

# OUR SAVIOUR'S ANNUAL REPORT

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## 2022





# **2023 Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda**

## **January 29, 2023**

### **Ministry and Connections**

1. Opening prayer
2. Welcome and council introductions

### **Action Item**

3. Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

### **Reports**

4. Pastors' reports
5. Treasurer's report

### **Action item**

6. Presentation of 2023 Council Nominees:
  - a. Chris Bachman
  - b. Melody Mistr
  - c. Shannon Wagner
7. Congregational vote on nominees

### **Action Item**

8. Presentation of 2023 proposed budget by Brady Berg
9. Congregational vote on budget

### **Highlights**

10. Community connection updates

### **Prayer/Blessing**

11. Blessing and dismissal

### **Adjourn**



TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
Pastor Leta Behrens'	4
Pastor Michael Stadtmueller's	5
Intern Pastor Jon Fry's	6
Council President Hannah Wurster	7
OSLC at a Glance	8
Personnel Committee / Administrative Report	9
Internship Team	10
Music Groups	11
Preschool / Children Youth & Family	12
OSLC Financial Report 2022 / Letter from Treasurer	See insert
Outside Our Walls / Columbarium & Memory	13
Faith & Justice Team	14
Rocky Mountain Synond Mission and Ministry 2021	15-22
2022 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes	23



## PASTOR LETA ARNDT BEHRENS

*When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. Matthew 2:9-12*

We just finished our Epiphany celebration and selected our star words. As a reminder, star words are the words we drew from baskets of 100s of stars to come to God in prayer and gratitude and to hear from God a new word for a new year. The star word that I drew was “tend.” Tend is a good word! It can be about tending to myself or tending to others. It reminds me of gardening and plants and how the pruning I did this fall and will do this spring will lead to new growth. How the branches and leaves that fall to the ground will become the dirt and grow back up again. It reminds of how the tending to God’s creation can open me up to the tending of so many other things in this world.

This past year we have done a lot of tending and even some pruning! We have been able to adapt to new ways of doing things together, such as knowing that we are one community online and in person. We have tended to the children through mentoring and Kids' Club and music and play. We have cut back on the things that are less important and turned our attention to the new ways of living a spiritual life that God is calling us to.

As the wise ones followed that star by faith, they were tending to a calling that was within them and from outside of them. They were tending to the way in which they had been invited into the cosmic and close story of Jesus, God with us. And they were using what they knew—their past experiences, the directions from Herod, the political climate of the world—to allow them to be led forward by a new mystery that turned them home another way. The story of the wise ones can help us remember to look at the past year with wonder that our congregation has participated in vast global issues and very close local ones. We have tended to one another in prayers and tended to the world in our actions. This story can also help us to be present. To see the stars that are above us right now and to gaze into the sky that invites us into the future. And we can look to the stars, our star words, and most importantly the good news of God’s love, to direct us in our purposes and our new purposes for this year.

As I gaze at stars tonight, I am grateful for the past year with this community. I am grateful that we could tend to a family from Afghanistan and tend to our own beloved. I am grateful that children come to play and learn here and that grandmas and grandpas do the same with everyone in between. Our building, our space, our gifts to those in need, and our care for each other through education, worship, prayer, and service is a big bright light in the sky. God sees and hears our prayers and says, this is good.

May you continue to walk with us through the nights and the days, gazing at stars and letting them speak words of wisdom from the past and hope for the future. May we do this together. May you know God is here.

Pastor Leta Arndt Behrens



## PASTOR MICHAEL STADTMUELLER

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

Thank you for being on this journey with us. Your connection with our shared ministry is vital to its future. No, we don't know what tomorrow looks like but we do know God will be there. We hope you can find ways to journey closely with us. We are thankful for your financial support that has remained strong throughout the past years. We invite you to find ways to utilize your gifts of time and talent within our community or in one of the many organizations that we support and connect with.

This past year could be categorized as a return to normal. As we gazed upon the crowd at Christmas, we, as pastors realized it was the closest thing we had experienced to a “before COVID-19” reality of church. This categorization is probably not a healthy one for us to dwell on however. Some things will return to a familiarity where we can look back and see a parallel to another time and place, but other things will never return to that “used to be” category. It is most helpful for us to be mindful of this truth. The church around the world was going through a great change before COVID-19 and still is. We are all trying to figure out how to be the church of this next age.

As we look at our church worship, attendance remains lower in person than before COVID-19, but we have a considerable group watching online and also have discovered that many newcomers check us out there before coming in person. Our music groups and bible studies are now at or above pre-COVID-19 levels. Our new member classes have remained at a similar size to pre-COVID-19 levels. We have worked on developing easier ways to give electronically directly through the touch of your phone.

