ALASKA SYNOD NEWS

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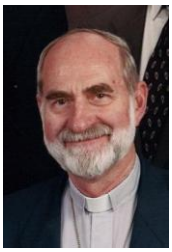
Is God enough?

In her September column for The Lutheran, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton says if God is enough, we have everything we need. If God is enough, we can be free from attachments to our plans, self-will and success.

Read her column here. This column originally appeared in the September issue of *The Lutheran*. Reprinted with permission.



Remembering The Reverend Ron Martinson

Bishop Shelley Wickstrom

We commended Pastor Ron Martinson to God's eternal care on August 22. Ron's obituary is rich with his service to Christ's church, his love of his family and his willingness to work hard to get things done. In the Alaska Synod he served as bishop from 2000-2006 and as pastor of Central Lutheran from 1982-2000. In this synod's history, there have been few committees or efforts that he was not part of. In the funeral sermon, I compared Ron to the table set before us. Not the feast on the table, but the actual table itself from which God serves the feast as in Psalm 23. Ron was a loyal servant of Christ and his church.

Anne Martinson Hancock kept us updated on her father through Caring Bridge. She wrote "It is fitting for me to say that Dad reached the finish line very peacefully shortly before midnight. He was always the first person I saw holding my sweats at the end of a race and even ran next to me for most of the last mile of the first marathon that I ran. I know that he was welcomed into his heavenly home with open arms and I'm so thankful that his last days with us were filled with family times remembering the wonderful man he was. He was loved by so many and know that we are not alone in our sorrow, however the promise of everlasting life is a gift that Dad knew was waiting and in that we find peace." **Cards may be sent to Marilyn Martinson at 3220 Briarcliff Drive, Anchorage 99508.**

Lutheran Response to Syrian Refugee Crisis
As thousands of refugees and migrants from Northern Africa, Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq are flowing into Europe, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) are bringing material assistance and supporting the relief effort. You can help, and through these programs, your gifts will be used to provide food, diapers, blankets, water, health kits, hygiene kits and psychosocial services to assist those who have fled their homes. You can donate to LWR online and LDR online or write a check to your congregation, writing the organization of your choice and Syrian Refugee Crisis in the memo line.

Walking With Refugees - the Church Amidst the Refugee Crisis in Europe
Bishop Tamás Fabiny- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary
I would like to recall the poignant memories of the weekend when thousands of refugees set out from Budapest, Hungary, towards Austria and, finally, reached the other side of the border on board of buses provided by the Hungarian government. I will never forget that march. I am very well aware that the refugees were hindering the traffic and broke several rules. However, what this persistent march gave proof of was their final desperation and their determination forged by the war, suffering, persecution and defenselessness they had left behind. And we have to admit...
Please read on for Bishop Fabiny's reflections and call to action.

$15 Million Raised for ELCA Malaria Campaign
Bishop Shelley Wickstrom
Thank you for your part in fighting Malaria in Africa. Alaskan Lutherans gave over $41,000 to the ELCA Malaria Campaign. The churchwide goal was $15 million and we've reached that three months early. These funds allowed villages and health systems in thirteen countries to prevent and treat this scourge of the poor in particular. Nets were purchased, wells were dug, medications were provided to prevent and address the devastation of this illness. Malaria still exists but resources do as well. This is a preventable disease. You can find more information on the Malaria Campaign here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AK Child & Family Anniversary Worship followed by Benefit Reception. Sept 19
AK Child & Family is celebrating their 125th Anniversary with a worship service on Saturday, September 19th at 4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Anchorage. The service is free and open to the public. Afterwards, join the reception and auction across the street from the church at the ConocoPhillips atrium from 5-7 p.m. The reception in the atrium costs $50. Get your tickets before September 4th to guarantee your reservation by calling 346-2101. Details here.

School of Theology, Alaska United Methodist Conference. Sept. 18th-19th
Start registering now to attend the School of Theology, which will occur September 18-19, 2015 at St. John UMC, Anchorage. Visit their website for more information.

Alaska Synodical Women's Organization Biennial Convention and Gathering
Join the Alaska Synod Women, **September 25-27** at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Anchorage. Guest speakers will be WELCA President Patti Austin and LSSA Executive Director Alan Budahl. Information on activities, registration and scholarships available here.

Crop Walk- Anchorage, Sept. 27th
End Hunger One Step at a Time. Join the Crop Walk in Seward or Anchorage this year. Funds raised will go to local, national and international agencies. Learn more.

Cross+Gen Worship Conference, Estes Park, CO, Oct. 5-8.
The Faith Inkubators Foundation is hosting its second annual conference on replacing Sunday School with Cross+Gen faith communities on Oct 5-8 at Estes Park's YMCA of the Rockies. 90% of the Case Studies presented are from ELCA churches across the country who have pioneered methods, models and materials to bring "the wisdom of the elder and the wonder of the child into the same sacred space every week at church." Check out www.crossgenconference.com for information.

Prison Fellowship, Alaskan Volunteer Conference. October 10, 2015
Community Covenant Church 16123 Artillery Road Eagle River, Alaska
Join the Alaska Volunteer Conference by Prison Fellowship ministries for a day of workshops to help you sharpen your ministry skills and understanding. The event is free but registration is requested to help with a count for materials. If you are interested in prison, family, and re-entry ministry, learn more here.

Collegium, Oct. 12-13, 2015
Rostered Leaders Collegium will be Monday, October 12th- Tuesday, October 13th, in coordination with the Presbytery of the Yukon and the Alaska United Methodist Conference. Please register here.

Walk Thru Old Testament Live Event. Saturday, October 17th. 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM
$17 per person includes all materials and lunch. Register at elcaalaska.net.
With the Walk Thru the Old Testament live event, you can learn what would have taken years by just reading the Bible. All are welcome. Also, this program will fulfill the requirement for 6 hrs of Old Testament 101 for SAM candidates. For more info click https://www.youtube.com/embed/vkk63Ua1k0I?rel=0&autoplay=1.

Boundaries 101 Workshop, October 22, 2015, 9am-5pm
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Anchorage
For all rostered leaders and youth ministry staff who have not completed this first course in the last three years. Register by October 15th.

Executive Skills for Pastors, January 2016
Head to Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center in Arizona for a five-day seminar to help gain valuable skills for pastors in congregational settings. Led by Faculty from the School of Management-California Lutheran University, this week will offer contemporary management insights into your organization, including strategic planning, finance, information tech and more. Space is limited to 20 people. See registration and details here.

LifeTree Cafe. Tuesdays at 7pm. St. Mark Lutheran Church. 3230 Lake Otis Pkwy.
Join LifeTree Cafe in Anchorage for an experience packed with interesting stories, fascinating people, and lively conversation that will feed your soul. The main entrée at Lifetree Café is food for thought. See this month's topics here.

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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