

## Roster Changes

### AUGUST 2017

The Rev. Michael Bastian from Pastor Community of Joy Lutheran Church, Rio Rancho, NM to Pastor Evangelical Church of Trossingen, Germany 8/1/2017

The Rev. Bonita Knox from Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod to Pastor St. Johns Lutheran Church, Riverton, WY 8/7/2017

The Rev. Peter Morin from On Leave From Call to retired 8/23/2017

The Rev. Kristi Beebe from Pastor Nativity Lutheran to Pastor Atonement Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO 8/27/2017

### SEPTEMBER 2017

The Rev. Leslie Welton from Sierra Pacific Synod to Assistant to the Bishop for Faith

Formation and Candidacy, Rocky Mountain Synod 9/6/2017

The Rev. Steven Berke from On Leave From Call to Nebraska Synod 9/9/2017

The Rev. Bette Jeanne Larsen Pastor retired from Delaware-Maryland Synod 9/27/2017

The Rev. Raymond Larson retired Pastor to Northwestern Minnesota Synod 9/28/2017

### OCTOBER 2017

The Rev. Richard Reiten from South-Central Synod of Wisconsin to Pastor Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Collins, CO 10/2/2017

Deacon Cassandra (Sandy) Olson to South Dakota Synod 10/5/2017

The Rev. Andrew Boesenecker from Mission Developer Pastor Mustard Seed House Churches to On Leave From Call 10/12/2017

## ELCA Global Mission

**Synods and congregations** are invited to accompany migrant children and families through Synod AMMPARO or Immigration Task Forces, as Welcoming Congregations, through the creation of Guardian Angel programs, through prayer and giving to AMMPARO. All ELCA members are encouraged to continue awareness-building and advocacy for the protection of these vulnerable children and families.

At this moment, there are **57 Welcoming Congregations in 17 synods in 9 regions.** Several synods have connected or are in the process of connecting their Immigration Task Forces to AMMPARO or have created

AMMPARO Task Forces, bringing the total of **synods involved** in some way to **26 in all 9 regions.** There are **5 sanctuary synods** and at least **10 sanctuary congregations.**

### Find out more:

[www.elca.org/AMMPARO](http://www.elca.org/AMMPARO)



## Lutheran Disaster Relief



WE ARE CALLED TO **ACT** WITH JUSTICE,  
WE ARE CALLED TO **LOVE** TENDERLY;  
WE ARE CALLED TO **SERVE** ONE  
ANOTHER, TO WALK HUMBLLY WITH GOD.

DAVID HAAS, ELW 720

This fall we as the church responded with profound generosity to our brothers and sisters who were impacted by hurricanes and tropical storms. Reports as of the end of October reflect gifts totaling over 9.7 million, with over \$250,000 coming from individuals, ministries, and congregations of the Rocky Mountain Synod. Because of your regular mission support giving, 100% of funds given to Lutheran Disaster Response goes directly to response and recovery efforts. Thank you for your continued commitment to being Christ's Church, Better Together.

### Learn more about the work of Lutheran Disaster Relief:

[www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/](http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/)

## Called Forth to Serve



In his final address to the disciples prior to his arrest and crucifixion, Jesus asserts, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

This "last will and testament" of Jesus reveals his heart and calls us to be as passionate for "the least" as he is. Jesus understood that when we build relationships with and serve "the least", not only are they blessed, but we also are blessed. Nothing fills us more than when we love and serve others. Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains takes Jesus' words seriously as we seek to "walk with the vulnerable through services that heal, strengthen, and provide hope." As members of the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod, we are each called to participate in the important and necessary work of LFSRM.

As a board member, I have had the privilege of participating personally in refugee resettlement, supporting foster families, walking alongside those going through the process of adoption, responding to people affected by disasters, and helping families to care for aging loved ones. Each time that my family

and I have taken the time to get involved, we always say afterward, "We need to do more." There's something about serving and giving generously that transforms us for the better, that helps us to recognize that love, service and generosity is to be our way of life.

I hope that you will take a look at the LFSRM website ([lfsrm.org](http://lfsrm.org)) and the many programs and services that are provided. Identify a program or service that aligns with your heart and passion, make a commitment to get connected, give generously of your time and resources, and experience firsthand what loving and serving "the least" will do in your life. When we come together in a spirit of love and generosity, countless lives are changed...including our own. The risen Jesus has entrusted the care of his brothers and sisters to us. Jesus is counting on us to respond to this call in a passionate and bold way so that we and all people may experience real life in Jesus' name.

Rev. Doug Hill  
Abiding Hope Church  
Littleton, CO



**LUTHERAN  
FAMILY SERVICES**  
*Rocky Mountains*

## Living for our neighbors



As someone who was raised outside of the Lutheran Church, I've been amazed by the impact

that Lutheran communities have had in my young adult life. From attending Luther College, to participating in a service year with Urban Servant Corps, to interning with Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, to now creating church-to-community partnerships through Lutheran Family Services, God has presented me with incredible opportunities through the Church and the ELCA.

As we reflect on and celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation this year, I've had the opportunity to think deeply about the impacts that Christianity, Lutheranism, and the ELCA have had not only in my life, but in the world in which we live. Luther's nailing of the 95 theses and the Reformation they sparked brought turmoil, change, and hope to a religiously, politically, and socially diverse Europe.

In these last 500 years many things have changed, but our churches continue to live and serve in the midst of turmoil,

change, and hope in a religiously, politically, and socially diverse world. We continue to seek reform in the well-intentioned but broken systems of our society. And we continue to live, as Luther suggested, "not for [ourselves], but in Christ and the neighbor. [We] live in Christ through faith, and in [our] neighbor through love" ("Freedom of a Christian," LW 31:371).

The Lutheran communities of my young adult life have challenged me to consider this kind of life more deeply, and have shed light on some of the neighbors I am called to live in through love. This is exactly why I love my work with Lutheran Family Services, and why I believe it is so important. We have the opportunity to meet our neighbors in times of great need; whether they are an infant in need of a loving family, a child in need of a safe home, an individual in need of the tools to build a new life, or an older adult in need of companionship and care planning, we at LFS can choose to live in love alongside these neighbors. We can walk with them through times of turmoil, change, and hope, just as we know Christ would do. I personally have the joy of meeting with churches and individuals who share the desire to live this kind of life, and connecting them with opportunities to compassionately live in love for their neighbors.

Katie Scherr  
*Church Relations and Development  
Assistant, Lutheran Family Services  
Rocky Mountains*



**Rocky Mountain Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

The Office of the Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA, is located on the campus of the RMS Lutheran Center, 7375 Samuel Drive, Denver, CO 80221. Connection editor is Erin Power: [epower@rmselca.org](mailto:epower@rmselca.org). Website is [rmselca.org](http://rmselca.org). Facebook is [facebook.com/rmselca](https://facebook.com/rmselca). An electronic .pdf of this CONNECTION newsletter is posted at [rmselca.org/newsletters](http://rmselca.org/newsletters).