The good news is that God is still God and whatever is next for the church, we can be confident that God and Christ's love will lead us. The other good news is that, in the grand scheme of things, we as a congregation are well equipped for the road ahead. No, we don't have it all figured out, but we are flexible and healthy with a strong number of connected people, a clear identity of mission and a flexible building with only minimal debt.

We anticipate a year ahead that will need to be more responsive to the needs of refugees beyond our own Hamadzai family that we continue to support. We continue to seek to work with Northern Colorado leaders to further flesh out this network and to raise awareness to an ongoing crisis/opportunity with so many people in need of relocation.

Many have asked about my personal health. My experience with COVID-19 and Lyme Disease was quite a 1-2 punch that kept me down most of August and September, but my body has recovered well from those events. I feel like I am now at 100 percent, but it reminded me once again how precious and fragile life is. Thank you for your prayers and concern.

We look forward to sharing the coming year with you. We don't know what tomorrow will bring our way, but we are thankful we are on this journey with you.

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Michael



## INTERN PASTOR JON FRY

**“Right here. That’s where God is.”** are the opening words to a poem I shared on Christmas Day from our Sanctified Arts poet, Sarah Speed. These words have stuck with me as a reminder that God, Emmanuel, is with us always. It is so easy to get caught up in our busy lives and miss the ways that God is working in and through us each day.

As we look back on 2022, there are countless ways that God has been moving and working through the community of Our Saviour’s. In the advocacy and support for people in our wider community, and all the support of the Hamidzai family, in the hours spent volunteering and the financial gifts to local organizations that help us follow God’s call to share love with all people, in the community building events at OSLC, in the worship and music that we center ourselves in each week, and in the myriad of other ways that you all follow God’s call in your lives. God is right here moving among us, **and** God is out in the world calling us to care for others.

I’d also like to use this report as an opportunity to update you about where I am in my Seminary journey. In December, I was approved by the candidacy committee of the Southeast Iowa Synod for Ordination in the ELCA. In less “formal church speak”, I will officially be called as a pastor once I graduate from Seminary in May and go through an interview process.

Megan and I invite your prayers over the coming months as we talk to Synods and Congregations and discern where the Holy Spirit is calling us in this next chapter of life. I am so thankful for my experience at Our Saviour’s, learning and growing with and among you, and have been blessed by all of you for welcoming me into this community. While we don’t yet know when I will be departing for a new call, I can assure you that it won’t be until May. I look forward to the coming months and our continued work together for the sake of the Gospel.

I want to leave you with an excerpt from **“Blessing in the Chaos”** by Jan Richardson

“To all that is chaotic in you, let there come silence. Let there be a calming of the clamoring, a stilling of the voices that have laid their claim on you, that have made their home in you, that go with you even to the holy places but will not let you rest, will not let you hear your life with wholeness or feel the grace that fashioned you...Let there be an opening into the quiet that lies beneath the chaos, where you find the peace you did not think possible and see what shimmers within the storm.”

In the chaos of the world may you remember that God is right here, and God is present in all the busyness and messiness of life. May you remember that God names you beloved, and surrounds you with love.

Grace + Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Fry", with a stylized, flowing script.

Intern Pastor Jon



## COUNCIL PRESIDENT HANNAH WURSTER

Dear OSLC members,

It has been a wonderful year as we have watched our world, both within the church and outside, open back up and re-connect. Our congregation has returned to pre-COVID ways of being with each other and serving the community, as well as found new ways. I cannot possibly list all the ways we have done so, but I will give a few examples that stick out to me. Kids' Club has been a huge success in engaging families of children, especially thanks to Pastor Leta and the youth. Intern Pastor Jon led the youth on an enviable trip to the Apostle Islands where they somehow learned how to row a 10 person canoe. Despite battling various health challenges, Pastor Michael led Theology Pub and helped us welcome new members.

Various ministries have continued their hard work to serve the community. For example, Rally for Justice was held once again by our Faith and Justice team, with great success. We came together as a congregation to support the Hamidzai family, serving as a model to other church communities who also want to support refugee families.

After two years of uncertainty and frequent isolation, I have personally appreciated being able to attend in person services regularly. There is something about the magic of singing together, listening and learning together, and seeing each other. Even as we are largely "back to normal" for in person services, we can still reach those who are staying home or traveling with our live streamed services and other online connection points.

Council has been impressed by the incredible generosity of the congregation this year. OSLC increased our budget in 2022, creating a challenge for our congregation to give more. We are proud to say that our members rose to this challenge spectacularly. Not only that, but over \$100,000 was given beyond our planned budget to various organizations within and outside the church, including: Pine Ridge Reservation, ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Afghan Family Support, Homeward Alliance, ISAAC, Lutheran World Relief, and International Health Partners.

Less tangible are the countless hours our members spend volunteering their time to serve each other and our world, including: providing and serving meals for Lenten suppers, bringing donuts and making coffee, serving as usher or worship assistant, and working on committees.

