



# 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 37, Number 3 Fall 2025

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 Chapter for RTALC!

### Rainbow Trail Welcomes New Executive Director, Dave Gunnlaugsson!

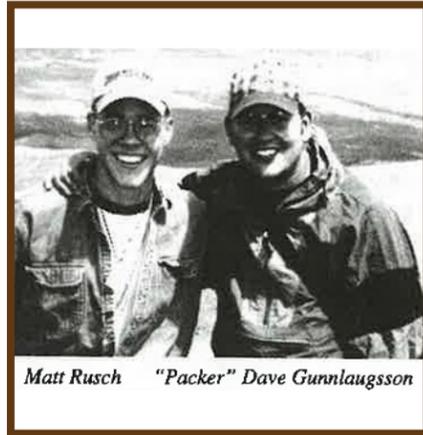
Rainbow Trail would like to extend a warm and hearty welcome to Dave Gunnlaugsson as he takes on the role of Executive Director on January 1, 2026. After years of prayerful preparation and many months of searching and interviewing, the Rainbow Trail Board of Directors has selected Dave to fill this leadership position in a ministry that is very precious to so many people across the country, but especially to folks in the Rocky Mountain Synod.



For many years, Dave Gunnlaugsson was a fixture at Rainbow Trail. Raised in the city of Green Bay, he earned the nickname “Packer” during his years at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. A lot of our readers may remember him by that name; it stuck with him during the many years that he served at Rainbow Trail—first as a counselor in '95 and '96, then as program director in summers of '97 and '98. He remained active in Rainbow Trail's mission programs for the next three years in various roles, leading multiple trips to Mexico as well

as many day camps within the Rocky Mountain Synod. He also served as a program assistant (aka PGA) alongside Matt Rusch, another Luther grad, during that program's inaugural year, and served on Rainbow Trail's full-time staff as Assistant Director in charge of Day Camp and Mission Trips in 2003.

In addition to his service at Rainbow Trail, Dave travelled for a year with Lutheran Youth Encounter in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda, and performed other



Matt Rusch “Packer” Dave Gunnlaugsson

mission work in Latvia and other parts of Africa. He attended Denver Seminary, after which he spent a couple of years as a church planter and a middle school pastor. He is currently serving as a part-time minister at Hosanna Lutheran Church, ELCA, in Forest Lake, MN. For the past 13 years, Dave has also been working with Feed My Starving Children as a MobilePack Development Advisor, and has again travelled extensively in Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, El

Salvador, Kenya, and Haiti, leading “Food in Action” trips for that organization.

Dave is, of course, a huge Packers fan, and in fact, is a fan of many sports. He loves playing golf, disc golf, and reading. He is father to 20-year-old Isaac, a welder in Wisconsin, and to Sylvie, a freshman at Northwestern University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dave is passionate about ministry and about spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. He is a gifted speaker, and his warmth and genuine interest in others endears him quickly to any group or individual. He tells us that his return to Rainbow Trail will be a true homecoming, a dream come true. He has always wanted to find a way back to the place where he believes God helped him discover who he was and what he had to offer the world. He hopes now to be able to provide a safe place for others to do the same.

Welcome home, Packer Dave!

## Time To Party!

On Saturday, January 17, 2026, the RTALC community will gather for a once-in-a-lifetime evening of gratitude and celebration—the Trail of Blessing Celebration—honoring all that God has done through Dave and Nellie Jarvis over the past 37 years of faithful ministry at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp.

This night is about more than looking back; it's a chance to celebrate where we've been, where we are, and where God may be leading us into the future on

this Trail of Blessing. Together, we'll share stories, laughter, and joy as we give thanks for Dave and Nellie's impact, and the countless lives transformed through their leadership.

The celebration will take place at the stunning Spruce Mountain Ranch in Larkspur, Colorado. The evening will begin with a Connect & Cocktails time from 3:30–5:30 pm, offering time to reconnect with friends and share memories. A delicious dinner

will follow at 5:30 pm, and then the highlight of the night—the program—will begin at 6:30 pm, filled with reflection, celebration, and thanksgiving for all that God has done.

Tickets will go on sale soon, and hotel information will be provided along with ticket links, making it easy to plan your stay. Space will be limited, so watch for registration details and secure your spot early.

This Trail of Blessing

Celebration is an opportunity to honor the past, celebrate the present, and look ahead with hope. Most importantly, it's a chance for the RTALC family to come together and say thank you to Dave and Nellie for their extraordinary dedication, leadership, and love over nearly four decades.

Mark your calendars now for January 17 and join us at Spruce Mountain Ranch for this incredible celebration of ministry, memory, and God's faithfulness!

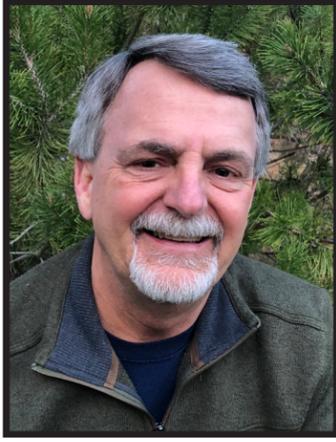
### Rainbow Trail Mission Statement

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 in the world

## Trail Boss

By Dave Jarvis - Executive Director

It's been a crazy fall!! Maybe my fastest ever. Once we hit Labor Day Weekend, we have had no time to rest. We had a two staff weddings during the next two weekends. Then Will, Matt, Jackson, Abby, and I hosted the Men's Flyfishing Retreat which was fabulous. I received a wonderful gift of a full set of flyfishing gear and even got a chance to fish one day of the retreat. I was elated to have caught a 16-inch Brown trout! And we just hosted another marvelous Grace Race at Sloan's Lake Park. The postcards and brochures for summer 2026 are finalized and being printed. As busy as things are, these are really the joys of a vibrant and robust ministry!



