



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

December 22, 2023

Dear Holy Love Lutheran Church,

To be a **synod** literally means to be *on the way together* – on the **way of Jesus** together. Your generosity through your congregational mission support fuels our journey together as a synod.

With profound gratitude, we celebrate the many ways your mission support has empowered our ministry and mission as **Christ's Church, Better Together** in the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod in 2023.

It was a year filled with both opportunities and challenges as we celebrated the **ordination** of six new pastors and deacons and marked the **installation** of 27 ministry leaders.

In May we met in **Assembly** in El Paso to experience the power of Crossing Borders for the sake of the gospel, and in September our **rostered ministers** gathered in four locations across our synod to engage in collective discernment about the 2024 bishop's election.

Two of our congregations literally moved into new spaces, with **Highlands** Lutheran in Denver relocating to the Lutheran Center and **Cristo Rey/Latino** Ministry West Denver moving into the building generously donated to the synod by Christ the King Lutheran upon its conclusion of ministry.

Our Congregational Ministries Committee hosted a lively conversation about **Brave Experiments** in ministry, while our **Candidacy Committee** worked with over 30 candidates for ordained ministry, and our **Campus Ministry Committee** regrouped to better accompany our nine synod campus ministry sites.

Conversations about **Vital Right Shaped Ministry** continued in congregations around our synod, while lay leaders and rostered ministers continued to grow together through **Excellence in Leadership**. Our synod's **3E (Educate, Equip, Enact) ministry** funded mini-sabbatical grants for pastors/deacons and stewardship learning opportunities for congregations.

In April a **Racial Justice train-the-trainers** event was held, and in October a **multi-cultural ecumenical pilgrimage** that included members of the Rocky Mountain Synod and the Episcopal Church in Colorado walked in footsteps of Paul in Greece and Rome while praying for peace in the Holy Land.

Christ's Church – Better Together

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In one way or another, **your generosity has fueled these ministry opportunities**, while supporting the countless ministries of our whole church across this country and around the world. ***Of the mission support your congregation provides, 47.5% is shared with our Churchwide ministries.***

To finish 2023 on track and prepare for a new bishop in 2024, **we need your continued generosity.** We are currently experiencing a **12.5 percent decrease** in 2023 Mission Support. As of December 20, 2023, your congregational mission support totals \$3,000.00 which is 133.33% of your 2022 total mission support of \$2,250.00

Please review your financial support for our ministry together and consider an additional contribution before January 31, 2024.

THANK YOU for your commitment to being *synod* – on the way together!

Yours in Faith,



Bishop Jim Gonia

Total Synod Mission Support to Date for 2023: \$1,535,256
Total Synod Mission Support received as of this Date in 2022: \$1,722,990

Your Congregational Mission Support to Date for 2023: \$3,000.00
Your Congregational Mission Support total for 2022: \$2,250.00

Please email your Mission Support Intent to Jon Johnson, Finance Director at finance@rmselca.org – Thank you!

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