



LORD OF THE MOUNTAINS
LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Annual Report 2020

*"Lord of the Mountains Lutheran Church is an open,
welcoming and affirming community, fulfilling God's vision of a world
where peace, love, and justice become a reality for all."*

Welcome to Lord of the Mountains

We rejoice that diversity in God's creation enriches, nurtures and challenges our life and ministry as followers of Jesus and as servants in the world.

Because we believe with Jesus that God's grace is truly amazing, we are committed to welcoming all people to this place... no matter where you come from, no matter what age, race, socio-economic or family status, no matter what gender identity or sexual orientation, no matter what your faith tradition or theological beliefs.

Grace is for everyone or it isn't grace.
It's that simple.
It's that amazing.

We really do welcome all!

In the spirit of the Reformation, Lord of the Mountains Lutheran Church continually seeks meaningful ways of expressing our commitment to the life and teachings of Jesus.

We do this by...

- welcoming all people to full participation in our community of faith.
- recognizing there are many ways to God.
- striving to be compassionate toward all of creation.
- aspiring to live what we believe.
- respecting diversity of thought and opinion.
- working for peace and justice for all people and all creation.
- committing ourselves to serving others.

January 2018

PRESIDENT REPORT

Amy Simper

An African American spiritual hymn sums up 2020. ***My Lord, what a morning; My Lord, what a morning; My Lord, what a morning; When the stars begin to fall!*** This version, using the word morning rather than the different meaning of mourning, was likely inspired by the unrest of slaves prior to the Civil War and served as a pleading for massive change.

2020 was an astonishing year filled with sadness, abrupt changes, and frequent adaptations. Phrases such as “the new normal” and “I’ll send you a zoom link” entered our vocabulary. LOTM’s church leadership faced significant transitions by implementing COVID-19 restrictions, filling several vacancies on Church Council, hiring a fantastic Church Administrator, and accepting Pastor Liliana’s resignation. Somehow, we thrived by employing new methods of web communication and an updated eNews, and adopting availability of electronic financial contributions.

My Lord, what a morning! There must have been an intervention of serendipitous pre-planning for LOTM’s vision, timing, and financial support to have replaced a patched together sound system with a state-of-the-art audio-visual technology the previous year. With the extraordinary work from Nick Keelan and Bruce Buehner, LOTM was able to quickly progress from a filled sanctuary of people to live streaming and virtual services, memorials, and other special events.

When the stars began to fall, Church Council created paths to listen to people’s thoughts and needs. Throughout the limits of Covid-19 protocol, LOTM has strived to retain approachability, diversity of programming, and community involvement.

It has been truly an honor for me to have worked with so many dedicated and talented leaders at LOTM. I remain forever grateful for those who took personal risk to continue to operate our Day Services ministry, provide music, conduct Second Offering Sunday fund raisers, as well as the staff and volunteers that filled the gaps of LOTM’s daily functions. I especially acknowledge the choice of others to remain safer at home, yet maintaining their spiritual life and connection to LOTM. It is remarkable how many non-local friends and members of LOTM attended Sunday services and programs such as Bible Study.

Throughout this endless stream of adaptation, we look forward to a time of coming together once again. Until then we will remain in transition, seeking an interim pastor, then laying the groundwork to prepare for a new pastor. What does not change, as demonstrated by our ancestors of all races, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic status, is our faith. What is not different during this year of massive change is our faith. ***Blessings and Namaste***



LORD OF THE MOUNTAINS
LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS CELEBRATIONS

*"Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 106:1*

- Keeping our church functioning following COVID-19 restrictions. Re-opened our facility to other groups and limited in-person worship service attendance in July by creating and following COVID-19 Safety Protocol Guidelines.
- Generous Giving
 - Our Charitable Endowment Fund made quarterly grants totaling \$11,146
 - Over \$19,500 was collected and forwarded to monthly Second Offering Sunday recipients
 - \$15,000 was donated from LOTM to Rocky Mountain ELCA Synod
 - \$250 was given to the Summit County Interfaith Council
 - Fair Trade Market was conducted through online ordering
 - Yak and Yarn supported the Love One Another Fund (LOAF) Emergency Assistance, by creating and selling handmade items.
 - More than 30 food gift cards were donated for Thanksgiving dinners throughout Summit County
 - Special dinners were provided for the Day Services guests for Thanksgiving and Christmas
 - Brian Hanley and William David performed live streamed/archived concert that benefitted our Day Services ministry
 - LOTM volunteered at the Community Dinner at the Elks Lodge
- Expanding Our Resources
 - Created *Zelle* and *PayPal* online giving options
 - Linked giving options to the LOTM website
 - Received contributions to the Legacy Gift Endowment Fund and other designated funds
 - Hired Jay and Kelsey Meservy as our Youth and Family Life Coordinators
- Continuing to Form Our Faith
 - Conducted Bible and Book Study Groups
 - Transitioned to virtual only services and then to limited attended services
 - Offered live streaming as well as archived Sunday and special services
- Improving Our Facility
 - Continued upgrading the audio/video system
 - Completed our Prayer Labyrinth landscaping

- Re-did electrical panel and increased the number of washer and dryers available for Day Services
 - Day Services guests created landscaping near the basement level entry area
- Sharing Our Church's Identity
 - Wholly integrated the LOTM website with links to programs, information and giving opportunities
 - Maintained involvement in Summit County Interfaith Council
 - Noted active involvement in the community by many church members
 - Celebrated our Day Services ministry as a highly recognized, valuable program serving the homeless or indigent community
- Engaging in Fellowship Opportunities remotely through zoom, or outdoor activities such as Son Seekers

For more specifics and other achievements, please read the team reports included in this Annual Report and consider joining one of the ministries.

