

2018
Synod
Assembly

The Alaska Synod Assembly
Central Lutheran Church
Anchorage, Alaska
April 27 - 29, 2018

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Pre-Assembly Workshops (Friday, 10:00 am)

Open Forum on Ministry and Money: Do the topics below spark questions? Write them down, and we'll discuss solutions to your challenges.

Beth Adams, ELCA Foundation

- Endowments that fund ministry into the future
- What to do with Memorial funds—put them to work! Find out how.
- You need a Gift Policy—why?
- Legacy Gifts—what are they? How do they help?

Social Statements in the ELCA, The current draft to review: Women and Justice

This workshop will review the text of the draft of the social statement on women justice and how Social Statements are created in the ELCA. With Pastor Julia Seymour who will facilitate and Leslie Swenson who serves on the Women and Justice Social Statement Committee.

2018 Alaska Synod Assembly Workshops

Morning Session

Social Statement on Women and Justice Hearing – The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has prepared a social statement on women and justice to be considered by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, as mandated by the 2009 assembly. This “Draft of a Social Statement on Women and Justice” is an invitation to everyone in the ELCA to join in conversation and discernment about this concern as people of faith.

Community Gardens – Don Bladow from Lutheran Church of Hope will show how their community garden got going, what things to do when starting a garden, what happens to the produce, and can answer questions about the process.

Social Media for Your Ministry – Learn how to use social media as a tool for your church ministry. We will concentrate on using Facebook, but we can touch on other platforms. Today, statistics show that out of the 7 billion people in the world, 2.5 billion are on social media channels. That is 35% of the world’s population.

Intentional Listening - The art of listening is an ongoing practice. Each of us is already naturally a listener, and yet there are many distractions in everyday life that can interfere with listening to the point that “not listening,” to others and to ourselves, becomes a habit. Mary Cartwright and Linda Padden, from The Listening Post, will show you how to do intentional listening with others.

Kuwaa Mission – Stan Olsen and Naomi Ford from Liberia will show who the Kuwaa people are and give information on what the Kuwaa Mission does for the people of Kuwaa Liberia.

Afternoon Session

Field Trip to LSSA – Carpool to see the Lutheran Social Services’ facility here in Anchorage. Alan Budahl, director, will give a tour and show you some of the things they do as well as answer any questions.

Church Copyright Use – In the Christian community there’s widespread confusion regarding the US Copyright Law and how it impacts church activities. Lowell Chilton will give information on how to properly use media in your church ministry.

Global Music – This global music percussion workshop will be led by Katie Jerue.

Growing Vital Congregations – How the early church of the book of Acts teaches us how to be church today. Participants will explore several passages in Acts and implications for congregational vitality.

Social Media for Your Ministry – Repeats.

Kuwaa Mission – Repeats.

Assembly Project and Resource Exchange

Synod Assembly Service Project

All over the world girls miss an average of 5 days of school per month because of lack of access to feminine hygiene products. A group of quilters/sewers in several of our congregations have started making sustainable feminine hygiene kits for girls (the Days for Girls program). Many groups throughout the US are making these and they are distributed to girls in over 100 countries worldwide, providing them with health education and washable feminine hygiene kits.

At the Synod Assembly we will be collecting fabric to give to our congregations who are working to assemble these kits to give to the girls and women of the Kuwaa area of Liberia. We are accepting donations of pre-washed 100% cotton fabric and 100% cotton flannel for the kits. The fabrics should have appealing colors and busy patterns to hide stains, such as botanicals, geometrics and batiks. For cultural reasons the fabrics may NOT have prints with faces, eyes, animals, insects, snakes, camouflage, guns, knives, hunting, words, cartoons, pop culture, national flags or girly-glam themes (butterflies and ladybugs without eyes are appropriate). Darker colors hide stains better.

Drawstring bags and shields - 100% cotton (1 yd will make 4 bags). Grosgrain Ribbon - 1/2" to 5/8" wide, minimum length 38".

Flannel Liners - 100% cotton flannel.

