Sharing the Good News
from the pen of the Mission Interpreter



July 10, 2022, Vol. 2, Issue 25

Speaking Out on Climate Change

The offering you give each Sunday is stewarded by Emanuel's council to support the work of this congregation and also to designate a portion (ideally 10%) to be shared with the Southwestern Texas Synod and the ELCA churchwide. These latter funds are called **Mission Support** and are used in the U.S. and throughout the world. One area funded through Mission Support is that of Advocacy for various causes. With 2022 quickly becoming the eighth year in a row of hottest temperatures ever recorded worldwide, advocates are speaking out to our government to put into effect measures that can slow down and eventually stop the effect greenhouse gases are having on our environment. Making sure the earth is habitable for future generations is certainly a matter of stewardship.

Jim White, professor of geological sciences at the University of Colorado, Boulder said, "The signs are right in front of us: extreme weather, changing temperature patterns, increase in the number of droughts. Our climate is changing due to global warming, and human beings are largely responsible for this. Once you've studied the issue, you realize there is no debate. The notion of debate is a false narrative that some people have put forth to delay action." White is also the director of the university's Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research.

A member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Boulder, White says his faith informs his perspective on climate change and how we steward God's creation. Several years ago he stood with other Lutherans and offered testimony at an Environmental Protection Agency public hearing in Denver where he argued there are ethical implications that must be considered as we address climate change. "The poor of the world are disproportionately being impacted by climate change," he said. "Faith and our moral compasses need to be considered when dealing with this problem."

The event was one of four major hearings across the country. Peter Severson, director of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-Colorado (Rocky Mountain Synod), organized the advocates. "By participating in the public hearing, these leaders were able to live their faith in a real way," he said. "The participation of the ELCA in the process itself was a transformative experience for all involved."

Advocacy taking place in the Rocky Mountain Synod is part of a unified effort led by ELCA churchwide's advocacy office in Washington, D.C. as part of its "Clean Air for All" campaign. The advocacy office has encouraged Lutherans to participate in marches and public forums to raise awareness of climate change. Mary Minette, ELCA program director for environmental policy and education indicated, "We march, marked by the cross, saved by grace, out of love for our neighbors and God's earth." Through the ELCA's advocacy work, we Lutherans can be leaders in the public square and speak out for ethical political action on climate change.

From *Stories of Faith in Action* published by ELCA