Council also greatly appreciates the administrative staff who work hard to manage all of the various behind-the-scene functions that keep our church running: Karyn Eddins, Mandy Fogo, Ann Story, Glenna Colton, and our newest hire, Gus Brockmann. We also appreciate all of the musical groups who have shared their talents with us, as well as their leaders: Carrie Stadtmueller, Crystal Kerr, Sheri McKelfresh, Marlys Oetken. Finally, we extend our gratitude to Bev Watson as she has continued to lead Our Saviour's Lutheran Preschool.

I am very excited to see what 2023 will bring Our Saviour's Lutheran Church as our leaders, staff, and congregation members continue to give their love and time to this wonderful church.

Hannah Wurster  
Council President

# OSLC AT A GLANCE

## BAPTISMS

Hazel Duke  
Brooklyn Hensen  
Montgomery Hensen  
Elizabeth Larsen  
Hazel Larsen  
Kellan Larsen  
Anders Rude

## 2022 MEMBERSHIP AT OSLC

New Members - 25

Year End Membership -762

## DEATHS

Duane Daire  
Patricia Dow  
Gil Fechner  
Carole Fletcher  
Charlie Higgs  
Dorothy Lauer  
Janet Maass  
Dorothy Miller  
Mary Lou Sorenson  
Sally Withers

## CONFIRMANDS

Alyssa Berg  
Brook Davis  
William Hromatka  
Maren Kaupang  
Jaquelyn McDonald  
Greta Newman  
Avary Skinner



## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

OUR MISSION - To serve as the primary resource for the treasurer, pastors, executive committee, and church council for all personnel matters including job descriptions, compensation and benefits, employment contracts, background and security screening, and the performance appraisal process.

MEMBERS – Chairperson Melanie Reed, Pastor Leta Behrens, Council Liaison Rob Petterson, Ed Bender, Scottie Moore, John Rowland

MEETING TIME(S) - As needed, but approximately once monthly except in summer months

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022**

- Hired Gus Brockmann to assist in OSLC ministry
- Helped pastors navigate responsibilities during Pr Michael's illness and recovery
- Coordinated personnel duties within the staff and within the Personnel Committee
- Continued Safe Haven security and screening processes as needed
- Prepared and coordinated 2023 Personnel Budget

### **GOALS FOR 2023**

- Continue annual reviews, budget preparation/adjustments
- Revise Personnel Handbook to incorporate recent changes including Colorado's Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program requirements
- As needed, work with pastors and staff to evaluate/change job descriptions and work processes for efficiency
- Assist as needed with staff and hiring
- Assist with transition of Pr Jon's responsibilities when his internship is over (~ May 2023)



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022**

- Updated a classroom to be utilized for Kids' Club and Sunday School
- Refreshed the Youth Room to better suit teen needs for activities and studies
- Kept posting updated information to Facebook and website
- Continue to develop building use policies as more groups use the building
- Streamlined the E-News and website
- Developed new relationships with organizations using the building

### **GOALS FOR 2023**

- More events being planned throughout the year
- Organize storage throughout the building
- Refresh other rooms as able

## INTERNSHIP TEAM

Our mission is to support Intern Pr. Jon during his internship and employment with OSLC and his education through Wartburg Theological Seminary. This includes providing feedback, guidance, and perspective from members of the congregation as they experience the intern's presence, ministry, and leadership. We will ensure Jon is provided with the opportunities to grow and learn so that he will be prepared to succeed as a pastor upon completion of his time with OSLC.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022**

- Terry Rasmussen joined the team and added excellent depth of experience and support for Jon
- Team members continued to meet with Jon to offer support, encouragement, and learning opportunities to meet his internship learning goals
- Jon completed his formal internship period
- The team submitted final written evaluation to Wartburg with "Unconditional recommendation for pastoral ministry in the ELCA"
- Provided feedback to Wartburg regarding the Collaborative Internship program

### **GOALS FOR 2023**

- Support Jon in his final time of employment at OSLC
- Provide guidance and support for Jon and Megan during the call process
- Aid Jon and OSLC through the process of Jon leaving the congregation as he accepts a call and moves on



# MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Staff: Carol Bisbee - Youth Choirs Accompanist, Crystal Kerr – Church Organist/Pianist/Choir Accompanist & Windstrings Director, Sheri McKelfresh – Chancel Choir Director, Marlys Oetken– Handbell Choir Directors, Charlie Spillman – Director of Brass Ensemble, Carrie Stadtmueller –Children's and Youth Choirs Director/Celebration Band Director

