

ALASKA SYNOD NEWS



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Celebrating and Growing Across the Synod Bishop Shelley Wickstrom

Join in prayer and celebration with your Alaska Synod siblings this summer. Three congregations will be making pastoral call decisions by early June. Fairbanks Lutheran has completed the restoration of their flooded basement, and now is the time to consider deepening your knowledge with the SAM program. Read more congregation celebrations and [opportunities here](#).



Continuing to Work to Make Malaria History: Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Five years ago the ELCA joined worldwide efforts to fight malaria by launching the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Our goal: \$15 million by 2015. Today, we're 94 percent of the way there. The congregations and individuals of the Alaska Synod, as of the end of April, have contributed over \$40,918.04 to the Malaria Campaign. That is an average of over \$4 per baptized ELCA Alaskan. Thank you for your past and future generosity. As we continue to celebrate new life in Christ, let us join together and ensure all of God's children live whole, healthy lives. We hope you will prayerfully consider [one more gift](#). Link [trouble?](#)

From the Administration Matters Blog

Make your mark with special pricing on road markers to direct people to your congregation. Consider Solar Panels as a way to reduce ongoing bills. Set Guidelines and screenings to keep volunteers safe. More at [Administration Matters](#). Link [trouble?](#)

2016/17 Domestic Hunger Grant Application

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/domestichungergrants. Link [trouble?](#)

Exploring Faith Online Courses. Learning is for Life. Seminary is for Everyone.

Exploring Faith from Wartburg Seminary offers 5-week and 8-week online courses for rostered leaders AND individuals in congregations. [Entry Level Courses](#) are designed for individuals wishing to explore matters of faith and theology at a deeper level. [Advanced Level Courses](#) are perfect for rostered leaders or those who have studied theology before.

Ecumenical eFormation event June 1-3, 2015

Is your congregation getting serious about its online presence, or hoping to take it to the next level? If so, jump-start your learning goals with hands-on training and big-picture inspiration at e-Formation 2015. Join us June 1-3 at Virginia Theological Seminary for just \$279 or by **webinar for just \$79**. More information at eformationvts.org.

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.

North American Association for the Catechumenate

Learn more about how to transform your congregation from membership to discipleship using the ancient faith formation process known as the Catechumenate. Upcoming events include the [Annual Gathering](#) in Baltimore, Maryland, **July 30-Aug. 1**, featuring Jessicah Duckworth and Paul Hoffman and many [workshops](#). Also a [Catechumenate Training Institute](#) for congregational leaders will be offered **Oct. 1-3**, Sacramento, CA.

God's Work. Our Hands. 2015

The date for this year's dedicated day of service is Sunday, Sept. 13, when congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will once again have the opportunity to gather together and celebrate who we are as the ELCA - one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. What will your congregation do? Our Alaska Synod congregations have done landscaping and cleaned kitchens, cut and stacked firewood, picked up roadside trash, baked cookies for those in public service, planted and harvested community gardens to name just a few activities. Let us know what your congregation has planned. Your plan could spur another congregation into action. Email elcaalaska@gmail.com. View [this video](#) from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and see examples of how ELCA congregations share God's love.

Grace Gathering, August 10-13, 2016, New Orleans, LA

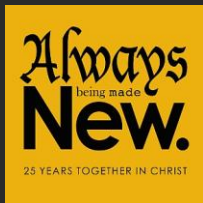
The Grace Gathering in 2016 provides an opportunity for all ELCA members to experience the same inspiring worship, Bible study, service learning activities, fellowship and other experiences that voting members have when they attend the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans. Anyone eligible to attend the churchwide assembly as a visitor is welcome to participate in Grace Gathering. Learn more about Grace Gathering [here](#) and at www.elca500.org/events Link [trouble?](#)

Link Trouble

If you experience problems with any links- please note that elca.org is doing site maintenance on May 27, 2015 until midnight (CDT). If your troublesome link is not an elca.org link, contact the Synod Office, and we will help you find the right information.

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
Anchorage, AK 99517
elcaalaska@gmail.com | www.elcaalaska.net



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