

ALASKA SYNOD NEWS



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Mission Interpreters Corner

with DEM Lisa Smith Fiegel

We declare God's work! Mission interpreters are people in congregations who highlight the ways God is working through the congregation in the community, country and world. Mission interpreters tell those stories within the congregation and they will share a few of those here. -- thank you! Read about Mission Interpreter Sandy Mjolsnes' surprising entrance into a spiritually motivating ministry at the [Pioneer Home here.](#)



S. Mjolsnes

Wheat Ridge Ministries Awards \$13,800 in Joshua Grants

Wheat Ridge Ministries recently awarded three Joshua Grants totaling \$13,800. Joshua Grants are one year, matching grants of \$1,000-\$5,000 to Lutheran congregations, organizations and agencies committed to launching new ministries of health and hope in their community. Learn more about grant opportunities at wheatridge.org/joshuagrants.

The newest Joshua Grant recipients are: 1. Development and Pilot of "Train the Trainer" Course Hope for Grieving Children, 2. Hope4Us and 3. Yoga Therapy Program. Read about grant amounts and what these ministries [plan to do here.](#)

Wheat Ridge Burst Grants

With the mission of "Lutherans seeding new ministries of health and hope in the name of the healing Christ," Wheat Ridge's [Burst Grant Program](#) exists to support young leaders as they plan and implement a ministry or program that brings health and hope to their community. **Burst Grants are one-time grants of up to \$5,000** for a health or human care ministry project designed and led by young adult leaders between the ages of 20-35 in the Lutheran community. Contact [Anya Knodt](#), Assistant Director for Ministry

Programs, for assistance in developing a proposal or questions about eligibility. For general [eligibility info, check our website here.](#)

Volunteer Groups Needed for Gambell this Summer

Now is the time to get your mission team organized to come and help finish the new church building in Gambell. Last fall the outside of the building was constructed and this summer and fall we are going to finish the inside of the building. We are hoping to fill the rest of the calendar by Easter Sunday (April 5). If you can't find a team of 8-10 from your church and still want to help, let us know when you want to come and we will schedule you with others from our presbytery. The following weeks are available: July 6-16, July 20-30, Aug 3-13, Sept 1-10, Sept 28-Oct 8, Oct 12-22, Oct 26-Nov 5, & Nov 9-19. Check out the [Gambell New Building webpage](#) for additional information or contact Danna Larson, Yukon Presbytery Gambell Church Mission Team Coordinator dllsitka@gmail.com or volunteer@pbyukon.org.

2015 Health Assessment: Have You Done it Yet?

ELCA-primary health plan members and spouses, it is time to complete your annual health assessment. As you know, if at least 65% of participants complete the assessment, congregations and organizations in our synod will reduce the cost of their health plan contributions by 2% AND individuals earn wellness dollars to help offset medical costs. Eligible synod staff members have all taken the assessment, so why don't you take a few minutes to [Take the assessment now.](#)

Creation Justice Ministries is looking for an Executive Director

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Executive Director (ED) will have overall strategic and operational responsibility for Creation Justice Ministries' programs and execution of its mission. You can [find more information about the position here](#), and feel free to pass this along to anyone you think would be interested in joining the CJM team.

35th Anniversary Celebration for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Saturday, February 14, 6:00 p.m. Good Shepherd, 501 E. Bogard Road, Wasilla. Dinner/music/square dancing in Hanson Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be a plated served meal of either prime quality beef or chicken Cordon Bleu, with dessert included. Ticket donation: \$25 per person or \$50 for family of 2 or more. For tickets/reservations by February 10, call 907-376-2608 or email steele@mtaonline.net. This is a family event! Wear your slick-soled shoes for dancing! [A flyer is found here](#). Please print and share with your community.

Annual Rural Ministry Conference

March 1-3, 2015. Dubuque, Iowa. [Register Today!](#) The Center for Theology & Land at Wartburg Theological Seminary hosts the annual Rural Ministry Conferences each year, which address issues and themes pertinent to the well-being of rural communities and the ministry of rural churches. This year's theme is Practicing Care in Rural Congregations & Communities. [Read about Keynote speakers and more here.](#)

Workshops for Leaders

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center will be in Oregon in May and October for two great workshops. www.LMPeacCenter.org

1. Healthy Congregations, May 1-2, Friday evening and Saturday, Tuition \$99.00 before April 10. St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Beaverton
2. Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders, October 5 - 9, Monday to Friday, Tuition \$695.00. Gethsemane Lutheran, Portland

Called to Be a Living Voice

Registration is now open for "Called to be a Living Voice: Vocation * Reformation * Mission," the 2015 Worship Jubilee of the ELCA and the Biennial Conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. An array of presenters, including ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Gordon Lathrop, Harvard Stephens, Jr., and more will share their thoughts on vocation, reformation and mission. Learn More at www.livingvoice2015.org

HAPPENING THIS WEEKEND

Super Synod Challenge

While the Seahawks and the Patriots are playing for football's ultimate prize, the New England and Northwest Washington Synods are challenging each other to see who can raise the most money for ELCA World Hunger between now and the final whistle on Super Sunday. Join our Region 1 partners in some friendly but heated competition to combat hunger. [See more and donate here.](#)



Lutheran Winter Community Camp

Friday, January 30th- Sunday, February 1, 2015.
Held at Victory Bible Camp, Mile 95 Glenn Hwy; Sutton, AK.
A weekend of Christian camp for singles, couples and families. ALL are welcome!
Register today at www.aklutherancamps.org Flyer and [Details Here.](#)

Diana Butler Bass Learning Event

Diana Butler Bass will be in Alaska January 30-31, 2015. Her learning event will be held at St. John UMC and the FREE public lecture will be held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Here is the [information sheet and registration form](#). Registration is available at the door for a higher fee.

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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