Occasional Services Books for Liberian Pastors

Pastors, if you have a copy of the Occasional Service Book and or similar items that you are no longer using, the Lutheran pastors in Liberia would be overjoyed to receive them. Check your church library.

Resource Exchange Table

Bring an extra copy of a resource your congregation has enjoyed to share with another congregation through the Exchange Table at the Synod Assembly.



Orientation for Voting Members

Common sense goes a long way toward making business sessions work well. If there is something you don't understand or if you don't understand what is before the body, ask the chair to clarify.

1. When addressing the chair, first state your name and the congregation you are representing. Address the chair as "Mr. Chairman" or "Madam Chair."
2. Making a motion: "I move ..."
 - a. Must be in writing – one copy to the chair and one to the secretary.
 - b. Keep the issue clear.
 - c. Avoid having several ideas in one motion.
 - d. If a motion with more than one part is before the body, you can move to have the motion in question divided so votes will be taken on each part. This is done so you don't pass everything because you agree with one part or defeat all of it because you don't agree with one part.
3. Amendments to motions: "I move to amend the motion to"
 - a. All discussions will focus on the amendment.
 - b. If it passes, then the whole motion as amended will be before you for discussion.
 - c. If it fails, the original motion along with any previously passed amendments will be before you.
4. The maker of the motion always has the right to speak first after the motion is seconded. The maker of the motion is also allowed to speak at the end of the discussion to clarify and answer questions.
5. In speaking to a motion, state first if you are speaking for or against the motion.
6. "Point of Order"
 - a. This goes ahead of further speaking on the motion. The parliamentarian gives advice to the chair and the assembly, but the chair makes the final decision. If the assembly disagrees with the ruling, it can act to make its will known.
7. To limit debate: "I call for the previous question."
 - a. It takes a vote of 2/3 to pass.
 - b. Do not say "Question" to which the chair would respond "What is your question?"
8. Role of the Bishop at Synod Assembly:

†S8.12.As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall be an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament who shall:

 - i.2) Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, and the council's Executive Committee
9. Role of the Parliamentarian:

The Parliamentarian is a consultant, commonly a professional, who advises the president and other officers, committees, and members on matters of parliamentary procedure. The parliamentarian's role during a meeting is purely an advisory and consultative one – since parliamentary law gives to the chair alone the power to rule on questions of order or to answer parliamentary inquiries.

- Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised -

Standing Rules

1. The governing documents of this organization are the primary authority of the assembly and take precedence over the Standing Rules and Roberts Rules of Order. The parliamentary authority for this assembly will be Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition.
2. To address the assembly:
 - Go to one of the microphones
 - Identify yourself by name, congregation you represent, city
 - Address the chair
 - Carry your red (against) or green (for) card if speaking on an issue
 - * Clarify questions on what is before the assembly or points of order are appropriate at any time
3. All substantive motions including spending plan revisions must be presented in writing to the secretary (with a copy to the chair) before any discussion takes place.
4. A person who presents a motion to the assembly will have the privilege of addressing the assembly for three (3) minutes in support of the motion after the motion has been seconded. Other persons may speak for or against the motion for a period of three (3) minutes. No person will be allowed to address the motion a second time until all who wish to speak have had the opportunity to do so. After the debate the person who presented the motion will be given three (3) minutes to answer questions or clarify issues raised by the debate.
5. Unless otherwise provided in the Alaska Synod Assembly Agenda or by the bishop or presiding officer, debate on any motion or resolution shall be limited to 30 minutes.
6. Motions from the floor that revise the spending plan must include projected expenses and revenue sources so the spending plan remains balanced.
Reminder: increases in undesignated revenue have the additional impact on first fruits, mission and churchwide benevolence i.e. expense increase requires 1.53 revenue increase (2010).
7. The following persons are granted "voice" (the right to speak) for the assembly: properly registered (1) retired or on leave from call ordained ministers or deacons on the roster of the synod; (2) the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; (3) official representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and (4) other persons granted "voice" by the bishop of the synod.
8. The following persons are granted "voice" (the right to speak) and "vote" for the assembly: properly registered (1) ordained ministers or deacons under call and on the roster of the synod, retired ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who served one year prior to retirement (see S7.22.01); (2) lay voting members representing the congregations of the synod; (3) lay voting members representing synodically authorized worshipping communities; and (4) members of the synod council.