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022**

- Communication continues to be very strong among music staff. Our music staff works very well together, planning together and supporting each other in their mission to the church.
- Our Pastoral and Music Staff continue to improve monthly/seasonal “Worship Planning” sheets and grids – enhancing communication and organization amongst all worship participants. The addition of Gus Brockmann to our team has helped with the long range planning and organizational processes.
- Each of the musical groups is continuing to bounce back from the Covid “break”. All groups are increasing in numbers, welcoming old and new members.
- During our Holy Week and Easter services, we were proud to include almost all of our musical groups during worship. Our Celebration Band led worship on Palm Sunday; Handbells lead our Maundy Thursday service; Chancel Choir, special musicians and members from Windstrings provided music for our Good Friday Tenebrae Service; multiple music groups helped to lead our celebratory Easter morning services.
- The Chancel Choir once again performed a Christmas Cantata during all 3 worship services during Advent.
- Members of the Kids' Club Choirs performed a special Christmas Program on December 11 during the 10:30 service - incorporating Christmas Story Characters with the help of a variety of congregation members.

## **GOALS FOR 2023**

- Continue growing our musical groups through invitation and worship experiences.
- Continue to select music appropriate for the abilities of all our talented musicians, while continuing to support growth in musicianship, as well as enhance the worship experience through song.
- Continue to work within our allotted budget – focusing on using music in our cataloged library. (Each new year's budget tends to use a bit of guess-work as we never know how many singers and musicians to expect in each group. Our budget is created by taking current numbers and adding for anticipated growth.)
- Plan for and add more “joint” musical pieces and activities among our talented musical groups.
- Work on team building in and amongst each of our musical groups.
- Organization work in the music storage room



## **PRESCHOOL**

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022**

- Our Saviour's Lutheran Preschool has 16 children enrolled in MWF / TU & TH class
- Maintaining an affordable Preschool serving our community & our congregation

### **GOALS FOR 2023**

- The preschool continues to enroll students & keep our programs at or near capacity
- We will navigate our way through the new universal preschool program that the state of Colorado will begin next year. (2023)
- We are celebrating our 26th year at Our Saviour's and in the ministry of our church & the community.

## **CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILY**

This year was so fun! Kids' Club has been the heart and soul for the young families as we provide space, food, and care once a week that gives children a place to learn and grow. We have enjoyed welcoming in new families, neighbors and friends to our totally open, totally free Kids' Club. Thank you for the support that this congregation gives to make sure our children have a safe, fun, spirit filled place to be. Children's ministry has also supported 10 Baby Kits to Lutheran World Relief this year, hosted a successful Vacation Bible School, and taken kids to camp. Families have come together for special events and children are active and participating in worship. Our youth staff has been an integral part of making these events happen and we are so grateful for their leadership and continued commitment to ministry with kids.



## **OUTSIDE OUR WALLS**

OUR MISSION – Outside Our Walls mission is to provide the congregation of OSLC with opportunities to donate financial, material, and volunteer support to organizations that help our brothers and sisters in need around the corner and around the world.

MEMBERS - Ruth Brown, Carol Bisbee, Beth DeHaven, David Leininger, Madelyn Mihm, Scottie Moore, Sharon Petersen, Susan Rowland, Susan Schneider

MEETING TIME(S) - First Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. except January and July

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022**

*All of these accomplishments are because of the incredible generosity of our congregation.*

- Donations of handwarmers to Homeward Alliance via Roberta Menten
- Donations to Christ Clinic and International Health Partners during Lenten soup suppers during March and April
- Received monetary donations for the Putnam Literacy Program
- Collected clothing and monetary donations for the Homeward Alliance Children In Need project
- Received monetary donations for Putnam 5th graders to attend Eco-Week
- Collected items for ISAAC Hygiene Bags Project
- Sent 62 bags of warm clothing to Pine Ridge Reservation
- Monetary and food donations collected for the Food Bank of Larimer County
- ELCA Good Gifts project in December

### **GOALS FOR 2023**

- See Mission statement

## **COLUMBARIUM & MEMORY**

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022**

- The greatest part of our ministry is working with families to help facilitate interments of loved ones. It is our great honor to do so. This year Dorothy Lauer, Patricia Dow, Duane Daire, and Mary Lou Sorenson were interred in the columbarium, and Sally Withers was interred in the common crypt. Our prayers continue to be with them and with their families.
- As a committee, we are always working to clarify our process and streamline communication between us, families, and the office. To that end, we worked with Karyn and the Pastors to add information about the columbarium in the funeral planning packet. We also updated our Rules and Regulations which helped us reconnect to our ministry, the heart of which is reflected in our mission statement.
- On a nuts and bolts level, we had some hardware issues—little screws which tend to break—but luckily, with the help of Joel Lamb and Roger Sherman, we were able to figure out how to solve this problem. In the garden, we took out the overgrown butterfly bushes which opened up the space, and we had several work days. Thanks to the Confirmation Class for their hard work! We are thankful to everyone who spends time in the garden, and pitches in to keep it nice.