We had an amazing summer. Our teams led 27 Day Camps, 2 Bridging Borders trips, 13 Compass Points backpack trips, and we served almost 1,100 campers on-site this summer. In addition, we once again had an incredible Week 10 with our Joshua Station family camp. The Joshua Station program continues to grow and blossom. They were able to do pottery, go rafting, make jewelry, do high ropes, and develop trusted relationships through conversation and worship. We also welcomed well over a hundred camp grandparents and adult leaders throughout the summer. This year's summer staff was so special and served so well. This was an older group that became an incredible ministry team. They loved their campers deeply and they truly loved each other. I believe there will be many of them back next summer!

One of the key parts of our program is a quality Bible Study that challenges all of us to make the world different once we leave camp. Our writers really took a different direction this summer, providing a more practical study for kids to apply at home. We had an awesome Bible Study that helped us understand what it means to be Cross+Fit. The writers did a superb job of creating a study that I believe touched not only our campers but also our staff. Thank you to the writing team-- Pastor Nicole Ferry, Pastor Rod Hank, Pastor Jane Jebesen, Pastor Pam Challis, and Pastor Brad Doty-- 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 who provided mental health training, Pastor Nicole Ferry who led Lutheran theology, and Bishop Megan Johnston-Alebouni. 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. You, along with the Rocky Mountain Synod, have provided us with such a stable support base - especially over the most recent years - that has allowed us to fully live into our ministry. There are now over 86 partner congregations that contribute to Rainbow Trail. 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 naming outdoor ministries as an important part of your ministry as well.

As the Rainbow Trail community, you have continued to believe in and support Rainbow Trail in 2025. People have been beyond generous toward RTLCL this year. You have allowed us to focus on the critical things, such as training and preparing our staff, so the campers' experience is the absolute best it can be. Your continued support will be critical as we transition leadership into 2026. Thank you!!

I especially want to thank our full-time team for their work this summer. You have all embraced your role and taken it to the next level. All of our programs were so strong and so solid this summer, and retreating is growing and prospering as well! Thanks for your passion, your love of this ministry, and your partnership with me in our work. I truly love you all!

Registration for 2026 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, 2026. After that date, it is open registration. If the last few years have taught us anything, it is that people jump on registration early in order to secure their preferred weeks. At Labor Day Family Weekend, people were talking about how camp is a priority for their kids and they are setting alarms to wake up at midnight to register them for the next summer. For those of you in the Rocky Mountain Synod, 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. Start making plans now!

The land exchange continues to progress quickly! The conservation Easement is completed as well as the Baseline Report that captures how our site looks at this moment in time. The Board has also been finalizing a new site master plan that will be the springboard for future ministry once we own the site. Please keep this land exchange in your prayers. It has been a journey!! The hope is still that we will own our site in 2026! Then we can celebrate!

The RTLCL Board has made an excellent choice in Dave Gunnlaugsson as your new Executive Director starting in January. Dave has a great love for this ministry, a huge loving heart, and a true passion to serve. He calls this his dream job. I couldn't agree more! I hope that you give him your full support in this transition. It will take some time for Dave to make it his own. Know RTLCL is in great hands!

This is my last Trail Boss to you. That is very bittersweet. As I look back on the past 37 years, I can't help but think of all the people that have impacted me through this ministry. I am a different person because I have been here. It has been such a gift to serve you in this special place. RTLCL has become home for me as well. Know that I will miss the day-to day and Sunday/Saturday conversations with you. So many of you have become true friends. Thank you all for believing in me and in this ministry. This is all true gift!

Thank you all for a great last summer. It has been an honor to serve you!



## December 9, 2025

On Tuesday, DECEMBER 9, 2025, Coloradans will come together again to raise millions of dollars for non-profit organizations like ours. Last year, \$54.6 million was distributed to 4,533 different nonprofits throughout Colorado! RTLCL raised \$199,943 in that 24-hour period! With the encouragement of some of our donors, we have set our goal for 2025 at \$200,000 with a challenge goal of \$250,000. We have never gone over \$200,000 on Colorado Gives Day. 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 RTLCL on Colorado Gives Day provides Rainbow Trail with a chance to receive 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 RTLCL \$1,000 or more! There are also special prizes if we have more than 25 new donors this year. Additionally, at the end of Colorado Gives Day, \$1.4 million incentive fund will be divided among the participating non-profit organizations. Each organization involved will receive a portion of the \$1.4 million based on their total donations that day. Each and every gift provides a percentage of the bonus fund to RTLCL. 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 Day! Be sure to go to [rainbowtrail.org/co-gives](http://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 make your donation for Colorado Gives Day starting November 1, 2025 and it counts toward our Colorado Gives Day total! Our theme this year is "A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words." With this being Dave's last Colorado Gives, you'll be invited to share your favorite photo of your time at RTLCL during Dave's time here and a chance to briefly tell about it. We'll share photos too, and we hope to have a few "live surprises" as well. Mark your calendar now: December 9, 2025 for Colorado Gives Day!

