

March 2024 Edition

# *The Voice*

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Monthly Newsletter



## Season of Lent

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For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

Loving Savior, all of our words of confession and acts of contrition would be of no effect if not for your loving and open heart awaiting our return. Let us always understand that you never began to love us, instead your love was awaiting us at our birth, and will embrace us through all eternity. Amen

from Moravian Daily Texts for 3/3/24

# Holy Week

**Passion Sunday, March 24**

- 10:am Worship



**Maundy Thursday, March 28**

- 7:00 pm **The Cup of Salvation is Poured Out for Us**

*Come celebrate around the table with our children and their families who have completed their Communion Ministry Milestone*

**Good Friday, March 29**

- 7:00 pm **A Meditation on the Seven Prayers Christ Spoke from the Cross**

**Easter Sunday, March 31**

- 6:45 am At the rise of the first sun, we will celebrate the rise of the SON! Weather permitting (we will move inside if not!), we will gather around a warm fire under the front awning. Bring a blanket and hot drink, chairs will be set up.
- 7:30 - 9:30 am Easter Breakfast provided by our Hospitality Team, the newly formed Men's Group, and our youth
- 10:00 am We celebrate Christ's victory by witnessing the uncovering of the empty tomb with the first witnesses of the Resurrection
- 11:15 am Easter Egg Hunt: The big hunt is on after worship!

## Moravian Daily Texts



We have begun to use the Moravian Daily Texts to open Sunday worship, asking for volunteers to read each week. A number of teams are also using them during their meetings. Many folks are engaging in the texts in a consistent basis as we collectively listen to God, each other, and our community!

# ***CrossTrekking with prL***

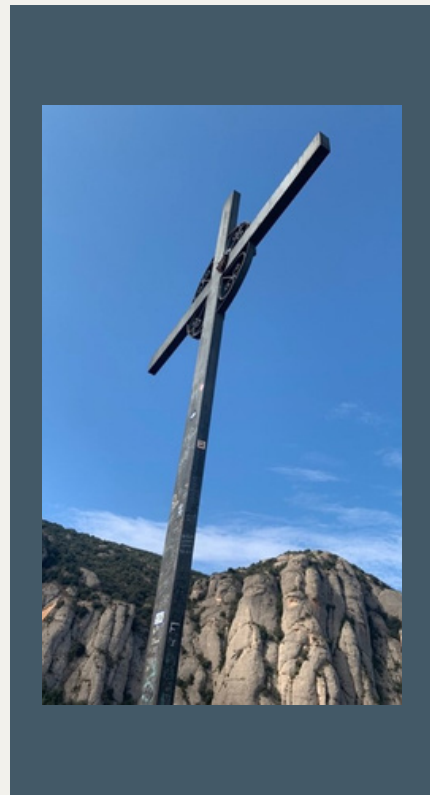
## **Wait! What! A Sabbatical?**

Yes, friends, I am going on a mini-Sabbatical in June and July of this year. Now, before you balk or scratch your head trying to do the math, you are correct that I haven't been at Holy Cross for 6 years, the usual defined time of service expected before a rostered minister goes on Sabbatical. But this Sabbatical is different

First, it's MINI! I will be taking 6 weeks of intentional Sabbatical – a shorter period of time than the suggested 3-month Sabbaticals most people take.

Second, this mini-Sabbatical is funded through a Rocky Mountain Synod Phase 3 Lilly 3E Grant. These grants were first available to rostered leaders of RMS nearing the “end” of the pandemic to allow rostered leaders to take time for renewal from the long haul of the pandemic. Those first grants were gobbled up and there was no funding left when I applied in 2022. In the Fall of 2023, a third phase of grants became available to provide support and relief to rostered leaders so that we can continue to grow and thrive in ministry. I applied and was instantly approved.