### **GOALS FOR 2023**

Maintenance of the garden is always a high priority, and as we think about 2023, our biggest goal is to work with Roger Sherman on ideas for a Columbarium expansion. We will be presenting those ideas to Council, and laying out a timeline at that time.

## FAITH & JUSTICE TEAM

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022**

- Creation Care Adult Forums with Emphasis on Water were presented for four Sundays from 1-23-22 to 2-13-22 and concluded with special guest, engineer and Deaconess Katrina Martich from Fort Worth, TX, who led us in “The Divine Gift of Water, Sustainable Water Use, and the Spiritual Discipline of Creation Care” As a result of this series, the team requested that the Council appoint a task force to complete a church water audit and prepare a plan for water conservation for environmental justice reasons and also long-term cost savings.
- Gun Violence Prevention Advocacy: Following the murder of 19 students and 2 teachers in Uvalde, TX on 5-24-22, petitions were signed and delivered the following week urging our representatives in Congress to work across the aisle to prevent deaths from gun violence. We helped to secure passage of the first bipartisan federal gun safety legislation in almost three decades!
- Advocacy for Afghans: In the Spring & Summer of 2022, we worked with our Resettlement Team to sponsor two petition drives concerning issues that affected our Hamidzai family: Releasing Funds Held by the U.S. in order to Help Starving Afghans and passing the Afghan Adjustment Act to allow our family and other Afghan allies to expedite adjustment of their immigration status and obtain permanent asylum in our country. We also met with Sen. Hickenlooper staffers on Zoom and with Rep. Neguse and staff at a Town Hall at CSU in August.
- Rally for Justice was held on September 25th in the church parking lot and featured congregational groups and community partners that work on justice issues. Family activities and a taco truck were also provided.
- Music Reparations Task Force was formed to explore how OSLC might educate and take action concerning the hymns and choral music from African American slaves and/or by composers of color who were most often unnamed and uncompensated. The first introduction to the congregation was on Reformation weekend in October, when music from “This Far By Faith – An African American Resource for Worship” was used.
- Community Advocacy Partnerships: We continued to develop deeper partnerships with ISAAC and Together Colorado. In July, Council approved OSLC becoming an official supporting member of Together Colorado, committing to work with other Colorado faith communities on legislative policy.
- Two Advocacy Workshops were led by John Bisbee in May and November.
- Faith & Justice Book Club continued to meet on the third Monday at 7 p.m. every other month. Titles included non-fiction like “The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together” by Heather McGhee and fiction like Toni Morrison’s “Beloved”

### **GOALS FOR 2023**

Continue to offer a variety of educational opportunities for OSLC to learn more about justice issues where our faith calls us to act, and then work with community partners to advocate for just policies locally and in our state and nation.



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD MISSION AND MINISTRY 2021

Ny fiangonan'i Kristy, Tsara kokoa raha iombanana  
**La iglesia de Cristo, mejor juntos**  
**Gereja Kristus Bersama Lebih Baik**  
**Christ's Church, Better Together**

*A Reconciling in Christ Synod  
An AMMPARO Welcoming Synod*



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

## 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 \$96,000** 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.