2020 LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Staff

Pastor:	Pastor Liliana Stahlberg
Church Administrator:	Amy Watson
Choir Director:	Chris Keelan
Accompanist:	Caroline Hesford
Bell Choir Director:	Christy Reinking
Youth & Family Life Ministry:	Jay & Kelsey Meservy

Church Council

Executive Team

		Term
President	Amy Simper	2019-2022
Vice President	Leslie Walker	2020-2023
Secretary	Linda Wakefield	2019-2022
Treasurer	Catheryn Carlson	Council Appointment
Adjunct	Sally Brown	2020-2023

Council Members

Bruce Buehner	Council Appointment
Kevin Clarke	2020-2023
Julie Cope	Council Appointment
Ben Little	2019-2023
Doug Muschett	Council Appointment
Christy Reinking	2018-2021


Faith Formation

Adult Education	Doug Muschett
Altar Guild	Karen Johns
Bible Study	Ron Gebhardtsbauer
Camp Compassion	Katie Okes, Jay and Kelsey Meservy
Confirmation	Pastor
Worship/Music/Liturgical Arts	Julie Cope
Nursery	Catherine Clark
Sunday School	Cindy Massaro, Jay and Kelsey Meservy

Fellowship/Hospitality

Son Seekers	Jim Luellen
Yak & Yarn	Natalie Boyer
Event Fellowship	Julie Cope, Karen Johns, Catheryn Carlson

Family/Internal Outreach

Card Ministry	John Preckshot
Care Team	Christy Reinking
Pastoral Care	Pastor, Karen Johns and Lydia Ziauddin
New Member Development/ AKA Open door Team	Julie Cope
Prayer Chain	Donna Clark/Amy Watson
Memorial Garden	Susie Lee
Labyrinth	
Welcome Church visitors	Linda Wakefield


External Outreach

Charitable/Legacy Endowment	David Domzal
God's Work Our Hands	
Community Dinner	Ferol Menzel
Day Services	Karen Johns
Fair Trade	Cindy Massaro
Food Bank	Amy Watson
Green Team	Doug Muschett
Recycling	Joe Fassel
Second Offering Sunday (SOS)	Alicia Dunn

Church in Society

Gun Violence Reduction	Donna Clark
Interfaith Council	Diane Luellen
Advocacy Team	Julie Wright

Stewardship/Development

Giving Campaign/Stewardship	Amy Simper, Julie Cope
Marketing and Advertising	Leslie Walker
Member Appreciation	Christy Reinking
Social Media/Communication	Leslie Walker, Nancy Spears, Amy Watson
Summit Daily	Henry Rissier, Amy Watson
Website	Nancy Spears, Amy Watson
Welcome Bags	
Directory/Membership	Bonnie Brown, Amy Simper

Administrative

Personnel	Ferol Menzel, Kevin Clarke
Finance Committee	John Preckshot
Treasurer	Catheryn Carlson
Nominating Committee	Bonnie Brown
Building Use	Amy Watson, Dave Domzal
Property Management	Dave Domzal, Ben Little
AKA Building Upkeep/Maintenance	
AV Team	Nick Keelan, Bruce Buehner

PERSONNEL TEAM

Ferol Menzel

Our Personnel Team completed annual evaluations of Chris Keelan, Choir Director, and Caroline Hesford, Accompanist. Our Personnel Team is in the process of orienting Amy Watson and Kelsey and Jay Meservy to our annual evaluation process. We are also in the process of updating the Choir Director position description to Music Director.

Our Personnel Team, with the assistance of David Domzal and the Church Council, prepared the separation papers for Pastor Liliana Stahlberg. Bonnie Brown worked with PORTICO, the company that handles benefits for pastors and church staff, to ensure a smooth transition with regard to her benefits.

Team Members: Kevin Clarke, Bonnie Brown

October 2020

Dearly Beloved Congregation,

It is with a heavy heart that I am sharing with you my plans for the future. Many of you know that I recently took a temporary leave of absence to seek a resolution of a family crisis. The resolution is that I have become the full-time legal guardian of my dear granddaughter Rebecca.

The terms of that guardianship require me to live in Denver and raise her in my home there. While I am truly blessed to take on this responsibility and look forward to taking the time to address our family problems that cannot be solved overnight, it has forced me to make a terribly difficult decision to seek a new pastoral position in Denver.

I have agonized over this decision, because I have so greatly loved my time at Lord of the Mountains. Together we have accomplished so much through the Re-Formation process. Our church has welcomed new members and new programs are now in place. We have an amazing and faithful Administrative Assistant, Amy Watson and the inspiring and faithful Family and Youth Coordinators, the Meservys. We are doing well financially, in spite of the tragedy of Covid-19.

Most of all, though, I have struggled with the thought of leaving the beautiful and amazing members of this church who have become my dearest friends. We have gone through so much together, including our losses of Wolfgang and many other saints of our church.

Bishop Gonia has been my mentor and counselor during the past months. His wisdom and patience have guided me in my decision. He has reminded me that every pastor must make their own family their top priority, and that placing a career ahead of family has been the downfall of many leaders.

I leave you with God's abundant blessings. Lord of the Mountains Lutheran Church has been and continues to be a beacon of hope in the Summit County.

If you want to correspond with me, my new address is 9046 E 50th Ave. Denver, 80238

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Liliana Stahlberg



LORD OF THE MOUNTAINS
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ACTION ITEMS

- Approval of 2020 Minutes
- Approval of 2021 Budget
- Vote of New Leaders

Church members will vote on items electronically via the MailChimp survey too, which will be sent on January 29th along with the annual meeting agenda. A virtual Question and Answer Zoom Session will be available following the Sunday Worship Service on January 31st. The link to that session will be sent with the agenda and voting survey. Deadline for returning votes will be February 1st.

