.

- Pr Barbara Berry-Bailey
St Paul, Denver CO
- Pr Rose Mary Sanchez-Guzman
Cristo Rey, El Paso TX
- Pr Christine Higuera-Street
St Matthew, Taylorsville UT
- Pr Michael Vinson
Trinity, Monument CO
- Pr Guillermo Yela
Camino da Vida, Albuquerque NM
- Ms Debra Frank Dew - Synod Council
Christ the King, Colorado Springs CO
- Ms Jody Brammer-Hoelter - Synod Council - West View, Boulder CO
- Bishop Jim Gonia

The team’s initial task is to bring recommendations to the Synod Council in 2021. A total of \$157,000 will be available with the realization of the Campaign’s goal.

Given that these funds are “one time” and not

recurring, the Task Force wants to be sure that the funds are used responsibly. Options might include

- gifting to an existing ministry engaged in racial justice
- supporting racial justice education/formation in our synod
- offering grants to congregations/leaders seeking support for their engagement in racial justice
- incentivizing new initiatives in racial justice, contributing to some form of reparations
- all of the above or ideas not yet imagined.

We seek to be aligned as much as possible with the ELCA 2019 Churchwide Assembly commitments as articulated in the **Strategy Towards Authentic Diversity**.