# RMS FINANCE COMMITTEE

## "I AM THE CHURCH"

I am my congregation, my synod,  
and my ELCA churchwide  
organization

### My Congregation

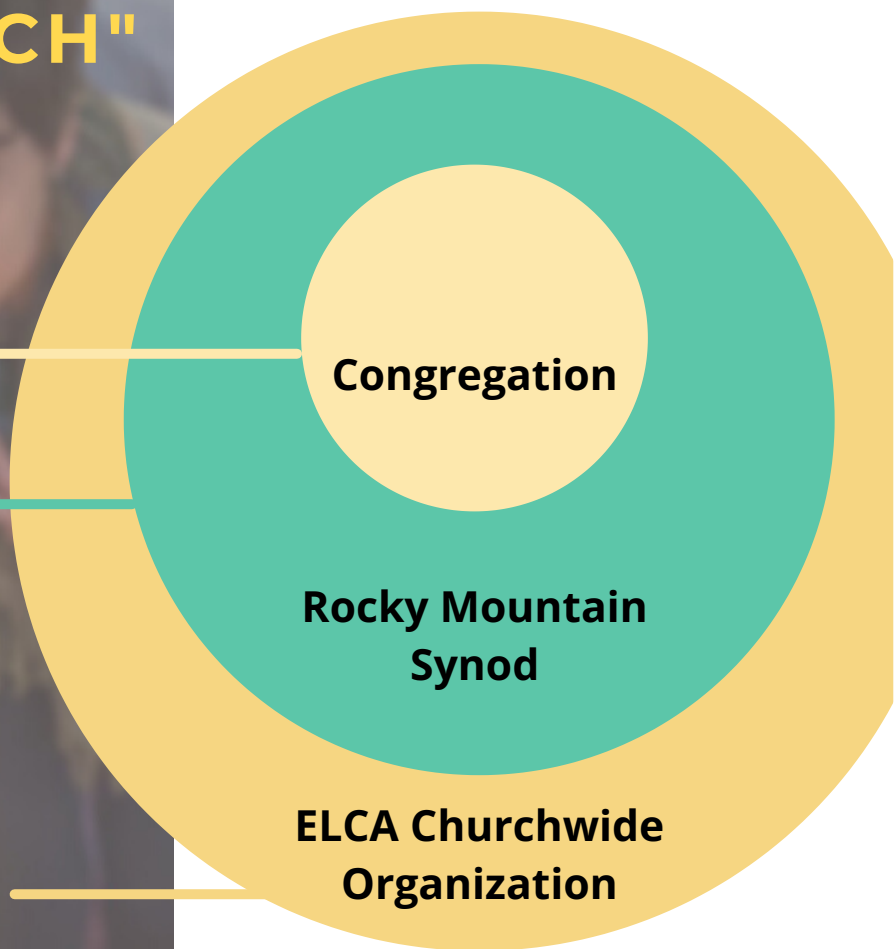
- I worship and serve locally

### My Rocky Mountain Synod

- I connect and engage regionally in CO, WY, UT, NM, and TX
- 158 Congregations in 5 States
- I am the church in the world through camp, campus ministry, chaplaincy, and service organizations

### My ELCA Churchwide Organization

- I participate in a global communion
- 9,100 congregations in 65 synods
- Mission in 45+ countries



## My time and financial gifts support my church

### Congregation

- Worship
- Faith Formation
- Local Impact and Partnerships
- Mission Support to the Rocky Mountain Synod

### Synod

- Leadership Training and Support
- Advocacy and Racial Justice
- Partners with companion synods
- Accompanies those discerning public ministry
- Mission Support to the ELCA

### Churchwide Organization

- Domestic and Global Mission
- Disaster Response and Hunger work
- Ecumenical Relationships
- Federal Policy Advocacy
- Worship & Education Resources
- Social Statements and Messages



## Partners in Ministry

A budget is more than numbers, it tells a story, it declares our values, it offers a vision of who we are and where God is calling us.

As the Rocky Mountain Synod we are committed to faith formation and the retreat ministry of our 3 outdoor ministries, we value our churchwide ministries and share 47.5% of our gifts, we show up a public church through advocacy and support for our social ministry organizations, we walk with congregations and leaders through transition and provide opportunities for leadership development.



## Our Mission

Together we proclaim and embody God's unconditional love for the sake of the world.

Christ's Church,  
Better Together!!

## Church Together

If we didn't appreciate the value of being church better together before this last year, pandemic life has taught us that none of us can go it alone. We need one another as we learn to become the church the Spirit needs us to be for the life of the world.

We are blessed as the ELCA with the gift of being an interdependent church – one in which our reliance upon one another is already a given. We navigate the days ahead with a commitment to accompany one another into the Spirit's ever-faithful, ever-unfolding future, trusting that every expression of our church – from our congregations and ministries to our life as a synod to the many ministries stewarded by our churchwide organization – all play a part in the continued journey of church becoming.

For the gift of being church together in this time, we give thanks to God!

Bishop Jim Gonia



## Church Together \$1,264,126

We claim the gift of being an interdependent church. This gift calls us to support our churchwide ministries and partner organizations

Churchwide Mission Support  
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Ecumenical Networks  
Region II Support  
Office of the Bishop Staff Time  
Betela Seminary

## Leadership \$237,353

We are committed to equipping leaders for ministry across the church, and are called to offer leadership within the synod

Synod Council  
Racial Justice  
Interim Ministry  
Candidacy  
First Call Theological Education  
Excellence in Leadership  
Office of the Bishop Staff Time

## Accompaniment \$392,288

We are church together rooted in our local context and informed by our global reality.

Congregations in Transition  
New/Renewing /Multi-cultural  
Ministries  
Global Mission Committee  
Office of the Bishop Staff Time  
Office of the Bishop Travel



## Through your gifts

The Rocky Mountain budget is funded by *Mission Support*, the portion of congregational offering shared to support our collective ministry. 47.5% of the mission support we receive is shared with our Churchwide Organization. Some of those monies return to our synodical ministries through grants and shared staff. The remainder helps us proclaim and embody's God's unconditional love through ministries across the country and around the globe.

