

Claiming  
our Gifts

Accompanying  
one another into  
God's Future

Equipping  
All Leaders

Connecting  
in Ministry  
& Witness

## Celebrating four years at the Lutheran Center

When rent at the previous location was increasing year after year, Synod Council directed a task force to consider other options for the Office of the Bishop. About that same time, Valley Lutheran Church discerned that Holy Closure would result in gifting their property and building to the Rocky Mountain Synod for whatever ministry purpose was on the horizon.

“When first touring the north building, which was the original unit of Valley Lutheran Church, it was impossible to imagine it as it is now,” said the Rev. Kent Mueller, assistant to the bishop who shepherded the renovation and building project that began in 2013.



Office of the Bishop large conference room prior to renovation.

**“We extend our gratitude to the people of Valley Lutheran Church, who made possible a transformational story of death and resurrection.”**

While the Office of the Bishop is located in the north

building, the church basement and office annex are the site of the Growing Home emergency and transitional housing program for families. It is the Adam’s County branch of Family Promise. Volunteers from area churches host families for 13 weeks throughout the year. So that the families are safe, egress windows were installed in the basement several years ago, and a fire alarm system is in the process of being installed now.

“The decision to relocate to the Valley site was wise, in that our renovation mortgage payment is much less than our rent would be downtown,” said Pastor Mueller. “Good stewardship means we maximize our resources so that our capacity for ministry is multiplied.”

But owning and operating a property also means there are always additional projects and repairs. A massive hail storm in 2016 resulted in a total reroofing, mostly covered by insurance. “We also have some unfinished landscaping matters on the north side, and on the horizon is the need to completely redo the parking lot,” said Mueller.

The next time you are visiting the Lutheran Center, pause to give thanks for the legacy of the congregation of Valley Lutheran Church.

### Welcome Tina Kvitek, new RMS gift planner!

The ELCA Foundation is pleased to introduce Tina Kvitek, Regional Gift Planner for the Rocky Mountain Synod.



Tina has lived in Colorado for 20 years and worships with her family at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Broomfield, CO. She brings 12 years of financial planning expertise to the position and is truly passionate about helping individuals, congregations and our ELCA Lutheran Partners fully engage their ministry by taking action through charitable giving.

“I’m really excited about three things... first, helping our ELCA members ensure that their estate plans take care of the people they love and the ministries they are passionate about; second, guiding our congregations in establishing gift policies and endowments that will support their ministries, their operating budgets and their long-range planning goals; and third, supporting the Rocky Mountain Synod and other ELCA Partners with endowments, major or current gifts and estate gifts,” reported Tina in a recent meeting with the Rocky Mountain Synod Council meeting, “so if you fit into one of those 3 categories, a visit with me will be very helpful to you.”

To schedule a meeting with Tina, you can email her at: [Tina.Kvitek@ELCA.org](mailto:Tina.Kvitek@ELCA.org) or call her office at: 773-380-2795.

## Roster Changes

### NOVEMBER 2017

**The Rev. Jeremy "Jay" Gamelin** from South Carolina Synod to Lead Servant for Engagement, Abiding Hope Church 11/1/2017

**The Rev. Breonna Roberts** from Pastor St. Luke Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM to On Leave From Call 11/27/2017

**The Rev. Ryan Roberts** from Pastor St. Luke Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM to On Leave From Call 11/27/2017

### DECEMBER 2017

**The Rev. Tomas Bayou** from Pastor Chaplain Suncrest Hospice, Denver, CO to On Leave From Call 12/1/2017

**Deacon Joyce Higgs-Spruth** deceased 12/12/2017

### JANUARY 2018

**The Rev. Kathleen Armstrong** from Associate Pastor Cross of Christ Lutheran Church to Senior Pastor 1/1/2018

**The Rev. Teri Hermesmeyer** from Interim Pastor Risen Lord Lutheran Church, Conifer, CO to On Leave From Call 1/1/2018

**The Rev. Daniel Holt** from Pastor Ascension Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs to Co-Pastor Ascension Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs 1/1/2018

**The Rev. Daniel Smith** from Associate Pastor Ascension Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs to Co-Pastor Ascension Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs 1/1/2018

**The Rev. Wayne Nieminen** from Greater Milwaukee Synod to Pastor Trinity Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM 1/6/2018

**The Rev. Christa von Zychlin** from Greater Milwaukee Synod to Pastor Trinity Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM 1/6/2018

**The Rev. Susan Gamelin** Pastor retired from Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod to Rocky Mountain Synod 1/8/2018

**The Rev. Timothy Gamelin** Pastor retired from Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod to Rocky Mountain Synod 1/8/2018

**The Rev. Paul Anderson** from On Leave From Call to retired 1/15/2018

**The Rev. Kimberly Gonja** from on-leave-from-call to Pastor Risen Lord Lutheran Church, Conifer, CO 1/1/2018

**The Rev. Richard Thompson** from pastor Holy Shepherd, Lakewood, CO to retired 1/1/2018

**The Rev. Laura Stephenson** from candidacy to Associate Pastor St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Grand Junction, CO 1/16/2018

Nomination deadline is March 23

## Seeking Leaders for our Life Together

### *Vice President Earline Bohling*

May 3-5 we will gather at the Westin Hotel for our 2018 Synod Assembly. One item of business on the agenda will be to elect new leaders for our synodical board and committees, as well as voting members for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

This year there are some exciting ways for folks to become involved in the life of our Synod. I am excited about many things happening in our life together. We are in the midst of a three year grant from the Lilly Foundation to address financial needs of some of our rostered leaders and of our congregations. How wonderful to be able to discuss money in a faithful way. Following the success of our fall Synod Council meeting in El Paso, TX, the leadership of the synod is exploring new ways to engage with people throughout our vast territory and learning about the ministry that happens in all of our contexts. Missional gatherings, new ideas for our Synod Assembly, and youth gatherings are ways that we can be together as church.



*Members of the Global Mission Committee with Young Adults in Global Mission Alums for conversation and planning*

**As we continue into God's future for the Rocky Mountain Synod, we need new and dedicated leaders to join us in ministry "for the life of the world."**

I hope you will consider joining a synodical board or committee as one way to support our life together. Full committee descriptions and position openings can be found on the **synod assembly website**: [www.rmselca.org/elections](http://www.rmselca.org/elections). Nomination forms must be received by **March 23**, or be nominated from the Assembly floor.

**Christ's Church**  
*better together*



**Rocky Mountain Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

Connection editor is Deacon Erin Power: [epower@rmselca.org](mailto:epower@rmselca.org).  
Website is [rmselca.org](http://rmselca.org). Facebook is [facebook.com/rmselca](https://www.facebook.com/rmselca). An electronic .pdf of this CONNECTION newsletter is posted at [rmselca.org/newsletters](http://rmselca.org/newsletters).