



Alaska Synod, ELCA | elcaalaska.net

September 24, 2014

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Synod Activity and Deadlines

We Need a Headcount

The Stewardship workshops are approaching, and we need to know who's coming so we can plan for food and materials- you know- be good stewards of our resources.

Please select a way to let us know you're coming to this FREE EVENT.

- Register online: <http://www.elcaalaska.net/stewardship-workshop.html>
- Call the Synod Office: 907-272-8899
- Send a Carrier Pigeon
- Send Smoke Signals
- Use Semaphore Flags
- Use your imagination

Ecumenical Partners Welcome!

- **Workshops will be held in**

- * Juneau: October 18, (during cluster meetings),
 - * Anchorage: October 20 (4pm-8pm) Lutheran Church of Hope
 - * Fairbanks: October 25 (9:30-2:30) Fairbanks Lutheran Church
- Free travel for one lay person from your ELCA congregation!
[See event details and Register Here!](#)

Answering a Call to Pray and Practice

with Bishop Shelley Wickstrom

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has invited Bishops and other people of faith to sign a pledge to pray and practice respectful dialogue in the public and political sphere. I have done that. You can see Bishop Eaton's invitation below:



A Call to Pray and Practice Respectful Dialogue

I believe that the extreme rhetoric and excessive polarization that is so prevalent in our politics is harming America because it makes it more difficult to solve our common problems. I also believe that people of faith have a responsibility to show respect for others of different views and to engage in respectful dialogue with them. Therefore, I pledge that, during the 2014 campaign season I will do my best to:

- *Pray regularly for myself, for others and for our political leaders that we might promote civility and show respect for those of different views*
- *Practice respectful dialogue by applying the Golden Rule in political discussions*

If you would like to see more, or to sign onto the pledge, you can find it at:

<http://faithandpolitics.org/better-angels/call-to-action/>

Civility works in politics. And it works in congregations.

Dinner and a Movie on Friday

"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

Collegium Deadline is Friday

Rostered Leaders, Alaska Synod Collegium is Tuesday, October 21st and

Wednesday October 22nd. Pre-Registration is easy and required by **September 26th**. The deadline for reserving your hotel room is also September 26th.
Topics covered: Stewardship and Boundaries Workshop.

[Registration and Details Here](#)

Welcoming Those with Mental Illness

AK Child & Family is a member of the National Council for Behavioral Health, and they'd like to ask your congregation to take the short survey highlighted in yellow below.



We want to learn more about the ways in which religious congregations across the country provide welcoming environments to those with serious mental health conditions.

We have created a brief survey on welcoming initiatives for people with lived experience of mental illness, available

[here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MJP9NMP) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MJP9NMP>).

[Please read more about this initiative](#), our hope for the future and how you are helping by taking this survey.

Education Opportunity

Alaska Synod Lay School of Theology is pleased to offer a free class by Luther Seminary Assistant Professor of Old Testament, Michael Chan.

Jeremiah: Judgment, Trauma and Hope will be webcast at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 3230 Lake Otis Parkway, Anchorage on five consecutive Monday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 PM beginning October 13, 2014.

"The potency of Jeremiah's rhetoric matches the severity of the judgment Judah experienced at the hands of the Babylonian army. This class explores this critical moment in Israel's life and considers how the book of Jeremiah can inform Christian identity and vocation.

Everyone is welcome. Please call St. Mark Lutheran at 276-6231 to register. This course qualifies for credit in the Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) Program of the Alaska Synod.

The Autumn of Life

A Seminar on Aging Death and Dying

Monday nights, Sept. 22- Nov. 3, 2014.

7pm- 8:30pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

745-0726

10355 Palmer-Wasilla Hwy., Palmer, AK Mile 2.2.

Join any or all of these weekly meetings about important issues related to aging, death and dying, including beliefs, preparation, dealing with age-related difficulties, end times and grief.

Open to the public.

No Cost.

[Please see details Here.](#)



Day of Faith in Action on the Death Penalty

Sunday, October 5, 2014

2 to 4 PM

St Mary's Episcopal Church (Lake Otis and Tudor)

Amnesty International and Alaskans Against the Death Penalty will sponsor an interfaith vigil to examine the death penalty from faith perspectives and to speak out against the death penalty. We will gather afterward for food and fellowship.

[Details Here](#)

Please Note:

The ELCA social statement on "The Death Penalty" expresses ELCA opposition to the use of the death penalty because of the church's ministry with and to people affected by violent crime, even while recognizing that God entrusts the state with the power to take human life when failure to do so constitutes a clear danger to society.

The statement acknowledges the existence of different points of view within the church and society and the need for continued deliberation, but objects to the use of the death penalty because it is not used fairly and has failed to make society safer. Its practice undermines any possible alternate moral message since "the message conveyed by an execution, reflected in the attention it receives from the public, is one of brutality and violence."

You may read the [full social statement here](#).

Churchwide Updates and Opportunities

Mission of the Month in Zambia:

'Sometimes a church just needs bricks and mortar!'

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia is growing fast - so fast it needs more church buildings! Inspire your congregation with this story. For a colorful Word document to display on your congregation's bulletin board, or use in your bulletin or PowerPoint presentation, visit

www.ELCA.org/resources/globalchurch.



Take a virtual journey to Zimbabwe, Zambia and Tanzania this fall!

Come along with six ELCA travelers Sept. 25-Oct. 10 to learn about exciting new Global Ministries that are priorities of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. Sign up to receive blog stories and photos through "Stories of the Global Church" at <http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/blogs/handInHand/>.



Start saving for your congregation's trip to the

2015 Youth Gathering

Are you saving up and earning interest? Consider registration fees, transportation, lodging and meals.

The Mission Investment Fund, the financial ministry of the ELCA, offers a special **Demand Investment Youth Ministry account**. With this account, you earn interest on your fundraising dollars-and have the flexibility and convenience of writing checks as expenses occur. Your congregation can open an MIF Demand Investment Youth Ministry account for as little as \$100, and your funds will be available to you when you need them.



Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Visit mif.elca.org/youthministry for more information and to download a Demand Investment Youth Ministry account application. For information on MIF investments and ministry loans, contact MIF Customer Service at 877-886-3522 or your MIF Regional Manager Joel Wudel, at 773-682-1765 and joel.wudel@elca.org.

Administration Matters

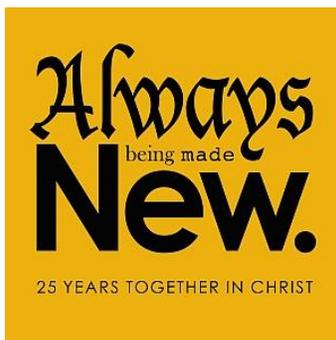
"Administration Matters" is a bimonthly e-newsletter for ELCA congregational and synodical leaders. It addresses common, practical issues including finance, governance, risk management, tax, legal concerns and topics of interest about day to day operations and management in church settings. Read it at the link below:

[Index of the September 2014 Issue](#)

- Health and disability contribution rates increase to meet community needs
- Youth Gathering registration to open Oct. 15
- New Stories of Faith in Action
- How to communicate financial information to your church
- Keep boiler, furnace rooms clean and well maintained



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[Connect to the ELCA](#)

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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