2022 Ministry Magazine



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

We are Marching in the Light of God We are Dancing in the Light of God We are Praying in the Light of God We are Singing in the Light of God

ur mission and ministry together means that even in the midst of a world that is weighed down by the pandemic, and by war, and by climate change, and by all of the ways that we are anxious and afraid, still we march and dance and pray and sing. We hold on to hope.

This magazine has become an annual tradition as our Rocky Mountain Synod "annual report" showcasing and communicating many—not all—of the ways that we proclaim the love of Christ and transform lives.

Nine ago, Pastor Alena Lamirato had a great idea of what to do with this booklet. After reading it, she took two of them apart, and she wallpapered a wall in the fellowship hall, as a way to

communicate to her congregation that they are connected with the Rocky Mountain Synod. You are encouraged to do the same!

Read it. Then share it.

Pastor Kent Mueller Assistant to the Bishop for Administration & Communication



Snapshots of Rocky Mountain Ministries From A to Z

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Educate, Equip, Enact (3E), the Rocky Mountain Synod's Lilly Grant program, begins its sixth year in 2022. Through generous matching gifts to 3E, individuals and congregations of the RMS have helped unlock Lilly dollars so that literally hundreds of people in the Rocky Mountain Synod have been touched through 3E's three pillars: the **Ministerial Excellence Fund**, **Stewardship**, and **Vital Right-Shaped Ministry**.

In 2021 alone, we reported to the Lilly Endowment that 563 persons participated in one or more of our activities! That figure includes 156 rostered ministers and spouses and 407 lay leaders and staff from 193 congregations (including those who participated in more than one 3E program).

Numbers give a hint, but testimonies such as that from Carrie Olgeirson of Highlands Lutheran Church in Denver tell the story:

We met our goal!!! Tomorrow we will celebrate this generosity and the \$5000 Challenge Gift it unlocked. We celebrate 9 increases in giving and 2 first time gifts. AND we celebrate our ability to budget a full-time salary for a new pastor, as opposed to the ³/₄-time salary for our previous call.

With the pandemic, several deaths in our congregation, and a bit of apathy, I was really doubtful we'd meet this lofty goal and yet it happened. We did it! Thank you for another year of great programming.

In 2022, 3E has added a new program: **3E Pandemic Relief Grants**. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused stress in many rostered ministers in our synod. Whether Covid-related medical bills or expenses, reduction in household income, the need for mental health and emotional support, or the need now to take a time of leave for renewal, the objective of 3E Pandemic Relief Grants is to respond to critical financial challenges faced by rostered ministers that have been exacerbated or made more visible by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to offering grants to RMS rostered ministers, **congregations can apply for grants up to \$2000** to provide funding for supply coverage while their pastor or deacon takes a time of leave.

3E remains focused on its mission of changing the culture around money in the Rocky Mountain Synod. We want to hear from you and add your story to those who have experienced blessing through 3E.

For more information about the **Ministerial Excellence Fund**, contact Julie Nelson, Associate Program Director for MEF, at 2julienelson@gmail.com.

For information about 3E's **Stewardship** programs, contact Associate Director for Stewardship, Deb Elstad, at deb.elstad@gmail.com.

For more information about participating in the **Vital Right-Shaped Ministry** program, contact Pr. Dana Peterson, 3E Associate Director and Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) at dpeterson@rmsecla.org.

For information about **3E Pandemic Relief Grants**, or general information about **3E**, contact Pr. Michael Tassler, **3E Program Director**, at mtassler@rmselca.org.