Amendments to Rules of Order for Assembly Voting Members

ELCA Secretary Chris Boerger has suggested that synods adopt an amendment to the rules. This requires a 2/3 vote to adopt rules since these normally are changes to or additions to Robert's Rules of Order. Amendments to the rules may be offered to this motion and those require a majority to pass an amendment. It will still require 2/3 to adopt the amended rules.

Moving the Previous Question

A member who has spoken on the pending question(s) may not move the previous question(s).

A motion to end debate by moving the previous question shall apply only to the immediately preceding motion. A motion to end debate on all matters on the floor or more than the immediately pending question is not in order.

Substitute Motions

When a substitute motion is made, secondary amendments may be offered first to the original motion. After all secondary amendments to the original motion have been disposed of, secondary amendments to the substitute motion may be offered. When all amendments to the substitute motion have been disposed of, the vote shall be taken on whether the substitute motion is to be substituted as the original motion or be rejected.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE ... at a glance							
To do this:	Say this:	May you interrupt the speaker?	Do you need a second?	Is it debatable?	Can it be amended?	What vote is needed?	Can it be reconsidered?
Adjourn meeting	"I move we adjourn."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
Call an intermission	"I move we recess for ..."	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	No
**Complain about heat, noise, etc.	"I rise to a question of privilege."	Yes	No	No	No	No vote	No
Suspend further consideration of an issue	"I move to table the motion."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
End debate and amendments	"I move the previous question."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	No (1)
Postpone discussion for a certain time	"I move to postpone the discussion until ..."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
Give closer study of something	"I move to refer the matter to committee."	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes (2)
Amend a motion	"I move to amend the motion by ..."	No	Yes	Yes (3)	Yes	Majority	Yes
Introduce business	"I move that"	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority	Yes
The motions listed above are in order of precedence ... Below there is no order							
**Protest breach of rules or conduct	"I rise to a point of order."	Yes	No	No	No	No vote (4)	No
Vote on a ruling of the chair	"I appeal the chair's decision."	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority (5)	Yes
Suspend the rules temporarily	"I move to suspend the rules so that..."	No	Yes	No	No	2/3	No
Avoid considering an improper matter	"I object to consideration of this motion."	Yes	No	No	No	2/3 (6)	(7)
Verify a voice vote by standing	"I call for a division." or "Division"	Yes	No	No	No	No vote	No
**Request information	"Point of information"	Yes	No	No	No	No vote	No
Take up a matter previously tabled	"I move to take from the table..."	No	Yes	No	No	Majority	No
Reconsider a hasty action	"I move to reconsider the vote on ..."	Yes	Yes	(8)	No	Majority	No
**You may go to the head of the line							(5) A majority negative vote needed to reverse ruling of the chair
(1) Unless vote on question is not yet taken							(6) 2/3 negative vote needed to prevent consideration of main motion
(2) Unless the committee has already addressed the subject							(7) Only if the main motion was not in fact considered
(3) Only if the motion to be amended is debatable							(8) Only if motion to be reconsidered is debatable
(4) Except in doubtful cases							

What is a Synod?

The English word synod comes from two Greek words syn + hodos that mean "a way together." In and through synods, congregations and other ministries walk together. The ELCA is defined by three expressions:

- the congregation
- the synod
- the churchwide office

Synods coordinate the work of congregations within their territory and plan for the ELCA's mission (which is one dimension of God's larger mission) in their area. The synods are grouped into nine regions, which are a point of connection for synods and the churchwide organization.

