



# Rainbow Reflections

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Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of the Rockies  
**Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp**  
107 South Ninth Street, Suite B  
Canon City, Colorado 81212

Volume 33, Number 3 Fall 2021

Rainbow Trail is operated and maintained under authority of a USDA Forest Service Special Use Permit. Rainbow Trail is located in the San Isabel National Forest, USDA.

## A New Ray of Sunshine at Rainbow Trail! RTLCL Welcomes New Director of Retreat Ministries

Rainbow Trail is pleased to welcome Hannah Loeffler-Kemp as the new Director of Retreat Ministries. Originally from Duluth, Minnesota, Hannah received her undergrad degree from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, where she studied Religion with a Faith and Leadership concentration. She has served on the summer staffs of Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry and at Luther Crest, before venturing off for a year of service with Young Adults in Global Mission, where her assignment was in Manchester, England, serving an Anglican Church. Hannah joins us most recently from Good Earth Village, a Lutheran Camp in southern Minnesota, where she served as year-round Program Director from 2018-2021. Hannah was hired at Rainbow Trail in August, but became fully “on board” as of October.



Hannah has a vivacious personality, and she is eager to live life to the fullest. She loves camping, hammocking, hiking, listening to live music, and playing with her one-year-old Australian Shepherd puppy, Birkley. She is goal oriented, and has finished 7 half-marathons. Her biggest goal is to thru-hike the Superior

Hiking Trail, as Lake Superior is sacred space to her. Her energetic style and the enthusiastic way that Hannah interacts with people will endear her to the Rainbow Trail community in no time! Warm and hospitable, Hannah’s approach will make her an ideal fit for our Director of Retreating.

When asked about how she

has found meaning in camping ministry, Hannah replied, “Camp is a place filled with unconditional love, overflowing joy, and where a Christ-centered community is felt at its core. It’s a sacred space for people of all ages and backgrounds to be themselves, engage with peers and mentors, and explore their faith in the outdoors. At camp, we strive to meet questions of doubt and wonder with joy and affirmation.”

She continued, “Wonder, doubt, and curiosity navigate the rhythm of my faith... faith that moves in many directions and patterns. One of my favorite words is ‘Immanuel,’ a Hebrew word meaning, ‘God with us.’ As God walks with us, we are called to walk alongside our siblings in Christ through a grace-filled world.”

Join us in warmly welcoming Hannah as she begins her ministry at RTLCL!

## Rainbow Heads Up To Sky Ranch! RTLCL Sends Staff to Sky Ranch for Fire Recovery Projects

In dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic these past two summers, Rainbow Trail’s Bridging Borders program has been heavily affected. Since safety is Rainbow Trail’s priority, we have held groups back from traveling to the usual locations we have served over the years. However, Rainbow Trail was excited to head up north this summer and help our sister camp Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp! In 2020, the Cameron Peak fire burnt over 208,913 acres throughout the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests. While burning, the fire was on track to take out Sky Ranch’s complete site. But due to God’s amazing grace and the fantastic work and bravery of local Fire Fighters, Sky Ranch’s site was only partially damaged and still



stands today!

This summer, Rainbow Trail sent two groups of Summer Directors to help and serve Sky Ranch in their fire recovery projects! Projects consisted of rebuilding tent platforms and food prep areas for their backpacking program, building



a new worship area, planting and watering new trees around the site, and rebuilding some trails. Rainbow Trail staff worked with volunteer groups who gave their time to help Sky Ranch, along with Sky Ranch staff who lead the groups.

The relationship between

Rainbow Trail and Sky Ranch has continued to grow and shine over the years. Back in 2016, Rainbow Trail was also in danger of fire during the summer. Sky Ranch staff came to aid during that difficult time, supporting however they could, and continued to check in. We take pride in not only calling them great partners in ministry, but special friends. We would like to congratulate their Executive Director Brad Abbott, who is retiring after an incredible 33-year career in outdoor ministry. Eleven of those years were at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp. Thank you, Brad, for all you have done over the years, and blessings to you and Deb as you move into retirement!

### Rainbow Trail Mission Statement

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp creates holy spaces that embody God’s radical grace to affirm, empower, and transform all people to be Christ’s light

## Trail Boss

By Dave Jarvis - Executive Director  
Things almost felt normal.

Even in trying to navigate camp through a second summer in a pandemic, we realized how much we had learned a year ago to make this summer easier. We were able to have full weeks of campers on-site again, have adult leaders and grandparents back, have a very full summer of backpacking, and do Day Camp in person again. I continue to appreciate the creative and adaptive spirit of both our full-time and summer staff that made this summer possible. It was hard work, but so worth it!!

We had amazing and full summer, even in the midst of the pandemic. Under the leadership of nurse Carla, we were able to do camp that felt pretty normal and still keep everyone safe. Another summer, and no COVID among our staff and campers. One of my favorite memories of the summer is watching campers and staff running up on the ballfield with full abandon. The sounds of laughter, cheering, and community living together will last way beyond the summer. Our summer staff was once again amazing. We were back to traveling out to congregations leading Day Camp as well as leading lots of campers on-site and on the trail. They were so hungry to serve after last summer and it showed. They loved their campers deeply and they truly loved each other.