LORD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, 1-26-2020

- 1 Pastor Liliana gave a short opening prayer.
- 2 Bonnie Brown, council president, called the meeting to order.
- 3 Attendance has been taken. Linda Wakefield, council secretary, attested that a quorum is present. 35 members were needed in attendance and 56 have signed in this morning.
- 4 The 2019 minutes are approved.
- 5 Bonnie gave the president's report. Members are referred to the Annual Report for details. Here are the highlights. Generosity is the theme. It is noted that the congregation has given countless hours of volunteer work and has taken ownership of LOTM in a collaborative way. Also noted is the completion in 2019 of the labyrinth and of the audio system, both of which were done entirely with donations.
- 6 Lea Dreux presented the exploration of early childhood options in the LOTM building. Childcare is a huge issue in Summit County. Next steps include getting a committee together, forming a nonprofit, and arranging for funding. It was emphasized that this is still in exploratory stages.
- 7 Pastor Liliana presented on future plans for LOTM. We have always been a transitional membership. We are losing some longtime members due to moving away for health and other reasons. The vision for the future is to become an intergenerational church and to continue to grow the church. The focus is on youth, reaching out to newcomers, using more social media, and using more modern ways of monetary giving to the church. The budget includes funds for a youth and children's director and hiring for this position will be started right away.
- 8 Amy Simper, treasurer, gave the financial report, details of which are on page 13 of the annual report. The financial status of LOTM is good. Amy also presented the 2020 budget.
- 9 A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2020 budget. It was passed unanimously.
- 10 Dave Domzal proposed that the committee memberships of the Charitable Endowment Fund and the Legacy Gift Fund be combined. A motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously.
- 11 Ferrol Menzel presented the elections. For council, Sally Brown, Kevin Clark, Ann MacMurray, and Leslie Walker for first terms, and Donna Clark for a second term. For the Charitable Endowment Fund, Sally Brown and Peggy Hiller. For the Nominating Committee, Bonnie Brown, Rose Mary Grove, Darlene Muschett, and Jim Luellen. For representatives to Synod Assembly, Karen Johns and Bill Kyrioglou. All were approved unanimously.
- 12 Bonnie presented a quick survey to the congregation. There are 2 questions. One asks if we want to continue to explore the childcare option for LOTM. The other asks if we want to change the start of Sunday services from 9 AM to 9:30 AM.
- 13 Bonnie expressed gratitude for the outgoing council members, Greg O'Neill, Jim Luellen, and John Preckshot. The congregation expressed gratitude to Bonnie for her leadership of council.
- 14 Bonnie also expressed gratitude for Nick Keelan, without whom the new audio-visual system would not be here.
- 15 Motion made and carried for adjournment.
- 16 Bonnie gave the closing prayer.

TREASURER REPORT

Amy Simper (Treasurer February -September 2020)

Final 2020 Financial Status

- Our 2020 budget of \$394,620 was balanced and approved by the Church Council.
- Despite COVID-19 church attendance limitations, the 2020 financial situation concluded in the black with better-than-expected income and lower than expected expenses.
- LOTM was able to continue staff compensation during the pandemic as well as provide Pastor Liliana Stahlberg with a generous severance package.
- Excess 2020 income has been allocated to the 2021 budget.
- LOTM received \$15,057 from the CARES Act, reflecting a refund of half of the W-2 income paid second quarter of 2020. This money was allocated to the 2021 budget.
- The 12/31/20 building mortgage balance was \$290,352.

Proposed 2021 LOTM Budget

- 60 individuals or family units pledged a total of \$233,370 for 2021. When considering the budget, the Finance Team uses a 95% actual received figure for pledges. This amount will be \$221,701.
- Total income and expenses are projected to be \$324,358 for a balanced budget.
- The 2021 budget includes \$6,000 for building staining, with an additional \$4,000 to be taken from building reserves.
- \$8,500 will not be added to the Boiler Fund for 2021.
- AV workers will be paid contract employees in 2021.

2021 Operating Budget

Income	Member Pledged	\$221,701	(\$80,399 lower than 2020)
	Member Unpledged	\$ 25,000	
	Loose Offerings	\$ 22,000	
	2020 excess income	\$ 29,000	
	Building Use Income	\$ 7,000	
	CARES Act refund	\$ 15,057	
	<u>All other income</u>	<u>\$ 4,600</u>	(includes City Market Card \$)
	Total Income	\$324,358	(\$70,262 lower than 2020)
Expenses	Administration	\$ 11,562	
	Building	\$ 36,700	
	Contract Labor	\$ 20,160	(includes Youth coordinator)
	Education	\$ 3,350	(Synod Assembly virtual)
	Finance	\$ 57,900	(includes building mortgage)
	Hospitality	\$ 12,988	
	Stewardship	\$ 1,500	(member and gifting growth)
	Synod Outreach	\$ 10,250	
	Total Staff & Payroll tax	\$138,248	(assumes a pastor starts 8/1/21)
	Worship	\$ 5,300	
	<u>Transition Consultant and work</u>	<u>\$ 26,400</u>	
Total Expenses	\$324,358		

Monthly financial reports and the complete budget are available upon request to Catheryn Carlson, treasurer.

NOMINATING TEAM

Bonnie Brown

Bruce Buehner, Christy Reinking and Lea Dreux will be leaving church council this year. We are appreciative of the giving of their time and talent to LOTM. Christy is being nominated for a second term.

Nominations for Church Council

Christy Reinking	2021-2024	(2 nd Term)
Ruth Hendricks	2021-2024	(1 st Term)

The following council members were appointed this year to fill vacancies. Therefore, they need to be confirmed by the congregation for an upcoming full first term:

Doug Muschett	2021-2024	(1st Term)
Julie Cope	2021-2024	(1 st Term)
Catheryn Carlson	2021-2024	(1 st Term)

Continuing Members:

Ben Little	2019-2022	(1st Term)
Amy Simper	2019-2022	(2nd Term)
Linda Wakefield	2019-2022	(2nd Term)
Kevin Clarke	2020-2023	(1st Term)
Leslie Walker	2020-2023	(1st Term)
Sally Brown	2020-2023	(1st Term)

NOTE: The council elects officers.

2021-2024 (2021 is the first full year of service on the council & 2024 is the year in which the term ends at the annual meeting in January).

Congregational (Church) Council

C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), the officers of the congregation, and up to eight members of the congregation. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, with the exception of a paid worker, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause or c) member resigns from office. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, the congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

C12.02. The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting to serve for three years or until their successors are elected but not beyond the third annual meeting after the annual meeting at which they were elected. Council members may be reelected for one additional consecutive term. The terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are

elected. Newly elected Congregation Council members shall be installed at worship the Sunday following the date they assume office.

Charitable Endowment Fund Board

Nominations:

Dave Domzal 2021-2024

Karen Johns 2021-2024

Continuing Members:

Claire Clark 2019-2022

Ron Gebhardtsbauer 2019-2022

C5.05.02 The Board shall consist of six members. All members of the Board shall be voting members of Lord of the Mountains Lutheran Church and shall be elected to serve as follows:

- a. The Board shall nominate potential members of the Board from among the voting members of Lord of the Mountains Lutheran Church. The members shall be elected by the congregation at the congregation's annual meeting. The term of the office shall be three years.

Nominating Committee

Nominations:

Karen Johns

Donna Clark

Rose Mary Grove

Darlene Muschett

C13.02. A Nominating Committee of the pastor and four voting members of this congregation, two of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the Congregation Council, shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year.

