

ALASKA SYNOD NEWS



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Synodically Authorized Ministers in the Southeast

The Rev. Sue Bahleda

On February 22, the Southeast Cluster Spring Rendezvous celebrated our commitment to an informed and educated laity by commissioning six Synodically Authorized Ministers from three SE congregations. Across the past year, the SAM candidates gathered for instructional units on theology, the New Testament, the Hebrew Bible, worship, church history, teaching, and preaching. Read more about this lay leadership program [here](#).

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.

World Malaria Day and the ELCA Malaria Campaign

World Malaria Day is April 25, offering us an opportunity to do something significant for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Five years ago we started this campaign, dreamed big with our Lutheran companion churches and partners, and set out to raise \$15 million by 2015 for programs to fight malaria. Together, we have already raised more than 90 percent of our goal. Learn about how we can reach the goal [here](#).

Luther Reading Challenge

The Institute for Ecumenical Research in Strasbourg, a close affiliate of the Lutheran World Federation, has just launched the Luther Reading Challenge. It's an online community for reading and discussing Luther's theological writings as a preparation for the Reformation anniversary. From now until October 2017, a wide range of Luther's works will be made available online. Anyone can sign up for a free account to join the conversation. www.lutherreadingchallenge.org

Alaska Synodical Women's Organization

Find the latest ASWO Newsletter [here](#). Read to see a note from the President, a letter from Shannon, what's happening and more. Since the date of publishing, a location has been determined for the Fall Convention: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in South Anchorage, September 25-27, 2015.

Churchwide Seeks a Director for Congregational Support for the ELCA

Located in Chicago, the Director for Congregational Support is responsible for directing churchwide development efforts that provide designated support for congregations in three areas: New and Renewing Congregations, Youth & Young Adult Leadership, and Disability Ministries. This position plays a significant role in the ELCA's comprehensive campaign. More details are available [here](#).

Wheat Ridge Ministries Seeks Candidates for President

Wheat Ridge Ministries of Itasca, Illinois, seeks a talented and deeply committed President/Chief Executive Officer to lead the organization and serve as a spokesperson and advocate for the Wheat Ridge mission-"Lutherans seeding new ministries of health and hope in the name of the healing Christ." Learn more [here](#).

EVENTS and OPPORTUNITIES

Ventures in Steward Leaders

Saturday, March 28, Joy Lutheran in Eagle River, 10 AM-12 noon.

This is the second of four Ventures cohort gatherings and the time to check in with each other on how things are going in your stewardship planning. Megan and Pr. Martin will facilitate conversation and sharing, as well as offer resources and ideas for next steps. Please bring:

- * Your pastor and at least one member of your stewardship team
- * Reports on what you have done to begin stewardship education
- * Plans for coming months
- * Roadblocks, questions, concerns
- * Joys and highlights

ELCA Congregational Stewardship Survey

As a reminder, if you have not yet asked your congregation to participate in the ELCA Congregational Stewardship Survey, please do! We need as many from each congregation as possible. Here's the link:

<http://archive.elca.org/cgi-bin/rws/rws5.pl?FORM=MacCong>

You can publish this, but also include your ELCA congregational ID #, as the survey asks for it.

Prepare-Enrich Training

Rev. Carol George will be facilitating a certification class for using Prepare-Enrich pre-marital, marriage, and family counseling materials on Tuesday, April 21st (just prior to clergy collegium) from 9:30 to 4:00 PM at St. Mark. Cost of the course, certification and all materials is \$185. If you are already a certified Prepare-Enrich facilitator you are welcome to register as a refresher and for an update on the personalized computer models for parenting and adoption for just \$35.

For Registration you may phone Pastor Carol at (907)227-7501 or at St. Mark (907)276-6231.

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.

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)

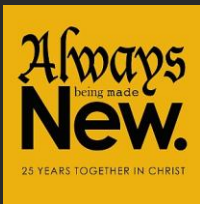
Workshops are from 9:30-11:30am. Details and Sign-up if you plan to attend:

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

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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