## Rainbow Trail Welcomes Abby & Jackson

*This September, Rainbow Trail welcomed two new Program Assistants for the 2025-2026 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.*



**Abby**

Abby Aurzada is a Colorado native, raised in Greeley, CO and graduated from Colorado State University with her bachelor's degree in social work in May of 2025. She was on summer staff in 2022 as a counselor and in 2025 as a Bridging Borders director. She is SO excited to be a Program Assistant this year, and cannot wait to get involved in the amazing ministry that happens at Rainbow Trail! In her free time you can find her listening to music, playing some sort of game, or hanging out with friends. Abby loves Jesus and loves people so she is thrilled with the opportunity to combine those two passions and explore the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries universe!



**Jackson**

Jackson is from Underwood, Iowa. He attended Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, and spent 3 years working on summer staff here at Rainbow Trail. He enjoys outdoor activities such as fishing, hunting, hiking, etc. He also enjoys football, baseball, and grilling.

# 2026 Summer Schedule



The Rainbow Trail summer 2026 schedule has been set. The fee will be \$540 for all youth camps, with the exception of Intro Camp, which will be \$315. Family camp fees are \$540 for adults (ages 19 and older), \$400 for teens (ages 13-18) and \$270 for ages 4-12. There is no charge for kids under age 4. **Be sure to register early!**

May 22-25.....	Memorial Day Work Weekend
May 25-June 6.....	Staff Training
June 7-13.....	Junior High #1
June 14-17.....	Intro To Camp #1
June 14-20.....	Junior #1
June 17-20.....	Intro To Camp #2
June 21-27.....	Confirmation Camp
June 28-July 4.....	Family Camp #1
July 5-11.....	Senior High #1
July 5-11.....	Into the Wild
July 12-18.....	Open Sr. High Compass Points
July 12-18.....	Mixed Junior #2/Junior High #2
July 19-25.....	Senior High #2
July 19-25.....	Open Jr. High Compass Points
July 26-August 1.....	Mixed Junior #3/Junior High #3
July 26-29.....	Intro To Camp #3
August 2-8.....	Family Camp #2
August 9-15.....	Joshua Station Family Camp
September 4-7.....	Labor Day Family Weekend

### Grade Levels as of Fall 2026

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, 2026 This applies to all camps, including family camps.

## 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. Part of the auction has moved to a virtual format. Rainbow Trail wants to invite you to participate with us in the silent auction from November 6th - November 13th. Bidders can participate from anywhere as they seek to win camp experiences, travel packages, handcrafted art, and other unique items. You'll notice that one of the many items available for bidding is a 2026 week of summer camp registration with us at Rainbow Trail. Be on the lookout on RTLC social media for more information on how to access the auction. See you at the auction!

### 2025 Grace Race Sponsors

#### Augustana University Sponsors

Dave and Nellie Jarvis  
Chris and Vicki Lieber

#### Luther College Sponsors

Dave and Nellie Jarvis  
Mark and Heidi Peterson

#### Congregation Sponsors

Abiding Hope, Littleton, CO  
Atonement Lutheran, Boulder, CO  
Augustana Lutheran, Denver, CO  
Bethany Lutheran Church, Cherry Hills Village, CO  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Longmont, CO  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamos, NM  
Evergreen Lutheran, Evergreen, CO  
Faith Lutheran Church, Golden, CO  
First Lutheran, Colorado Springs, CO  
Holy Trinity, Littleton, CO  
Lord of the Hills, Centennial, CO  
Mt. of the Holy Cross, Vail, CO  
St. Peter Lutheran Church, Greenwood village, CO  
St. Philip Lutheran Church, Littleton, CO  
Trinity Lutheran, Boulder, CO

# CAMP Vibes

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

There's something about the fall that just feels right. The crisp air, the colors in the trees, the rhythm of football on the weekends all come together to remind me why I love this season so much. As someone who can never get enough of football, I've been soaking up every game, every highlight, and every debate about who is looking like contenders and who might already be out of the playoff picture. Even though my Vikings haven't exactly stormed out of the gate, I'll admit my fantasy team is carrying me through the early season with a little more joy than purple Sundays have so far.



But beyond the sidelines and the scoreboard, this fall has marked an even greater season in my life: stepping into fatherhood. In May, Delta and I welcomed our son Pierce into the world. There aren't quite words to capture how it feels to hold your child for the first time, or how a simple smile from him can make any stress of the day melt away. Life looks different now. The days are shorter, the nights are longer, and every little thing seems to revolve around bottles, naps, and diaper changes. And yet, I would not trade a second of it. Becoming Pierce's dad has been the greatest joy of my life, and it has only deepened my gratitude for Delta and the way we get to share in this new adventure together.

As we step into fall, I cannot help but reflect on the summer that just passed. What a summer it was. From the energy of campers running across camps to the laughter of staff late into the night, the Spirit of God was so clearly at work. Each week brought its own unique mix of challenges and celebrations, and each week reminded me why I love being part of this ministry. This summer would not have been possible without the incredible staff who gave so much of themselves. To every counselor who stayed up late listening to a camper wrestle with big questions, to every support staff member who kept things running smoothly behind the scenes, to every leader who stepped in to help carry the load, you made this summer happen. I am so thankful for each of you and the way you answered God's call to serve. Ministry at camp only works when people are willing to pour themselves out for others, and that is exactly what I saw week after week.

