



## ■ ROSTER CHANGES

### AUGUST 2011

**The Rev. Kristi Ursin** from Seminary to Pastor Zion Lutheran Church, Limon, CO 8/1/2011

**The Rev. Zachary Parris** from Southwest California Synod to Campus Pastor CU 8/1/2011

**The Rev. Todd Penson**, retired from Rocky Mountain Synod to Eastern-Washington Idaho Synod 8/2/2011

**The Rev. Tyger Penson**, retired from Rocky Mountain Synod to Eastern-Washington Idaho Synod 8/2/2011

**The Rev. Kimberly Gonja**, Rocky Mountain Synod Candidate Ordained 8/7/2011 to First Call Northern Illinois Synod

**The Rev. Walter Schaefer** from Pastor retired to deceased 8/9/2011

**Faith Community Lutheran Church**, Longmont, CO voted to leave the ELCA. Removed from roster 8/15/2011

**The Rev. Daniel Hansen** from Pastor Faith Community Lutheran Church to Removed from roster 8/15/2011

**Mr. H. Edward Broestl**, DM from Faith Community Lutheran Church to Removed from roster 8/15/2011

**The Rev. Timothy Singleton** from Pastor New Horizon Lutheran Church, Falcon, CO to Greater Milwaukee Synod 8/15/2011

**The Rev. John Mayer** from Pastor Grace Lutheran

Church, Bountiful, UT to North/West Lower Michigan Synod 8/15/2011

**The Rev. Michael Johnson** from Pastor St. John Lutheran Church, Riverton, WY to Grand Canyon Synod 8/15/2011

**The Rev. Corinne Thul** from Pastor Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Logan, UT to On Leave from Call 8/24/2011

**The Rev. Wendy Kalan** from Candidate to Pastor Peace Lutheran Church, Sterling, CO 8/28/2011

**The Rev. Erich Hartenberger**, Rocky Mountain Synod Candidate Ordained 8/28/2011 to First Call South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

### SEPTEMBER 2011

**The Rev. Kenneth McKnight** from pastor retired to deceased 9/11/2011

**The Rev. Christopher Halverson** from Rocky Mountain Synod Candidate Ordained 9/18/2011 to First Call New Jersey Synod

**The Rev. Jeffrey Loudon** from On Leave from Call to Pastor St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Taylorsville, UT 9/19/2011

**The Rev. Martha Atkins** from Rocky Mountain Synod Candidate to Ordained 9/24/2011 to First Call Pastor Mount of Olives Lutheran Church, Rock Springs, WY

## ■ ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

*For the first eight months of the fiscal year, February-September, 2011:*

**actual income** \$1,936,099

**actual expense** \$1,934,127

**Balance of +\$1,972**

*We are filled with gratitude for the strong ministry partnership of our congregations who are supporting the ministries of the synod and churchwide with generous offerings. Thanks be to God!*



**Rocky Mountain Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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## Theological Conference 2012: old and new

**T**he 2012 Theological Conference takes place for the first time at the Fort Collins Hilton and Trinity Lutheran Church, January 23-26.

While the narrative of Jesus is old, the challenge of our new day is how to tell the story in our context. Particularly, how we get beyond the printing press—the amazing innovation of Luther's time—to embrace today's communication, namely social media.

Three presenters will lead our learning and discussion: Dr. Anna Carter Florence from Columbia Theological Seminary, Dr. Stanley Olson who is present of Wartburg Theological Seminary, and Pastor Keith Anderson of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Woburn, Massachusetts.

Information about the event as well as online registration is at [www.rmselca.org/tc](http://www.rmselca.org/tc). The registration deadline is December 21. After that date, hotel availability and pricing cannot be guaranteed.



## Three excellent new videos now available

**O**ur Daily Bread is a video resource for congregations to hear the stories of others who are sharing together in ministry in the Rocky Mountain Synod. Together, as a synod, and with the wider church, we are the "Bread of Life," given for others. It is excellent for fall adult classes, forums, and group gatherings.

A DVD of three new video stories now joins volume 1, which was distributed at Synod Assembly. They highlight seniors' ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Casper, WY, the House for All Sinners and Saints mission congregation in Denver, CO, and the outdoor ministries at Rainbow Trail and Sky Ranch. Each video is around eight minutes. Companion materials are included as text files on the DVD or available on the synod website. The videos, Bible study, and devotional materials are at [www.rmselca.org/videos](http://www.rmselca.org/videos).

Please use these videos in your congregation to tell the story of God's work in the Rocky Mountain Synod

## Good Shepherd, Denver – Ending with Hope

**G**ood Shepherd Lutheran served the community in Southwest Denver for 63 years, providing a house of worship, a low income childcare, senior lunches, and many other ministries from the corner of Federal and Ohio. The changing ethnicity of the neighborhood reduced the worshipping community to about 30 people, although 35 families were served in the child care center until, after 18 months of thoughtful and prayerful deliberation, the congregation made the difficult decision to close and disperse resources.

