

## An invitation from Bishop Jim

As the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod, we are called to share in God's work in our communities, our synod, and far beyond. Through the **Next Faithful Step – Better Together Campaign**, we are creatively and courageously working toward God's vision of a just world where relationships matter and where grace, gratitude, and generosity can flourish. Together, we are taking the next right steps into that future.

In 2020, we launched a campaign to address four critical synod initiatives. Two of the initiatives focus on our life together as leaders and neighbors. Two of the initiatives focus on properties that God entrusted to our care. Each initiative came to us as pure gift!

Read about our four initiatives as well as our tithe for Racial Justice inside this folder.

**The Next Faithful Step – Better Together Campaign** began with a First Step goal to raise \$950,000, which we have accomplished! We now kick off our Next Step phase to invite gifts from individuals, foundations, endowments, congregations, and ministry organizations with a goal of \$620,000.

I thank you for your partnership on this journey as together we discover new ways to proclaim and embody God's unconditional love for the sake of the world!

Yours in Faith,  
**Bishop Jim Gonia**



## Learn more about the campaign

Visit [rmselca.org/next-faithful-step](https://rmselca.org/next-faithful-step).

## View resources and use them in your congregation

Visit [rmselca.org/next-faithful-step](https://rmselca.org/next-faithful-step) to watch videos, download the prospectus, and more.

## Give a gift

Contact Tina Kvitek, Rocky Mountain Synod Director of Development, to complete a gift through an IRA distribution, gift of stock, or other means.

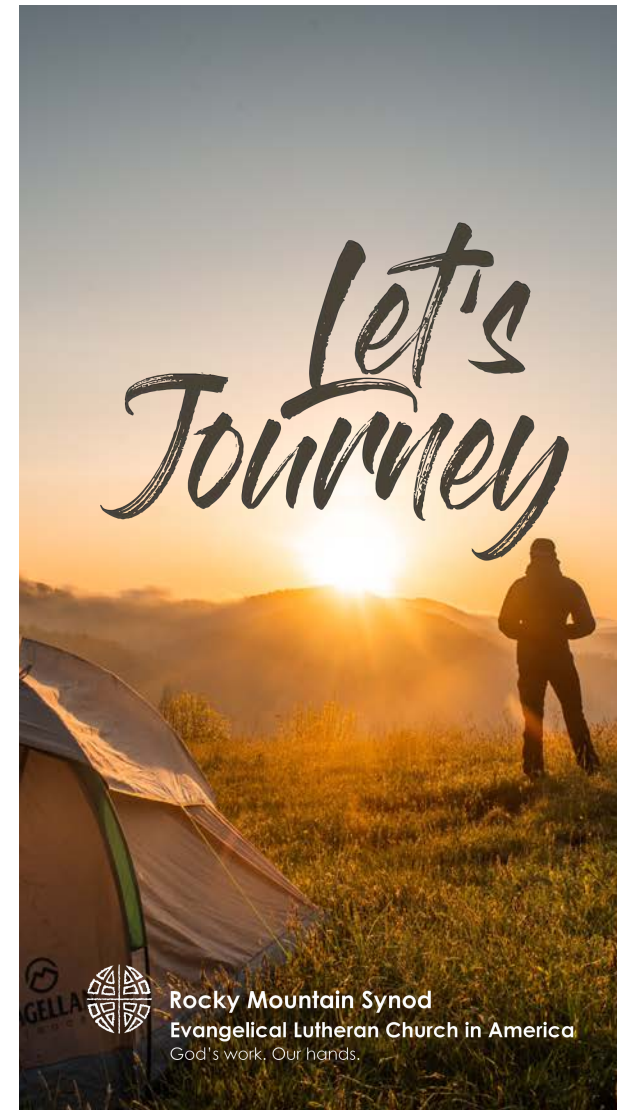
Or visit [rmselca.org/give](https://rmselca.org/give) to make a pledge or give a gift with a credit card.



**Contact Tina Kvitek**  
Rocky Mountain Synod  
Development Director  
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INITIATIVES	FIRST STEP	NEXT STEP
3E Lilly Grant	\$ 350,000	\$ 100,000
Excellence in Leadership	\$ 250,000	\$ 100,000
Messiah Mountain Retreat	\$ 80,000	\$ 200,000
Lutheran Center	\$ 75,000	\$ 158,000
Campaign Expenses	\$ 100,000	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 855,000</b>	<b>\$ 558,000</b>
Racial Justice Tithe	\$ 95,000	\$ 62,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 950,000</b>	<b>\$ 620,000</b>

next  
faithful  
step **BETTER  
TOGETHER**



We all want the same thing—  
for our churches and  
leaders not only to survive,  
but to thrive.

We are on our way. We have  
surpassed our first step goal  
and have raised over  
\$1 million! You can help  
us reach our next step  
campaign goal of \$1,570,000

Let's journey, together.



The campaign is rooted in seeing the mission and ministry of the Rocky Mountain Synod through the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The **Racial Justice Task Force** is charged with imagining a Rocky Mountain Synod that has been changed by the Love of Christ as we proclaim our commitment to speak with one voice against racism and white supremacy.

The **Racial Justice Tithe** will continue to provide funds for education and training, as well as direct support for programs and people who are expanding our circles of sharing Christ's love with the world.



To foster better-equipped leadership, we have developed a comprehensive education initiative called **Excellence in Leadership (EIL)**. Together, rostered and lay participants are engaging in a series of in-depth classes offered online and in person to complete the two-year curriculum. The certification will equip participants to employ wise, mature, and emotionally intelligent strategies so they can build and lead courageous, resilient, and faithful communities—for the sake of the world.

Tuition isn't nearly enough to sustain the program without being too costly. A successful campaign will enable the program to grow and thrive.



Our **3E Lilly Endowment Grant** focuses on growing generosity, vitality, and healthy communities. Having recently received a third grant from Lilly, our Next Step will provide a direct \$100,000 match for these ongoing programs:

**Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS):** extending programs for congregations to be a 3-year series.

**Ministerial Excellence Fund (MEF):** providing grants to rostered ministers to support their ongoing ministry in the context of pandemic challenges and stress.

**Vital Right-Shaped Ministry:** exploring how the Spirit is calling forth a new vision for congregational ministry through this new pillar of 3E.



**The Lutheran Center** is the home of the Rocky Mountain Synod Office of the Bishop, a gift from Valley Lutheran Church when they closed in 2010. This unique building plan creates expanded opportunities for ministry and gathering. A number of upgrades are needed in order to carry out a growing partnership with the **Alliance for Music Education Equity** to create a place for music and arts education in an underserved region of Denver.

Surpassing our First Step goal has already enabled us to rebuild the parking lot and solve drainage issues. The Next Step will address repairs and improvements to carry our ministry into the future.



Through the generosity of Messiah Community Church, Denver, a 28-acre retreat site in the Denver foothills was gifted to the Rocky Mountain Synod.

**Messiah Mountain Retreat Center** offers new opportunities for sabbath retreat and deepening our commitment to faith formation and spirituality, envisioned especially for adults since we already have two excellent camps for children and youth.

The site is an amazing gift of natural beauty that inspires peace and tranquility, but it is much in need of repair and improvement to create a safe and welcoming sabbath retreat space for all guests.