Rocky Mountain Synod Representatives

Nominations:

Amy Simper

Ben Little

Each congregation elects one male and one female member as our representatives (along with our pastor) to the Synod Assembly April 29-May 1, 2021, which will be virtual.

Nominating Team Members: Jim Luellen, Rose Mary Grove, Darlene Muschett



LORD OF THE MOUNTAINS
LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

FAITH FORMATION

The Apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." Luke 17:3

A deep gratitude to ...

Pastor Darlene Muschett

Pastor Joe Holub

Pastor Lydia Ziauddin

*for leading our Sunday worship services and growing our
faith after Pastor Líliana's resignation*

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Adult Education, Sunday School,
and Altar Guild were suspended until we can gather safely together.*

LITURGICAL ARTS AND WORSHIP AND MUSIC TEAM

Jim Luellen

Our Liturgical Arts and Worship and Music Team has continued to meet each month during 2020, sometimes in person and sometimes on Zoom. The main focus of our team this year has been to keep worship services and Sanctuary appearance as normal as possible while being totally safe during this time of COVID-19.

Epiphany experienced the regular worship services. But beginning with the Lenten Wednesday Soup Suppers and Holden Evening Services, and Sunday morning worship, services were changed due to the arrival of the pandemic in mid-March to Summit County. The remainder of the Lent services, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday services were lived streamed.

The long green season was lived streamed also. The Season of Advent included three Wednesday Holden Evening services along with the Sunday worship services all being live streamed. Christmas Eve services included a Family Service and a traditional candlelight service live streamed. Also, a drive by live Nativity scene with communion elements and candles being given to those who drove through was provided between the Christmas Eve services.

Our team did what it could to dress the sanctuary for each season of the church year. Our audio-visual team of Nick Keelan and Bruce Buehner, assisted by David Walters and Lorna Stephens until they went to college, worked extremely hard to keep the worship services live streamed for all to see. They deserve our thanks and a huge standing ovation for their continual, tireless efforts.

The other primary people to whom we all owe great thanks and appreciation are worship leaders Pastor Darlene Muschett, Pastor Lydia Ziauddin, Pastor Joe Holub and Chris Keelan who have kept worship services at Lord of the Mountains Lutheran Church meaningful in the lives of our members.

During the December meeting, the baton of leadership of this team was passed from Jim Luellen to Julie Cope.

The team will continue to emphasize safety as we look forward to the time when we can all gather in person at Lord of the Mountains.

Team Members: Sally Brown, Julie Cope, Chris Keelan, Karen Johns, Christy Reinking, Amy Simper

YOUTH AND FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

Jay & Kelsey Meservy

In mid-March of 2020, right when the pandemic lockdowns started happening, Jay and Kelsey Meservy were hired as our Youth and Family Life Coordinators. Of course, the pandemic required LOTM to rethink our plans.

They wrote a bimonthly newsletter posted in eNews with ideas to foster spiritual development at home. In late May, this transformed into a Sunday children's sermons during our virtual worship service. Each Sunday Jay would share a youth-oriented message that related to the lectionary readings for the week. Children's sermons continued every Sunday throughout the year.

In July Jay and Kelsey hosted a week long, half day youth camp, using the Rainbow Trail's virtual curriculum. Each day 4-7 children attended the camp. Darlene Muschett volunteered and helped with the camp as well.

A virtual Christmas Eve Family Service for our congregation and the community was planned by Jay and Kelsey.

SANCTUARY CHOIR

Chris Keelan, Choir Director

Our Sanctuary Choir is an integral part of the worship experience at Lord of the Mountains. This year has been very challenging for our Sanctuary Choir. The serious concern of the spread of the COVID-19 virus has limited the number of singers and required all to wear a mask. Regardless of the restrictions which changed periodically, a segment of our choir provided beautiful music to enhance our worship services. The pandemic has resulted in no special music services or programs this year. Hopefully, these restrictions will be changing in the near future and the complete Sanctuary Choir will be able to sing again.

HANDBELL CHOIR

Christy Reinking, Director

The exceptional nature of 2020 affected our Handbell Choir. Practiced, prepared, and poised to play in worship on March 15th, the pandemic shut-down resulted in abrupt cancellation of that performance as well as all remaining activity (as an active choir) for the duration of 2020.

Prior to this our handbell choir was having a very productive winter. We had played several times in worship and three of us were preparing to assist the Handbell Choir of Our Lady of Peace with 5 songs in a Holy Week mass.

We also had a much-needed upgrade of our bell tablecloths. Desiring a better selection of color and quality of cloth the order was made through a fabric supply company and the three separate cloths were made by Christy Reinking. This resulted in a significant cost savings and a unique color we could not have purchased through a handbell supply site.

Although the regular function of our Handbell Choir was put on hold, the bells continued to be used. This took the form of bell accompaniments to pieces sung by the LOTM Singers and the ringing of a piece for the Christmas Eve Service. For each of these events, the ringers numbered from 1 to 4, spaced one person per bell table.

It is the fervent hope of everyone that 2021 will bring vaccinations allowing for a return to regular practices and participation in worship.

AUDIO-VISUAL TEAM

Nick Keelan

AV Team Evolution and Tasks in 2020

2020 started in a normal fashion for our AV team. We had two volunteer adults who regularly ran the services (Bruce and Nick) with the assistance of David and Lorna. Bill and Donna were engaged as needed. New AV gear including a second camera, camera controllers, and a monitor for viewing the camera feeds were installed in December 2019. From December 2019 until March 2020 our AV team was learning to use the new gear, but using the old IBM software to control, record, and archive the services. With the onset of COVID-19, we had to reconfigure how we ran the AV system and to find better ways to meet the new demands of all-virtual services. Bruce found better software to run the services. Bruce, David, and Lorna learned to incorporate the new software and refine the procedures for prepping, recording, and archiving the virtual services. Nick began to attend services again in June to assist and Bill and Donna remained on board as needed to assist. Lorna and David worked each Sunday until they went to CSU in mid-August. From August on most of the services have been run by Bruce and Nick.

Prepping, Running, and Archiving a Service

Prepping, running, and archiving a service has become complex, in part by choice of the AV team, in part by expectation of those who view the services and the archives, and in part in response to safety guidelines for COVID-19. To run and archive a service, it now takes three computers, an iPad, the stack of new AV gear, two cameras, three monitors, 8 to 10 mics, and several software programs. Prep time for a service takes from 15 minutes to many hours depending on the amount and complexity of what is to be projected or played. Several software programs are typically used. It is best if there are two people operating the system during a service, one running audio and one running video. One of those two people must understand and be able to set up and operate the entire system. The other person needs less skill that can be learned in a short time.

