

ALASKA SYNOD NEWS



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Coming to terms with the times

Do we assume Jesus? In her April column for *The Lutheran*, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton reminds us that the best thing about the church is Jesus. But she wonders if we have lost the language to speak about God's love. After all, telling about God's love is more important than creating programs, attracting young people and paying for the boiler. Read her [column here](#). This article originally appeared in the April issue of *The Lutheran*. Reprinted with permission.



The Rev. Jim Drury

Pastor Jim Drury who served Sitka Lutheran from 1992-2008 died Tuesday morning of complications following open heart surgery. Pastor Stan Berntson, who served at First Lutheran-Ketchikan and as skipper of the MV Christian, will bring a greeting from the Alaska Synod at the funeral. [Read here](#) to see Ascension St. Matthew's Church post on Jim's passing.

Nominations at Synod Assembly

The Alaska Synod Nominations Committee is seeking a few more individuals to stand on the ballots at Assembly for elections. Three positions still need nominees and are currently uncontested. Other ballot positions are open and descriptions may be [found here](#). Nominate yourself or someone else with [this form](#) or contact the Synod Office.

Synod Assembly: Sign-Up for Pre-Assembly Workshops

Pre-Assembly Workshops will be at Trinity Lutheran Church - 10355 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy (Rides to Trinity Lutheran will be available from Good Shepherd at 9:10am Lunch for Pre-Assembly Workshop Participants will be at Trinity) Workshops are from 9:30-11:30am. Details and Sign-up if you plan to attend:

www.elcaalaska.net/workshop-sign-up.html

Hands for Hunger Photos

The Alaska Synod Mission Table and Assembly Planning Team are collecting photos of your congregation engaged in Hunger Ministry for a display at Assembly. If you have photos of your congregation at work in ministry please email them to elcaalaska@gmail.com or bring them by the Synod Office. Deadline: April 10th.

Collegium for Rostered Leaders

Please [Register](#). Registration was due by March 20th. If you plan to attend, please sign-up post-haste. Event: Tuesday, April 21-Thursday, April 23, Holy Spirit Retreat Center, 10980 Hillside Drive, Anchorage, AK 99507.

Save Money with Portico

Time is running out to complete the Portico Health Assessment and help save thousands of dollars across the synod in health care premiums. We need 13 more clergy and/or their spouses who are Portico members to complete the assessment. Hurry! Deadline: April 30th. www.porticobenefits.org

Where to Send Mission Support

Recently, the ELCA Churchwide organization sent out an announcement that they had established a new lock-box for mission support and designated gifts. Our Region 1 Financial Services Office is something unique within the ELCA. We want you to know that you should still send your mission support to the **PO Box 94432, Seattle, WA 98124-6732** address. You can find remittance forms on our website at www.elcaalaska.net/forms.html. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the synod office, 907-272-8899.

Show You Love Kids

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness and provide resources about ways in which communities can ensure children are safe. The faith based community plays a key role in our communities across the state. Alaska has one of the highest rates of child abuse and neglect in the nation. You can help us change these statistics. To find out more information, please go to www.alaskachildrenstrust.org. You can also email tstorr@alaskachildrenstrust.org if you have any questions.

RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Risk Reporter

This resource from Church Mutual offers insights for leading your congregation safely and effectively. The [Spring 2015 issue](#) includes:

- *A Practical Guide to Peaceful Protest
- *Managing Your Risks: Sweep Hazards Out of Kitchens
- *Seasonal Spotlight: Host a Safe, Successful Yard Sale
- *Q/A Perspective: Managing Work Related Injuries

Marijuana Talk Kit

"Marijuana is a plant. It's natural. How harmful could it be?"

"But YOU smoked weed when YOU were younger."

"Would you rather I drink alcohol? Weed is so much safer."

Would you know what you'd say if confronted with these tough questions or arguments by your teen? Don't be speechless- check out the [Marijuana Talk Kit](#).

Board and Council Governance

Join Church Mutual's [webinar](#) at no cost to understand the fiduciary responsibilities of your board/council members, and learn best practices to protect your organization.

The Thomas Center for Senior Leadership

A ministry developed by St Mary's Episcopal Church invites our ecumenical partnership. An orientation to this unique housing development and faith community will be April 19th. Feel free to distribute the [bulletin insert](#), [brochure](#) or visit thomascenterak.com

Churchwide Employment Opportunities

The Mission Advancement Unit at the ELCA Churchwide Office is seeking qualified individuals for two positions: Associate Editor- [details here](#), and a Manager of Digital Media Strategy [details here](#). These positions and more are displayed on the [ELCA Job Board](#).

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Seeks Kitchen Manager

The congregation seeks to hire an individual part-time to manage their commercial kitchen. Applicants need not be members of Good Shepherd Lutheran. Details are available [here](#).

EVENTS

Theater of War

April 16th. 5:00-6:30 pm. Wilda Marston Theater, ZJ Loussac Library
Theater of War presents an ancient Greek tragedy- about the suicide of a great, respected warrior- to help war veterans discuss the visible and invisible wounds of war. The presentations are intended to foster understanding and compassion and to help improve the lives of service members, veterans and their families. [Details here](#). To reserve seats (free) please visit eventbrite.com.

Prepare-Enrich Training

April 21st. 9:30am- 4:00pm. St. Mark Lutheran Church. 3230 Lake Otis Pkwy, Anchorage. Rev. Carol George will be facilitating a certification class using Prepare-Enrich pre-marital, marriage, and family counseling materials. Cost: \$185. If you are already a certified Prepare-Enrich facilitator you are welcome to register as a refresher for just \$35. For Registration phone Pastor Carol at (907)227-7501 or at St. Mark (907)276-6231.

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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