Augsburg Fortress Beaming Books Broadleaf Books Fortress Press Sparkhouse

Ten Things to Know about 1517 Media Spring 2022

- 1. Over the past year we have added several new **All Creation Sings**, resources including an expanded Indexes volume that includes both ACS and ELW listings, the *Guitar Accompaniment Edition*, the *Ensemble Setting of Setting 12*, and an eBook version of the Pew Edition. We continue to add learning resources that can help you use this hymnal supplement to enliven your congregation's worship in these rapidly changing times. **augsburgfortress.org/allcreationsings**
- Daniel Erlander's timeless work continues to inspire faith formation at all levels in the church. Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe.is a family of books and curriculum to support conversations about the Bible with your whole congregation. This collection of resources complements three other series: A Place for You (Holy Communion), Come to the Water (Holy Baptism), and Baptized, We Live (introduction to Lutheranism). augsburgfortress.org/manna
- 3. Augsburg Fortress continues to support musical proclamation of the gospel with new seasonal choral music, vocal solo offerings, and piano and organ collections, including a new, second series of church year volumes in the acclaimed Augsburg Organ Library. **augsburgfortress.org/new-releases**
- 4. We have expanded our seasonal devotion options, with a new devotional for Advent and Christmas each year joining the Lent offering. Quantity discounts make these pocket-sized booklets ideal for congregational distribution and for household use. The accessible, colorful format makes it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into these central times of the year. augsburgfortress.org/seasonal-devotions
- Fortress Press continues its legacy of publishing compelling theological, biblical, and ethical engagements for the church and the world in which it lives. New releases for 2022 include: Storycraft: The Art of Spiritual Narrative by Walt Wangerin Jr., 20 Myths about Religion and Politics in America by Ryan Burge, and an expanded edition of Fred Lehr's Clergy Burnout: Surviving in Turbulent Times. fortresspress.org
- 6. Our Broadleaf Books imprint explores the expanse of human experience—seeking to deepen faith and understanding and bring wholeness to readers and society. New 2022 releases include You Can Talk to God like That, The Mindful Grandparent, and Unbossed: How Black Girls Are Leading the Way. broadleafbooks.com
- 7. Sparkhouse provides digital access for a low annual fee through **Sparkhouse Digital** to a wide range of regularly refreshed resources for early childhood, children, and youth. Subscribers can access new digital activity kits that help congregations provide resources for use in the home or as a supplement to in-person faith formation activities. **augsburgfortress.org/sparkhouse-digital**
- 8. This spring Sparkhouse released a collection of poems by Joe Davis written with high school graduates in mind. **We Rise Higher: Poems and Prayers for Graduates** helps youth celebrate, commemorate, and reflect on this transition as they move on to the next phase of life. **augsburgfortress.org/we-rise-higher**
- 9. Frolic Preschool, Frolic Nursery, and Frolic Family introduce little ones to faith concepts in ageappropriate ways. This year we have released the award-winning Frolic Storybooks in affordable paperback bundles. **wearesparkhouse.org/frolic**
- 10. Beaming Books continues its mission to publish high-quality children's books that help kids thrive in every part of who they are-emotionally, socially, and spiritually. New releases for 2022 include: God's Holy Darkness, The Animals Speak: A Christmas Eve Legend, God Made All Your Feelings, and Mother God. beamingbooks.com

Want to learn more? Follow us on social media. Sign up for our free eNewsletters at augsburgfortress.org | wearesparkhouse.org | fortresspress.com | beamingbooks.com | broadleafbooks.com

LEARNING IN ACTION

Our programs are designed to help students discover and build their own sense of purpose, while building a support system of faculty, mentors and peers that lasts far beyond graduation. We offer hands-on, high impact learning experiences that include:

- · Coursework focused on real-world scenarios
- Undergraduate research opportunities
- Study abroad and travel seminars
- Internships
- · Creative projects, performances and exhibitions

With challenging academic programs, outstanding faculty, small classes, and an emphasis on hands-on learning, each program at Cal Lutheran positions our students to succeed.



500-

INTERNSHIPS LAST YEAR

STUDENTS LANDED

17

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

36 U.S. STATES REPRESENTED

OF STUDENTS RECEIVE

FINANCIAL AID

California

Iniversity

Lutheran

100+ CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO JOIN

NCAA DIVISION III

TEAMS

2.80

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

CONGREGATIONAL PARTNER IN EDUCATION AND ROSTERED LEADER AWARDS

Take a virtual campus tour at CalLutheran.edu/tour





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Rocky Mountain Synod Creation Care Team

rmscreationcareteam@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/groups/153008509368206 https://www.rmselca.org/creation

A self organizing committee of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA whose main focus is on changing how people treat the Earth, from being consumers to advocates, realizing that we are part of creation and what we do to the Earth we do to ourselves. Rocky Mountain Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in J

"It felt like we had tried everything, but now, by first addressing a broader strategy of **why**... and then **how** we engaged generosity in our congregation, we were able to switch from having financial conversations related to our areas of ministry—that were often frustrating and sometimes even scary—to having ministry conversations that are life-giving and have moved us forward emotionally and financially... and that has been exciting and even motivating to see the transformation!"

EROSIT

Jean Bruns, Christ the King Lutheran Church Colorado Springs CO

CONGREGATION SUPPORT

- Unlocking Generosity and a Mindset of Abundance
- Understanding the Different Types and Uses of Giving and Charitable Gifts
- 'Short-Term' vs. 'Long-Term' Financial Health & Well-Being
- Racing for Your Donors' Hearts Not Their Money



Tina Kvitek RMS Director of Development <u>tkvitek@rmselca.org</u> C: 720-238-3763

DONOR SUPPORT

- What's Your Story? Understanding Why to Align Your Assets to Your Legacy
- Have You Been Asking the Right Financial, Tax, and Legal Questions that will make your Charitable Dreams come True?
- Turning Your Passion into Real Potential – and the Confidence to Make it Happen!

EXPERIENCE THE POSSIBILITY OF ABUNDANCE AT THE GENEROSITY TABLE!



DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

Over time, we in the Rocky Mountain Synod, have experienced disasters – and we can acknowledge that there will no doubt be more in the future. But we do not intend to face those situations alone.

In collaboration with organizations like our ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response and Lutheran Family Services – Rocky Mountains, the Rocky Mountain Synod Disaster Response Team is leading the response to support survivors of current disasters and gather resources in an effort to prepare for our future.

