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#### 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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### Young Adults in Global Mission

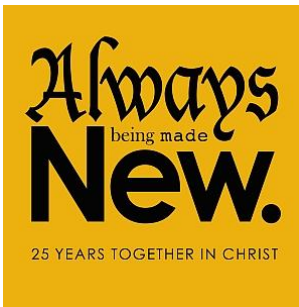
The ELCA currently has hundreds of missionaries around the world, but there are 60 that perform their work through the specialized ministry of Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM). YAGM is an ELCA program that places volunteers aged 19-29 around the world to engage in a year of service and ministry. The ELCA characterizes YAGM as an opportunity for "young adults to become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, providing critical support to ministries and projects in communities of need. It also invites volunteers into a journey of self-reflection, providing space to consider their sense of identity, God's work in the world, and their place within it all."



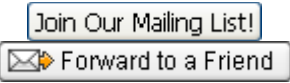
**Rachel Swenson with two host brothers in Vryheid, South Africa**

Of those 60 specialized servants across the globe, one is from Christ Lutheran Church in Fairbanks, AK. Her name is Rachel Swenson. A 2013 graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, Rachel was raised in Nome and moved to Fairbanks prior to 8th grade. Now, she is 10,000 miles away, serving in Vryheid, South Africa. Rachel works in a variety of capacities including with children in a pediatric ward and as an office assistant in a local school. More of [her biography is available here](#).

Rachel also maintains a blog, "[The South African Antics of an Adventurous Alaskan](#)" with details about her work and poignant insights into the nature of missions and



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accompaniment in the twenty-first century. There are [blogs for eight countries](#) with active YAGM participants, and many of the young adult missionaries have [their own blogs](#).

Read more about [YAGM on the ELCA website](#).



### Spiritual Practices with Pastor Marcia Wakeland

As we continue our series on spiritual practices, one that carries some considerable baggage is The Freedom to Give Away Money. Perhaps it is or always has been easy for you, but it can also be that sticky place in our spiritual practice; money touches matters of security, success and status, big things we cling to as humans. That's why Jesus talked and taught so much about it. It was clear money could be the 'treasure' of our lives, instead of loving God. But I think Jesus also talked so much about it because he knew it was a way of freedom. If you can give away money with gratitude, there is an interior freedom that is wide and vast and surprising. But it takes some trust and regular practice to keep it so.

[Read the rest of the article here](#)

### MV Christian

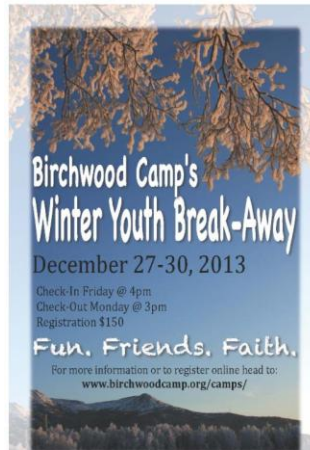
In mid-November, the board of Lutheran Indian Ministries made the difficult decision to sell the M/V (Motor Vessel)



Christian. The organization can't afford to maintain the ministry. The ship is docked in Petersburg and will be evaluated for market value in the near future.

This ministry throughout Southeast Alaska is deeply held in the hearts of Lutheran Alaskans. Please keep this ministry in prayer as the future use of the MV Christian is discerned.

### Winter Youth Camp December 27th-30th 2013



Birchwood Camp is hosting their annual Youth Winter Break-Away camp on December 27-30, 2013! This is a wonderful event for middle school and high school youth in grades 6-12. The camp invites YOUTH from Alaska PLUME (Presbyterian, ELCA

Lutheran, United Methodist, Episcopal) churches to attend! The retreat program is inclusive and ecumenical. Youth will be enjoying worship and fellowship together as well as exploring fun winter activities indoors and outdoors. In addition to much play, youth will be introduced to different worship styles, such as contemplative Taize worship and the experience of a native style steam room.

For more information or to register online, visit: <http://birchwoodcamp.org/camps/>. Register before Dec. 20 to avoid late fees. Please note that some partial scholarships are available.

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### Typhoon Haiyan

On November 8, 2013, one of the strongest typhoons on record swept across the Philippines, leaving devastation in its wake. The number of lives lost is still being determined and aid workers are struggling to prevent more loss from starvation or the consumption of bad water.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) has stepped into the region to provide both immediate and long term assistance. They work to provide the most basic needs to survivors now, including clean water, food, shelter and medical care. However, the effects of the storm have long reaching consequences, including damage to farms and fisheries. LDR will not abandon the Philippines; they will stay to help people regain their livelihoods. They ask for support through prayer, and they offer [resources for prayer and worship](#) that can be included in bulletins. More information about LDR's response to the typhoon and a link for donations is available on their [website](#).

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Alaska Synod, ELCA | | [elcaalaska@gmail.com](mailto:elcaalaska@gmail.com) |

**1847 W Northern Lights Blvd #2**  
**Anchorage, AK 99577**  
**(907) 272-8899**  
[www.elcaalaska.net](http://www.elcaalaska.net)



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