

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 for our partnership in ministry!

We are telling the 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.

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.



Rocky Mountain Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Visit rmselca.org to sign up for our weekly eConnection email newsletter on the bottom of every page.

We are telling a story of our commitment to diversity and collaboration

Father QC (Quirino Cornejo) is an Episcopal priest who has been serving as pastoral leader for our ELCA 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.

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.



THE WHITE PRIVILEGE CONFERENCE

What are the stories you are telling in your ministry context about 2021? We'd love to hear them! Email your stories to kmueller@rmselca.org

OUR MISSION: together we proclaim and embody God's unconditional love for the sake of the world!

Deacon Mandy Gardner was ordained and installed at Christ the King Lutheran in Durango, Colo. She joins Pastor Tim Orłowski 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 in the bishop’s office

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.

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.



With gratitude for gifts of over \$1 million

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 and several congregations (so far) have gone above and beyond to help us raise over one million dollars in Phase One of our Better Together: Next Faithful Step Campaign. We are now kicking off Phase Two to complete our \$1.57 million campaign in support of our commitment to racial justice and four key ministry initiatives:

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

We invite congregations and individuals to join us in being a church that is moving into the future boldly and creatively. Learn more and watch videos at www.rmselca.org/next-faithful-step.

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. 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.



2022 RMS COMPREHENSIVE FISCAL PLAN

USES OF FUNDING = \$4,052,536*

GENEROSITY

\$404,266

We invite, encourage, and express gratitude for all investment in our shared witness and work.

Carried out through the 3E Lilly Grant, development ministry, and the Next Faithful Step--Better Together Campaign.

LEADERSHIP

\$373,160

We grow together in courage, resiliency, and faith as ministers, congregations, and a synod.

Carried out through our transition ministry, Excellence in Leadership program, and candidacy ministry.

MISSION SUPPORT SHARE TO ELCA CHURCHWIDE

\$1,045,000

Of the \$2,200,000 anticipated in congregational Mission Support, 47½%, or \$1,045,000, will be shared to provide for ELCA Churchwide Ministries, joining with Mission Support from 64 other synods.

COLLABORATION

\$532,216

We engage in ministry as Christ's church, better together, for the sake of the world.

Carried out through our ministries of Advocacy and Public Church, the work of our Hunger Network, our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and the ministry of our Lutheran Center gathering place.

INNOVATION

\$403,350

We invite a spirit of church becoming as we are shaped to be a vital and future church.

Carried out through our Evangelical Mission ministry, accompanying congregations in renewal through Vital Right-Shaped Ministry, and through our multicultural mission.

IDENTITY

\$1,294,544

We claim our church's particular gifts of the Spirit in proclaiming and embodying God's love.

Carried out through our ministries of faith formation, campus ministry, outdoor ministry, Messiah Mountain Retreat Center, and Office of the Bishop administration.

***All figures are preliminary and may be revised by Synod Council prior to the start of the fiscal year, which begins on February 1, 2022.**



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God's work. Our hands.

2022 RMS COMPREHENSIVE FISCAL PLAN

SOURCES OF FUNDING = \$4,052,536*

RMS Next Faithful Step Campaign

We have completed our First Step goal of the campaign. We now continue the Next Step of our \$1.57 million campaign. In 2022, we expect to spend \$535,000 as we carry out the campaign initiatives.

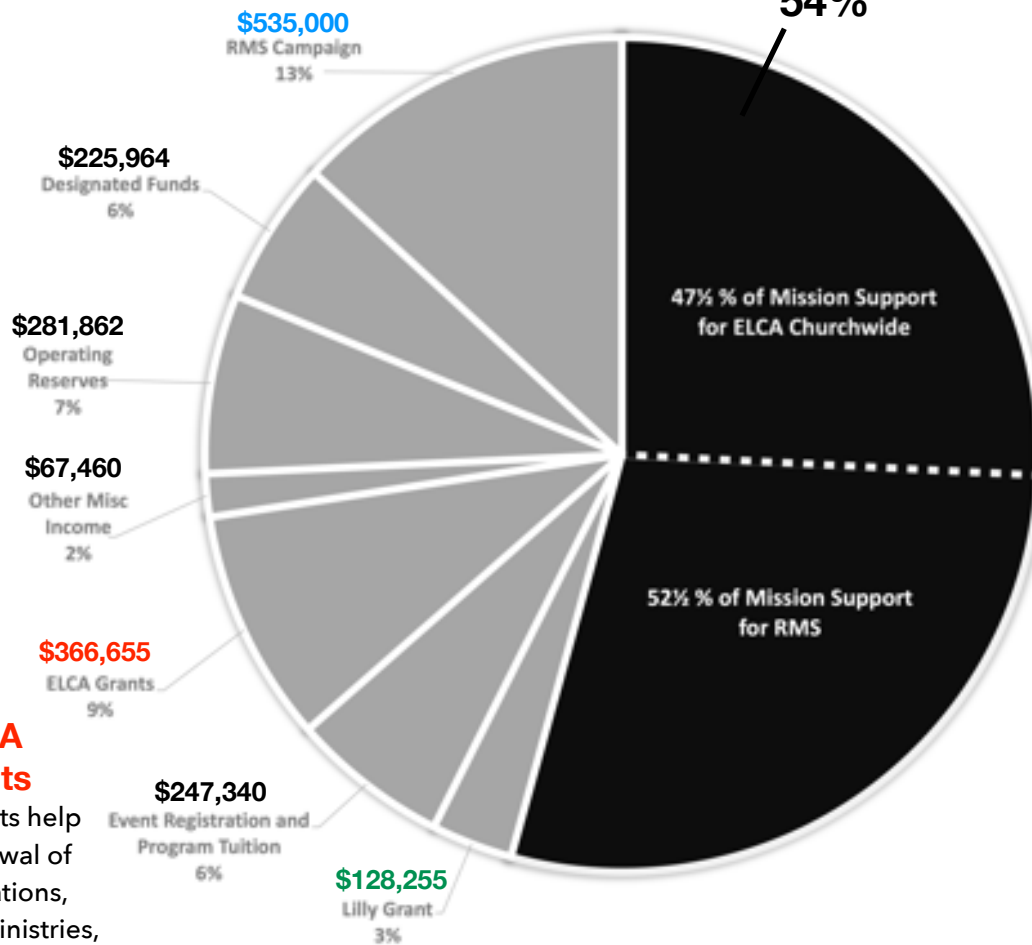
\$2,200,000
Mission Support
from
Congregations
54%

The Rocky Mountain Synod anticipates receiving \$2,200,000 from congregations-- with gratitude and thanksgiving for all of the ways that we are Church Together!

Of that total, 47½ %, or \$1,045,000, will be shared to provide for ELCA Churchwide Ministries.

The other 52½ %, or \$1,155,000, funds RMS Ministries, comprising 54% of our comprehensive income. Other income sources are depicted in the pie chart.

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ELCA Grants

ELCA grants help fund renewal of congregations, advocacy ministries, campus ministries, and our Director for Evangelical Mission.

We anticipate \$366,655 in 2022 grants.

3E Lilly Grant

The Rocky Mountain Synod has been privileged to receive a series of grants from the Lilly Foundation in support of addressing financial challenges of rostered ministers and strengthening the financial life and stewardship of congregations. In 2022 over \$125,000 will support these ministries,.



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