The RMS Disaster Response Team is comprised of the following:

- Rev. Jim Gonia, RMS Bishop
- Peter Severson, Lutheran Advocacy MInistry Colorado, Director
- Rev. Kent Mueller, Assistant to the Bishop for Administration and Communication
- Tina Kvitek, Director of Development
- Yvonne Wilkin, Administrative Assistant for Leadership
- Rev. Katie Chullino, Conference Dean
- Jody Brammer-Hoelter, RMS Synod Council Representative
- Melanie Nehls Burow, Congregation Representative from Trinity, Boulder, CO
- Bonnie Brandl, Congregation Respresentative from Christ the Servant, Lousiville, CO

Ways to get involved:

- Participate in Connect, Love, Pray to care for survivors and their communities.
- Contribute to the <u>RMS Disaster</u> <u>Response Fund</u> to address current and future events.
- Volunteer your expertise in addressing disaster situations.
- Participate in volunteer service activities.



Spiritual Care Meets Senior Living

the

Onsite Sunday Services, Daily/Weekly Devotions, and Chaplain Connections

Physical & Occupational Therapy Independent Living Assisted Living & Memory Care Long Term Care

EBEN EZER 970-842-2861



visit online

Join us! RMS FAITH FORMATION NETWORK		
3RD THURSDAY'S 10AM - 12PM WE TYPICALLY GRAB LUNCH AFTERWARDS FOR THOSE IN PERSON		
 Prayer Community Check In Bible Study Continuing Education Announcements 		
• Fellowship 7375 Samuel Dr. Denver, CO 80221 Zoom Meeting ID: 992 2724 5869 Passcode: 274795		



For the sake of the world!



Providing a full array of financial services to ELCA members, congregations and ministries

The ELCA Federal Credit Union, founded in 2016, provides a full suite of financial products and services to members, congregations and ministries of the ELCA. We are the first of the ELCA's financial ministries to offer loans to individuals. The Credit Union offers a rich variety of products—from savings and checking accounts and CDs ... to loans, lines of credit and credit cards. We serve ministries with deposit accounts, a flexible credit card program, auto loans and unsecured ministry loans up to \$100,000 for small projects such as building repair and purchases. Our strong online presence allows members to access their funds anytime, anywhere—as consumers expect today.



Why choose the ELCA Federal Credit Union?

"To use and share what God has given for the sake of all."

The ELCA Federal Credit Union supports the ELCA's mission of good stewardship. We provide full services to all ELCA members, congregations and related ministries.

Our mission is to offer the most competitively priced products and services. Because we exist solely to serve our members, we can offer better rates and lower fees than many traditional banks. We have demonstrated success in providing significant savings to our borrowers.

With the church as our sponsor, we operate in ways that are consistent with the church's values. We offer a socially responsible way to do your banking.

Healthy Start for Congregations



The congregation and search committee have worked long and hard to prepare for the arrival of a new pastor...

The pastor has prayerfully concluded that they are called by God to serve this congregation...

How will pastor and people build on this new beginning? How will they make sure they are able to give their very best to one another so that God's mission and ministry move ahead as well as possible?

The answer: Healthy Start!

What is Healthy Start? A leadership development process to save time and energy as the new pastor and congregation become partners in ministry.

In a Healthy Start congregation...

- Prayer and faith are at the center of congregational leadership
- Leaders build and develop a spiritual partnership
- Misunderstandings resulting from unclear expectations are prevented
- Meaningful **goals** are established and achieved
- Congregational leadership is intentionally **united** in its ministry and mission
- New relationships are born or strengthened

Is Healthy Start right for your congregation? Let's talk! Visit our table in the exhibit hall

http://healthystartup.org/index.html

RMSELCA Healthy Start is facilitated by *Create Real Growth* Carlene Goldthwaite, principal 970-250-2927 http://www.createrealgrowth.com/



A Year of Learning...

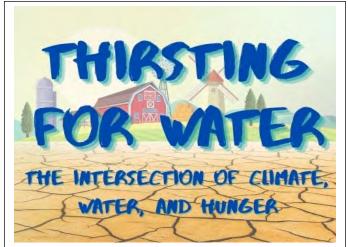
The past year has been one of listening to and sharing the stories of ministries that have received grants from ELCA World Hunger. We have been greatly blessed by the stories of these ministries.

...and Planning!

The Core Team has also been searching for ways to reinvigorate the network of congregational contacts and to make a more intensive effort to establish relationships with the congregations and rostered leaders of the Rocky Mountain Synod.

To that end, we have introduced a **resolution for the 2022 synod assembly**. The resolution asks congregations to take concrete steps to increase their support of local hunger ministries, to increase their awareness of hunger and poverty issues through educational resources developed by ELCA World Hunger, and to increase opportunities to financially support the work of ELCA World Hunger.

To help us understand how congregations are currently engaged with hunger and poverty work, we are asking each congregation to complete the **Congregational Hunger Ministry Survey**. Please bring a completed survey to the Hunger Network Display Table or complete the form online or mail it. Thank you for helping us know how you are serving your neighbors!