Issues for the AV Team

Our AV team is in desperate need of 3 or 4 others who would be willing to learn to run part or all of the system. At this time Bruce and Nick are the only two who can run the entire system with Bruce being the only one who really understands it and can effectively troubleshoot problems. For services with multiple items to project, it can take hours to prep these. The prep task could also be handled by another volunteer. While it is nice to have new ideas to enhance the service, Bruce and Nick have enough to do in handling the service as it is currently configured. For anyone who has a new idea, it is essential for that person to take charge of this from beginning to end, handle all of the technical details of the event, and then work with Bruce and Nick to incorporate it. Running additional services also adds a lot to the demands on Bruce and Nick. There were 11 services or events in December and while it was nice to have AV support for all of these, this is asking a lot from two people. As Lent approaches it is important



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FAMILY

*But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord. Joshua
24:15*

Our LOTM Church family is an extension of our immediate family and extends beyond our church to include our community and world family. As a people we provide care, support and love for all in this larger family.

CARE TEAM

Christy Reinking

Our Care Team continued its mission of congregational support. Our list of willing participants is extensive and dynamic, with different people ready and willing to respond as specific needs arise. Our Care Team exists to let people know that they are loved and cared for and that help is available when in need of support such as meals or transportation. In February two members received a number of visits as they recovered from skiing accidents.

Unfortunately, when the pandemic impacted Summit County in March, our Care Team did not operate as in the past. Support to supply food or other deliveries to members during the 'stay at home' order was offered through LOTM eNews. But no services of meals, transportation, or house visits were requested. There were, however, still a few calls made to folks who were facing hardships with the offer and promise that help would be made available to them in a safe manner should they desire assistance but these call recipients did not request any. Hopefully, once our Care Team members are vaccinated and the pandemic begins to subside, there will be once again an active roster of people able to make house visits, provide transportation, deliver meals, etc.

Requests for support and/or recommendations for contacts can be made by contacting Christy Reinking or our church office. Any member who would like to be part of our Care Team providers can contact Christy or our church office.

CARD MINISTRY TEAM

Our Card Ministry continues to encourage, support, sympathize, and congratulate members and friends as they experience the challenges and highlights of life. This ministry has been important to the life of the church and helps us remain connected to each other.

Each team member selects a month(s) to send cards to names gleaned from the prayer chain list or other names given to the team. However, when the pandemic arrived and given many members had moved from Summit County, John Preckshot volunteered to solely reach out on behalf of LOTM through cards to show members our LOTM family cares. Deep gratitude to John for keeping this ministry alive during this challenging year of connecting.

PRAYER REQUESTS TEAM

Donna Clark

During the first half of 2020 the prayer requests continued to be sent out every week by our faithful Prayer Requests Team. The requests were collected during the week and on Sunday, and then emailed to around 98-100 prayer warriors that sent thoughtful prayers out for those people in need. Then COVID-19 hit and the Sunday worship service went mostly online, so it became increasingly difficult to receive prayer requests, send them out, or to recruit volunteers. Our team chair took over sending out the requests for many months while a new system was being thought out.

After a discussion between our team chair and our church administrator, it seemed to make more sense during these trying times to have everything come out of the church office. So, in the second half of the year, our church administrator took over the prayer requests. Now all requests are sent to the church, and then sent out to the same prayer warriors who are now in a database to be directly sent out for prayers. Consistency, communication, and continuity have improved.

LOTM would like to thank all our faithful prayer team members for their years of work getting prayer requests out. Much healing happened during the time they were faithfully sending emails. If anyone wishes to be a prayer warrior and receive emails, or to request prayers for someone, please email our church office at lotm@lordofthemountains.org. or call (970) 468-6809.

Former 2020 Team Members: Donna Clark, Barb Hodson, Holly Holden, Lynn Mosbaugh, Gail Taylor

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Susan Lee

Our planting plan for our Memorial Garden is to use only CO Native perennials in the beds. Keeping with that plan, in 2019 we took out all daffodil bulbs and planted them in the front entrance of church. After the thaw of spring snow, an evaluation and assessment were done on our Memorial Garden. There appeared a large sum of daffodils blooming in the center bed.

Since these new daffodils were planted and not cleared with the Memorial Garden Team, many of the CO perennials planted in 2019 did not survive.

Maintenance and clean-up happened the first part of June. Jim and Susan tried to dig up many of the bulbs, but it was quite difficult with a lot of labor involved. Jim and Susan made a plan to purchase the lost plants as well as plants lost to animal damage and added a few new ones. Jim and Susan did the plantings. We mulched all over the garden at the Church Clean-Up Day.

Since COVID-19 hit, we decided to delay any additions to the other beds until summer 2021.

Mid-summer it was time to stain the deck as it had been 3 years since the last treatment. Susan bought and applied the stain to the deck.

We had 9 memorial brick orders this year. Greg O'Neill has installed the bricks for years, but now has passed the torch to Jim Johns. A service for those newly installed bricks should occur this summer.

In fall 2019, Ken Cremer headed the project to install an irrigation system in the center bed. A great team of volunteers provided the manual labor.

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE PLANTS OR ITEMS ADDED TO OUR MEMORIAL GARDEN, PLEASE CONSULT WITH SUSAN LEE. Memorial bricks may be ordered by calling Susan or our church office.

Team Members: Jim Hudson, Greg O'Neill, Ken Cremer

L.O.A.F. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (LOVE ONE ANOTHER FUND)

Karen Johns

Our LOAF Emergency Assistance Fund was created to help members of our faith community offer assistance to either those within, or outside, our congregation who may need it.

Our faith community at Lord of the Mountains feels truly blessed to be able to act as God's hands and heart whenever possible, and agents of God's grace to those in need. There are many requests for assistance, we honor as many as the pastor/executive council feel possible. Prayer and discernment are always used to make decisions about gifts given.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a very difficult year for many people. 2021 may also continue to be financially difficult for many in our Summit County community. Many working people have either lost their jobs, or been severely downsized at work. We have been able to partner with local agencies and churches to help provide assistance for rent, utilities, and necessary medications. We have given gas and food gift cards, and have given travelers or homeless people lodging at our local Super 8 Motel and a local hostel, where we are given a discount. Very often the person asking for assistance has a job, but is unable to cover unforeseen bills. Sometimes the person needing assistance is homeless and needs medications that they are unable to afford. Several times we have encountered homeless people who have been in dire need of medical attention and have been able to send them to the hospital for care.