I also need to pause to give a special thank you to Reggie, who stepped in for me while I was on paternity leave. Knowing that camp was in such good hands gave me the freedom to be fully present with Delta and Pierce during those first precious weeks. Reggie, your leadership, care, and willingness to serve mean more than I can say. I am so grateful to you for helping shepherd camp in my absence.

This year was also a big one for Bridging Borders. After the challenges of the pandemic and shifting international travel guidelines, it was a true blessing to see our groups head out again to serve. We had one group travel to Appalachia and another return to Ecuador, two trips, two incredible ministries, and countless stories of God's presence along the way. In Appalachia, our group partnered with local leaders to serve families in need of home repairs. What struck me most in the stories I heard was how much of the ministry was not just about construction projects or fresh coats of paint. It was about relationships. Sitting on porches, hearing stories, praying with people who had lived through hardship, those were the holy moments. The houses were important, of course, but the conversations and connections were where Christ's light shined the brightest. And then, after a long stretch since our last visit in 2019, it was such a gift to send a group back to Ecuador. The joy of reuniting with friends there and stepping once again into cross-cultural ministry was powerful. Ecuador has always held a special place in our hearts, and to finally return felt like picking up right where we left off. Our group served faithfully, built relationships, and came back with stories that continue to ripple through our community. Both trips reminded me why Bridging Borders matters so deeply. It is about more than a week of service. It is about widening our vision of God's kingdom, learning from others, and seeing how God is moving in places far beyond our own backyards. My prayer is that these trips will continue to shape not only the communities we served, but also the lives of those who went.

As for life back at home, Delta and I are slowly finding our rhythm as new parents. Pierce is growing fast. Every week it seems like he discovers something new. Whether it is a new sound, a bigger smile, or the beginnings of a laugh, he keeps us on our toes. Delta has been incredible in this new season, and I am constantly amazed at the way she loves Pierce so well while balancing all the other parts of life. We are tired, yes, but we are also deeply grateful. In between the baby naps and bottles, I have managed to sneak in a little golf here and there. There is nothing like being out on the course, even if my scorecard does not always reflect the joy I feel. Golf has been a good outlet, a place to breathe, relax, and recharge before heading back into the busyness of life at home and camp.

As we step deeper into fall, I carry with me gratitude for the summer we shared, for the ministries that continue to grow, for the chance to serve alongside so many faithful people, and for the gift of family that has made this season one of the most joyful of my life. Whether on the field, on the golf course, at camp, or rocking Pierce to sleep at midnight, I see God's hand in it all.

Thank you for continuing to be part of this journey with me. Here's to the rest of the fall, to the adventures ahead, and to the ways God will keep showing up in the midst of it all.

Peace!

## Chris' Corner

By Chris Seaman - Food Service Manager

Hello to my RTLCL Family! It's been a very busy fall up here at Camp! We had our awesome Labor Day Family Weekend. Then we had 2 weddings! Congratulations to Nick and Tate! Kelly and Jonah also entrusted us to make sure that they had their dream weddings! The Men's Fly Fishing Retreat saw Dave Jarvis get out on the River! He even caught Fish! YAY DAVE! We have a pretty good Retreat Season ahead. This is all due to Mama Delta's hard work! We have seen a lot of first-time visitors this year. This place of GOD never ceases to amaze me with its ability to ensnare hearts!



My life is doing well. Except for the fact that I've been walking on a fractured hip since May!

Hopefully it will mend itself; that way I won't need another hip replacement! Prayers! I may be getting a new puppy this week! His name is Henry. He's a Toy Fox Terrier and Toy Poodle mix! Believe me, I will give updates!

So, as we know, it's the best time of the year... FOOTBALL SEASON!!! I thought it would be a good idea to give you some of my Appetizer Recipes.

### Bacon Wrapped Dill Pickles

9 Dill pickle spears patted dry

3 oz. chilled cream cheese

9 slices of bacon

Ranch Dressing

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cut cream cheese into 9 strips. Place one strip of cheese on each pickle spear and wrap with the bacon slices. Place on a lined baking sheet. Bake 12-15 minutes or until bacon is browned. These are Sooo Good!

### Baked Cream Cheese Wontons

8 oz. Peeled, deveined, chopped medium shrimp

4 oz. cream cheese at room temperature

2 cloves garlic, minced

2 green onion, s thinly sliced

1 Tablespoon freshly grated ginger

1 teaspoon sesame oil

1 teaspoon sriracha

Kosher salt and pepper to taste

16 2" wonton wrappers

1 large egg beaten

Oil a sheet pan. Combine shrimp, cream cheese, garlic, green onions, ginger, sesame oil, Sriracha sauce, and salt and pepper. Spoon 2 teaspoons onto each wrapper in the center. Rub the edges of the wrapper with egg. Fold sides to form an X pinching side. to seal. Put on the oiled sheet pan and spray with oil. Bake 10-12 minutes, till golden and crisp. YUM!!! I hope these recipes help make your Football parties a hit!

In closing, I would like to ask for prayers for my son. He is in the Hospital right now. He has serious Lung and Blood Pressure issues. Please keep Jason in your thoughts and prayers next time you have a conversation with Our Lord and Savior. Most of all, please love and be kind to each other. And always remember, GOD IS GREAT!!!