Save the Date! Saturday, September 17 9 am to 3 pm

Gather in person or via Zoom to learn the facts about the megadrought that is afflicting the territory of the Rocky Mountain Synod, to engage in theological reflection, to hear the stories of impact on agriculture in our region, and to learn how you might thoughtfully respond to this crisis.

> Sponsored by the Hunger Network; Lutheran Advocacy Ministry, CO; and the Creation Care Team

Partially funded by a grant from ELCA World Hunger

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

-COLORADO

God's Work, Our Hands, Our Voices

Advocacy is baked into the DNA of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In 1984, Colorado congregations took a step forward in faith to create a state public policy office. Today, this office helps equip Lutherans all over our synod to be faithful, effective advocates on issues that affect our neighbors and communities alike.

JOIN US AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

www.lam-co.org | Facebook | Twitter Peter Severson, Director | advocacyco@rmselca.org

HERA

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry – New Mexico



Long-time director of LAM-NM, now retired, Ruth Hoffman would describe the work of legislative advocacy as, "farming redwood trees." In other words, positive policy change can take years of cultivation and work to achieve. The 2022 New Mexico legislature passed two bills and signed by the governor, that are examples of such "farming."

The first cut interest rates on shortterm loans, offered by hundreds of store-front lenders across NM, from 175% to 36%. Twenty years ago, such loans were offered at well over 400%. Such loans targeted NM's most financially vulnerable and 65% of lenders were located within 10 miles of indigenous lands. Almost fifteen years ago efforts to reduce such rates began. Second, almost 20 years ago the NM Housing Trust Fund was established with a mission of funding the construction of low and affordable housing in the state. With no reliable annual funding established at the time, champions in the legislature would compete with other interests for funding scraps each year. Passed and signed during this year's session was a

bill that would ensure an estimated \$24 million annually to the trust fund that will be used to make significant strides in reducing an estimated shortage of 36,000 low and affordable housing units. The collective work of many advocates and organizations, to include LAM-NM, led to these two transformational changes in public policy in New Mexico.

Many of those advocates were people like you, who made their voices known through phone calls, emails, letters, and public testimony to legislative committees. Amazingly, in just over two weeks almost 500 individual advocates in 40 congregations added their names on a letter to legislators in support of the 36% interest rate cap. The impact of the letter was clear as it was referenced during the House floor debate. You have great opportunity and power to influence policy in positive ways.

LAM–NM is a ministry of the Rocky Mountain Synod in partnership with ELCA World Hunger. We advocate for justice in public policy, with a particular emphasis on alleviating poverty and hunger. We support ELCA members and congregations, our extensive ecumenical and interfaith partners, and the New Mexico Conference of Churches in the ministry of advocacy. LAM-NM speaks on behalf of the official positions of the ELCA as applied to the specific context of public policy issues in New Mexico.

Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Colorado, Boulder

Bread Helonging



Bread + Belonging is the Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Colorado, Boulder. It is a combined campus ministry with St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, and we gather on Tuesday nights for dinner and conversation. Dinner is usually prepared by a member of the larger community, and, as we eat, students are invited to share news from their week-all news is welcome whether it's good news, bad news, or just an interesting fact worth sharing (we call these "notable potables"). The community listens and supports one another. Our meal is then followed by a program. Some programs we have done are worship, engaging with guest speakers and organizations in the community, art, music, and yoga led by one of our students. Bread + Belonging was the original name given to our weekly gathering, but it is now used to refer to the combined campus ministry.

While our main gathering happens on Tuesday nights, Bread + Belonging also offers many other opportunities, such as weekend retreats. At the beginning of February, we headed to Snow Mountain Ranch - YMCA of the Rockies in Granby for our winter retreat. It was a fun weekend of fellowship, skiing, and snowshoeing. Pictured to the right are students in front of the cabin we stayed in for the weekend.