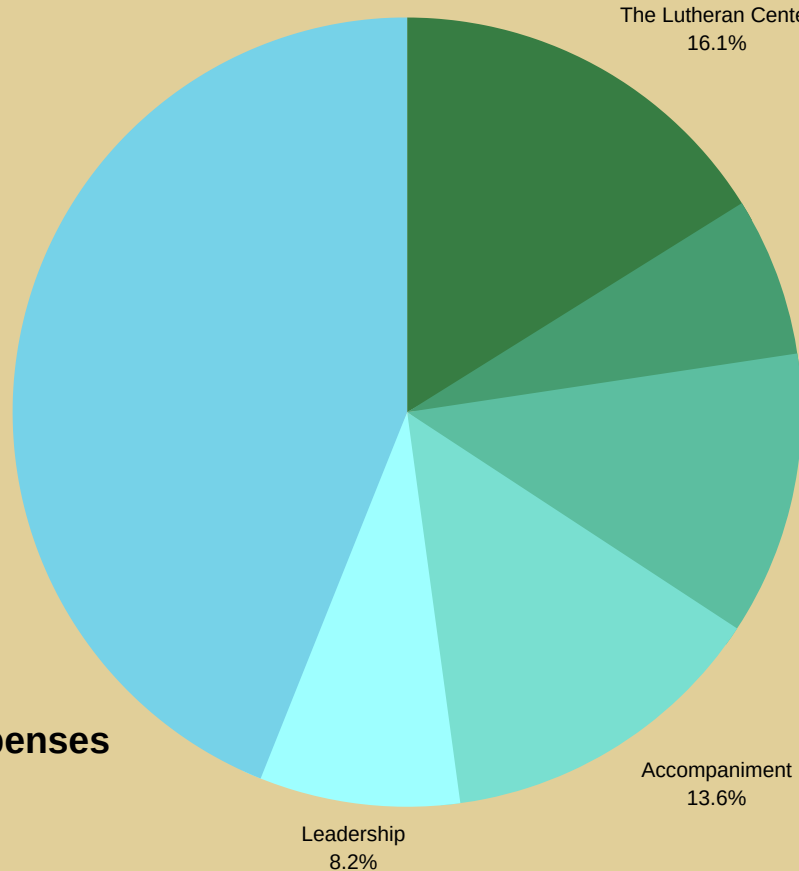


## Income

91% of the Rocky Mountain Synod Mission is funded through Congregational Mission Support and individual gifts. The remaining 9% comes from Churchwide partnership and investment income.

## Expenses

The budget is proposed by the finance committee and synod council, and approved by the voting members of the synod assembly.



## 2021 Expenses

### Faith Formation \$335,287

We equip followers of Jesus for growing in our life-long journey of faith.

*Sky Ranch  
Rainbow Trail  
Messiah Mountain Retreat Center  
Campus Ministry  
RMS Youth Council  
Office of the Bishop Staff Time*

### Public Church \$187,825

As the Church Together, we proclaim and embody God's love by showing up in the public square.

*Lutheran Advocacy Ministry  
Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountain  
Upbring  
Border Servant Corps  
Urban Servant Corps  
Hunger Network*

### The Lutheran Center \$463,265

We steward the Lutheran Center as a place for us to gather, worship, and carry out the administrative functions of the synod.

*Lutheran Center Mortgage  
Facility Maintenance  
General Office Expenses  
Office of the Bishop Administration*



# OUR LIFE TOGETHER



## Equipping New Leaders

**\$79,257**

Through our candidacy committee and staff support, we accompany 40 people discerning ministry as a pastor or deacon. Additionally, we partner with Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, the seminary of Region 2.

## Glocal Church

**\$8,500**

We live out our commitment to being a global church through the work of our our Global Mission Committee, Hunger Network, and supporting Betela Seminary in Madagascar.



## GREETINGS FROM JERUSALEM

The Revs. Gabi and Meghan Aelabouni  
Country Coordinators, ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)



## Better Together

**\$1,092,126**

We share 47.5% of our mission support with our Churchwide Organization for our churchwide and global ministries.

## Outdoor Ministry

**\$50,500**

We celebrate ministry in God's creation at Sky Ranch, Rainbow Trail, and our new site Messiah Mountain Retreat Center.





# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



## **New and Renewing Ministries** **\$282,288**

We support 15 ministries who are engaging their communities in new, fresh, and vibrant ways. We accompany ethnic-specific congregations, mission starts, and strategic redevelopments in their work of becoming vital, right-sized ministries, focused on their futures.



## **Congregational Life** **\$79,000**

Together we support and equip congregational ministry through the congregational ministry board, intentional interim network, part-time network, and staff support for congregations in transition.



