

ALASKA SYNOD NEWS



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Subtle Shift to Works Righteousness

Elizabeth A. Eaton

A sign of the new life. In her March column for *The Lutheran*, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton reflects on a subtle shift to works righteousness. This Lent she reminds us that Jesus didn't die to change behaviors, political systems or institutions. He "died to end the fundamental brokenness and estrangement from God" Reader her column [here](#), which first appeared in *The Lutheran's* March issue. Reprinted with permission.



Employer Health Insurance Reimbursement Plans (Government Penalty)

Does your congregation reimburse staff for health insurance premiums on a plan purchased by the staff themselves? If so, you are not complying with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and may be subject to penalties of \$100 per day, per employee. This could cost your congregation \$36,500 per year per employee, and you should stop offering health premium reimbursements as soon as possible. For guidance on avoiding the penalty, please read [here](#).

ELCA provides humanitarian support for Ukraine

From The [ELCA News Blog](#), Feb. 25, 2015

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is committed to providing humanitarian assistance for those affected by the fighting in eastern Ukraine. In January, Lutheran Disaster Response disbursed \$85,000 to its partners from ACT Alliance, Hungarian Interchurch Aid and the Russian Orthodox Church to help support almost 20,000 survivors in the areas of conflict. Read how these funds and efforts are used [here](#).

Buy Winter Coats at a Discount and Donate

As winter coats go on sale at the end of the season, consider buying them at a discount and donating them to Coats for Kids. A joint program between Love INC and LSSA, Coats for Kids and HUGSS provide coats to children before the school year begins in August. Ask if your congregation will serve as a collection center for these coats, or deliver to LSSA. Joy

Lutheran collects for the Eagle River area, 694-9601, joylutheran@gmail.com.

Free Folding Tables

Central Lutheran has sturdy tables available to give away. 14 rectangular folding tables are outside near the lower double door entrance. Inside, there are round ones (5', seats 6-8 people) and rectangular ones. Contact 277-1722 or centluth@gci.net

SYNOD and ELCA EVENTS

Congregational Council Workshop: Knik and Southcentral Clusters

Pastors, new and returning congregational council members are invited.

March 14, 9-11:30am

Joy Lutheran Church 10111 E Eagle River Road, Eagle River

Registration is mandatory and [available here](#).

ELCA congregational councils have oversight of the life and activities of the congregation. At this workshop, constitutional touchstones and missional resources for leadership will be presented.

AK Child & Family

2015 is AK Child & Family's 125th anniversary! Help us celebrate!

Join us at AK Child & Family night at the Alaska Ace's game Saturday March 14th.

Donation needed:

AK Child & Family is looking for a WiiU gaming console to run a teen therapy group that will teach emotional regulation, social skill building, patience, stress management, personal presentation, self-awareness and sportsmanship. We're looking specifically for a WiiU because of the capability it has for team games. Donations would be deeply appreciated!

The Summit at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp

April 13-15, 2015, The Summit is a retreat for anyone working professionally in ministry with youth, young adults, children, and families. The retreat is designed as a time of personal renewal, professional development, continuing education, and networking with others in youth ministry. Our Guest Speaker is Rozella White, Program Director for Young Adult Ministry for the ELCA. Visit <http://www.rainbowtrail.org/retreats/youth-directors-retreat/>

Collegium for Rostered Leaders

Tuesday, April 21-Thursdays, April 23, Holy Spirit Retreat Center, 10980 Hillside Drive, Anchorage, AK 99507. Rostered Leaders, please register [here](#).

Synod Assembly: The Fast that I Choose

Alaska Synod Assembly will be Friday, April 24th- Sunday, April 26th at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Wasilla. This congregation's building is handicap accessible.

This Assembly will focus on global and local hunger needs and ministries. Details and registration are available online at www.elcaalaska.net/assembly.html

The Princeton Forum in Youth Ministry

April 28th- May 1st, 2015

Engaging, reflective, and theologically substantive, the 2015 Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry will focus on the role of the Holy Spirit in youth ministry. The Brothers of Taizé will lead worship in Princeton University Chapel, and an exciting cast of leaders will give lectures and offer classes. Learn more and register at ym.ptsem.edu.

Summer Conference in Pastoral Theology

June 8-10, 2015 at Pacific Lutheran University
Renewing Adult Formation in the Congregation: OUR HEARTS WERE BURNING WITHIN US.
You will be invited to consider the core practice of faith formation: its purposes, models, challenges, and opportunities. For more information and to register, please visit: <http://www.plu.edu/summertheology/>

God's Work. Our Hands. September 13, 2015

Save the date and celebrate! On Sunday, Sept. 13, 2015, congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will again have the opportunity to gather together for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday and celebrate who we are as the ELCA - one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. For more information and to see how service has affected communities, visit <http://www.elca.org/dayofservice>

Domestic Violence Help

[Click Here](#) for contact information on crisis teams across Alaska and to find programs in your area that can help.

[Click Here](#) for resources from the ELCA website for helping nurture families dealing with Domestic Violence.



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