Lutheran Campus Ministry

In the Rocky Mountain Synod

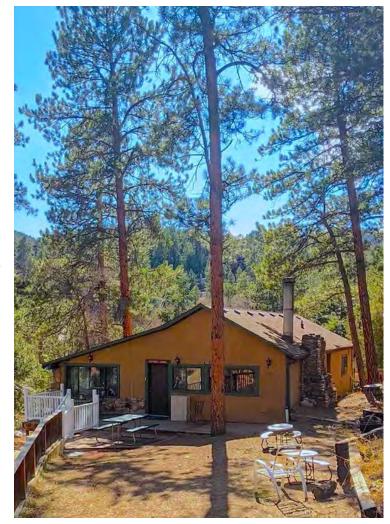
University of Northern Colorado & AIMS Community	University of New Mexico & Central New Mexico
College	Community College
<u>Greeley, Colorado</u>	Albuquerque, New Mexico
Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry	Rhonda Newby-Torres, Lay Pastor at Luther House of Lutheran Campus Ministry of New Mexico.
Pastor Monica Butler pastor@lecmgreeley.org	Icmunmcnm@gmail.com
LECM has a residential program, with room for up to six students to live at the LECM house. LECM is an RIC Community with a mission to gather in Christ's name to share God's love, to ask questions, to grow in faith, to respect and nurture our differences, and to serve others.	Rhonda is currently in the ordination process with the United Church of Christ. Her work centers on building ecumenical bridges between faith communities and organizations around Progressive Theology.
Γ] []
<u>Colorado State University</u> Fort Collins, Colorado	University of Colorado Boulder, Colorado
Lutheran Campus Ministry	Lutheran Campus Ministry / Bread + Belonging
Pastor Paul Judson pastor@lcmcsu.org	Pastor Zach Parris <u>lcmpastor@colorado.edu</u> Megan Fry, <i>Program Coordinator</i>
Γ	
University of Wyoming	University of Denver
Laramie, Wyoming	Denver, Colorado
Trinity Lutheran Campus Ministry	The Foundation @ DU
Pastor Nate Keith pastornate3421@gmail.com	Pastor Nate Preisinger, Bethany Lutheran Church
A parish-based campus ministry, offering worship, education, and fellowship opportunities for people of all	nate@bethany-denver.org Joseph Walyniak, Associate Rector at Christ Church Denver
ages.	Kiersten Hill, Director of Youth and Young Adult
	Ministries at Wellshire Presbyterian Church
New Mexico State University & Dona Ana Community College	Pastor Andy Dunning, University Park United Methodist Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico	The Foundation is an ecumenical ministry at DU,
Pastor Rob Moss, Interim Pastor rmoss@peacelutheranlc.com	comprised of Lutherans, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Methodists. The main goal of the ministry is to
A Lutheran Campus Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church.	recruit, equip, and support "Dyer Fellows," lay student leaders, to plan campus events and reach others.
Utah State University	Colorado Masa University
Logan, Utah	Colorado Mesa University Grand Junction, Colorado
Pastor Emily Keunker	Pastor Kaila Armbruster pastorkaila@gmail.com
pastoremily.princeofpeace@gmail.com	
A campus ministry at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.	A campus ministry at Shepherd of the Hill Valley Lutheran Church.

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Messiah Mountain Retreat Center

A gift of 27 acres to the Rocky Mountain Synod from Messiah Community Church, Denver, Messiah Mountain is in the midst of a total renovation thanks to gifts given to the Next Faithful Step Campaign.





A total transformation

What began as a cosmetic refresh soon became more complicated as major structural and drainage matters were discovered that had to be addressed.

The project has become much more costly than expected. We are seeking generous gifts to the Next Faithful Step campaign to be able to complete the project successfully.

Just 8 minutes from C-470 and Highway 285, the renewed site is certain to become a treasured setting for spiritual renewal, council meetings, formation in faith, and more. Learn more at <u>messiahmountain.org</u> or contact Pastor Kent Mueller at kmueller@rmselca.org.

Renovation in progress



With faith and finance at our core

The Mission Investment Fund, a financial services ministry of the ELCA, provides a strong, stable, faith-based way for individuals, congregations and ministries to achieve their financial goals.

MIF provides a range of investments for individuals, congregations and ministries. We put those investments to work to fund building and renovation loans for congregations and partner ministries, including social service agencies and outdoor camps.

The result? Impact investments, with a transformative impact on our communities: Expanded worship spaces ... new space for education and youth ministry ... much-needed day care centers for working families ... industrial-grade kitchens and fellowship halls for community meals.

We were present for our investors and borrowers that needed assistance during the pandemic. We collaborated with our ministry partner, the ELCA Federal Credit Union, to offer expedited loans for congregations, ministries and individuals, as well as 360 Paycheck Protection Program loans totaling \$13.9 million. The PPP loans helped continue payroll for some 2,100 congregation and ministry employees and continued in-person and virtual worship and ministry services for more than 95,000 church members throughout 2020 and 2021.



MIF has a longstanding tradition of strength and stability. At year-end 2021, MIF had 820 loans outstanding, totaling \$575.4 million. Investment obligations totaled \$575.4 million. With total assets of \$822.0 million and net assets of \$226.4 million at year-end 2021, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 27.5 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.

Our steadfast support continues for the members, congregations and ministries of the ELCA and the many ways you minister to a world in need. We are honored to walk alongside you as a trusted partner.

MIF at work in the Rocky Mountain Synod (as of December 31, 2021):

- 24 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$10,503,323
- \$11,779,003 in Mission Investment Fund investment obligations



To our friends and partners in the **Rocky Mountain Synod**, where Mosaic provides services out of Colorado Springs, Denver, Fort Collins, Grand Junction, Greeley, and Loveland:

Mosaic is a mission-driven, values-led organization. Our mission is to embrace God's call to serve, and our values belonging, connection, faithfulness and grit—shape how we serve. Throughout our 109-year history, we have helped people who were often seen as outsiders find a place to belong and people to connect with.

In 2022, our services continue to evolve to meet the desires of the people we support, and today, people seek more choices in smaller settings. Our quickly growing "Mosaic at Home" service is a perfect fit to meet those desires, and wherever it is possible, we are expanding this service to help more people.