-Chris

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp  
Senior High Retreat  
November 21st-23rd,  
2025

Don't miss this opportunity to be immersed in community on the mountain, in which we will discover and affirm the gifts that God has given us.

Email [delta@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:delta@rainbowtrail.org) for any questions!

## Words with the Wise

By Delta Regennitter - Director of Retreat Ministries



Hey y'all! Whew! Let me tell you, it has been a whirlwind since I last wrote to you all. I wrote my summer 2025 newsletter on Friday, April 25th. On Tuesday, May 6th, one month before my due date, Cam, Penny and I woke up to drive to work at our office in Cañon City. What is usually a speedy drive down hwy 115 felt uncomfortably long as I had contractions the entire time. I called my doctor and we ended up turning right back around to drive to the hospital in Colorado Springs. I'll spare you all the nitty gritty details but for all my moms out there- I was in labor for four and a half days (!!). Finally, four minutes before my first Mother's Day on May 10th, Pierce Cameron Regennitter made his way into the world. 6 lbs 9.5 oz, 19.75" long, and one whole month early! He was, and still is, so perfect as he is now 4 and

half months old. Thank you to everyone who prayed for us, it was felt! I spent the next three months on maternity leave as Cam and I navigated our new lives together as parents. Cam intermittently went to camp and then fully went back up the mountain around the second half of the summer. I popped up every so often! We brought Pierce with us when he was just 3 weeks old so he could be in the summer staff photo. Let's just say it'll be something he can look back on and laugh at since there were definitely no smiles that day. Each time I went to camp after that I desperately looked forward to talking to any mom that was on site, that I knew or didn't know. It felt like I'd entered an alternate reality, joined a secret club that only a mom could understand. Moms and dads alike shared their funny war stories of newly parenting with Cam and I. Little did they know how much we clung to those stories, they were our solace! After a few trips with overflowing cars packed to the ceiling (parents- you get it) he now has a 'baby-fied' room at camp. I don't think any of us on full-time staff ever thought that in addition to three boys, one girl and two dogs that there would also be a pack n play, sound machine, formula machine, night light, humidifier, baby monitor, bouncer, changing table, baby bath, swing in the hallway, bottles next to red mugs in the sink, and if you can believe it, a baby in the same house! All seven heart beats coexisting together at 8500 feet on the side of a mountain. My favorite part was when I had to put Pierce to bed, there was worship happening at the Fire only 20 feet away, so we'd listen to camp songs as his eyelids slowly shut (and mine tried not to).

Once three months were up I went back to work full-time and dove straight into retreat season! We welcomed our two new program assistant interns on August 26th. If you were here this summer, or the past few summers, you might know them- Abby Auzada and Jackson Dalen. We are so honored to have them here with us for the 9 months. Our first retreat was Labor Day Family Camp with around 150 people. The very next weekend was a camp wedding (my personal favorites) for Tate Eppard and Nick Hughes. They met here as campers and were on staff together- at the same time as myself and Cam so it was fun to celebrate them here. The following weekend it was another back to back camp wedding for Kelly Marsh and Jonah Hanson. Also on staff together, and good friends of ours. Both weddings were so insanely fun as we hosted over 150 wedding guests each weekend. My favorite part, I have to say, is when the weather is crazy bad on Friday but then somehow Saturday rolls around and just as the ceremony starts God brings the sun out. That's happened at all five weddings I've been a part of at camp and it gives me chills every time. A miniscule thing to pray for in the grand scheme of things but God always provides. Directly after the weddings we had our annual Men's Fly Fishing Retreat followed by our annual Women's Retreat. The fall colors and weather provided the perfect backdrop to such relaxing weekends. Personally, the women's retreat meant a lot to me getting to spend time with all the moms who shared with me so many good tid bits of advice and empathy to my plight. I should add I have Pierce with me every weekend, which I'm so grateful for, but it is also hard as you might imagine. A special thank you to my mother in law, Lisa Regennitter, who has come up to camp with Cam and I every weekend to help out with both the retreat itself and Pierce. I couldn't have made it through such a busy September without her.

Upcoming we have a retreat every weekend, and some week days until Adventfest on December 5th. I look forward to seeing all my friends the rest of the fall as our usual retreats have pretty much stayed the same for the most part the past few years. The relationships I've been able to build have steadily grown and now it just feels like a little reunion every weekend. Something about the job here becomes more real, comforting when you know people. Y'all have become my home away from home, my family in Colorado. I consider myself so lucky to have brought Pierce into this giant village of supporters. I wish I could write a thank you letter to each of you individually, but instead I hope I'll continue to see you all at retreats.

In other news Cam, Pierce and I will head to Texas for the week of Thanksgiving to visit my family for the holidays. I'm really looking forward to taking Pierce to my hometown of Fredericksburg, Texas! My best friend from Texas is dating Sands Simonton as many of you may remember him, they met at our wedding! She is moving here to Colorado permanently soon and I'm excited to have her around. Matt and Will are truly my other best friends and so I love working with them. Cam's sister started an online boutique so that's been fun to be a part of and also- get clothes from since my style consists of camp shirts and jeans at best lol! Love y'all and hope to see you soon!

-Delta

## Be A Difference Maker!

Trailblazers and Pathfinders are Rainbow Trail's annual giving clubs that sustain our ministry and allow it to grow. Your gifts help us cover the expenses of the day-to-day operations of camp. For as little as \$10 a month, or \$120 a year, you can become a Trailblazer and make a huge difference in everything that happens here at camp!