All gifts dispersed from our LOAF Ministry are given with no expectation of repayment. Gifts are freely given as God has gifted each of us. Our congregation has always been incredibly generous with our financial assistance. We are very blessed to be able to support those in need and offer caring assistance.

DAY SERVICES

Karen Johns

Day Services are offered at Lord of the Mountains on Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Clients can take a shower, eat a hot lunch, do laundry, charge their electronic devices, make phone calls and use the internet. Since most of our clients live alone and are homeless, an important component of Day Services is also the fellowship and friendship they can share with the others who gather.

Usually, two volunteers are recruited to serve each day. The volunteers arrive at 12:30 pm to set up. This task includes folding towels, checking supplies, warming food and setting up for lunch. While we have many very dedicated LOTM volunteers, during the COVID-19 pandemic we have narrowed our volunteer pool down to 3 or 4 to minimize jeopardizing any of our more vulnerable volunteers.

This year we have purchased 2 new large capacity washers to better meet the needs of our clients, and we also have two dryers. In general, 6 clients can now wash and dry a load of clothes before the 4:00 pm deadline, eliminating the need to give money to clients to use the laundromat.

Food for our Day Services is usually provided by the Community Dinner at the Elks Lodge on Tuesday evenings. Any leftover food is brought to LOTM, as well as fruit, snacks, cakes and

other food items. If this is not enough food for both Wednesday and Friday, we cook additional meals in the 2 skillets and small toaster oven in the downstairs kitchen.

Our funds come largely from the generosity of our congregation. Brian Hanly has offered a musical fundraiser every year that is truly enjoyed by everyone, as well as providing a needed source of income. Our Second Offering Sunday in January also provides a source of income as do individual donations. Members of our congregation have also been extremely generous in providing many warm clothes and other desperately needed items such as sleeping bags, tarps, small tents, body warmers, coats, hats, gloves, socks, and underwear.

We saw a sharp increase in the number of people using our Day Services Program. Generally, we have more people coming during the summer months, averaging 15-25 on both Wednesday and Friday. Typically the numbers decrease dramatically in the winter. However, this winter we have seen the numbers remain constant and we continue to serve around 15-20 each day. We always have enough food for everyone and no one is turned away.

Some of our clients come five or fewer times in a year which indicates that they were experiencing a short-term need. Day Services helped them through the crisis and they moved on or found work and/or housing. Many of our clients are regulars who enjoy the time they spend here at LOTM with each other, talking and sharing stories. They use Day Services to help make what money they have from odd jobs, panhandling, benefits or family go a little further. Our volunteers have come to know and enjoy spending the afternoon with this engaging group folks.

Our clients have varied backgrounds and reasons for seeking assistance. Over and over in the course of this year, our clients have thanked LOTM profusely for providing the opportunity to get out of the cold, get a hot meal, and take a hot shower.

Team Members: Doug Bair, Larry Cope, Sally Brown

SECOND OFFERING SUNDAY (SOS)

Alicia Dunn

The mission of the Second Offering Sunday (SOS) Committee is to serve Lord of the Mountains Church (LOTM) and decide by prayer and consensus which charitable groups we will support with donations of time, talent, or financial aid. Our team works to insure there is a balance of local, national, and international causes to which we contribute. These causes generally have some relationship to LOTM, and have members of the congregation as “champions” in order insure connection and accountability. Our team documents the monies raised and spent, as well as encourages church members involvement in as many volunteer activities as possible. It is our belief that volunteering enriches the life of the volunteer as well as the organization being served. LOTM receives second offerings on the second Sunday of each month January-November, as well as supports the Have a Heart bake sale in February, and the Global Trade Fair in December.

2020 Second Offering Sunday Projects

January – Timberline Adult Services, championed by Holly Holden: \$1398

February – Have a Heart: Bethany Immigration Services, championed by Theresa Domzal: \$1078

March – La Puente, championed by Gail Taylor: \$1169

April – none due to COVID-19

May – Rainbow Trail Camp, championed by Katie Okes: \$695

June – FIRC, championed by Ruth Hendricks: \$4425

July – Habitat for Humanity, championed by Gail Taylor: \$1775

August – LOAF Emergency Fund, championed by Karen Johns: \$3767

September – Casa de Paz, championed by Bonnie Brown: \$750

October – Thanksgiving to Go, championed by Holly Holden: \$1250

November – Cambodian Wells Project, championed by Karen and Ben Little: \$3211

None of us could have foreseen the unsettling events of 2020; despite this the LOTM community continued their benevolence and generosity. Over \$19,500 was donated to support local, state and international projects.

SOS also supports the weekly local community dinner, twice a week LOTM Day Services, the Community Food Bank, the Have a Heart Bake Sale, and our annual holiday Global Trade Fair.

Cindy Masaro is the champion for the LOTM Global Trade Fair and, during this unusual year when in person shopping was not possible, directed members to online shopping for these hand-crafted goods from around the world.

These programs are essential to LOTM outreach efforts to our neighbors here in Summit County and throughout the world. We are an enthusiastic group seeking to make a difference at home and afar.

Team Members: Theresa Domzal, Deborah Hage, Gail Taylor, Donna Clark, Christy Reinking, (Church Council liaison), Bonnie Brown

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENT & LEGACY GIFT ENDOWMENT FUNDS

JOINT COMMITTEE

David Domzal

Beginning in 2020, the Joint Committee conducted its quarterly meetings virtually. While the Committee meetings are held jointly for the sake of efficiency since there are several overlapping members, the Committees are separate bodies, in accordance with the terms of the LOTM Constitution.

Charitable Endowment Committee

This Committee was established in 1999 by a generous gift from a then Church member to promote charitable causes not only locally but also nationally and internationally. The current fund balance is about \$156,000, and under the LOTM Constitution, the Committee can annually disburse up to 8% of the invested funds. The funds are currently invested with Vanguard. Since 1999, the Committee has donated a total of \$142,163 to charities, and in 2020, the Committee donated \$11,146 to the following charities: Southern Poverty Law Center (immigration detention services), Australian Community Fire Authority Brigade Fund, Iglesia Lutheran Cristo Rey (border ministry in El Paso, TX), Summit Colorado Interfaith Council, Just Hope (Nicaragua Fund), and Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund for Hurricane Victims in Louisiana. The Committee encourages receipt of funding requests from Church members, particularly related to organizations that have touched their lives in some manner.

