



For more information on Vital Right-Shaped Ministry, contact Pastor Dana Peterson at dpeterson@rmselca.org

We are telling a story of Church Becoming

During their pastoral transition, the people of Holy Love, Aurora, Colo., began to explore their future in new ways. Interim Pastor Kari Reiquam invited Bishop Jim Gonja to share a presentation on Classic Church—Church Becoming, a resource provided by the RMS Congregational Ministries Board.

After further discernment with Pastor Dana Peterson, Director for Evangelical Mission, the congregation became the first in our synod to call a pastor with an intentional focus on **Vital Right-Shaped Ministry** (VRSM). Pastor Brittany Barley-Kooi began her call in August. There are now nearly 20 congregations engaged in some aspect of VRSM.

We are telling a story of being public church for the life of the world

The reality of the pandemic has not slowed our commitment to being a public church, investing in our ministries of advocacy in New Mexico and Colorado and exploring new initiatives with our neighbors in Utah. Our ministry with refugees and immigrants continues to be a top priority in our synod, made possibly by key partners such as Border Servant Corps, Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, and Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey, El Paso, Texas.

Under the leadership of Deacon Sarah Bjornebo, Synod Director for Events, our 2022 Synod Assembly will take place in El Paso, Texas, under the theme **Faith to Go Out** and will include immersion experiences for all registrants.



We are telling a story of gratitude

- for God's faithfulness in uncertain times.
- for YOUR investment in our life as Christ's Church.
- for the Spirit's promised future.

What are the stories you are telling in your ministry context about 2021? We'd love to hear them! Email your stories to kmuellet@rmselca.org as **together we proclaim and embody God's unconditional love for the sake of the world!**

TOGETHER IN 2021

the stories we are telling

What are the stories we are telling about our life together as Christ's Church, Better Together, in the Rocky Mountain Synod in 2021? Here are just a few of the stories made possible by your generosity!

We are telling a story of faithful, resilient, and courageous leaders



Rev. Kelsey Fauser was ordained as pastor at Good Shepherd in Glenwood Springs, Colo., and installed at Grace Lutheran in Colorado Springs, Colo.

- In 2021 we celebrated the ordination of eight pastors and deacons and the installation of 23.
- Throughout the challenges and stress of the pandemic, our rostered ministers have provided exceptional leadership, and our congregations have responded with flexibility and resiliency.
- Our **Excellence in Leadership** program celebrated the graduation of over 40 individuals who invested two years in strengthening their leadership potential.

Deacon Mandy Gardner was ordained and installed at Christ the King Lutheran in Durango, Colo. She joins Pastor Tim Orlovski in serving the congregation and community.



We are telling a story of adaptability

Like most congregations, our life together as the Rocky Mountain Synod was framed by the reality of "hybrid" and "ZOOM" in 2021. We conducted our second entirely online Synod assembly, electing Ruth Hoffman, Santa Fe, N.M., as our new Vice President. Our technology has kept us connected despite our distances and the impacts of COVID.



The ordination of Rev. Stephen Helmreich at Peace Lutheran in Las Cruces, N.M., was a hybrid worship that involved only a handful of people in person but included participants from around the synod and nation. Pastor Helmreich serves the people of Trinity Lutheran in Hobbs, N.M.

We are telling a story of recalibration

This year marked major recalibrations of the RMS Office of the Bishop staff, designed to enhance our life together as we accompany our congregations, rostered ministers, and synod partners.



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

We are deepening our commitment to diversity and collaboration

Father QC (Quirino Cornejo) is an Episcopal priest who has been serving as pastoral leader for Cristo Rey–Latino Ministry in West Denver, Colo. In 2021 he began a shared position as **Minister for Multicultural Witness** on the bishop’s staff of both the Episcopal Church in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Synod.

The congregation of Cristo Rey is now served weekly by Pastoral Associate Margarita Reyes, who will be entering the ELCA’s TEEM Program (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) on her journey to ordination as a pastor.



Confirmation
and First
Communion
Service
at Cristo Rey,
Denver, Colo.



Margarita Reyes serves as Pastoral Associate for the people of Cristo Rey, Denver, Colo.



In 2021, HKBP Montclair (Batak Indonesian), Denver, Colo., celebrated the dedication of new worship space along with baptisms, confirmations, and their 22nd anniversary. Rev. Mercy Rumengan (Presbyterian Church USA) serves as pastor.

Christ’s Church, Better Together

**MULTI-SYNOD
CONGREGATION
TRANSITION MINISTRY**

Rocky Mountain
Grand Canyon

Ms Rachel Line
*Transition
Administrator*

Ms Janice
Ladd-Horkey
*RMS Associate for
Candidate
Identification*

Rocky Mountain Synod Congregation Transition Coaches

Rev Sarah Moening
Director

Mr Melvin
(Flip) Wilson

Rev Mandy
Achterberg

Rev Pam
Stofferahn

Rev Will
Johnson

In collaboration with the Grand Canyon Synod, the Rocky Mountain Synod began a new model of congregation transition ministry that expands our capacity for hands-on connection.



Pastor Ann Knighten was installed in her first call with St. Luke Lutheran and United Congregational (UCC) in Buffalo, Wyo.

In a service hosted by Bethany Lutheran Church, Cherry Hills Village, Colo., Rev. Kae Madden was consecrated as local bishop for the Ecumenical Catholic Communion, an inclusive Catholic church body. Bishop Kae has office space in our RMS Lutheran Center.



Under the leadership of Rev. Barbara Berry-Bailey, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Denver, Colo., and Special Assistant to the Bishop for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the RMS Synod Council participated in this year’s White Privilege Conference and engaged in the Intercultural Development Inventory as steps to expanding awareness of systemic racism in the church.



We are telling a story of incredible generosity

Generosity abounds in our synod! In addition to the many ways our congregations and members already invest in our life together, over 100 individuals have gone above and beyond to help us raise one million dollars toward our goal of \$1.57 million for our **Better Together: Next Faithful Step Campaign**. This important effort will support our synod’s commitment to racial justice and four key ministry initiatives:

- Messiah Mountain Retreat Center
- Educate, Equip, Enact (3E)
- Excellence in Leadership
- RMS Lutheran Center