Pathfinders are those that would like to give a little more. For \$1,000 or more a year, you can become a Pathfinder and can make a bigger difference in this incredible ministry. From Day Camp to Bridging Borders to On-Site ministries to camperships, Trailblazer and Pathfinder dollars help to make a difference in countless lives through wonderful faith experiences. We need your support more than ever. Support from the Rocky Mountain Synod to Rainbow Trail has been reduced in recent years. You can join by simply making your gift to Rainbow Trail. If you are interested in knowing more about Trailblazers or Pathfinders, please contact Dave at the Canon City office (719-276-5233) or by e-mail at [dave@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:dave@rainbowtrail.org).



# Talking Turman

By Matt Turman - Director of Site and Facilities

Helloooo Rainbow Trail! For those of you who don't know me yet my name is Matthew Turman and I'm the new site and facilities director. Life has felt full lately, in the best of ways. I recently moved into an apartment in Westcliffe, and it's been such a joy to start calling this place home. One of my favorite parts of settling in has been getting to know the local music scene—there's a real sense of community around it, and it's been fun to discover new artists and connect with people who share the same love of live music. I've also been spending time outdoors, which always fills my cup. Will and I have been out fly fishing a few times, and those peaceful days on the water have quickly become a highlight of my routine. As the seasons turn, I'm already looking forward to snowboarding at Monarch this winter—it's hard not to be excited for those first runs of the season. On top of it all, my sister is getting married in November! I couldn't be happier for her and it'll be a special time for our whole family.



Work at camp has been encouraging as well. We had another great Memorial Day Work Weekend and I came away feeling so grateful. Volunteers gave their time and energy to tackle projects that make camp more beautiful and welcoming, and the results were incredible. It's such a reminder of what can happen when a community comes together with shared love for a place. I left the weekend not only proud of the improvements we made, but also thankful for the spirit of service that defines Rainbow Trail. Having that weekend as we went into the summer was a huge confidence booster and the maintenance crew was able to tackle a lot. Hazard trees that our Facilities Director Zach Lampe expertly removed, beautiful village of the day decorations curated by Lindsay Smith and Brienne Engel, as well as amazing leadership from all three of them for our staff and camphands to keep the day to day operations going smoothly.

Looking ahead, we're turning our attention toward winter preparations at camp. I've been working with our program assistants to make sure the site is ready for colder months, from securing outdoor equipment to planning projects that will keep camp running smoothly through snow and ice. Preparing for winter is a big task, but working alongside such thoughtful and dedicated staff makes it not only manageable but enjoyable. Thanks for taking the time to read my article and happy trails to you all!

*-Matt*

## HELP RTALC WITH YOUR THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, we need your help! We set a Thrivent Choice goal for 2025 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!!

## WANTED: RTALC AMBASSADORS

Normal, Everyday People who Love RTALC and Want to Serve as RTALC Ambassadors for their congregations. Ambassadors meet at RTALC 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.

Ambassadors are an important key to the ministry at RTALC. If you are interested in becoming an ambassador for your congregation, contact Dave Jarvis at : 719.276.5233 [dave@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:dave@rainbowtrail.org).

### 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)  
Online Anytime!

# 2026 Memorial Day Work Weekend



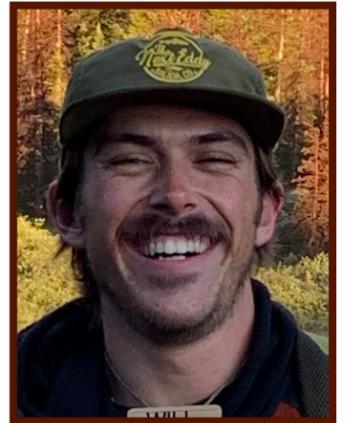
Memorial Day has become as much a tradition at Rainbow Trail as anything else we do. We typically have over 110 people that come and join in this annual work weekend to get camp ready for summer. If the list of projects from last year is any indication (building a new deck on Purple Aster; installing new snow brakes on Bristlecone Lodge and Columbine; blowing insulation into the attics of Eagle Peak Lodge and Golden Banner; installing a new fascia around Eagle Peak Lodge; installing new posts and concrete on the front of Holling Lodge; replacing the wall tile on the guys' side of the shower house; installing new logs in both Equis chapel and Eagle Peak Meadow campfire area; refurbishing the indoor chapel altar; refurbishing the archery deck; and installing new drip edge all the way around the Pavilion roof), we'll be sure to have another busy and memorable weekend! The dates for 2026 are May 22-25, 2026. Call the Canon City office at (719) 276-5233 or email Dave at [dave@rainbowtrail.org](mailto: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!

## Into The Wilderness

By Will Johnson - Director of Compass Points & Day Camp Ministries

Hello and happy fall everyone! As I write this the leaves are beginning to turn, the weather has been incredible, and the RTALC Men's Fly Fishing Retreat is in full swing! This has to be one of my favorite times of the year here in Colorado as the weather is incredible, the colors are gorgeous, and the fish are biting! How blessed am I to experience this year after year in the mountains.

