

ALASKA SYNOD NEWS

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Baptism Begins Real New Year

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

Happy New Year! It's that time of year when many people make-and soon break-resolutions. In her January column for *The Lutheran*, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton says go ahead and make those resolutions-but she asks readers to remember that "in baptism God has given us new life, a new year, a new day." [Read her column here](#). This column originally appeared in the January issue of *The Lutheran*. Reprinted with permission.



Sincere Thanks from the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod

Read a special word of thanks from Bishop Martin Wells to all who made contributions to victims of the fires experienced this summer in North Central Washington. Included in his message are updates on aid and the use of contributions. [Read Bishop Wells' message here](#)

New Lent Resource for your Congregation

Available soon, the ELCA Ecclesiology Task Force is working with staff in the churchwide organization and partners at Augsburg Fortress Press to develop study and discussion materials for use in your congregation. This resource can be used during Lent or another five-week period that works best in your context. These materials - which draw upon Scripture, the Augsburg Confession and the ELCA Constitution - are designed to stimulate reflection and dialogue on the nature and purpose of the church, especially in relation to our global and ecumenical commitments. Read a message from Presiding Bishop Eaton and Bishop James Mauney of the Virginia Synod [HERE](#), describing this upcoming resource.

PLTS - Out of the Fog, Into God's World blog

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California has launched a blog that engages theological perspectives with pressing, urgent, public issues of our day. This blog involves a wide range of contributors from the PLTS faculty, other faculties at California Lutheran University, students and alums, as well as others committed to the purpose of this blog. A link to our blog can be found here:

<http://outofthefogplts.wordpress.com/>

EVENTS

El Dia de Los Tres Reyes Magos, Epiphany!

Tuesday, January 6th, 6pm

United Protestant Presbyterian Church, 713 S Denali St, Palmer, Alaska 99645

Join friends and neighbors in celebrating the final day of Christmas. Folks from Good Shepherd and surrounding will be joining United Protestant Presbyterian Church for their Epiphany celebration, bringing some Latin American traditions to the festivities. They will have games, Mexican Lotería, traditional Latin American dinner and treats, music, piñatas, and an opportunity to hear the story of El Día de los Tres Reyes Magos. [Flyer Here](#)

Stewardship Ad-Venture

Your congregation can grow in faith and giving by participating in Ventures for Steward Leaders, a four-part workshop series in 2015. Led by Alaskan Lutherans, the first workshop is **Saturday, January 17**, at Lutheran Church of Hope, from 9 AM-3 PM (the rest of the workshops are two hours).

Congregations may participate telephonically or electronically. Please talk with Pastor Lisa Smith Fiegel, director for evangelical mission, at 272-8899 or alaskadem@gmail.com to sign up or for more information.



- Five congregations have already registered and space is limited! Contact the office by Monday, January 12th to sign up.

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](#). You can visit her [website](#) for more information about her.



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

[Details Here](#).

Exploring Faith Online Courses

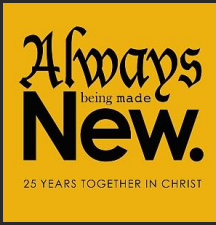
Wartburg Seminary is launching a new opportunity for continuing education for rostered leaders AND individuals in congregations. One of the newest elements of *Learning for Life: Seminary for Everyone* is the Exploring Faith Online Courses that will begin in February. Courses are 5-week and 8-week. Course Topics, details and more available [HERE](#) and at www.wartburgseminary.edu/template_Events.asp?id=529

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.





Alaska Synod, ELCA | 907-272-8899 |
1847 W Northern Lights Blvd. #2
elcaalaska@gmail.com | www.elcaalaska.net
Anchorage, AK 99517



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