

Roster Changes

NOVEMBER 2016

The Rev. Philip Wangberg from Pastor on disability, Albuquerque, NM to retired 11/1/2016
 The Rev. Janet Kettering from Southwest Minnesota Synod to Interim Pastor Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Boulder, CO 11/1/2016
 The Rev. Bruce Kolasch from Montana Synod to Pastor Elim Lutheran Church, Ogden, UT 11/1/2016
 The Rev. Martin Lettow from On Leave From Call to Interim Pastor Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Denver, CO 11/1/2016
 The Rev. Kaila (Hochhalter) Armbruster from On Leave From Call to Pastor Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Grand Junction, Colorado 11/21/2016

DECEMBER 2016

The Rev. Reba Kiger-Kolasch Pastor retired from Montana Synod to Rocky Mountain Synod 12/12/2016

JANUARY 2017

The Rev. Stacie Dougherty from Pastor interim to Pastor Tabor Lutheran Church, Pueblo, CO 1/1/2017
 The Rev. Brian Mortenson from South Dakota Synod to Senior Interim Pastor First Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO 1/1/2017
 The Rev. Jorge Luis Espinoza Perez from Pastor On Leave from Call to Minneapolis Area Synod 1/1/2017

The Rev. Robert Eller Pastor retired deceased 1/3/2017

The Rev. Deborah Cote from On Leave From Call to Associate Pastor Prince of Peace, Gillette, WY 1/10/2017

The Rev. James West from On Leave From Call to Upper Susquehanna Synod 1/29/2017

FEBRUARY 2017

The Rev. Russ Sorensen from Interim Pastor All Saints Lutheran, Albuquerque, NM to Interim Pastor Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran, Los Alamos, NM 2/1/2017

The Rev. Nathan Keith from Eastern North Dakota Synod to Pastor Trinity Lutheran Church, Laramie, WY 2/1/2017

The Rev. Peter Morin from On Leave From Call to retired 2/3/2017

The Rev. Arthur Meyer from Pastor Chaplain San Juan Regional Medical Center to retired 2/3/2017
 The Rev. Bryce Fellbaum from Pastor Immanuel

Lutheran Church to Zion Lutheran Church, Limon, CO 2/22/2017

The Rev. Kristin Schultz from Pastor St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church to All Saints Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM 2/26/2017

RMS in the Neighborhood

In this edition of Connection, we hear 3 stories of how Rocky Mountain Synod members, congregations, and ministries are connecting in both their neighborhoods and the larger public square.

How is your ministry
"in the neighborhood"?

Send your 1-2 page snapshot sharing your story and how it got started to:
epower@rmselca.org

Our shared stories and resources, **RMS in the Neighborhood**, will be available this summer- stay tuned!

Congregations becoming Safe Stops in the neighborhood

It was about 1 o'clock in the morning, and we had just finished up a call for service. I was doing a ride-a-long with a police officer. The call load had died down, and it was now time to get caught up on the paperwork from the busy shift. I joked with my officer that he didn't need me as a chaplain in his car, what he needed was a secretary. The calls we were on that night required quite a bit of documentation. We pulled into a dimly lit church parking lot, and the officer began writing at his desk - a clipboard and steering wheel. As I sat next to him thinking about what it looks like for me as a chaplain to support this officer, I wandered why we were sitting in the parking lot of this church instead of going in. The Safe Stop program began to take shape.

Safe Stops are essentially a substation for officers located in a church. The Safe Stop is a non-contact office that is away from the public's eye. The Safe Stop is a place that officers can grab a cup of coffee, cold drink, snack, and write a report if needed. Officers have to continually be vigilant of their surroundings, and the Safe Stop is often the only place of peace and rest in an officer's busy day.

This idea was born from recognizing a need, and meeting that need. Our vision as chaplains is to "serve those who serve us". I think this applies to us as the church as well.