One of the consistencies of our ministry is that every year we have a quality Bible study that challenges all of us to make the world different once we leave camp. This year was no exception. We had an awesome Bible Study that helped us learn to TAKE IT DOWN THE MOUNTAIN and to remember, remember the signs. This was a challenging and timely study. The writers did an amazing job of creating a study that I believe touched not only our campers but also our staff. Thank you to the writing team--Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward, Pastor Nicole Ferry, Pastor Dave Risendal, Pastor Jane Jebesen, and Pastor Brad Doty-- and for all of the extra time you commit to our ministry to make our program better. You have been a blessing to this ministry and to me! Others who made a huge difference in our ministry this summer through staff training are Julie Miller, Bishop Jim Gonia, and Becky Romano. Thank you all for giving so fully to this ministry and being flexible in sharing your knowledge and time with our staff!

I also want to thank all of our partner congregations for their support of Rainbow Trail. I know these continue to challenging financial times for all of us. Yet, so many of you have continued to give and give freely to this ministry to help sustain us. The congregations and the Rocky Mountain Synod have become the financial foundation upon which we are able to build this ministry. There are now over 85 partner congregations that contribute to this ministry. Thank you for seeing us as partners in your ministry and in the faith development of your youth and families. Thank you also to the Rocky Mountain Synod for your steady support for outdoor ministry.

As the Rainbow Trail community, you have set the bar high with respect to what it means to support and fully commit to an outdoor ministry. I am grateful for and humbled by the donors that supported in the crazy 2020 year and have continued to believe in and support us in 2021. People have been so generous toward RTLC. We are on firm footing because of you. Thank you!!

We've had a lot of transition in our full-time team during the last 12 months. Sands Simonton joined us in January and Hannah Loeffler-Kemp came onboard in late August. We are still learning how we fully complement one another as a team, but I will tell you that I love this group and see so much potential in their leadership together going forward. The coming year is going to be epic. Thanks to the full-time gang for your passion, your love of this ministry, and your friendship. Love you all!

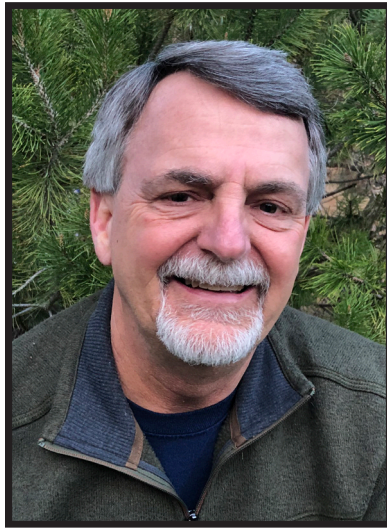
Registration for 2022 will open on November 1st at 12:01 am. Members of the churches of the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA have registration priority until January 1st, 2022. After that date, it is open registration. Rumor on the street is that early registration is going to vigorous! Take advantage of this next two months of priority registration. This will ensure that your camper gets into the week of camp that they want to attend. If you wait until even late January, many camps will be full and your choices will be limited. Because of what we experienced this past summer, our plan is to go forward with camp as we did this summer unless conditions change that would warrant not gathering.

The land exchange process is still moving forward! The often revised but now final version of our feasibility analysis is at the regional supervisor's office for final review. The West Coast wildfires this summer once again hampered our progress as many forest service employees were called out to battle the fires. We are still hoping for an affirmative result sometime this fall and that we will sign the Agreement to Initiate the actual land exchange before the end of the year. Keep this process in your prayers. We will keep you informed as things progress. We do need to raise about \$120,000 to complete this whole process if you are interested in helping us finish this project.

If you haven't heard, Brad Abbott is retiring as the Executive Director of Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp effective sometime later this fall. Brad has been an awesome partner in ministry as we have done outdoor ministry together in this Synod for over 11 years. Brad has loved planning and leading worship, has brought great programmatic and financial leadership to Sky Ranch, and was always a helpful resource for RTLC as we both managed two summers in a pandemic. I ask you to join me in thanking Brad for his incredible years of service to the church through outdoor ministries. Please join our Board and full-time staff in keeping Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in your prayers as they begin the search process to find Brad's replacement. Brad, it has been a great ride together. Congratulations as you begin this new chapter in your life. Know that you have made a difference in the lives of literally thousands of campers and staff members. Enjoy retirement – know you will be missed!

Nell and I have been to four weddings this fall, all of them involving at least one staff member. There have been a lot of other camp people that have attended those weddings as well. It has been a great reminder for me of the incredible community that I have the privilege to be a part of through this special place. I have been blessed to serve you. We are living in the excitement of all that will be 2022! See you this summer!!

Until next time,

## Daniel, You Will Be Missed!



After 3 years of full time work with Rainbow Trail, Daniel has moved on to serve our ministry in a new way at the ELCA Churchwide office as the Director of Young Adult Ministries. And as excited as we are for the gifts he will bring to Churchwide, we will miss him dearly! Daniel first joined Rainbow Trail from Wisconsin as a Program Assistant and how lucky we have been to keep him on staff in the role of Director of Retreating for the 2 years following.

In all the ways Daniel has served Rainbow Trail, he left a tangible impact on both culture and programming. Pastor Nicole said it best when asked about Daniels impact. She said: "Daniel's deep spirituality, his joy, and his desire to include everyone were incredible gifts to RTLC. And then Daniel has the gift of hospitality like few people I have encountered in my life and in my ministry. Creating a space to learn, connect, ask the hard questions, and push back against ways that folks can feel excluded was a learning for me and made ministry rich. Daniel's gift of hospitality was the foundation for one of the questions I heard him ask many times: 'Who is missing at this table?'"

He inspired many by being a true man of his convictions, by authentically living the RTLC mission statement, and by challenging us to do the same.