Legacy Gift Committee

This Committee was established in 2019 in order to create an endowment fund for the long-term sustainability of LOTM. In 2020, the Committee received adequate donations to create an account with the ELCA Foundation Endowment Fund Pooled Trust. These funds are controlled by the Committee, and currently total about \$45,000. In addition, the Committee has been advised by several current and former members of their intention to name LOTM in their estate plans. While the amount of such bequests is not precisely known, they are estimated to total about \$150,000. The Committee had intended to conduct an in-person campaign with Church members to discuss the benefits (both to LOTM and to the contributor) of contributing to this fund either through their estate plans or through donation of property such as appreciated stock (The stock market reached all-time records in 2020.), but such campaign was delayed because of COVID-19 concerns. The Committee will continue to reach out to former and current members in 2021 to encourage participation in this vital effort.

Joint Team Members: Karen Johns, Ron Gebhartsbauer, Amy Simper, Claire Clarke, Peggy Hiller, Sally Brown, John Preckshot, Ben Little



SUMMIT COLORADO INTERFAITH COUNCIL

Diane Luellen

Summit Colorado Interfaith Council strives to promote conversation among the people of Summit County around issues calling for a response to human needs.

Being unable to offer its usual roster of programming and projects, 2020 was a challenging year for Summit Colorado Interfaith Council. But it was also a learning and skill building experience.

LOTM members continue to play a leading role in all of its planning and activities.

--The Summer Sundays Film Series scheduled a single film concerning racial justice in the legal system. People viewed the film in their homes during summer's racial unrest and then joined an online panel discussion.

--A short series of online unity events for the Summit Community was offered in response to year's challenges.

--The People's Supper Series was postponed until we can gather in person because it was felt that the experience could not be replicated online.

--The success of the Local Overnight Safe Parking Permit Pilot Project was accomplished in partnership with Good Bridge Community and Agape Church. Now reorganized and renamed Summit Safe Parking Program, it is operating at capacity and needs a second lot. Additionally, the Unsheltered Committee is beginning to evaluate other ways to house Summit's population experiencing homelessness.

--The Thanksgiving To Go program was supported so successfully that grocery gift cards could be offered to Day Services participants and clients of the Safe Parking Program.

--The annual Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving was also offered online with pre-recorded messages and music. Special thanks to all who worked to put it together.

--The December event which normally is a participatory experience for those who find holidays less than joyful also was offered online, but as a live offering of activities and messages.

--The Council added an anti-racist study group examining systemic racism both in our own persons and in our society. Following the conclusion of the first semester of study, the group will decide what it wants to do next.

The Council meets every third Wednesday of the month on Zoom. All Summit County faith communities and public service groups are welcome.

Please visit either our Facebook page at Summit Colorado Interfaith Council or our new website <https://summitcointerfaith.wildapricot.org/>

GREEN TEAM

Doug Muschett

Our Green Team did not meet during 2020. However, LOTM continued with its recycling program and purchase of wind-generated renewable electricity through Arcadia Corporation.

BUILDING TEAM

David Domzal

Our Building Team would like to report the following improvements and maintenance actions for 2020:

- Snow shoveling November through most of April by our volunteer shoveling team
- Installed new LED lighting in lower parking lot
- Worked closely with Jamie McCluskie and landscaper to install new landscaping in labyrinth garden
- Successful spring workday to clean out and freshen gardens
- Sealed and striped lower parking lot; patched and striped upper parking lot
- Addition of new bricks in the Memorial Garden
- Ongoing summer lawn mowing and maintenance (Jim Dunn)
- Continued light bulb replacement with LED high efficiency bulbs (Peter Dunn)
- Remodeled downstairs laundry room, including new electrical subpanel to accommodate additional washer; new plumbing for additional washer; relocation of exhaust piping for relocated dryers; removal of old shelving units and installation of new ones; drywall repair; painting of entire room.
- Painted wall behind altar (Joe Fassel)
- Installation of new garden in rear parking lot (Day Services)
- Conducted full energy audit of building (Green Team)
- Internalizing cleaning services to achieve considerable savings
- Negotiation of 3 year extension of snow plowing contract to lock in pricing and achieve savings
- Upgraded exterior bulletin board at entrance of Church

Planned projects for 2021 include the following:

- Painting, painting, painting (and staining). We will do touch-up interior painting (sanctuary, Pastor's Office and Narthex), but it has been about 8 years since the exterior was stained, and some trim wood is showing signs of decay. We will get quotes in the

late winter/spring, but I expect well over \$5,000 of material and labor costs for exterior work. Any volunteer labor (inside and out) will help reduce these costs.

- Possibly additional Memorial Garden brick installation
- Miscellaneous maintenance and repair (approx. cost, \$1,000)
- Complete final section of roofing over the altar (Joe Fassel)
- June Clean-up Day
- Upgrade carpeting in Church entrance.
- Conduct water backflow prevention testing as required by Town of Dillon.
- Replace main shutoff water valves (inside Council room downstairs), which do not correctly seal.
- At some point, we'll have to decide if want to upgrade the Church sign....this has been extensively studied over the years, and probably remains a long term project.
- The downstairs kitchen is serviceable, but at some point we'll need to consider new cabinets, counters and appliances. This is longer term project.
- Implement some of the energy audit recommendations to reduce energy costs, where practical; grant funds may be available through High Country Conservation, to cover some of these costs. Example would be programmable thermostats in the sanctuary.

I would like to extend my greatest appreciation to the many people involved with the ongoing maintenance of our building and grounds. I would also like to thank Jamie McCluskie for his many hours of design and project supervision in regards to our LOTM Prayer Labyrinth. The financial savings realized by our congregation as a result of all these efforts is significant.



LORD OF THE MOUNTAINS
LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

FELLOWSHIP

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

Matthew 18:20

During this year of social distancing, our church family has missed the many opportunities to gather in fellowship at our beloved church. Zoom sessions and outdoor activities have helped us to stay connected, but cannot replace our usual sharing of the peace and Narthex coffee conversations. Hopefully, our fellowship events and activities can return soon.