Closing worship was Sunday, July 24, 2011, with Bishop Bjornberg presiding and Pastor Dena Williams preaching. Representatives from those groups receiving assets were in attendance and recognized.

The remaining funds and the sale of the building yielded approximately \$600,000. The congregation council carefully assembled lists and labored long to make certain the resources God provided are used to serve people, congregations, and agencies that share the love of the Gospel. The following note accompanied checks to 14 agencies and congregations:

“Please accept this gift to continue your work in serving those in need. While we hope you will occasionally think of Good Shepherd with kindness, please recognize that our gift is not made as a memorial to Good Shepherd, but in appreciation for the opportunity we are given to continue to care, through the work you do, for the weak, the poor, the sick, the lonely and all persons who suffer for any reason, so that they may be comforted. May God continue to bless your work, as we believe God continues to bless each of us from Good Shepherd as we are ‘Ending with Hope—Alleluia!’”

Pastor Williams and members of the congregation council visited agencies and worship events over the last month to share generous financial support designated for outreach ministries. “The joy of sharing mitigated our sorrow over the closing of their church home,” said Pastor Williams.

### Good Shepherd designated the following gifts:

\$188,000 to ELCA World Hunger  
 \$94,000 to Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey-El Paso  
 \$23,500 new to Camino de Vida-Albuquerque, HKBP Montclair-Denver, House for All Sinners and Saints-Denver, New Beginnings-Aurora, Community Ministry of SW Denver, Lutheran Family Services of Colorado, Lutheran Refugee & Asylee Program, Metro CareRing, Our Savior’s Lutheran Church Outreach-Denver, St. Paul Lutheran Church Outreach-Denver, Southwest Improvement Council-Denver, Urban Servant Corps-Denver.



**Pastor Dena Williams presented a check on behalf of Good Shepherd to Pastor Rose Mary Sanchez-Guzman for \$94,000. The wooden art work on the floor is one of a pair that hung at Good Shepherd and now hangs at Cristo Rey. Cristo Rey named their education space the “Good Shepherd Center” and will use the gift to pay down their mortgage.**

## Conferences begin bishop election discernment

*All clergy on the ELCA roster are eligible potential nominees*

**T**he election of the third bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod will take place at the 2012 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly in Colorado Springs, April 26-28, 2012.

As the process commences, the goal is that an intentional discernment process take place, that there be wide participation across the synod, and that lay and rostered assembly voting members are equally equipped.

Fall gatherings are scheduled in each of the ten synod conferences to equip lay and rostered leaders for the election process and to lift up names of individuals who embody gifts necessary to lead and serve as bishop. The gatherings take place as follows:

### Bishop Election Fall Conference Gatherings (some dates and times are tentative)

- October 15 (Sat) - Northern CO at Faith in Eaton
- October 16 (Sun) - Metro East at Christ the Savior in Aurora from 2-5 pm
- October 18 (Tues) - Metro West part 1 at Good Shepherd in Glenwood Springs at 10 am
- October 23 (Sun) - Southern CO at Grace in CO Springs from 3-4:30
- October 23 (Sun) - Boulder/Broomfield at Grace in Boulder from 7 - 8:30 pm (Bishop portion)
- November 5 (Sat) - Border at Iglesias Luterana in El Paso from 10-3
- November 5 (Sat) - Northern NM at All Saints in Albuquerque from 9 am to 1 pm
- November 5 (Sat) - Boulder/Broomfield in Boulder 9-10:30 am (Ministry Audit only)
- November 12 (Sat) - Utah at Our Saviors in Salt Lake from 9-12
- November 14 (Mon) - Metro South at Bethany Lutheran, from 7pm to 9pm
- December 3 (Sat) - Metro West part 2 at Holy Cross in Wheat Ridge CO from 9-12

*Wyoming to be announced*

Information and resources regarding the discernment process are posted on the Rocky Mountain Synod website: [www.rmselca.org/bishop election](http://www.rmselca.org/bishop election). That link also provides an online form for submitting the names of potential nominees who will be invited to submit a bio and information for consideration and discernment in advance of the April assembly.

The website includes a downloadable synod snapshot, bishop profile, and bible study, which will be used at the conference gatherings to guide the discussions. In addition, representatives from ELCA Churchwide will be present to guide a synod-wide Ministry Audit to aid in defining the synod’s leadership needs.

Any individual who is a member of an RMS congregation may submit names of persons who are potential nominees. The actual nomination process takes place at the April assembly, where each voting member writes a name on the first ballot, called an “ecclesiastical ballot.” Visit [www.rmselca.org/bishop election](http://www.rmselca.org/bishop election) for the timeline.