Rainbow Trail Retreating grew into its own under the direction of Daniel, who is a dreamer and constantly pushed for new ways to live out radical hospitality. He pushed retreating accessibility to the front of people's minds and made so many in our community realize that camp is not just camp during the summer- that RTLC can be a place of fellowship, respite, inspiration, and renewal all year long! Missie Bonser, RTLC Women's retreat speaker spoke to his relational ministry when asked about what Daniel was great at. She said, "I consider Daniel a beloved friend, a truly inspirational forward thinker, leader, visionary, and voice for the world. And although it's bittersweet that his day to day involvement at RTLC is coming to an end, thinking of how much further his reach and impact will be from his footing within the National Church Office personally fills me with hope and joy." And Missy was not the only one to be inspired by Daniel; Speakers, volunteers, and hired guns loved working with Daniel because of his vision, creativity, and yes-person mentality.

Daniel has a spirit of generosity that set a tone amongst staff. The Program Assistants he oversaw felt this abundance as soon as they stepped foot on site, modeled by Daniel, and following in his leadership formed a culture around retreating that made guests feel truly welcome, cared for, and loved. His investment in the Program Assistants (PGA) was obvious. He went above and beyond to mentor, train, and walk alongside them as they discerned their call to Outdoor Ministry. 2020-21 PGA Sarah Weaver said the following about her time working under Daniel. "Daniel is one of the most supportive and caring people I have ever met. He helped me grow so much during my PGA year by giving me leadership opportunities, challenging my faith, and becoming one of my close friends." Even more than his formation of the PGAs, Daniel also invested time in summer staff. He was never just "the retreating guy," constantly engaging the Rainbow Trail community in an intentional and relational way all year long. 'Well done, you good and faithful servant!'



## December 7, 2021

On Tuesday, DECEMBER 7, 2021, Coloradans will come together again to raise millions of dollars for non-profit organizations like ours. Last year, \$50.1 million was distributed to 2,828 different nonprofits throughout Colorado! RTLC raised \$108,537 in that 24-hour period! We have set our goal for 2021 at \$89,000. All funds raised will go toward our Annual Fund. You may wonder why we do Colorado Gives Day every year. The answer is that every donation given to RTLC on Colorado Gives Day gives Rainbow Trail a chance at additional funds made available by Community First Foundation and 1st Bank. Every donor that gives to Rainbow Trail, no matter the size of the gift, puts Rainbow Trail in the drawing for monetary prizes. So, a \$10 donation could earn RTLC \$1,000 or more!

Additionally, at the end of

Colorado Gives Day, \$1.6 million will be divided amongst the participating non-profit organizations. Each organization involved will receive a portion of the \$1.6 million based on their total donations that day. Each and every gift provides a percentage of the bonus fund to RTLC. More than ever, we need our annual fund to sustain day-to-day operations. You don't need to live in Colorado to give on this day! Anyone can give from anywhere! No matter where you live, mark your calendars for Colorado Gives! Be sure to go to rainbowtrail.org/co-gives to donate! There is also a quick link on our home page. If you're worried about forgetting, fear not! You can pre-schedule your donation for Colorado Gives Day starting November 1, 2021 and make your donation go farther!

# 15th Annual Grace Race a Huge Success!



The 15th Annual Grace Race was blessed with a picture-perfect day and an enthusiastic crowd. Those participating helped make a difference that day by raising funds for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. 132 participants and volunteers came out for the race. There was also a great post-race party with burgers and fabulous music. People stuck around and picnicked following the race. The top female was Lauren Keller with a time of 21:14. The top male finisher and overall fastest time this year was Nick Hofer with a time of 16:55. All the top times for all the age groups are posted on our website. The final totals are not in but it looks like we will be able to send a check for between \$7,500 and \$10,000 to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. The 16th annual Grace Race is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, October 1, 2022 in Sloan's Lake Park starting at 4:00 pm. Put it on your calendars now! We look forward to seeing you there next year!

## Young Adult Open

New Program Alert! This past summer we successfully ran our first ever Young Adult Open. With help from ELCA Young Adults and Kyle Lefler, our content creator and speaker, we gathered eleven 18-35 year olds from across the country for a Compass Points trip created for them! With its great success and continued interest we have scheduled two of these Open Compass Points trips for next summer. If you are a young adult, or know someone interested in a week of backpacking, fellowship, and fun, mark your calendars for Week 5 and Week 9. Keep your eyes out on registration, November 1st!

## Cam(p) Vibes

By Cam Regennitter - Director of On-Site & Bridging Borders

Growing up, I have always enjoyed this time of year. From the landscapes changing into the Autumn colors to becoming the sweater weather we all know and love. I had the privilege to drive to Meeker, Colorado, to see my good friends Dean and Ally get married, and believe me when I say the colors of the leaves on the way up were the most beautiful colors of Fall I have ever seen.

Reflecting on summer, I am so grateful for all the people whose paths I came across! The staff was tremendous this year. This group was ready to live into a more normal camp experience than the 2020 summer and gave it their all! The creativity, patience, work ethic, and humor were a few of many strengths this staff specialized in, and I want to thank them all so much for giving their summer to this place to serve each other, the campers, and God. It was also so good to see all of the campers again, especially those who could not make it to camp in 2020. We have campers come from all over the country, and it's just not the same when we don't have our friends from Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, and Minnesota up the mountain with us. So campers, thank you for helping us have fun this summer! There were not many places where you could just run around and play with each other in a "normal" setting!

