



In preparation for the Bishop Election in May of 2018, this document provides an overview of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, including its purpose, structure, and current realities. Synod members are encouraged to use this information to inform their conversations about their vision for the synod and their expectations for the next Bishop.

The Office of the Bishop: Currently includes the Bishop, four Assistants to the Bishop (one is half time), one Director for Evangelical Mission (ELCA deployed staff), one Director of the 3E initiative (funded by a Lilly Grant), two Advocacy Directors, two Administrative Staff, and one contracted Communications Assistant. Assistants to the Bishop are co-terminus with the Bishop. The configuration and responsibilities of staff members are determined primarily by the Bishop. Each Bishop establishes a team to address the priorities of the synod while operating within budgetary allowances.

Governance: The RMS is governed by the annual **Synod Assembly** with the **Synod Council** serving as the Rocky Mountain Synod board of directors and as the interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. Synod Council members are elected to assure geographic representation.

RMS Strategic Plan Emphases: **CLAIM OUR GIFTS:** Teach, proclaim and share the significance of our ELCA way of being part of Christ's Church with a clear contagious vision from abundance. **CONNECT:** Foster new and increased collaboration and connection across our Synod. **EQUIP:** Equip leaders and congregations to strengthen healthy and vibrant faith communities. **ACCOMPANY:** Ensure that Synod leadership is engaged in the life of the congregations and ministries.

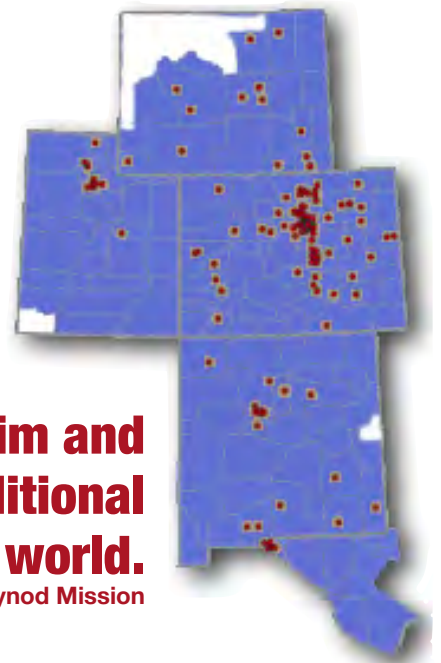
Synod Stats

The **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)** is comprised of about 3,563,800 members in 9,252 congregations.

The **Rocky Mountain Synod (RMS)** is one of 65 synods in the ELCA. The synods are organized into nine regions, and the RMS is part of Region 2.

About **60,000 baptized members** comprise 161 RMS congregations in Colorado [111], New Mexico [22], El Paso, Texas [5], Utah [9], and Wyoming [14].

Congregations are grouped into 10 geographic conferences. Each conference has a Dean.



Together, we proclaim and embody God's unconditional love for the sake of the world.
Rocky Mountain Synod Mission

Mission Support from Congregations was \$2.17 million in 2016. 54% stays in the RMS and 46% supports ELCA Churchwide.



The Office of the Bishop is located in unincorporated Adams County, north of downtown Denver at 7375 Samuel Drive, Denver, CO, 80221. Video conferencing and WebEx are used to bridge the geographic distances.

Summary of Strategic Plan Goals adopted by the Synod Council

**Claiming
our Gifts**

Offer a clear and contagious vision about the unique gifts we offer to the larger church and world as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Root our congregations, ministries, and witness in the abundance of our unique gifts

Name our gifts as we tell our story, both as a wider church and through our congregations

**Connecting
in Ministry
& Witness**

Strengthen communication across our synod

Build connectivity-between congregations, among leaders, and throughout our synod- to energize our ministry and witness

Facilitate networking and sharing, including with ecumenical partners and new rostered ministers

**Equipping
All Leaders**

Create a vision for comprehensive leadership development in our synod

Develop a spirituality of generosity and abundance

Use the resources of the Lilly Endowment Grant—Educate, Equip, Enact— to address economic challenges faced by rostered ministers

**Accompanying
one another into
God's Future**

Acknowledge, support, and create new viable models for ministry across our synod, encouraging creativity and experimentation

Increase the number of rostered ministers arising from our synod and entering candidacy

Align our organizational structures to support our vision for ministry and witness



Rocky Mountain Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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