Our Compass Points backpacking program was a blast this summer! We had an amazing summer with 13 trips and served 113 campers! I also got to start the summer by hosting my home congregation, Shepherd of the Hills from Austin, Texas, and even got to spend some time with them up on the mountain. This was a special week for me because my first experience with RTALC was on a Compass Points trip with Shepherd of the Hills 9 years ago! It was a crazy full circle moment and I can't express my gratitude enough to Joel Timmons and Pastor Lauren Wegner for bringing the youth program back here and trusting us with their youth! What a fun week it was to reconnect with old friends and share old stories with the new youth. I also want to give a big thanks to the staff that were a part of Compass Points this summer. Shout out to my guides Addie, Carley, and Hunter, and my travel support director Kendall! Y'all made this summer a great one and I can't thank you guys enough for bringing such positive energy everyday, and making this one of the best seasons Compass Points has had in years. Compass Points was full of life and really hit a stride this year because of y'all's leadership and I can't wait to see where life takes y'all! Looking forward to 2026, Compass Points already has 11 trips planned with high hopes for more! I'm also considering doing an alumni trip next summer so reach out to me if you're interested!



Now for Day Camp. Day Camp this summer served 27 congregations ranging from 5 different states! Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and Kansas! We had a ton of fun traveling around and serving the many youth that never get to experience the RTALC on-site program. Day Camp has continued to get stronger over the years and I'm so proud of how it's developed. We served 953 campers this summer and I'm so proud of how our directors handled business this year. They led with confidence, shared the love of Christ, and developed many relationships with congregations that will last a lifetime. Big thanks to all the congregations that continue to support our ministry through our day camp program. We can't thank you all enough for trusting us with your youth and letting us bring RTALC to so many kids that need it. Looking forward to next year, Day Camp is looking at 26 Day Camps with the addition of Bethel Lutheran in Colorado Springs! We love making new connections and are excited about the opportunities to serve that lie ahead.

Overall, this was a fantastic summer! Compass Points was full of life, Day Camps served so many kids, and our other programs were incredibly strong as well. I can't thank the staff enough for pouring everything they had into these kids and showing them the love of Jesus Christ. I am proud of where our programs are going and I can't wait to see how they may grow in the years to come. I'm also so excited to welcome our new executive director Dave Gunnlaugsson as well as celebrate the 37 years that Dave Jarvis has poured into this ministry! We can't thank you enough Dave and I can't wait to see where life takes you during retirement!

Thanks for tuning in, and as always, come say hi if you ever find yourself at camp! Happy trails!

*-Will*

## TRAILBLAZERS

The following individuals are members of the 2025 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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Brad and Carissa Nietfeldt - New Cooler for PopShop; 14" Apple Laptop for Dave  
Dave and Dianna Fiske - Portable Charging Station  
Michelle Stone Kraus and Lauren Keller - 1 ream copy paper; 1 all-purpose Bic lighter; 1 wide mouth Nalgene water bottle  
Ellen Riley - 120 Light Bulbs; 48 paintbrushes; case of Lysol wipes; 48 rolls of masking tape; 20 rolls of packing tape; 10 lighters; 12 rolls of duct tape; 4 sets of bath towels; 1 pair work gloves; 1 pack of foam brushes  
Judy Leggett - 160 forever stamps  
Karel and Tom Hemler - 1 case 11x17 copy paper; 1 ream 8 1/2x14 copy paper; 3 reams neon paper; pastel cardstock  
Kate and Eric Waggoner - 3 JBL bluetooth speakers  
Kris and Tim Carr - 60 forever stamps; 1 ream copy paper; colored paper  
Kristen and Mike Saathoff - 4 lighters  
Laura Wouters - 100 forever stamps  
Mark and Diane Sather - Staff Closure Banquet Dessert  
Melissa Neff - white and yellow envelopes; blue pens; assorted pens  
Pam and Dave Challis - 3 reams copy paper; 11-packs of 100 Thank you cards  
Phil and Traci Dorth - Staff Closure Banquet food, supplies, and decorations  
Renee Bolkema - Colored copy paper; duct tape; gorilla tape  
Richard and Glenna Walker - Walking Sticks and Leather for Family Camp  
Scheels - 27 sleeping bags  
Tabor Lutheran Church - scissors; laundry pods; 5 lighters; 12 rolls tape; dog supplies; 3 paintbrush sets; 26-ballpoint pens; markers; 20 pencils; 8 LED lightbulbs; 100 forever stamps; 5 clorox wipes; 6 legal pads; 1 full sheet set; 1 queen sheet set; 2 sets of towels; 9X12 catalog envelopes

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The following individuals are members of the 2025 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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### LAND EXCHANGE

Anonymus  
Edwin and Carleen Woolley  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Delores and Gerry Mueller  
David Lee and Lisa Brown  
Stanley and Evelyn John