As for bridging borders, we sent up two groups to Sky Ranch this summer and helped with their fire recovery projects. Serving Sky Ranch in that way was a humbling experience, and I am so happy to grow the relationship between the two camps. I visited Sky one of the days our team was there, and this was my first time up there. Their site is in one of the most beautiful locations in the Rocky Mountains, and talking to their full-time members Cole and Brad, was just a fun experience. Their work is so good, and I love having some of that Colorado pride with them since it's just our two camps from the ELCA!

As for my personal life, I have been staying busy since summer ended! With family, friends, and now the new pup, my hands are full. If you haven't heard, I recently bought a Mini Australian Shepard, and her name is Penny. She loves to run around the mountains, loves people, and is becoming one of my best friends! I can't wait for you all to meet her someday; she definitely can't wait to meet you!

*Cam*



## The Brak Pack

By Maggie Brakke - Director of Compass Points & Day Camp

Summer came and went like a blur. And yet, I am left with some of the most incredible memories. With 20 Compass Points trips and 25 Day Camps, it was a jam packed season. I got to watch our Director team flourish as the Compass Points Directors brought new friends from across the country into the wilderness of the Sangre De Cristos, and as the Day Camp Directors brought camp literally "Down the Mountain" to communities across the Synnod- and beyond! Our staff this summer was one for the books! Their bravery, compassion, and joy were contagious to campers, parents, and adult leaders. One of my favorite memories from the summer comes from Week 3, when I got the rare opportunity this summer to step back into a guide role myself and lead a group of 11 South Dakotans to their first summit, Lakes Peak, 13,375 ft. Overall, my first full summer in the role was everything I hoped for and so so much more.

As we stepped into the fall season at camp I have been busy working retreats, planning for next summer, and welcoming our incredible new full-time staff member Hannah, and PGA's Jackson and David. I am inspired daily by these hardworking and faith filled additions to the team.

On a personal note, I have jumped back into some of my favorite hobbies. The rest of my fall will be filled with dancing, traveling, and exploring this incredible state!

Happy Trails! *Maggie*



## Rainbow Trail Welcomes David & Jack

This September, Rainbow Trail welcomed two new Program Assistants for the 2021-2022 retreat season. We can't wait for you to meet them!

They bring great passion to this ministry, valuable experience, and will be an asset to all we serve this retreat season. Come visit us this retreat season and get a chance to know these two!



*David*

David grew up in North Carolina, which is where he found his passion for outdoor ministry while serving for four summers at a camp there. Having recently graduated from Syracuse University (Go Orange!), David is looking forward to the new experiences and learning opportunities Rainbowtrail and Colorado have to offer. In his free time, David can be found playing or listening to music, reading, or hiking!



*Jack*

Jack grew up in San Antonio, Texas. He has worked the past five summers on summer staff at Cross Trails Ministry based out of Kerrville Texas. Jack recently graduated from Texas Lutheran University with a degree in Social Entrepreneurship. He enjoys playing basketball and fishing on his time off!

### Want To Make A Difference?

Give a gift to Rainbow Trail and invest in the faith lives of thousands of kids. In today's economy there is no better return!

[www.rainbowtrail.org](http://www.rainbowtrail.org)

*Donate*

Online Anytime

## Chris' Corner

By Chris Seaman - Food Service Manager

Hello to my RTLC family!

Well, I just finished the Women's retreat. What fun! I look forward to this retreat every year! First, I want to say Missie Bonser is awesome! Every year the ladies on Sunday will say over and over how they can't believe they feel so renewed and connected in such a short time. Thank you, Missie, for bringing such joy to the hearts of so many!

Our retreat season has been very busy! First, I was honored to be a part of Kyle and Katie's wedding! Second, we have had groups here every weekend since Labor Day, and I love it!

The valley is full of beautiful colors. It just makes my heart smile to see the brilliant gold's and red's showing in the burn scars. God is regrowing our mountain!

I have been asked once again to provide the Banana Cookie recipe, so here it is!

3/4c. Softened butter, 3/4c. Firmly packed brown sugar, 2 medium ripe bananas, mashed, 1 large egg, 1/2 tsp. Vanilla extract, 2c. Flour (feel free to substitute 1:1 gluten-free flour) 1/2tsp. Baking powder, 1/4 tsp. Baking soda, 1/4 tsp. Salt. Heat oven to 350. Beat butter and brown sugar till creamy. Add bananas, egg, and vanilla. Beat till mixed well. Add flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt; beat at low speed till mixed well. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake, 8 - 10 minutes or till edges are lightly browned.

While the cookies are baking, melt 2 Tbl. butter in a 1-quart saucepan over medium heat. Add 3 Tbl. brown sugar and 2 Tbl. half and half. Continue cooking, occasionally stirring, till the mixture comes to a boil. Cook for one minute; remove from heat. Add 1 1/4 c. powdered sugar and 1/2 tsp. Vanilla extract; beat well. Spoon warm frosting onto warm cookies. If you can wait for frosting to set and enjoy! I think you should always make a double batch!

If you have any of the recipes from previous newsletters, you should know that you can make any of my recipes with a good gluten-free flour and a milk substitute if that is your dietary need. Except for the bread recipe!

Sometimes in my kitchen, I need to figure out a way to do something quicker and easier. This happened a couple of times recently. First, I had to find an easy way to skin garlic cloves. I have a silicone tube at home that I use, but I don't have one at work! So, looking around the kitchen, I spied the silicone hot pads that I purchased at the Dollar Tree. These have raised patterns on them. I took one, folded it in half, put 8 garlic cloves in the fold, and rolled it back and forth 3-4 times. Amazing! It worked better than my tube at home, and the clean-up was so easy! The next one was trying to find something to use to push puff pastry into muffin tins without ripping it. Guess what?! The bulb on your turkey baster is just the right size! Who knew!?

