



Alaska Synod News



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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.

Connect to the ELCA

Spiritual Practices

with Pastor Marcia Wakeland



It would be delinquent of me to write a series on the spiritual practices without including a bit on prayer. Yet it was tempting. I struggled between 'what more is there to say to those who've been praying for years?' and, 'how can I talk about prayer practices in a short essay when it's like a book a thousand

pages long?' Yet no matter that it is as old as those who first believed, and has taken more forms that can be counted, prayer is a spiritual discipline that can't be taken for granted or ever perfected. It is the thing that is new each day; ever creating us into something a little re-formed.

The writer, Anne Lamott, says the three essential prayers are: [read more here](#)

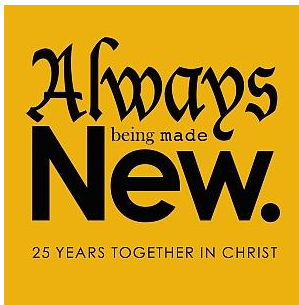
Campaign for the ELCA

a message from Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, Share the gospel. Stop malaria. Start new congregations. Expand ministries to people living with disabilities. Break the cycle of hunger and poverty.

Engage youth and young adults. Support our church's future leaders. It is not often that the opportunity to make a real and lasting difference comes along. But now, through Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA, you can. Whether we are welcoming people into our congregations or providing assistance to those who are hungry, the ministries we make possible together as members of the ELCA are changing lives. [Read the rest of the Bishop's letter and watch a short video here](#)





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Stewardship, Giving and Planning- Oh My!

Fall Stewardship opportunities

Save the date: October 17-25, 2014

Keith Mundy, ELCA stewardship program director, will be in Alaska that week to lead workshops for lay and clergy in the Southeast, South Central and the Interior (tentative). This is your opportunity to reflect on what giving (really) means for our faith, how to teach giving, how to create a culture of abundance, how to implement year-round stewardship and more. The workshops will be shaped by our requests for topics, so please contact me at the synod office to let us know what you would like to learn. [There's more: read about it here.](#)



Also, don't forget about [Ventures in Growing Stewards.](#)

Hunger Grants Awarded in the Synod

Congratulations and thank you to the following congregations and agencies who will receive ELCA Hunger Grants this year:

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church-Juneau receiving \$2000 for Summer Lunch for Kids Program.

Pastor Ron Nitz of Resurrection Lutheran-Seward who wrote on behalf of "He Will Provide, Inc.," receiving \$2000 to assist with food pantry handicap accessibility

Anchorage Faith & Action-Congregations Together receiving \$3000 for congregation-based community organizing

Pastor Randy Parshall of Christ Lutheran Church-Soldotna who wrote on behalf of the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank receiving \$2000 for the "Growing Vegetables Using Container Gardening Program."



Help save money on ELCA Health Coverage

Thank you to those ELCA-Primary plan members and spouses who completed the confidential Mayo Clinic Health Assessment. Your help is greatly appreciated!

But we still need 18 more people to take the health assessment to reach 65% participation and earn a 2% discount on all 2014 ELCA health contributions for synod employers.

ELCA-Primary plan members and spouses: Complete the assessment by April 30 to take stock of your health, earn \$150 in wellness dollars and get us that much closer to saving 2% this year.

We need your help, and it only takes a minute. Click here to take the assessment: elcaforwellness.org

Collegium for Rostered Leaders

April 21-23, 2014

Rostered Leaders, the Alaska Synod Collegium will begin Monday, April 21st at 6pm with dinner and continue through Wednesday, April 23rd.

The event is held at the [Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks](#). Look for an email from the Synod Office this week with more details and a block rate.

Registration for Collegium will be available on the Synod Website, soon.

Managing Your Risk



Check out the Winter 2014 Issue of [Risk Reporter from Church Mutual](#). They offer tips on safe and smart ways to:

- Offer wireless Internet service for your congregation
- Keep boiler, furnace rooms clean and well maintained
- Have your AED ready for an emergency
- Practice safe offering collection and handling

Be informed. Be safe!

Reduced Shipping Costs for Augsburg Fortress

Paying too much for Augsburg Fortress Shipping Costs? Calling a sales representative can help secure a different shipping method, saving you over 50% on shipping costs.

U.S. Sales and Service

(800) 328-4648

Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM (Central)

When you shop online, their website has a default of Federal Express Smartpost. In most states, this gives the customer the least expensive shipping option available. However, Augsburg Fortress recommends that users in Hawaii and Alaska contact the Sales and Service Center to find a different, more affordable method of shipping.

Revitalizing Your Congregation Conference



Conference sponsored by [Healthierchurch.org](#). All

presentations will be interactive on-site and via webcast.

April 24, 25 & 26, 2014 (same dates as Alaska Synod

Assembly, so don't double-book yourself!)

Five Approaches in One Conference

- Respect the Facebook Generation
- Re-energize Leaders
- Reactivate Members
- Revitalize your Website
- Revival Worship

Edison Park Lutheran Church,
6626 N Oliphant Ave, Chicago, IL

[See Presenters and Conference Details Here](#)

[See Chicago Hotel Information Here](#)

Peace DNA



Click video image to view. In this video, Peace DNA briefly describes the six "essential" questions that guide problem-based peacemaking. This is useful for identifying where there is a sticking point in the peace process so that a strategic approach can be followed.

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