Third, I was awarded through the RMS \$2000 for sabbatical related expenses at the same time the congregation was awarded \$2000 for leadership coverage to support the congregation while I'm away. While I may have somewhat justified in your mind why I'm taking a mini-Sabbatical after only serving you for 16 months, let me tell you why I'm really excited to be going on a mini-Sabbatical:



I strongly believe a mini-Sabbatical fits into our VRSM process, and that is what I wrote in my grant application! I've worked with congregations as a Transition Coach and observed some distinct qualities and best practices that support a congregation to transition well. Those qualities focus on a strong lay-led congregation – A congregation that shares the ministry in partnership with the pastor. Early on in my call with you, I became acutely aware of your strength as a faith community to “do the work of the kingdom.” You are enthusiastic about ministry. You are eager to “become” whatever it is that God is calling us to. And you are listening to God, each other, and our community. Now is the time!

Leading up to the mini-Sabbatical, we will be working to put some things into place that will set us up well for this intentional time. Stay tuned during the next months as I will spell out in more detail what this time will look like for Holy Cross and what I will be doing. For now, let's keep listening to God for our next crosstrekking steps!

peace, prL

# March 2024 Calendar

Please visit the Holy Cross website **[HERE](#)** for the latest updates

## Weekly Recurring Events

### Sundays

- 9:00 am Adult Education
- 9:00 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Worship Service
- 11:00 am Fellowship
- 11:00 am Bell Choir Rehearsal

### Mondays

- 9:30 am Sewing Group (1st & 3rd weeks)

### Tuesdays

- 3:00 pm Tuesday @ 3 Prayer, Zoom

### Wednesdays

- 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Thursdays

- 6:30 pm Doll Ministries (alternate weeks)

## Other Events and Meetings

### March 2 (Saturday)

- 8:30 am Men's Group Breakfast

### March 3 (Sunday)

- 11:15 am New Member Coffee

### March 4 (Monday)

- 1:00 pm Care Team, Zoom

### March 6 (Wednesday)

- 5:30 pm Simple Supper
- 7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer

### March 9 (Saturday)

- 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Care Ministry

### March 10 (Sunday)

- 11:15 am New Member Coffee

### March 12 (Tuesday)

- 7:00 pm Environmental Stewardship

### March 13 (Wednesday)

- 5:30 pm Simple Supper
- 7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer

### March 14 (Thursday)

- 10:00 am Amicitia Circle

### March 16 (Saturday)

- 10:00 am Janet Iona Memorial Service

### March 17 (Sunday)

- 10: am New Member Celebration
- 11:15 am Book Club

### March 20 (Wednesday)

- 11:00 am Forever Young
- 5:30 pm Simple Supper
- 7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer and Healing Service

### March 27 (Wednesday)

- 7:30 pm Jedi Meeting

### March 28 (Maundy Thursday)

- 7:00 pm Worship

### March 29 (Good Friday)

- 7:00 pm Worship Service

### March 31 (Easter Sunday)

- 6:45 am Sunrise Service
- 7:30 - 9:30 am Easter Breakfast
- 10:00 am Easter Worship



# Sunday Worship Series in Lent

During Lent, we will join those searching for Jesus in the 12th chapter of the book of John as they encounter Philip saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Guided by the Lectionary texts, we too will seek Jesus, asking, "Where's Jesus active in the world today and how can we be a part of it?"



***"Sir, We Wish to see Jesus"***

## Wednesday Evenings in Lent



We look forward to coming together as a faith community to share a simple meal, conversation, and prayer. Mark your calendars and plan to join us.

- **5:30 – 6:30 pm: Simple Supper**
- **6:10 – 6:40 pm: Conversation time**
- **7:00 – 7:30 pm: Holden Evening Prayer**

**Join us on YouTube [Here](#)**

**Links available in Weekly Gentile Reminders**

## Holden Evening Prayer Healing Service

**Wednesday March 20 7:00 pm**

Within the Holden Evening Prayer Service on March 20th, the Holy Cross Care Team will offer a time of healing, prayer, and meditation. At this service, all who sense the need for God's healing in any aspect of their lives, may join in prayer for others and themselves. Each person may come forward, if they choose, to light candles in memory of a loved one or friend or in remembrance of someone who may be in need of healing. Time for kneeling at the altar, or in the pews if preferred, for personal reflection and prayer will be provided, and for those who wish,

a blessing with anointing and/or a physical gesture of laying on of hands will be available. Pastor Libbie will be at the Baptismal Font to individually pray with anyone wishing to do so. This service will provide the opportunity for our community at Holy Cross to lift up and celebrate God's presence, strength and comfort, God's promise of wholeness and peace, and God's love embodied in our faith community.