Now for some strange but true food facts. Potatoes can absorb and reflect Wi-Fi signals. Fruit gummies are coated with the most complex natural wax known to man; Carnuba. It's the same type of wax used to coat cars! Black pepper, which is readily available in stores, was once considered a luxury item. During the Middle Ages, it was worth its weight in gold since gold and silver were easy enough to come by, but pepper wasn't. I love this one! The Aztecs once used chocolate as currency to pay taxes! Cheese is the most shoplifted food item in the world. The number of Hot Dogs eaten on the 4th of July would stretch from Washington DC to LA five times over!

I hope that many of you are considering joining us for Advent Fest! If you have never been, you are missing a truly God-filled weekend. The spiritual joy and being together during this most Holy of times is something you need to experience! So, I will say farewell for now to you, my family; and always remember... GOD IS GREAT!!!!

*Chris*

## 2021 Memorial Day Work Weekend

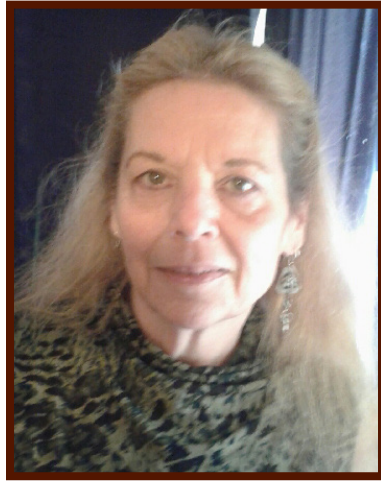
Memorial Day has become as much a tradition at Rainbow Trail as anything else we do. We typically have over 120 people that come and join in this annual work weekend to get camp ready for summer. If the list of projects from last year is any indication (replacing every window in Bristlecone Lodge; rebuilding the deck on the



Woodcarving Cabin; installing the new laminate flooring in the nurse's station; installing the electric projector screen in Aspen; installing new timing clocks in Pooper; installing a water bottle filling station Bristlecone; painting the exterior of Bristlecone Lodge; installing new gutters on Columbine; and much more), we'll be sure to have another busy and memorable weekend! The dates for 2022 are May 27-30, 2022. Call the Canon City office at (719) 276-5233 or email Dave at dave@rainbowtrail.org to reserve your spot at this fun and rewarding weekend. This weekend does fill up quickly and typically has a waiting list. Reserve your spot today!

## 'Tis the Season to Give!

If you have ever wanted to make a difference... and contribute to a greater cause, Rainbow Trail offers a unique way to do so. Our Campership Funds help give youth needing financial assistance the chance to experience a week at camp. What a great gift: sending a deserving kid to camp to experience God and a lively faith community in this beautiful setting! Send your gift to RTLC marked "Camperships." You can also make your gift through the new donate button found on the banner photo of our Facebook page. Contact Dave at the Canon City office for more information. 719-276-5233 or dave@rainbowtrail.org



# 2021 SENIOR HIGH RETREAT

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp

November 19-21

Join us for worship, learning, and a ton of fun in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

Sign up NOW to reserve your spot at the retreat!

## HELP RTLC WITH YOUR THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, we need your help! We set a Thrivent Choice goal for 2021 of \$35,000 and we still think that goal is very attainable. With that kind of increase, not only can we continue to provide camperships but we can also possibly upgrade some of the equipment on our site.

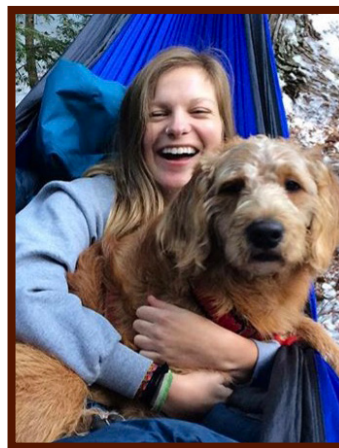
Here is how you can help. You will need to go out to Thrivent's website each quarter to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars. This is the only way to ensure that your Thrivent Choice dollars

will make it to Rainbow Trail each quarter. Go to <http://www.rainbowtrail.org/donate/thrivent-choice/> and follow the steps to make your designation.

If you have friends that are Thrivent members and who have not designated their Thrivent Choice dollars, please encourage them to designate those Thrivent Choice dollars to Rainbow Trail. We heard that there was still close to \$1 million dollars in Choice dollars NOT distributed last year. Help us change that! You can make a world of difference!!

## Hanging With Hannah

By Hannah Loeffler-Kemp - Director of Retreats



Transitions allow space for adaptation, reflection, creativity, and innovation. In this time of transition between seasons, between full time staff, and between navigating a camp during a pandemic, we find ourselves continuing to create space for radical ministry to happen. As I transition into the position of Director of Retreat Ministries, I am filled with an abundance of joy to serve the Rainbow Trail community.

I grew up on the shores of Lake Superior, studied during my undergraduate degree surrounded by Minnesota cornfields, spent a year in a bustling city in England, and served as the Program Director for four years at a camp in the driftless region of the midwest. Now, I find myself living in the mountains of Colorado. What a journey it has been!