If you're not familiar with it, our Mosaic at Home program matches someone we support with a contractor who opens their home and their heart to the person in a 24/7 shared living environment. The contractor assists the person as needed to acquire and retain the skills needed for daily living and helps the person participate in the larger community.

Nationally, we now serve more people through Mosaic at Home than in any other way. This service also is grounded in our history—it helps people have a place to belong and others to connect with, but in a more intimate way. It also highlights a longstanding truth: Mosaic is not a place you go but something you're a part of.

Many of our Mosaic at Home contractors are faith-filled people who relish the opportunity to live the call to serve others right in their own home. If you feel you may be called to this type of service, I invite you to contact us about it.

In other exciting news for 2022, Mosaic is nearing the completion of our \$63 million *Called to be Bold* fundraising campaign. We're very close to that target, and I am amazed and humbled by the generosity of the many donors who value the work we do. Those gift dollars help Mosaic expand our services to people and help provide many of the things people we support could not afford on their own.

I know God has a bright future promised for this ministry and the people we serve. As always, I say "Thank you" to the many churches across the nation that partner with us in this important work. Together, we are a positive force for change in today's world.



We are grateful to call you partners. Sincerely,

Junda Timmons

Linda Timmons, President and CEO, Mosaic



Synod Assembly Report

Thank you for your faithful and very generous support! Because of your prayers, encouragement, and financial gifts, PLTS is growing and helping meet the ELCA's leadership needs.

Growth in Enrollment

PLTS enrollment continues to grow. In 2021, the seminary had the largest enrollment in several years. Approximately fifty percent of the incoming students have been choosing the Distance Learning (DL) option, in which they view and participate in classes on their own schedule and gather together in Berkeley three or four times during the course of the program.

The Center for Climate Justice & Faith has a new website!

https://centerforclimatejusticeandfaith.org/



Certificate in Climate Justice and Faith

This year, PLTS launched a one-year, online Certificate in Climate Justice and Faith. The inaugural certificate class includes 30 people from 12 countries ranging in age from 21 to 70. In addition to pastors and other church staff, there are teachers, a farmer, a

therapist, a journalist and a range of other professionals. At the end of the program, each of them will develop a "sacred action project" to serve their communities.

MA in Spirituality and Social Change

PLTS will launch a new master's degree program in Spirituality and Social Change in September. The MA was developed to address the need for theological education and spiritual formation for those called to serve as Deacons in the ELCA, and for anyone interested in spiritually grounded and theologically informed social change. Students can choose a residential program in Berkeley or one that is a mixture of online learning and occasional gatherings in Berkeley for orientation and intensive courses.

Certificate in Racial Justice and Faith

PLTS received a planning grant to develop a certificate program in Racial Justice and Faith. A faculty from around the country representing the African American, Latinx, Native American and Asian-Pacific Islander communities gathered in Berkeley in February to begin working on the curriculum. This will be an online program with modules that will be taught exclusively by instructors of color who can authentically represent their lived reality in ways that promote understanding, authenticity, and solidarity.

Benefit Stability in Uncertain Times PORTICO

As the pandemic ebbed and flowed in 2021, Portico's benefits remained a reliable constant for ELCA congregations and organizations, affirming the importance of church together.

- ELCA-Primary health benefits helped to lower stress levels and provided virtual access to health care.
- The ELCA Retirement Plan continued to deliver strong investment returns while offering no- or low-cost access to financial planning and coaching services.

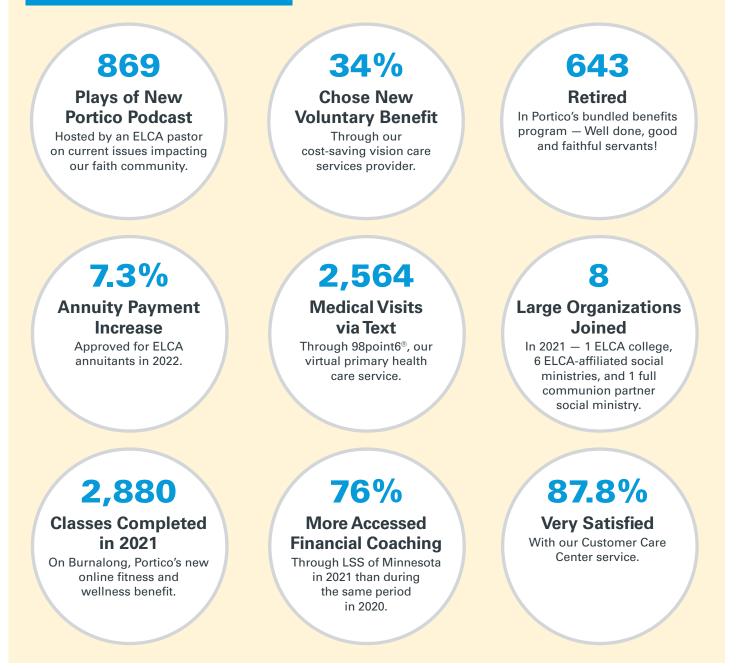
In recent years, we've brought added stability to our program by extending quality, cost-effective benefits to more of those who serve. As we include more ELCA-affiliated social ministry organizations, colleges, and universities, as well as full communion partner denominations, we grow the size of our pool, which, in turn, allows us to secure lower administrative fees and innovative benefits not typically available to smaller groups. In this way, we continue our mission to serve those who serve.

Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA



The Rev. Jeff Thiemann President & CEO

Meeting the Need in 2021



Data as of Dec. 31, 2021; sources available upon request. Availability of and eligibility for benefits will vary.

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God Beyond Measure

"I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is." EPHESIANS 3:14-21

2022 SUMMER REGISTRATION BEGINS NOVEMBER 1, 2021

RAINBOWTRAIL.ORG



Come Home to Rainbow Trail...

Retreats

Relax, rejuvenate, and refocus at Rainbow Trail during Retreat Season. Throughout non-summer months, RTLC hosts and leads dozens of retreats. Whether you are a Confirmation student, a high school youth group, a family looking for a getaway, or a ski group wanting to hit the slopes, there is a retreat at Rainbow Trail for you!



Spend a week alongside RTLC staff, serving brothers and sisters in Christ in locations both domestic and abroad. Despite cultural and language differences, love is universal. Through the physical work you will do and the relationships you will build, Bridging Borders trips aim to share the love of God with all people it touches.

On-Site

Rainbow Trail's On-Site program is centered on faith in Christ and focused on campers. Through the "Village System" at RTLC, campers get to select their counselors, create their schedules, and participate fully in leading worship and other camp activities in a safe environment. Week-long summer camps are available for all ages, including Family Camps!

Pay Camp

Rainbow Trail's Day Camp Adventure into the Rocky program brings camp to congregations within the Rocky Mountain Synod and beyond. Teams of RTLC staff lead elementary-age campers in a week of Bible study, crafts, games, and song. Day Camp brings Christ's message of unconditional love into communities through a fun and energetic program.

Compass Points

Mountain wilderness with a Rainbow Trail guide leading the way. Experience a rewarding week of physical and spiritual challenges in God's wild country. Through Bible study, conquering mountain peaks, and preparing delicious on-trail meals, you will love your week on **Compass Points!**





Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp

Summer 2021 -We Had Campers! Yay!!!



Another Year of Change and Transformation

2021 was an extraordinary year at Sky Ranch! We were excited to get campers and volunteers back up to Camp! While Covid restrictions limited us to 50% capacity, Sky Ranch still served 755 campers and another 605 weekend guests during the summer. Even though our main buildings did survive the 2020 fire, two-thirds of the property was directly impacted. Last year we:

- **Rebuilt** the High Ropes course and the Beaver Meadows tent cabins & worship area.
- **Repaired** our water system (broken pipes).
- **Restored** land by logging/removing downed trees, standing snags, reseeding affected areas to reduce erosion, and replanting new trees in the burn areas.
- **Replaced** quilts, bedding, and pillows that were ruined by smoke from the fire.
- **Restructured and adapted** programming and dining operations to follow ever-changing Covid protocols that kept campers & staff protected.

Our New Maintenance Building!



The construction of this 50 x 64' pole barn is amazing! The new maintenance building offers sufficient space to store all our tools, equipment, and a few vehicles in one place. The new building is located on the eastern edge of the property and has paved way for us to begin (in the fall) construction of our beautiful new Pavilion!

We say goodbye...

During the 11 years that Brad Abbott served as the Executive Director for Sky Ranch, he successfully lead Sky Ranch to be an even stronger ministry, developing financial stability & construction of new buildings. He championed



the recovery from forest fires and from hummingbird, moose and bear invasions (oh my!). However, perhaps the most notable contribution is the impact Brad made building relationships with donors, volunteers, staff, campers, and parents. Brad believes "the history of this ministry is a precious gift... something we must continue to build upon in many ways

as we adapt programming to meet the diverse needs of our church." Sky Ranch is also grateful for the amazing support of Brad's wife, Pastor Deb Abbott. Brad and Deb, well done good and faithful servants. You will be missed!

We say hello...

Lori Bode is proud to be the first female Executive Director for Sky Ranch! She grew up in Columbia, SC, involved in the Lutheran church and synod events. After graduating from Clemson University's master program in Community Agency Counseling, she gained experience in the corporate world of

accounting and human resources. Lori took a leap of faith answering the call to serve the past 7 years as a Program Director for Camp Lutheridge in Arden, NC. Lori met Bo Bode, her husband, while they both served as counselors at Lutheridge 29 years ago.



They celebrate their 25th this May! Together, they have a daughter, Madison (21), and son, Arden (16). She has a love and passion for outdoor ministry and is witness to the great impact it has on the lives of many. Lori looks forward to continuing to ensure *all* can have "an encounter with Christ on the mountain tops."



Saturday, September 17 9 am to 3 pm

Bethany Lutheran Church

Cherry Hills Village, CO

also available via Zoom

SAVE THE DATE and plan on a day of holy conversation.