Please come and join us for this very special service. You may also wish to join us for our Lenten Supper at 5:30 pm in Asel Hall prior to the service.

# VRSM: Values, Vision, & Mission



## Listening to God

Where is God calling Holy Cross into ministry, we pause to reflect on and share our recent actions as a response to listening to God, each other, and the community. The past months have led us to engage in several “experiments,” some of which began before we engaged in this process. They are listed here to observe collectively how the Holy Spirit has been working in and through us:

- **Immigrant Needs** We partnered with Lutheran Family Services to house a refugee family for one week. We will continue to explore ways to respond to the many needs of immigrants in our community.
- **Blessing Bags** This project is well underway and many ideas for expansion are in the works.
- **Sharing our Building Space** Although we have long offered our spaces to community groups, we have a building that is largely unused. How might God be calling us to use it in other ways?

## Listening to Each Other Care Ministry Workshops

### **Register for Second Holy Cross Care Ministry Workshop**

**March 9 9am - 1pm**

Our family at Holy Cross has been given a wonderful opportunity to participate in several Care Ministry Workshops led by Pastor Claire Cassell. I know that we are hurting over the recent deaths of dear brothers and sisters. Many of us provide care for family members or friends. Pr. Claire will lead us as we learn new skills to deal with the many complexities continuing in our lives. The first workshop was held on February 24th. The second workshop will be held on Saturday, March 9th. On both days, both sessions are held in the Fireside Lounge from 9 am– 1 pm. Sessions deal with Grief & Loss, Self-Care & Prayer, Listening Skill & Visitation, and Boundaries.

We are encouraging all those who care for others, those dealing with the death of a loved one, and congregation members who would like to learn how to be better prepared to care and love one another to join these sessions. You are welcome to come for the second session even if you haven't attended the first.

For more information or to register for the workshops, please contact Earline Bohling at 303-710-5256 or at [ebohling@comcast.net](mailto:ebohling@comcast.net) or leave a note in her box at church.

# VRSM: Values, Vision, & Mission

## Help for the Homeless

**Who Are The Homeless?**  
**They are young and old,**  
**natives of Colorado, the US and the**  
**world,**  
**of every race and ethnicity,**  
**of all sexual orientations,**  
**gender identities and expressions,**  
**of every level of education,**  
**of every faith and without faith,**  
**afflicted by diseases and**  
**challenged by disabilities.**  
**Who do you know that fits any of**  
**these categories?**

## Blessing Bags

Blessing bags are our response to the increased number of people stopping by the church for assistance. The first bags were assembled for God's Work Our Hands Sunday. Confirmants collected and assembled the second round in January. A third batch is in the works. Many people are stepping up to help with the organization of these bags.

Members have contributed gift cards and other useful items for people in need.

See **"Crafters & Travelers Can You Help?"** on how you can help!



## Crafters & Travelers Can You Help?

We will continue to put together Blessing Bags for the homeless in March. In preparation, we need your help in two areas.

- We need donations of unopened hygiene products you have received during your stays at hotels, for example, tiny shampoos, conditioners, soap, mouthwash, lotion, etc., etc. A receptacle for these will be put in the narthex.
- Calling all knitters and crocheters, we can use as many stocking caps as you can make for us for the end of winter. Check the Holy Cross yarn bank in the sewing room if you don't have the yarn you need at home. We have an abundant supply. There will also be a place for these in the narthex. Bless you, as you contribute to blessing others in need.

# Transition Team 2023 Annual Report

This report was omitted from the Annual Report

Having completed the Holy Cross History and Congregational Core Values with Pastor Penni in 2022, the Transition Team, as part of the Vital Right Shaped Ministry process, looked toward the next steps of forming a Vision and Mission statement. Then the Holy Spirit intervened. Pastor Libbie joined us in February of 2023 and after reviewing what we had done so far, the Transition Team decided to transition into a new direction before working on our congregational Vision and Mission. We felt we had some work to do before we could create and define those statements.