As the Aspens begin to turn gold, we have a busy fall retreat season ahead of us! Camp was filled with adults eager to experience the intersection of creation and community during our Men's Fly Fishing Retreat and Women's Retreat. We are looking forward to filling camp with laughter and praise during our Confirmation Retreat, Senior High Retreat, and Advent-fest.

As I reflect on the impact of outdoor ministry, Matthew 18:20 pops in my head. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." When we are gathered with other people in a place like camp, it opens up a space for us to share stories and connect as beloved people. Camp allows people to experience a deeper sense of intentional community and transforms the mind, body, and spirit. I am inspired to serve at Rainbow Trail to be able to provide these intentional spaces for all people to experience God's love.

My 1 year old Australian Shepherd puppy and I look forward to meeting you on the mountain!

*Hannah*

# Simonton Says

By Sands Simonton - Director of Site and Facilities

Happy Fall everyone! I hope wherever you are, you're enjoying the colors and the cool temperatures. The fall season is by far my favorite out of the year because of those two things. The site is looking incredible with the changing colors and it's even started snowing above us on the mountain peaks so it looks like winter is right around the corner.



So much has happened since our last newsletter but it still feels like Memorial Day was only yesterday. This year, I was blessed enough to have an incredible amount of support for my first go around at Memorial Day and the Summer. Last year we weren't able to have our Memorial Day work weekend because of the pandemic, so this year we were very eager to tackle some more projects. We replaced every window in BC (finalizing the big stuff for that building's remodel), we put a new deck on wood carving and I couldn't be happier with how it looks. I'll replace all the original cabin decks with the same style deck at future Memorial Day work weekends. We put a beautiful and functional new floor in the nurses' station (same style floor as BC), the split rail fence in front of BC was revived and looks great. Aspen got a new projector screen, Columbine got new gutters, and a bunch of other small maintenance projects were completed all around the site. There was no shortage of folks who were willing to help and for that I am extremely grateful. I can't wait for Memorial Day 2022. I've already got a working list of some great projects.

This past Summer flew by way too fast as usual. My summer experience has taught me that the saying "time flies by when you're having fun" really is true. But even though it's always a lot of fun, this summer came with a handful of obstacles mostly having to do with our water system. One of our main water lines developed a leak which presented quite the selection of learning opportunities. I have the repair for this line scheduled to be completed before the end of October (very excited to get this done). However, stressful situations at camp never fail to pop up but because I have such an amazing team by my side, I was never alone. Thank you to the entire summer 2021 staff for working with me despite my frustration with the water system. I couldn't have made it through the summer as smoothly as I did without the help of my maintenance and camp hand crews. My Summer director and assistant Matt Meline and Max Marold were amazing and I am very thankful for their help with my first fulltime summer. Not only did we all get along very well, but our dynamic provided great leadership to the camp hands which is very important to me. I can't wait for next summer to be here.

My personal life is going just as well as I had hoped before taking this job. Post summer is a great time for me to take a breather and to focus on some projects of my own up at camp. I couldn't be happier with where I am in my life. It's always been a goal of mine to live in Salida, work at camp full time, and get a dog (Bode is becoming an incredible camp dog and best bud). I have to be honest; I didn't think I'd be living such an amazing life at only 24 years old! I also moved into a newer house in Salida and I'm about to have a roommate again! I hope everyone out there reading this is staying safe and enjoying the fall season as much as I am. Take care and I'll see all of you again soon!

-Sands

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## LOM AUCTION COMING IN NOVEMBER!

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM) is the ELCA churchwide expression of outdoor ministries that connects and supports the 119 outdoor ministries sites across the country. For many years, LOM has had an auction at its national conference that has been a major source of income for its annual budget. Because of Covid-19 and a real need to be the church together, the auction has moved to an online format. Rainbow Trail wants to invite you to participate with us in the silent auction from November 3rd - November 10th. You'll notice that one of the many items available for bidding is a week of summer camp registration with us at Rainbow Trail. Be on the lookout on our social media for more information on how to access the auction and the items for bid such as a Colorado Ski Trip, a podcast guest opportunity, handmade cribbage boards, and more!

# 2022 Summer Schedule



The Rainbow Trail summer 2022 schedule has been set. The fee will be \$485 for all youth camps, with the exception of Intro Camp, which will be \$255. Family camp fees are \$485 for adults (ages 19 and older), \$365 for teens (ages 13-18) and \$245 for ages 4-12. There is no charge for kids under age 4. **Be sure to register early!**

May 27-30.....	Memorial Day Work Weekend
May 30-June 11.....	Staff Training
June 12-18.....	Junior High #1
June 19-22.....	Intro To Camp #1
June 19-25.....	Junior #1
June 22-25.....	Intro To Camp #2
June 26-July 2.....	Confirmation #1
July 3-9.....	Family Camp #1
July 10-16.....	Senior High #1
July 10-16.....	Into the Wild
July 17-23.....	Open Sr. High Compass Points
July 17-23.....	Confirmation #2
July 17-22.....	RTL South
July 24-27.....	Intro #3
July 24-30.....	Mixed Junior #2/Junior High #2
July 25-31.....	Open Jr. High Compass Points
July 31-August 6.....	Senior High #2
August 7-13.....	Family Camp #2
August 15-21.....	Beloved Community
September 2-5.....	Labor Day Family Weekend

### Grade Levels as of Fall 2022

Intro to Camp = entering 2nd - 3rd grade

Juniors = entering 4th - 6th grade

Junior High = entering 7th - 8th grade

Senior High = entering 9th-12th grade

**Please note:** Lutherans of the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA have registration priority until January 1, 2022 This applies to all camps, including family camps.