The Safe Stop program is currently in two Rocky Mountain Synod churches and growing. I believe the program has been successful because we as the church came along side our law enforcement community and accompanied them in their journey.

Augustine challenged us with "it is solved by walking". Accompaniment gives life when we justly walk the journey with others.

Scott Moore serves as the Lead Chaplain at the Wheat Ridge Police Department and serves as the Director of Mission, Youth and Family Ministries at a RMS congregation. He has served his congregation for 19 years and the police department for 2 years.



Scott, along with his pastor and congregational president, receives an award for their service to their community.

The Long History of Lutheran Advocacy

Peter Severson, Director of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-CO

In my role I visit a lot of congregations to tell the story of our faith-based advocacy work in the Rocky Mountain Synod. Usually, I begin that story in 1984, when the congregations of one of our predecessor denominations decided to organize formal Lutheran public policy offices for Colorado and New Mexico in response to threatened federal cuts to our social safety net. Thanks to all of our congregations, we have been engaged in full-time advocacy for over 30 years. But even that doesn't tell the whole story. In fact, did you know that the Rocky Mountain Synod has been advocating on public policy issues for over 125 years?

Consider this excerpt from the minutes of the First Annual Convention of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, held at St. Paul's English Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denver, Colorado, October 28th-November 1st, 1891:

"The following resolutions of the General Synod were presented and adopted as a whole:
WHEREAS, The continued existence and the permanent prosperity of a nation cannot outlive the virtues of its

people; and...

Whereas, There is a growing tendency to divest the Sabbath of its Divine authority... therefore,

Resolved, That whilst we deplore all forms of the violation of the Sabbath...we do express our most unqualified condemnation of that part of either State or municipal legislation that permits the prosecution of a traffic [in strong drink] on that day which is not alone useless and wicked, but which is a disgrace to the civilization and the Christianity of the nineteenth century..."

Wow! Strong words about strong drink. While our attitudes about temperance today have shifted somewhat, it's nonetheless powerful to see that the church felt it necessary to speak on what was an important topic of public conversation in its time. This is no less true today: we as a church are always engaged in faithful reflection about public issues and speaking out in places where our voice can make a difference. Our advocacy is grounded in the gospel, the theological understandings of our church, and in our unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of the most marginal and vulnerable people in our communities



Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-Colorado
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

New L.I.F.E in Albuquerque

The L.I.F.E. Program stands for, "Liberty in Financial Education" and it will begin this month through a partnership between St. Timothy's Lutheran Church Albuquerque, the Rio Grande Credit

Union, and Zia Elementary School. Our work with

Ruth Hoffman and
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-NM

called us to stand up

against the devastating impact of predatory lending in New Mexico. St. Timothy's is located in an area inundated by these lenders. L.I.F.E. is St. Timothy's response.

Qualifying families from Zia will be given an application to the L.I.F.E Program, which includes 10 weeks of financial education followed by 24 months of financial incentives that allow families to put to work what they have learned in the 10-week program. Below are the basics:

1. Participants will attend at least 9 out of 10 one-hour sessions of financial education offered by a certified Financial Educator .

2. Upon completion of at least 9 of the 10 sessions, St. Tim's will assist families in opening a savings account at Rio Grande Credit Union with a \$100 beginning balance.
3. This small grant of \$100 will be provided by the St. Timothy's Mission Endowment Fund and is intended to give families a small head start in building financial capacity.
4. Over the next 18 months, St. Timothy's commits to matching the deposits families make to their savings accounts up to \$10 per month.
5. At the end of the program, if families take full advantage of the matching grant money offered by St. Timothy's, they will have a savings account with a balance of \$480 plus interest.

With their partners at Rio Grande Credit Union, Zia Elementary, and Lutheran Advocacy Ministry, St. Timothy's is indeed:

Christ's Church
better together



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. Website is rmselca.org. Facebook is facebook.com/rmselca. An electronic .pdf of this CONNECTION newsletter is posted at rmselca.org/newsletters.