In mid-April we had a Foundations Retreat with the HCLC church council and staff led by Tina Kvitek from the RM synod. Communication was a big take-away from that – and we pondered both technical changes – ways to communicate more effectively AND adaptive changes – ways to think about how we live together differently, through changing hearts and spirits. We took away that we have the opportunity to become the church who the world needs us to be...

From those take-aways we decided to focus on LISTENING – to God, and to each other, as well as to the community and world around us. What is God saying? What are we saying? What does the world need? Pastor Libbie shared the idea that we might “Grow DEEP first, then grow WIDE.” What could it look like? Maybe we could start with reading scripture, sharing reflections, praying together. We decided to start reading the book – Leading Faithful INNOVATION: Following God into a Hopeful Future, AND we made a commitment to reading the Moravian Daily Texts – a short, daily scripture and prayer. In May we discussed how our daily practice was going – and we discerned that it was relevant, a daily focus, a reminder of God’s presence and love, a connection to others at HCLC. Our next step was to figure out what we are called to do as witnesses to this radical love. And to invite others to join the MDT practice.

As we delved into the book, we pondered the idea of shifting from trying to “fix” what is wrong with the church, to “curiosity or wonder” about what God is up to, and calling us to do/be in the world. Instead of “How can we get more people to attend our worship service?” we could ask “What might God be up to in the lives of our neighbors?” The “WHY” of church/and our faith has not changed, but the “HOW” looks different. The three core practices of Faith Innovation include: to LISTEN (to God, to one another and to our neighbors.) To ACT (try something new based on God’s leading) and to SHARE (reflect on our actions and share the story.)

As we were LISTENING, and encouraging others at HCLC to join us in the MDT listening practice, we were suddenly confronted with an opportunity to ACT – Lutheran Family Services was looking for a host family for a refugee family from South Sudan. The family had lived in a refugee camp in Kenya for 15 years before coming to the US. We have a facility here at Holy Cross – and some of the infrastructure already in place from Family Promise, to house a family, so we jumped in. Volunteers to be Kitchen Hosts and Overnight Hosts stepped up.

Of course there are many more neighbors who need support – people regularly come to our church with many needs – housing, food, clothing, shoes, bus passes. The Transition Team has pondered and discussed at length how to address those needs and what our next steps might be, as we continue to listen and reflect on what God is saying, and hear what our neighbors are needing. As 2023 comes to a close and we transition into 2024, we look forward to continued listening, acting and figuring out what we are called to do to be faithful witnesses to God’s love in our lives... and in the process, begin to create our vision and mission statement!

# Church Council News



## Realm Connect

**Please update the contact information in your Realm Connect profile by logging into the app, navigating to Profile using the hamburger icon, and then clicking on the pencil in the upper right corner to edit. Be sure to save!**

## President's Report

Holy Cross Council met for our monthly meeting on February 22, 2024. Arabella and Sharon England led devotions including the reading of the Daily Moravian Text.

Our new accountant Rory joined us via Zoom so that he could meet the Council. Tadd Overstreet presented an in-depth look at our finances and forecasts for the future. We began asking those God questions of where God is leading us as we look at our giving patterns. Did you know that our largest group of donors are folks over the age of 81? Way to go seniors!

We had an engaging discussion around Chapter 1 of Leading Faithful Innovations by Zscheile, Binder, Pinkstaff. This chapter looked at how churches have functioned in the past and what is facing us in the 21st century. Prior to 1960 people joined organizations to find belonging and purpose in the world. This was titled the Age of Association. Since the 60's people have looked inward to discover and express their true identities apart from organizations. This is known as the Age of Authenticity. Churches and most other civic organizations have seen a dramatic decline in membership as people find other ways to "do good" in the world apart from church. Just turn on your

TV and you will see many, many opportunities to give through GoFundMe, one-time volunteering, and much more. We as people of God, must find new ways to share the good news of Christ. Dream with us as we look for new opportunities to share God's love with our community.