## WANTED:

## RTL AMBASSADORS

Normal, Everyday People who Love RTL and Want to Serve as RTL Ambassadors for their congregations. Ambassadors meet at RTL for a retreat once a year to:

1. Find out what is new at Rainbow Trail
2. Build a display board for their congregation
3. Become equipped to pass along important information about what is happening at Rainbow Trail to their congregations.
4. Ambassadors are an important key to the ministry at RTL

If you are interested in becoming an ambassador for your congregation, contact Dave Jarvis at : 719.276.5233 dave@rainbowtrail.org.



## TRAILBLAZERS

The following individuals are members of the 2021 Trailblazers Club. Trailblazers is an annual giving club that keeps the ministry at Rainbow Trail alive and growing. To join, contact Dave at 719-276-5233 or check out the "Support Us" portion of our webpage at [www.rainbowtrail.org](http://www.rainbowtrail.org). Many thanks to the following supporters of Rainbow Trail!

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The following individuals are members of the 2021 Pathfinders' Club. Pathfinders is RTLC's next level giving club that keeps the ministry at Rainbow Trail growing and expanding. These individuals have given \$1,000 or more to this great ministry. To join, contact Dave Jarvis 719-276-5233 or find out more and donate online at [www.rainbowtrail.org/donate](http://www.rainbowtrail.org/donate). Many thanks to the following supporters:

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Steven Gustafson & Beth Knutson  
Teak & Clifford Simonton

## GIFTS IN MEMORY

### In Memory of Mildred Nienaber

James Nienaber

### In Memory of Joan Splittgerber Maack

Kurt Maack

### In Memory of Mary & Gary Bender

Mary & Gary Bender

### Rev. Harold Skinner Memorial

Nancy Skinner

### Joni Grundman Memorial

Ross & Julie Bertelsen

### In Memory of Daniel Benson

Virginia & Michael Crow

### In Memory of Gayle Duty

Diane & William Duty

### In Memory of Gary Jebsen

Patricia Torness-Smith

## PARTNER CONGREGATIONS

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church, Littleton  
Advent Lutheran Church, Olathe, KS  
All Saints Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM  
American Lutheran Church, Grand Junction  
Ascension Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs  
Ascension Lutheran Church Women, Colorado Springs  
Atonement Lutheran Church, Boulder  
Atonement Lutheran Church, Lakewood  
Augustana Lutheran Church, Denver  
Augustana Foundation Fund, Denver  
Bethany Lutheran Church, Cherry Hills Village  
Bethany Lutheran Church Foundation, Cherry Hills Village  
Bethany Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, TX  
Bethel Lutheran Church, Aurora  
Bethel Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamos  
Black Forest Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs  
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Santa Fe, NM  
Christ Lutheran Church, Highlands Ranch  
Christ the King Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs  
Christ the King Lutheran Church, Durango  
Christ the Savior, Aurora  
Christ the Servant, Louisville  
Community of Joy Lutheran Church, Rio Ranch, NM  
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Broomfield  
Cross of Hope Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM  
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church, Denver  
Evergreen Lutheran Church, Evergreen  
Faith Lutheran Church, Golden  
Faith Lutheran Church, Security  
First Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs  
First Lutheran Church, Gypsum  
First Lutheran Church, Longmont  
Glory of God Lutheran Church, Wheat Ridge  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glenwood Springs  
Grace Lutheran Church, Boulder  
Grace Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wheat Ridge  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS

Holy Ghost Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, TX  
Holy Love Lutheran Church, Aurora  
Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lakewood  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Littleton  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greeley  
Joy Lutheran Church, Parker  
King of Glory Lutheran Church, Arvada  
King of Kings Lutheran Church, Pueblo  
Lord of the Hills Lutheran Church, Centennial  
Lord of the Mountains Lutheran Church, Dillon  
Lutheran Church of Hope, Broomfield  
Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Centennial  
Mount of the Holy Cross, Vail  
New Beginnings Church, Denver  
New Promise Lutheran Church, St. George, UT  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Alamogordo, NM  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Ft. Collins  
Our Savior's Lutheran, Greeley, CO  
Peace in Christ Lutheran Church, Elizabeth Springs  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Denver  
Rocky Mountain Synod  
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Canon City  
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Grand Junction  
South Zumbro Lutheran Church, MN  
Spirit of the Mountain Lutheran Church, Golden  
St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Arvada  
St. Luke Lutheran Church, Albuquerque  
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Albuquerque  
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Calhan  
St. Peter Lutheran Church, Greenwood Village  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Marble Falls, TX  
St. Philip Lutheran Church, Littleton  
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Northglenn  
Tabor Lutheran Church, Pueblo  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Boulder  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Fowler  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Loveland  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Monument  
Zion Lutheran Church, Trinidad



## Events Calendar 2021 - 2022

November 19-21.....RTLCL Senior High Retreat  
 December 3-5.....AdventFest  
 February 28.....Summer Staff Applications Due  
 April 1.....Summer Volunteer Apps Due  
 May 27-30.....Memorial Day Work Weekend  
 May 30-June 11.....Staff Training  
 September 2-5.....Labor Day Family Weekend  
 September 22-25.....Men's Fly Fishing Retreat  
 October 1.....Grace Race

## Memorial Day Donor

Are you considering a yearly gift to Rainbow Trail but don't know where you'll see a tangible return? Look no further! Each Memorial Day weekend Rainbow Trail hosts roughly 120 volunteers to make major improvements to our site and prepare for summer. What some might not know is that Rainbow Trail spends around \$20,000 in materials for the weekend! With the help of experienced contractors and careful planning, we believe we receive between \$40,000 and \$50,000 worth of labor in just three days! Rainbow Trail is seeking donors that are passionate about site improvements and would be willing to fund part or all of our annual Memorial Day work weekend. If interested, email [dave@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:dave@rainbowtrail.org).