The ELCA's 65 synods vary greatly in size, geography, membership, staffing and program. Our smallest synod has 30 congregations – the largest nearly 300. Geographically, in the Saint Paul Area Synod, most congregations are within a half-hour drive of the synod office; by contrast, the Rocky Mountain Synod includes 20% of the continental U.S. landmass, requiring frequent staff travels by air.

Each synod elects a bishop and other officers at their annual assemblies. As the synod's pastor, the bishop oversees the ministry of other pastors and congregations. Together with her/his assistant(s), the bishop also provides support to congregations, including assistance in calling pastors and other staff; support in times of difficulty and congregational conflict; and joining in the celebrations of congregations. Synod Bishops oversee the administration of the synod and its staff as well as serve as bishops of the whole ELCA, coming together regularly in gatherings of the Conference of Bishops.

The Alaska Synod

30 Congregations 1 Congregation Under Development (Table of Grace in Bethel) 2 Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities (Trapper Creek and MatSu PLUME Latino) 1 Mission Exploration (Prince of Wales Island)
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Clusters facilitate shared ministry and support. Our clusters include Interior, Knik, Seward Peninsula, Southeast, and Southcentral.

The Alaska Synod joins the synods of Northwest Washington, Southwestern Washington, Eastern Washington/Idaho, Oregon and Montana in Region 1. Together we fund *The Region 1 Financial Services Office* which serves every congregation and synod of Region 1. With four synods, the Alaska Synod funds *Consultation to Clergy*; we partner with four synods to offer First Call Theological Education together.

2017 Synod Assembly Minutes

April 28-30
"Come to the Table!"
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Juneau, Alaska

Friday, April 28

Welcome to the 2017 Assembly.

Opening of the 2017 Alaska Synod Assembly- Bishop Shelley

Plenary Session 1

Opening Remarks – Bishop Shelley

Greetings and Hospitality from Host Congregation – Rev. Tari Stage-Harvey

Orders of Assembly (Sue Delgado, VP)

Adoption of Agenda ACTION: PASSED

Report of the Credentials Committee

As of 2:21 PM:

61 Lay; 26 Rostered Leaders; 1 Retired Rostered Leader = **88 Total Voting Members**

18 Registered Visitors

Adoption of Standing Rules

MOTION: Move the adoption of the agenda giving the chair the right to adjust as necessary to accomplish the business of the assembly **ACTION: PASSED**

Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: To Move the Adoption of Agenda **ACTION: PASSED**

Adoption of Minutes

MOTION: To Approve the Minutes of the 2016 Synod Assembly **ACTION: PASSED**

Introductions

- Synod Council
- Synod Office Staff – Pastor Lisa and Teri Watkins
- Churchwide and Regional Partners
 - Engaged Conversations I - (Lisa Smith Fiegel, AK Synod DEM)
- An introduction and practice at one-one-conversations. Get together with someone you do not know (2.5 minutes each). Listen to your partner without interrupting.

Question: "What are your passions in life?"

Break

Key Note I The Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell, Trinity Seminary

Election Report

The following were elected unopposed by unanimous consent:

Synod Council

Re-election: Martin Eldred, Susan Halvor, Diane Krauszer, Marilyn Rosene

At-large: Bobbie Ochoa
Appointed: Trina Anderson, Archie Kiyetelluk
Consultation Committee
Clergy: Jeff Hackler, Bill Ottum, Edwin Weber
Discipline Committee
Clergy: Keith Anderson, Rick Cavens
Lay: Don Bladow, "Ginny" Robson
Alaska Child and Family Board
Clergy: Lisa Smith Fiegel
Pacific Lutheran University Corporation Board
Clergy: Nancy Gradwohl, Thomas Richter
Lay: Trina Anderson, Nancy Gradwohl

LSSA and Lutheran Disaster Response (Alan Budahl)

- Numbers of people looking for food assistance is on the rise, due to economic climate
- ELCA World Hunger AK Synod congregations gave \$54,803 in 2016, an increase of 13% from 2015. 16 of 32 congregations gave. Challenge: to have 100% of our congregations contribute.
- Lutheran Disaster Response

Faith Story – Megan Shoefelt

Introduction of the 2018 Proposed Budget (Carol Norquist, Synod Treas.)