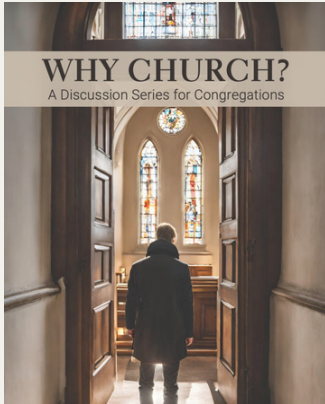
This discussion led us to ponder and dream about the best ways to use our wonderful building. We brainstormed a few ways and the Council will continue to ponder this over the next month. Give us your ideas, please.

Easter plans have been finalized with a 6:45 AM "Sonrise" service in outdoors, weather permitting. Breakfast, provided by the Hospitality Team, the newly founded Men's Group, and our youth, will be served from 7:30 – 9:30 AM. Joyful Easter worship, complete with brass, organ, and choir will take place at 10:00 AM.

A number of you have been able to join us for our Wednesday evening Simple Supper and Lenten worship. Wonderful soups and sandwiches are available each Wednesday. The Holden Evening Prayer is one of my favorite liturgies, so I always look forward to singing this service during Lent.

Earline Bohling, Council President

# Education Opportunities



## Why Church?

**A new series from the Rocky Mountain Synod to brighten the lens on Lent.**

**Adult Education Sundays 9:00am**

### Remaining Weeks in Lent

**March 3 - Change, Luke 5:33 – 38**

**March 10 - Abundance & Scarcity, Luke 9:10 – 17**

**March 17 - The Holy Spirit's Guidance, John 14:25 – 31**

As the world around us continues to evolve, a new series has been designed to get congregations to talk about what they yearn for in their church today and into its future, and to reflect on its interaction within the community and the world.

Join Pastor Libbie and members of the Transition Team as we ponder on the changing landscape of both church and the culture we live in.

## Children's Worship Time Series in Lent

We will focus on COVENANT. Each week we will add a new way in which we are in COVENANT with God by reading a Bible story and adding something to our COVENANT banner in the narthex.

## Communion Classes for Elementary Kids and their Parents

It has long been tradition at Holy Cross that we don't require our young people to wait until Confirmation to join in Our Lord's Supper. Whether your child has been taking communion for a while, or has been waiting for this class, we extend the invitation for all elementary students who have not yet had instruction about what it means to take part in Communion to join us for four 9:00 Sunday morning classes during Lent. The Englands have been teaching these classes for several years, and will once again, but this time it will be Sharon and Arabella instead of Sharon and John. Attendance at all four classes is highly preferable.

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After the last class on the morning of Palm/Passion Sunday, each student will present their banner by joining the 10:00 palm procession. Then the class takes Holy Communion together as a group at the 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday service during Holy Week. Classes will be held at 9:00 am on February 18, February 25, March 10 and March 24.

See Anne Piphio or Sharon England to RSVP or ask any questions.

# Let's Get Together



**Amicitia**

**Thursday 3/14 10 am**

**Fireside Lounge**

**All women are welcome**

**We continue the study of  
Scriptures & Nature: Teachers of Faith  
with a focus on**

**Rivers: Springs of life and hope**



**EASTER**  
egg hunt

*March 31 11:15 am*

**It's Time to Welcome  
New Members**

**Sunday March 17th**

**Join us for coffee with prL, friends,  
incoming new members and interested  
folks on March 3rd and 10th following  
worship in the conference room.**

**On March 17th we will covenant together  
in worship and celebrate after with cake  
(and other yummys) afterwards!**

**Let prLibbie know if you have questions.**



**JOIN US EASTER SUNDAY MORNING FOR A  
HOT BREAKFAST!**

**HOLY CROSS MEN'S GROUP &  
HOSPITALITY TEAM INVITES**

**YOU, YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS TO JOIN US  
EASTER SUNDAY MORNING FOR A FULL  
FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

**IN ASEL HALL**

**7:30 A.M.-9:30**

**MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND THIS  
EASTER CELEBRATION  
& FELLOWSHIP TIME.**

**JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE EMPTY  
TOMB OF OUR RISEN SAVIOR!  
SEE YOU THERE!**

# Let's Get Together

## Men's Group

Despite the inclement weather on February 10th, the newly formed Holy Cross Mens Group gathered for a Super Bowl Breakfast with some great food and fellowship. Steve Robinson cooked up pancakes and sausages, Gene Youngman led us in prayer, Dale Hughes was recognized as the eldest attendee, and Al Dammann was interviewed by Mike Davidson in a "Get-to-Know-You" session. Several guys brought football memorabilia and shared stories about them. Discussion topics included: who would win the Super Bowl, concerns of men today, Proverbs 27: 17-22, and potential future Mens Group gatherings. There was also some interesting story-telling going on. There have been many fine comments about the breakfast and those in attendance look forward to future Men's Group get-togethers.