## Are You Willing?



If you could make a gift that literally impact generations of future campers at Rainbow Trail, wouldn't you jump at the chance to do that? Well, there is a very simple way you can do that. Rainbow Trail depends on the support of generous people to do its ministry. A very simple and easy way to make a difference is to include Rainbow Trail in your will as the beneficiary of an estate gift or as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. By naming Rainbow Trail in your will, you will become a member of the Sangre de Cristo Society. This group becomes the foundation upon which the future of the ministry of Rainbow Trail is being built. Your gift will reach beyond your lifetime and ensure that the Gospel will continue to be shared through this ministry for generations to come. Two great examples of this are the estates of Pauline Hammond and of Maxine Johnson who provided gifts that helped build our ropes course. If you have already included Rainbow Trail in your will, let us know so we can include you in the list of members of the Sangre de Cristo Society. For more information, please contact Dave in the Canon City office.

## Craving Color?

Rainbow Reflections is available in a paperless, color version! Visit our website to find this edition and many previous editions of Rainbow Reflections in full color. You can also email Tammi at [info@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:info@rainbowtrail.org) to get on our e-newsletter list for more Rainbow Trail information!

We make every effort to list each donor, but mistakes do happen. If we have inadvertently omitted your name or listed you incorrectly, we apologize. Please call 719-276-5233 and let us know so that we can make corrections.

## A different, yet significant way to support the ministries of Rainbow Trail

### Needs List



These are essential items needed for our day-to-day operations. A designated monetary gift would certainly be welcome as well. You can bring these items with you any time you come to camp or call us to arrange a drop-off or pick-up. Thank you for your continued support!

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| White 20# copy Paper (Laser quality)  | 9x12 Manila envelopes (no clasps)      |
| Reams of colored copy paper           | 6x9 Manila Envelopes (no clasps)       |
| Avery 5366 Labels                     | 10x13 Manila Envelopes (no clasps)     |
| Avery 5164 Labels                     | 12 - 5 ft. round white Lifetime tables |
| Nalgene Water Bottles (40)            | Rain Jackets & Rain Pants              |
| Masking tape                          | 25-gallon Rubbermaid tubs (24)         |
| Scotch Tape                           | On-Site and Compass Points Day Packs   |
| Duct Tape                             | Foam Brushes - 1"                      |
| Packing Tape                          | Paintbrushes - all sizes, inexpensive  |
| Postage stamps                        | White File Folder Labels               |
| 8.5x11 Yellow Tablets                 | 21 Gallons of Handsanitizer            |
| 8 ft. Rectangle "Lifetime" tables (5) |  |
| Long barreled fire lighters (Bic)     |  |

### Wish List

These are larger items that we haven't budgeted for, but would love to have. Contact us if you would like to donate any of these items, new or gently used. You can bring them to camp, or call to arrange a drop-off or pick-up. Thank you for your continued support.



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Heavy Duty Cotton Work Gloves           | GoPro HERO7 Silver                     |
| Industrial Mop buckets (call us first!) | Vermeer Brush Chipper                  |
| Sturdy Wheelbarrows                     | Freezerless Refrigerator               |
| New Full or single mattress pads        | Dish Cart                              |
| New Queen sheets - white                | Phillips 60W & 100W Dimmable LED Bulbs |
| New Queen mattress pads                 | Skid Steer Tire Chains                 |
| New 3-piece towel sets (20)             | Used Day Camp Vehicle                  |
| Shark Navigator vacuums (4)             |  |
| Free Standing Space Heaters (3)         |  |

### Shop Online

It's easy to give a gift from RTLCL's Needs or Wish Lists online. We've pre-selected items that we are looking for and provided links straight to great deals that we've found. There is also a Compass Points specific list online. You can even ship directly to us!

[www.rainbowtrail.org/donate/needs-and-wish-list](http://www.rainbowtrail.org/donate/needs-and-wish-list)

### Administrative Office

107 S. 9th Street, Suite B  
 Canon City, CO 81212  
 Phone: 719-276-5233  
 Fax: 719-276-5235  
 Office Hours: 9 am - 5 pm



### Camp Office

P.O. Box T  
 3056 County Road 198  
 Hillside, CO 81232  
 Phone: 719-942-4220  
 Fax: 719-942-4000

### Full-Time Staff

- Dave Jarvis, Executive Director.....[dave@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:dave@rainbowtrail.org)  
 Aurice Worley, Bookkeeper.....[accounting@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:accounting@rainbowtrail.org)  
 Hannah Loeffler-Kemp, Director of Retreats.....[hannah@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:hannah@rainbowtrail.org)  
 Cam Regennitter, Director of On-Site & Bridging Borders.....[cam@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:cam@rainbowtrail.org)  
 Sands Simonton, Director of Site & Facilities.....[sands@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:sands@rainbowtrail.org)  
 Chris Seaman, Food Service Manager.....[chris@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:chris@rainbowtrail.org)

### Board of Directors

- President.....Michelle Okes, Bethany Lutheran, Denver, CO  
 Vice President.....Rev. Jane Jebesen, Faith Lutheran, Golden, CO  
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[www.rainbowtrail.org](http://www.rainbowtrail.org)