



Alaska Synod, ELCA | elcaalaska.net

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God's work. Our Hands.

**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday
Sept. 7, 2014**



What Are You Doing?

God's Work Our Hands Sunday is September 7th, 2014.

Let us know what your congregation is planning and we'll share it around the Synod.

Last year congregations:

- Visited the elderly and lonely
- Volunteered at Children's Centers

- Built shelves and renovated spaces
- Cut firewood to provide for the needy
- Cleaned up yards
- Baked cookies and delivered them to public servants and the elderly
- Community garden work
- Packing food for homeless youth
- Created toiletry kits for women at a Rescue Mission
- Painted a transitional living apartment
- And more!

Plan your day with resources from elca.org/dayofservice

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. **James 1:27**

Around the Synod

Fairbanks Lutheran Church Flooding

The Scriptures say that rain falls equally on the just and the unjust, and Fairbanks can attest to this as they have had a record summer for rainfall.

Fairbanks Lutheran, like many of their neighbors, are trying to manage flooding in their basement.

Volunteers, working literally around the clock, have managed to keep the flooding to a few inches, move stored items and provide snacks for the workers.

The insurance carrier for the church states that groundwater seepage does not constitute flooding, so at least initially, the damage is not covered by insurance.

Please keep their church and community in your prayers as they struggle to clean up and reorganize.

[For more photos and details click here.](#)



You Can Redirect Your Flooding Donation

Through our Lutheran Disaster Response Synod Coordinator Alan Budahl, we've learned that money donated to cover the shipping costs of flood relief materials to Emmonak has greatly exceeded what was originally requested because of the bulk of FEMA material already onsite.

If you donated to that request and are willing to allow that donation to be used for other requests, such as the groundwater flooding at Fairbanks Lutheran, please email Alan at abudahl@gci.net.

You can donate directly to Fairbanks Lutheran Church by mailing a check to 1012 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

Dinner and a Movie

"A Better Life"

Illegal immigrant and hardworking single dad Carlos Galindo embarks on a physical and spiritual journey in order to reconnect with his teenage son and keep him from getting pulled into the local gang life.

- September 26, 2014
- Tacos at 6:00 p.m.
- Movie at 6:30 p.m.
- Dessert and Discussion after the movie
- No Charge



**St. Mark Lutheran Church
3230 Lake Otis Parkway**

Hosted by the Global Mission Committee
Call 276-6231 for more information

You Should Have a Disaster Plan

In the event of a disaster- where will you go? Where will you meet your children? Who will tend to the handicapped or elderly in your neighborhood?

Are you prepared?

Check out elcaalaska.net/disaster-preparedness for flyers and tips on what to bring and what to do. Make a plan.



Churchwide News and Mission

Dancing to make a difference

While serving in South Africa through the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program, Abby Henderson has witnessed the courage and resilience of young South African women, particularly as they face difficulties on an everyday basis. Sexual harassment and violence are ongoing concerns.

Abby is one of 59 young leaders who are working with the ELCA's companion churches around the world, an opportunity made possible by the support of generous ELCA members and congregations. As a Teen Life Coach at Proudly Female, a program for 140 teen girls from two schools in Bellville, Abby mentors young women and encourages them to stay in school.

[Read More about Abby's mission here.](#)



Health Care Rates Increasing 11%

Portico is adjusting rates. You can [See Details Here](#)



2015 Contribution Summary

Contributions paid by sponsoring employers:

- ELCA-Primary health -- contribution amount will increase by 11% for each of the four health benefit options (Platinum+, Gold+, Silver+, Bronze+) and will also be adjusted due to changes in age and defined compensation
- ELCA Medicare-Primary health -- will increase by 11% for the Standard option, and will also be adjusted due to changes in age and defined compensation
- Disability -- will be reinstated after one-year suspension, set at 2.5% of defined compensation
- Survivor -- no change; will remain 0.8% of defined compensation
- Retiree support -- no change; will remain 0.7% of defined compensation

- Retirement -- no change to required minimum amounts

Great Expectations not novel

In her August column for The Lutheran, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton reminds readers that God gives us what we need to participate in God's mission-and it's happening. She asks ELCA members to share the signs of life, of mission, they see across this church. They are there if we take time to notice.

[Read her column here](#)



Photo Credit: Michael D. Watson

Ministry Training

Children, Youth & Family Ministry Training at Trinity Lutheran College

Trinity Lutheran College in Everett, Wash., will offer a three-week Certificate Program in Children, Youth & Family Ministry, **January 5-23, 2015**. The training is designed to equip church staff, volunteers, and pastors for effective leadership in congregational children, youth, and family ministry. Students learn in an interactive seminar format, including discussions, videos, role plays, and more. Housing is available. For more information, visit <http://www.tlc.edu/cyfcenter/cyfmcertificate.html> or contact Rev. David Ellingson at 425.249.4722 or david.ellingson@tlc.edu.

Are You Interested in Leading Well?



"Leading Well: Equipping for Leadership in God's World" is being offered **November 18-21, 2014** at Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center, Carefree, AZ (www.spiritinthedesert.org).

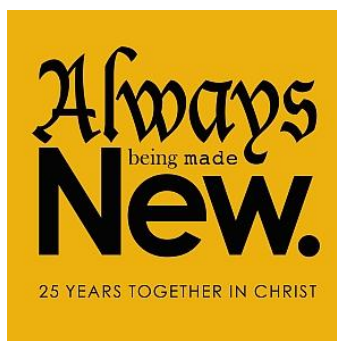
Leading Well is a three-year curriculum for leaders of vital, healthy communities of faith who wish to:

- Explore their gifts, strengths and values
- Refine their capacity to work effectively with staff and volunteers,
- Take time for worship, prayer, rest and fellowship

More details about the curriculum and schedule are available at www.LeadinWellInstitute.org.



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Tell a friend

Encourage members of your congregation to subscribe to Synod E-news.

Also- Tell a friend about Jesus!

[Subscribe to E-news](#)

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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Alaska Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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