For more information on the Holy Cross Men's Group, contact Harold Stitt, Steve Iona, Kal Huck, Tadd Overstreet, or Steve Robinson.



### Men's Group Breakfast March 2

When: Saturday morning, 3/2 8:30am

Where: HCLC, Asel Hall

Who's invited: HC Men and guests

What's doing: Breakfast & Solar Eclipse presentation

What to wear: The sky's the limit!!!

A genuine university professor will provide a short presentation on the upcoming solar eclipse occurring on April 8th. There won't be another eclipse like this until the 2040s.

Please let us know of any special dietary needs and for more information contact Kal Huck

## Forever Young Luncheon

**Wednesday, March 20 12:00 pm**

***Deadline to sign up is March 17***

Join all of your Irish friends (everyone's Irish on St. Patrick's Day) for corned beef, cabbage, and all the other trimmings. Entertainment by Prestige Music with Jan and Adolp Mares who entertained us so well at Christmastime.



# Let's Get Together

## BOOK GROUP on 3/17/24 at 11:15 am

In-person and on Zoom:

[https://zoom.us/j/671347885?](https://zoom.us/j/671347885?pwd=OUN1WVpMbXpwSlhERkllaHBScTlpZz0)

pwd=OUN1WVpMbXpwSlhERkllaHBScTlpZz0

Password: PrayEph618 By Phone: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 671 347 885

### Upcoming Books:

March 17 Peace Like a River: A Novel by Leif Enger.

April 14 The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery and Alison Anderson.

May 19 Ride of Her Life: The True Story of a Woman, Her Horse, and Their Last Chance Journey Across America by Elizabeth Letts

## from our Environmental Stewardship Team



### WATER: TAP vs. BOTTLE

That is the question. Not only are the millions of empty plastic water bottles polluting our oceans, but it is now being made known that according to researchers a liter of bottled water across the board, contains approximately 240,000 pieces of

“nanoplastics”, which are microscopic pieces of plastics. These plastics have the potential to negatively affect various systems in the human body including digestive, respiratory, endocrine, reproductive, and immune systems. In the big picture, drinking tap water is a better choice not only for our environment but for our health.

THE VOICE - FEBRUARY 2024

# **Rocky Mountain Synod**

## **Colorado Lutheran Day at the Capitol**



**March 18, 8:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**St. John's Episcopal Church**

**\$20 covers breakfast, lunch, and  
all materials**

**[Register online here](#)**

**Let's get a group to go together!**

The event will start with breakfast at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral in downtown Denver. The Bishop will speak about Advocacy and a Colorado State legislator will speak about a particular issue/bill. Then we will walk to the capitol and meet briefly with our legislators, and then return to St. John's for lunch and reflections on the experience.

Let's make a plan to carpool, or ride the light rail downtown, for an informative Day at the Capitol with fellow Lutheran friends from around the synod!

**Contact Kim Guinn with any questions**

## **Urban Servant Corps Palm Sunday Prayer Walk**

**Sunday March 24th 1:00 pm**

**Opening Prayer by Bishop Gonia**

**A Great Way to Start Holy Week**

**For more information contact Kim Guinn**



# ***Rocky Mountain Synod***

**SUMUD which means "resilience" in Arabic**

**Formerly Peace Not Walls**

**Following the Way of Jesus: A Lenten Holy Land Journey**



**This Lenten video series for individuals and congregations consists of six short videos that introduce people to the land, the theology of sumud and its significance through Scripture as the “way of Jesus.” Each video will be available in both English and Arabic.**

**For additional information: <https://www.elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/peace-not-walls>**

## **Watch the Video Here**



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

**Click on the image above to subscribe to the eConnection, the newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Synod!**