## PARTNER CONGREGATIONS

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church, Littleton, CO  
All Saints Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM  
Ascension Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO  
Atonement Lutheran Church, Boulder, CO  
Augustana Foundation Fund, Denver, CO  
Augustana Lutheran Church, Denver, CO  
Bethany Lutheran Church, Cherry Hills Village, CO  
Bethany Lutheran Church Foundation  
Cherry Hills Village, CO  
Bethel Lutheran Church, Aurora, CO  
Bethel Lutheran Church Colorado Springs, CO  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Longmont, CO  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Los Alamos, NM  
Black Forest Lutheran Church Colorado Springs, CO  
Christ the King Lutheran Church Colorado Springs, CO  
Christ the King Lutheran Church Durango, CO  
Christ the Savior Lutheran Church Aurora, CO  
Christ the Servant Lutheran Church Louisville, CO  
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church Broomfield, CO  
Cross of Hope Lutheran Church Albuquerque, NM  
Evergreen Lutheran Church Evergreen, CO  
Faith Lutheran Church, Golden, CO  
First Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO  
First Lutheran Church, Lake City, MN  
First Lutheran Church, Longmont, CO  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Glenwood Springs, CO  
Grace Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, CO  
Highlands Lutheran Church, Denver, CO  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wheat Ridge, CO  
Holy Ghost Lutheran Church Fredericksburg, TX  
Holy Love Lutheran Church Aurora, CO  
Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church Lakewood, CO  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Littleton, CO  
Immanuel Lutheran Church Greeley, CO  
King of Glory Lutheran Church Arvada, CO  
King of Kings Lutheran Church Pueblo, CO  
Lord of the Hills Lutheran Church Centennial, CO  
Lutheran Church of Hope Broomfield, CO  
Mount of the Holy Cross Luth Church Vail, CO  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church Greeley, CO  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Ft. Collins, CO  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Denver, CO  
Rocky Mountain Synod ELCA Denver, CO  
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church Canon City, CO  
South Zumbro Lutheran Church Kasson, MN  
South Zumbro Lutheran Church WOW Kasson, MN  
St. Luke Lutheran Church Albuquerque, NM  
St. Mark Lutheran Church Aurora, CO  
St. Paul Lutheran Church Calhan, CO  
St. Peter Lutheran Church Greenwood Village, CO  
St. Philip Lutheran Church Littleton, CO  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Boulder, CO  
Trinity Lutheran Church Fowler, CO  
Trinity Lutheran Church Monument, CO  
Zion Lutheran Church Limon, CO



# Events Calendar 2025 - 2026

- November 1.....Registration Opens
- November 21-22.....RTLCL Senior High Retreat
- December 5-6.....AdventFest
- January 17.....Land Exchange/Dave Retirement Party
- February 28.....Summer Staff Applications Due
- April 1.....Summer Volunteer Apps Due
- May 22-25.....Memorial Day Work Weekend
- May 25-June 6.....Staff Training
- September 1-4.....Labor Day Family Weekend
- September 17-20.....Men's Fly Fishing Retreat

## 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 Tricia 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)  | Long barreled fire lighters (Bic)     |
| Reams of colored copy paper           | 9x12 Manila envelopes (no clasps)     |
| Nalgene Water Bottles (40)            | 6x9 Manila Envelopes (no clasps)      |
| Masking tape                          | 10x13 Manila Envelopes (no clasps)    |
| Scotch Tape                           | Rain Jackets & Rain Pants             |
| Duct Tape                             | On-Site and Compass Points Day Packs  |
| Packing Tape                          | Foam Brushes - 1"                     |
| Postage stamps                        | Paintbrushes - all sizes, inexpensive |
| 8.5x11 Yellow Tablets                 | 2 Cases of Lysol or Clorox Wipes      |
| 8 ft. Rectangle "Lifetime" tables (5) | 5X8 note pads Junior legal            |

## 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           | Phillips 60W & 100W Dimmable LED Bulbs |
| Industrial Mop buckets (call us first!) | Podcast Gear                           |
| Sturdy Wheelbarrows                     | Skid Steer Tire Chains                 |
| New 3-piece towel sets (20)             | Used Vehicle For Day Camp              |
| Shark Navigator vacuums (4)             | Apple Studio                           |
| Free Standing Space Heaters (3)         |  |
| Dish Cart                               |  |

## 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

3056 County Road 198  
Westcliffe, CO 81252  
Phone: 719-942-4220  
Fax: 719-942-4000

### Full-Time Staff

- Dave Jarvis, Executive Director.....[dave@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:dave@rainbowtrail.org)
- Ruth Bolkema, Bookkeeper.....[accounting@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:accounting@rainbowtrail.org)
- Tricia Lindsey, Executive Assistant/Registrar.....[info@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:info@rainbowtrail.org)
- Will Johnson, Director of Compass Points & Day Camp...[will@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:will@rainbowtrail.org)
- Delta Regennitter, Director of Retreats.....[delta@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:delta@rainbowtrail.org)
- Cam Regennitter, Director of On-Site & Bridging Borders.....[cam@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:cam@rainbowtrail.org)
- Matt Turman, Director of Site and Facilities.....[matt@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:matt@rainbowtrail.org)
- Chris Seaman, Food Service Manager.....[chris@rainbowtrail.org](mailto:chris@rainbowtrail.org)

### Board of Directors

- President.....Rev. Jane Jebesen, Faith Lutheran, Golden, CO
- Vice President....Rev. Nicolé Ferry, Trinity Lutheran, Monument, CO
- Secretary.....Rev. Brad Doty, St. Philip, Littleton, CO
- Treasurer.....Austen Smith, Lafayette, CO
- .....Phil Dorth, Bethany Lutheran, Denver, CO
- .....Sandy Elvington, Cross of Christ, Broomfield, CO
- .....Chris Lieber, Ascension, Colorado Springs, CO
- .....Rev. Steph Lord, Christ The Servant Lutheran, Louisville, CO
- .....Julie Miller, Bethany Lutheran, Denver, CO
- .....Michelle Okes, Bethany Lutheran, Denver, CO

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