- + Learn the facts about the megadrought afflicting our synod.
- + Engage in theological reflection.
- + Hear the stories of impact on agriculture in our region.
- † Contemplate how you might thoughtfully respond to this crisis.

Watch for registration info!! Group rates available

Experts on climate and agriculture

Farmers and rural pastors

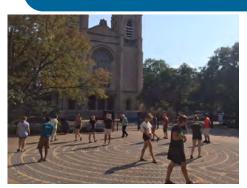
Theologians and educators

YOU!!

Sponsored by the RMS Hunger Network; Lutheran Advocacy Ministry, CO; and the Creation Care Team

Partially funded by a grant from ELCA World Hunger





Intentional Community * Service * Simplicity * Spirituality

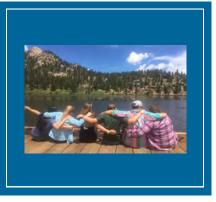
www.urbanservantcorps.org

At Urban Servant Corps (USC), we believe that we need one another! We believe that in community, we are able to live more faithful, simple lives that are in service to one another and to those who are most in need in our neighborhoods.

Since 1987, USC has hosted more than 350 fulltime volunteers who have contributed more than 800,000 hours of service at more than 75 nonprofit organizations in Denver..

USC is a ministry of the Rocky Mountain Synod.





Veterans Servant Corps Project of RMS



The Rocky Mountain Synod has a new ministry, the Veteran Servant Corps Project. This ministry is to support military members and their families.

Veteran Servant Corps Project in the Rocky Mountain Synod is part of the ELCA's Memorial to provide a welcoming and supportive environment for returning military personnel to effectively provide healing ministries to military veterans and their families.

This mission will:

-Provide training for ELCA clergy and pastoral support staff to understand veteran's issues.

-Provide no-cost retreats at ELCA camps for veterans and their families.

-Provide ideas and materials for veteran awareness and celebrations in the ELCA community. The first no-cost retreat will be for ten veterans and their families on September 10 – 12, 2021 at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in Colorado. A future retreat is planned for Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Colorado.

To donate, please go to the RMS web site, click the Ministries tab at the top, go to Servant Corps and select Veterans Servant Corps Project, and scroll to the bottom of the page for the "Donate" button.

For further information contact Vicky Daub at lvdaub2@gmail.com.

Reflection Question:

 How can you and/or your congregation change the lives of veterans and their families?

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

"Spur one another on toward love and good deeds..."

RMSWO Convention September 30- October 2, 2022

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Greeley, Colorado



Theme verse - Hebrews 10:24-25

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,

not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

What will the Fall 2022 Convention be like?

The plan is to meet in person with the option for participation by Zoom.

- Participate in person as a voting member or as an attendee
- Or join us by Zoom, again either as a voting member or as an attendee

Our hope is to encourage a renewal of "...meeting together..." and gathering together, even though it still might be in a manner not quite how things used to be!

With so much of our church life changed these past years, we will also be asking all of you to think about what does it mean to be a woman of the ELCA now? What do we want to continue to make a priority and what decisions need to be made about doing some things differently in the future?

Fall 2022 Convention Schedule

Friday, September 30 - Evening meal and fellowship time (optional)

Saturday, October 1 - Morning business meeting with election of officers and board members

- Afternoon Bible study, guest speakers & worship/installation service

Sunday, October 2 - Worship with the Immanuel congregation (optional)

The Rocky Mountain Synod YOUTH COUNCIL







The Rocky Mountain Synod Youth Council is a council that works to involve middle and high school youth in synod activities. When this council was created, we felt that there wasn't enough youth representation in the synod, so our goal is to improve youth involvement. Our mission statement is Youth inspiring youth, empowered by God, to be a valued voice for acceptance, change, and direction for the future of the church.

Currently, there are two of us working on the youth council, and we are in need of new members! We opened our applications to the synod in the fall, and we hope to get more applicants as we continue to recruit. Adults, please share our presence with your youth, and let them know what we are recruiting! This is a very important time for our youth to be involved, and without your help that is not possible.

For more information, send an email to:

RMS Youth Council youthcouncilrms@gmail.com



A Summer Experience for High School Youth! July 23-26 in Denver, Colorado

Optional Pre-Event

Multicultural Youth Justice (2022myj.com)

July 21-23

Separate for BIPOC youth and non BIPOC youth for allyship training

OTHER + WISE

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

We are looking very much forward to hosting the "Wonderfully Made" High School Synod Youth Experience this Summer in Denver, July 23-26. There will be an incredible and optional preevent hosted by MYJ22 - Multicultural Youth Justice. MYJ22 is primarily for ELCA members who are Black, Indigenous, +/or People Of Color (BIPOC) who will be entering grades 9-12 in the

2022/2023 school year and their youth group peers who are of European Descent.

European Descent youth in the same grades will acquire training in allyship to BIPOC people and experience and celebrate the cultures of our BIPOC youth in unique ways.

> The deadline to register is May 31. Visit **rmselca.org/formation**