



Alaska Synod, ELCA | [elcaalaska.net](http://elcaalaska.net)

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### **Leadership Training Opportunity**

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Lutheran pastor and martyr **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** wrote from his prison cell during WWII: "**Our church has been fighting in these years only for its self-preservation, as though that was an end in itself...the church is only the church when it exists for others.**"

When resources (time, money, and people) seem scarce, how can we look outward? Many ELCA congregations are rising to this challenge with the tools of faith-based community organizing.

Community organizing might not be what you think it is. The main goal of community organizing is to engage in 1-1 visits to get to know each other and the neighborhood. These visits surface issues and concerns. Leaders research those issues and then work together with public officials and decision makers to create lasting change in their neighborhoods. Community organizing isn't for members of one political party or another. Community organizing isn't about a top-down structure where someone pushes an agenda. All decisions are made by...[Read More Here](#)



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[Leadership Training Opportunity Details](#)



[Article Above](#)

Holy Spirit Center, South Anchorage

**5pm Wed. November 5th- 5pm Sat. November 8th**

Cost: \$320 Double Room, \$340 Single Room.

[DETAILS HERE](#) (Right Click PDF when it appears and Rotate Counterclockwise.)

### **A Prayer for Back to School from the ELCA Network (Children, Youth & Family Ministry)**

Dear God, Thank you for the gift of children, youth and families. Please watch over \_\_\_\_\_ as they go back to school this year. Keep them safe every day. Help them to remember that you are right there with them in the halls and classrooms. Help them soak up good knowledge and to dismiss any

negative or worldly messages they may hear that do not bring glory to you. Help them treat others with kindness and respect, and to guard their hearts with the armor of Your Word. Give them joy and peace as they put their trust in you. Amen



### **Portico Adjusts 2015 Health & Disability Rates to Meet Community Needs**

**PORTICO**  
Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

Portico Benefit Services' board of trustees voted to approve Portico's recommendations regarding 2015 contribution rates. Health and disability contribution rates will increase, and survivor and retiree support contributions as well as all ELCA-Primary health deductibles, copayments, out-of-pocket limits, and wellness dollar incentives will continue unchanged. Rate adjustments will take effect Jan. 1, 2015.

#### **Health Care Rates Increasing 11%**

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

### **Coming Up**

#### **God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday is September 7th, 2014. What Are You Doing?**

Plan your day with resources from [elca.org/dayofservice](http://elca.org/dayofservice)  
Let us know what your congregation is planning and we'll share it around the Synod.

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? James 2:15-16



### **Sign-up for Your Stewardship Workshop Living into God's Abundance with Daring Confidence**

Explore generosity and gratitude in your congregation and in your life with ELCA stewardship director Keith Mundy here in Alaska in October. We can live, serve and grow into God's abundant life!

#### **Registration is FREE.**

Workshops will be held in

- \* Juneau: October 18, (during cluster meetings),
- \* Anchorage: October 20 (4pm-8pm)
- \* Fairbanks: October 25 (9:30-2:30)

Free travel for one lay person from your ELCA congregation!

Deadline September 10

[See event details and Register Here!](#)



## Beer and Hymns

Sunday, September 21 6-8pm  
O'Brady's in the Carrs Huffman Mall  
Sponsored by Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church  
A Fundraiser for  
Lutheran Social Services of Alaska  
[Flyer Here](#)



## 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](mailto:david.ellingson@tlc.edu).

## Explore Leadership Gifts

"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. (Seen in Photo) ([www.spiritinthedesert.org](http://www.spiritinthedesert.org)).



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

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

More details about the curriculum and schedule are available at [www.LeadinWellInstitute.org](http://www.LeadinWellInstitute.org).

## News and Opportunities

### Seeking Executive Director

#### Full-Time with Benefits

Global Health Ministries (GHM) is now accepting applications for Executive Director. We

are a Minnesota based organization supporting Lutheran-based health care in over 30 countries. Twenty five years ago GHM started shipping medical equipment and supplies to international partners as well as granting funds to projects for Lutheran health programs. Increasingly, we are

expanding our focus to help our partners build their capacity to sustain their health programs and deliver lasting, measurable improvements to community health.

[Read about the Ideal Candidate and more here.](#)



### Wheat Ridge Ministries Awards \$10,000 in Joshua Grants

Wheat Ridge Ministries recently awarded two Joshua Grants totaling \$10,000.

Joshua Grants are one year, matching grants of \$1,000-\$5,000 to Lutheran congregations, organizations and agencies committed to launching new ministries of health and hope in their community. The congregation or organization requesting funding must contribute matching funds equal to 50% of the Wheat Ridge grant award.



**NEWS RELEASE**

The Joshua Grant Program has a rolling application deadline with grants awarded quarterly. **The next deadline is November 30, 2014** with grants awarded in January 2015.

For more information regarding grant requests, please visit the website at [www.wheatridge.org/joshuagrants](http://www.wheatridge.org/joshuagrants).

**The newest Joshua Grant recipients are:**

1. BLAZING BISTRO

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, Cleveland, Ohio

Grant Amount - \$5,000

<http://www.wheatridge.org/blazing-bistro/>

2. EARLY MEMORY LOSS SUPPORT PROGRAM

Hope Lutheran Church, Austin, Texas

Grant Amount - \$5,000

<http://www.wheatridge.org/early-memory-loss-support-program/>

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**Retirement Announcement from Region 1**

Our dear friend and colleague, Judy Webb, will be leaving her position as Region 1 Financial Services Office Bookkeeper and moving into a well-deserved retirement. Judy completes 30+ years of employed service to the Church. She began with Catholic Community Services and then served Bishop Fjellman in the Pacific Northwest Synod office of the Lutheran Church in America. When the ELCA was formed in 1988 Judy began her work in the Region 1 FSO. You know her as the friendly voice on the telephone when you call with your questions and as the amazing helper who can work through your financial challenges. Judy will be missed! **Cards and notes may be sent to** Judy at Region 1 FSO, 4525 19th Avenue N. E., Seattle, WA 98105.



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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.

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**Alaska Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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Try it FREE today.

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