## **For the Sake of the World** **\$19,511**

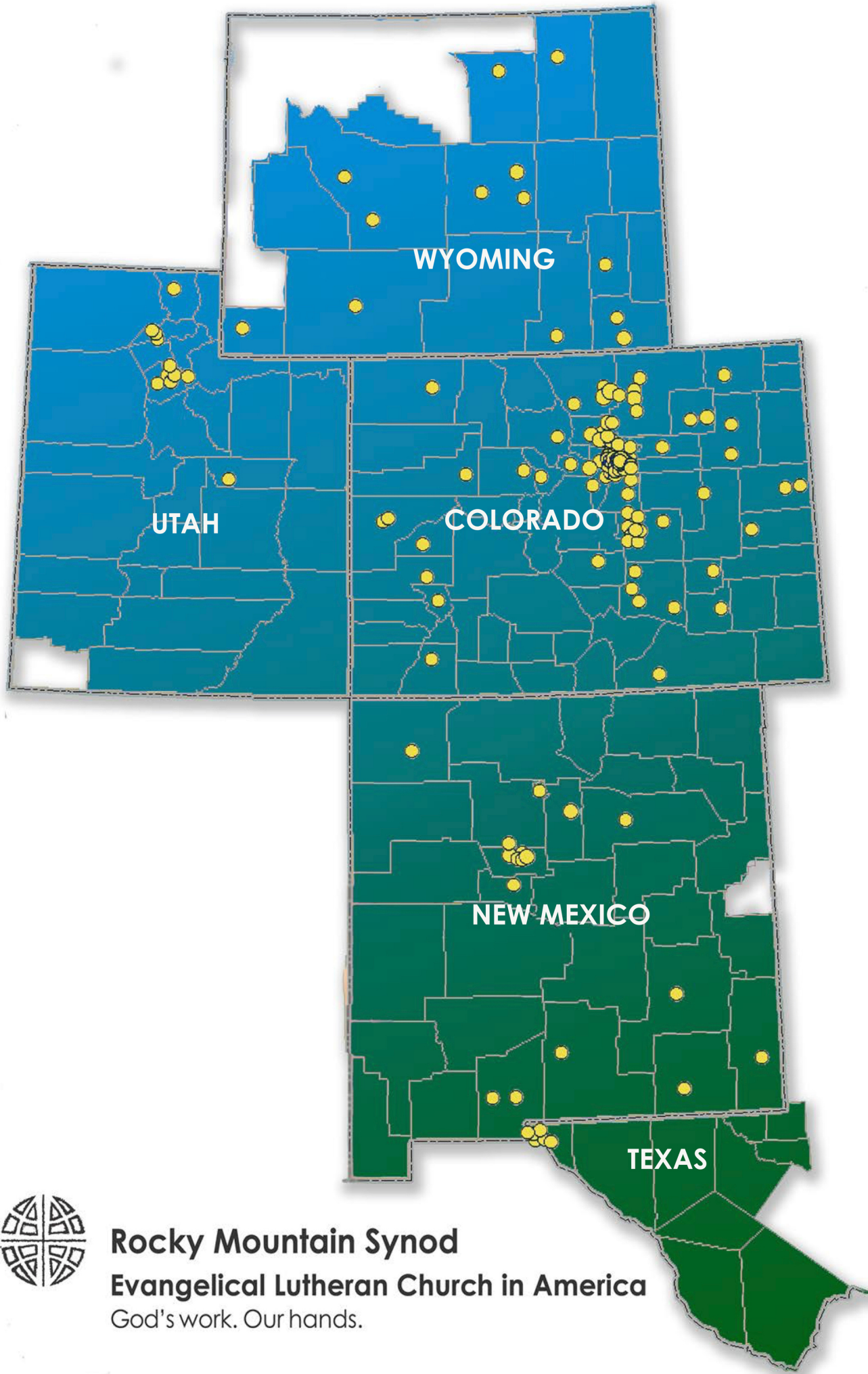
We are committed to being in service to our neighbor through Border Servant Corps, Urban Servants Corps, Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountain, and Upbring.

## **Youth and Young Adult Ministry** **\$243,076**

Recognizing and celebrating the gifts of youth and young adults in the church, we create dynamic spaces and opportunities for leadership and faith formation, as well as support the ministry among young adults through campus ministry







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

**Christ's Church, Better Together**

# 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

## January 30, 2022

### **Attendance:**

### **Ministry and Connections**

1. Opening prayer
2. Welcome and council introductions

### **Action Item**

3. Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes
  - Motion to approve by John Bisbee
  - Seconded by Tina Segal
  - Discussion None
  - Motion approved Unanimously

### **Reports**

4. Pastors' reports
5. Treasurer's report

### **Action Item**

6. Presentation of 2022 proposed budget by Brady Berg
7. Congregational vote on budget
  - Motion to approve by Miles Crane
  - Seconded by Sean Shelly
  - Discussion
  - Motion Passed with one abstention
8. Approval of changes to Article 14 of Bylaws
  - Motion to approve by Ryan White
  - Seconded by Vickie Eisele
  - Discussion
  - Motion \_Passed\_x\_ ( - )

### **Highlights**

9. Community connection updates

### **Prayer/Blessing**

10. Blessing and dismissal

### **Adjourn**