YAK AND YARN

Holly Holden

Yak and Yarn (Y&Y) is a LOTM fellowship group which meets weekly to pursue fabric arts and socialize. It is open to anyone, including those who just wish to drop by for the fellowship.

Our two projects consist of an annual sale of handmade items and the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Y&Y provides shawls, hats, lap robes, scarves, socks, mittens, and other handmade items to folk in our community or **ANYWHERE**, who may be suffering or just need to know that someone cares. This year Y&Y distributed **50 handmade items**.

Y&Y has an annual sale of knitted and sown articles. The proceeds from this sale go to support the LOAF Emergency Fund. Due to COVID-19, Y&Y was unable to conduct their regular in person sale. However, an online auction was held to sell a beautiful handmade quilt and mask neck chains were sold via eNews. As a result, the online auction, sales of mask neck chains and a handmade table runner, Y&Y donated **\$705** to the LOAF Emergency Assistance this year.

Team Members: Rosie Tronnier, Sally Brown, Holly Holden, Natalie Boyer, Thresa Domzal, Carol Yoss, Laura Christian-Pogue, Sarah Moore

SON SEEKERS

Jim Luellen

Our Son Seekers hikers and snowshoers had a great year on the trails of Summit County and Central Colorado. Each Friday of January, February, March, June, July, August and September members and friends of LOTM spent the morning enjoying fellowship and the great outdoors by hiking the many trails in our beautiful mountains.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the hikers wore masks and were very careful to maintain physical distance to remain safe. The regular hikers and all visitors to the group have loved getting out and experiencing the beauty of nature and the changing of the seasons.

The Church Becoming

When we introduced *Church Becoming* in late 2019 in anticipation of our 2020 Synod Assembly, we had absolutely no idea how fitting this theme would be. Church Becoming was intended as an invitation for all of us to step together into a space of **renewal and transformation** - to more fully become the church the Spirit is calling us to be for the life of the world. Three short months into 2020 our journey of becoming moved into turbo speed! Overnight we became a church meeting primarily online for worship; we became a church who gathered via ZOOM over hundreds of hours to brainstorm, lament, share resources, pray, plan, support, and be together.

Having witnessed the violence against George Floyd and other siblings of color, we became a church who engaged the collective work of anti-racism and dismantling white supremacy with greater energy and intention. In the midst of economic hardship, we became a church whose buildings suddenly served as food distribution centers, a church whose people mobilized to ensure for the basic needs of those most vulnerable during the pandemic.

There is no doubt we are a different church than we were last year. We aren't the same people of faith we used to be. And while it's not yet clear how this current chapter will finally shape our becoming, we know that the way forward does not lie behind us. As we move into the Spirit's promised future, **we claim our continued call to proclaim God's unconditional, cross-shaped love for the sake of world.**

We proclaim and embody God's love through our weekly worship and learning, through digital ordinations and installations, through the work of our Synod Council and our Candidacy Committee, through advocacy and outdoor ministries, through empowering leaders and growing in generosity, through our engagement on the border and our care of neighbors. We proclaim and embody God's unconditional, cross-shaped love as Church Together, through the people, congregations, and ministries of our Rocky Mountain Synod. **Thanks be to God for YOU!**

In Faith,
Bishop Jim Gonia

2020 Highlights

- **155 pastors, deacons, and lay leaders** joined via zoom for our fall Theological Conference.
- **23 installations & 6 ordinations** of pastors and deacons.
- **47.5% of mission support** received in our synod was shared with our Churchwide Organization.
- **Added 3 additional ZOOM** accounts to accommodate synod-wide connectivity, hosting more ZOOM meetings than we can count!
- Nearly **\$25,000** given away through Educate, Equip, Enact Ministerial Excellence Fund.
- **43 Congregations** are participating in **4 generosity programs** through 3E.
- **62 candidates** are currently pursuing rostered ministry.



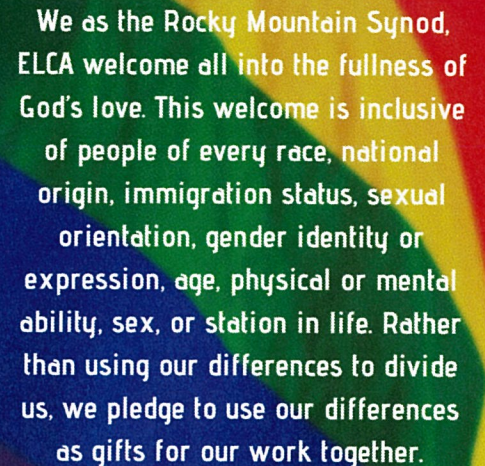
OUR LIFE TOGETHER

COMMUNITY REFLECTION

RMS Welcome Statement

2021 marks the 5th anniversary of the welcome statement adopted by the voting members of the 2016 Synod Assembly. This welcome statement is part of the Reconciling in Christ process but also includes our commitment to inclusion and equity beyond sexual orientation and gender identity. As we continue living into our call to be a church becoming, reflect individually and as a community:

1. What do you notice about this statement? What do you wonder?
2. What is challenging or unexpected about this statement?
3. How is your community embodying this welcome? What tangible expressions have you noticed?
4. What are areas of growth for your community?



We as the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA welcome all into the fullness of God's love. This welcome is inclusive of people of every race, national origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, physical or mental ability, sex, or station in life. Rather than using our differences to divide us, we pledge to use our differences as gifts for our work together.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Living the Gospel Outside our Walls

Rev. Rose Mary Sanchez-Guzman, Cristo Rey, El Paso, TX

We may not have services eye to eye, but we are living the gospel in serving many families and homeless people in El Paso. Thanks to the COVID-19 Churchwide grant, other donations, and partnerships we are distributing 142 food-boxes every week and have supported people with basic needs during this pandemic. Through other partnerships, we can distribute 100 hot meals to all our elderly members and others in the community. Every Wednesday, we pick up 72 food-boxes and distribute them to people in our community. It is how we are connecting with our members and getting to know other families in our community.

As an elder shared, "Pastora, I am thankful to God and the Church because since the Pandemic started, I am eating better than before".

We are not closed! We have so much ministry outside our four walls. We have met all kinds of people. One man was sitting outside his old apartment with his head down. He cried when we gave him the box of food. He said he had not eaten that day. My youngest daughter Alexia was with us that day. She said, "I love to see you guys helping people".



ELPASOSTRONG