



Rocky Mountain Synod: On the Way Together

To be a **synod** literally means to be *on the way together* - on the **way of Jesus** together.

With **profound gratitude**, we celebrate the many ways your mission support has empowered our ministry and mission as **Christ's Church, Better Together** in the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod in 2023.

- In May we met in **Assembly** in El Paso to experience the power of “Cruzando Fronteras/Crossing Borders” for the sake of the gospel, and in September our rostered ministers gathered in four locations across our synod to engage in the discernment about the 2024 bishop’s election.
- The **Global Mission Network** supported RMS missionaries and began planning for a RMS border immersion trip and visit by Malagasy companion synod leaders in 2024.
- **Excellence in Leadership (EiL)** added trainings on healthy boundaries, adaptive leadership, conflict management & congregational systems. Since 2019, EiL has trained 179 leaders in courageous, resilient & effective leadership.
- **3E (Educate, Equip, Enact)**, funded by the Lilly Foundation, provided 11 mini-sabbatical grants for rostered leaders, stewardship learning opportunities for congregations, non-profit management training for 40 leaders, and funding to support rostered leaders engaging in counseling, coaching and spiritual direction.



Rev. Angela Chacon's ordination and installation at Ascension St. Matthew's Lutheran Episcopal Church in Price, UT.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

30

CANDIDATES
being accompanied
from discernment
through first call

6

ORDINATIONS
of new pastors &
deacons

28

INSTALLATIONS
of pastors and
deacons into new
ministry settings

21

FIRST CALL
deacons & pastors
being accompanied
through their first
three years of
ministry

47.5

% of MISSION
SUPPORT received
in our synod was
shared with our
Churchwide
Organization

TOGETHER IN 2023

- The **Campus Ministry Committee** regrouped to better accompany our seven synod campus ministries.
- **Lutheran Advocacy Ministry - Colorado** worked on a number of bills including the passage of House Bill 1112 (Rep. S. Bird), which will make significant changes for Colorado tax filers who claim the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. It's one of our state's most effective and proven anti-poverty measures.
- **Lutheran Advocacy Ministry - New Mexico** advocated successfully for \$10 million in additional one-time funding for low-income/affordable housing, \$30 million in additional annual funding for low-income/affordable housing, and an increase in the state's child-tax credit and universal healthy school meals for all New Mexico children.
- The **RMS Disaster Response Committee** organized to better accompany and support congregations in areas that have been impacted by major disasters
- The Synod was represented at board meetings & gatherings of our **Social Ministry Organization partners**, including Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains, Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center, Urban Servant Corps and Border Servant Corps.
- A **multi-cultural ecumenical pilgrimage** to Greece and Rome included members of the Rocky Mountain Synod and the Episcopal Church in Colorado walking in the footsteps of Paul while praying for peace in the Holy Land.
- **Vital Right Shaped Ministry** provided tools for congregations and rostered ministers to review their congregational life, set a course for their future, and strengthen leaders for their journey ahead.
- Our **Congregational Transition Team** supported ministries throughout the synod during their transition and call process.
- Synod staff accompanied two of our congregations as they moved into new spaces, with **Highlands Lutheran** in Denver relocating to the Lutheran Center and **Cristo Rey/Latino Ministry West Denver** moving into the building generously donated to the synod by Christ the King Lutheran upon its conclusion of ministry.

Your generosity fueled these ministry opportunities, while supporting the countless ministries of our whole church across this country and around the world.

**Thank you for your commitment to being synod -
on the way together!**

Pictured at right from top to bottom: Wyoming Conference Rostered Leaders Retreat, Cristo Rey/Latino Ministry West Denver's Christmas celebration, Lutheran Campus Ministry at Luther House in Albuquerque, NM gather for a meal, community time, and worship, Racial Justice train-the-trainer event in April.

