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Sowing and Growing

Bishop Shelley Wickstrom

"Planting and tending a garden have nourished my soul for years. Gardening reminds us that there's no guarantee of what will mature or how many." This month, Bishop Shelley shares about gardening around the Synod, both literal and spiritual. From food for the hungry to calling new leaders, "We plant and tend in hope and promise." [Read on to](#) learn about pastoral transitions and garden ministries.



The church & change.

In her June column for *The Lutheran*, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton reminds us that we aren't "called to be the church of the past nor the church of the future, but to be the church right now." We may not get it right all the time, but we don't have to fret-that's the freedom we have with God. [Read her column here](#). This originally appeared in the June issue of *The Lutheran*. Reprinted with permission.



Mission Interpreters Corner: Alaska Mission for Christ, Honduras Outreach

Eileen Dubowski with DEM Lisa Smith Fiegel

In a remote coastal village in Honduras, Donna Heideman washed the feet of a stranger, just as Jesus commanded. Donna, a member of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in North Pole, was there with Alaska Mission for Christ. The foot washing was part of a women's Bible study, where women gather in the Word and then prepare a meal that is delivered to those in need, often reaching 100-150 people. The program, "Chefs de Mercy," is just one of the ministries of the Honduran outreach... [Read more](#)

Camps- Seward Peninsula, Southeast, Southcentral

Visit elcaalaska.net/camps and see what Lutheran Summer Camps are happening near you this year. Your involvement with camp could be any and all of the following: attend, send, pray.

Prayer Partners

Visit elcaalaska.net/prayer-partners to see your congregation's prayer partner for each month. Congregation leaders should contact the congregation for whom they are praying and see what thanksgivings and requests that can offer with and on behalf of their partner in prayer.

Help support young adults as they journey in college:

Connect your graduates with Lutheran Campus Ministry! By providing Lutheran Campus Ministry with the contact information for students, you help us let them know there is a place for them to bring their questions, doubts, joys and pain while they are away at school. Our peer ministers send students a letter over the summer, inviting them to visit us in the fall, then we check in with them from time to time to let them know that even if they never walk through our doors, they have a space to come to should they ever need it. Connect your student with [University of Washington](#), [Eastern Washington](#), [University of Idaho](#), [University of Montana](#), [Montana State](#), [Oregon State University \(Luther House\)](#), [Washington State University](#), [Western Washington University](#), [Trinity Lutheran College](#), or [Pacific Lutheran University](#). For other public (and some private) universities, [go here](#).

EVENTS and DEADLINES

Helping Veteran Families: PTSD and Family Relationships: Webinar

June 17th, 2015. 1:00-2:00 p.m. Eastern Time

This free interactive webinar will equip community clergy to help Caregivers of Veterans to recognize and respond effectively to stress within children and others in the family affected when a Veteran has symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The program will provide developmentally appropriate guidance on talking with children and adolescents about the Veteran's symptoms and behavior. [Learn more and Register here.](#)

Resolving Everyday Conflict For Leaders: July 28th! Conflict Resolution Center

Come find out why pastors and ministry leaders are still talking about this course! We're all familiar with the subtle and not-so-subtle conflicts that can suck the joy out of our ministries. This is your opportunity to collaborate with community leaders and turn that around! [Learn more.](#)

SPLM Fall Conference

Thornton Memorial Lutheran Church Council has tentatively set the date of the 2015 Fall Mini Conference to be held in Wales for August 28, 29, 30, 2015.

Theme Song: "Trust and Obey." Page 365 Favorite Hymns of Praise.

Theme Verse: Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not to thine own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

Flag Day at AK Child & Family- Thursday, July 9th, Jesse Lee Campus

AK Child & Family is seeking 15-20 volunteers to help with AK Flag Day. Two volunteers to give breaks at ticket sales and to check-in with bus driver. The rest would help with the food running and offering breaks. Hours to help are 5:15-8:15 PM and maybe a few to come around 2 PM to help in the gym getting trays ready. Look for Bishop Shelley who'll be scooping ice cream again this year. If you would like to help, contact Kelli Williams, kwilliams@akchild.org or call 348-9201.

2016/17 Domestic Hunger Grant Application: Deadline July 10th, 2015

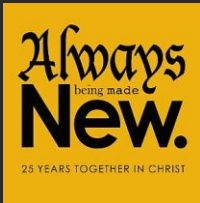
The ELCA World Hunger Funded Domestic Hunger Grant application is now available and will close on July 10, 2015. Grant categories include hunger relief, advocacy,

development and organizing. In the previous grant cycle, grants were awarded in Alaska to the "Summer Lunch Program for Kids" at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Juneau, handicap access project at He Will Provide Food Pantry in Seward, "Growing Vegetables Using Container Gardening Program" of the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, and AFACT-Anchorage Faith & Action-Congregations Together. Applicants can access the application and information at www.elca.org/domestic hunger grants.

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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