Portico (Andrea Arey-Perlick)

Ventures in Stewardship

Top Ten Ways to Energize your Stewardship

ELCA Foundation (Beth Adams)

Endowments

PLUME (Diane Krauszer)

An experiment of ecumenical. Outreach in the Mat Su Valley, PLUME is going through transition.

- The Director position is no longer filled as of Jan 2017, but the work goes on.
- PLUME Noon Lenten Lunches.
- Hazel Davidson and Latino Outreach continues

Election Report

Adam Bryant (48), Ron Rucker (36), Abstained (4). Adam is elected to Consultation Committee

Saturday, April 29

Opening Prayer and Singing

Report from Churchwide (Jodi Slattery)

Report of the Credentials Committee (Archie Kiyutelluk)

As of 9: 52AM: Lay voting Members - 57 ; Rostered Leaders - 25 ; Retired Rostered - 2;

Total Voting Members: 84

Registered Visitors: 13

Engaged Conversations II – Rev. Lisa Smith Fiegel

- Question: "What brought you to your congregation and what makes you stay?"

Break

Together Emphasizing Alaskan Missions (TEAM)

- Family Promise of Juneau (Pr. Tari Stage-Harvey) – Stories of poverty, outreach, fellowship meals, and other support that SOV and other Juneau congregations who have worked together. TEAM grants have been a big part of that support.
- Lutheran Church of Hope – Garden of Hope Update (Don Bladow). Don updated us on the two years of Garden of Hope. Last year -2300 lbs. of produce. Goal is to triple that for 2017.

Reports from Partner Ministries

- Pacific Lutheran University (Dan Lee)
- 50 Students from Alaska currently at PLU and they have established an, "Alaska Club".
- Diversity in student body and faculty remains a commitment. Diversity of ethnicity and background, but also a diversity of views and opinion.
- Pres. Tom Krise will step down after the end of his term to return to full-time teaching. One year intentional Interim President will be named soon.
- Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University (Pr. Melissa Maxwell-Doherty)
- Biggest news continues to be the selling of the current campus and the move to downtown Berkeley. Classes in fall of 2017 will be held in the new building.
- Luther Seminary (The Rev. Dr. Pat Kiefert)
- Stories of the richness and diversity of the students at Luther – they all add to the power of education in that setting.
- Learning to be hosted by others in the beginning of doing mission in God's world.
- Alaska Child and Family (Pr. Kelli Williams)
- An agency that seek to help young people through some of the traumas on life.
- Person's spiritual life is as import to healing as is the therapeutic care they receive.
- Email prayer chain available as a way to connect and assist.

Lunch

Faith Story – Glenn Mitchell

Resolutions

"A Resolution of Gratitude to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church" **ACTION: PASSED**

Report from Synod Assembly Study Team (Pr. Randy Young, Pr. Keith Anderson)

Evaluation forms can be placed at Box by the Door

Report from "Rooted and Growing in Christ, Connected Community" (Pr. Lisa Smith Fiegel, Zach Manzella)

- This is an emphasis that is a response to an identified synodical need to be better equipped in outreach and evangelism in the community.
- 15 congregation have sent representatives to some of the training
- An intentional cohort relations system has been established (much like the Ventures in Stewardship system). 31/2 congregations are part of this. Another chance to join will be offered in January 2018.
- Rooted Model: Assess, Plan, Implement, Evaluate.

Keynote Presentation II The Rev. Dr. Mark Allen Powell

Presentation of the 2018 Spending Plan (Carol Norquist, Synod Treas.)

Motion: To Approve the 2018 Alaska Synod Spending Plan **ACTION: PASSED**

Constitution (Carol Norquist)

- Presentation of Changes:

- To move from four rosters of professional leaders to two: Ordained leaders become “Ministers of Word and Sacrament”; Associates in Ministry, deaconesses, diaconal ministers all become ministers of Word and Service.
- 8.57: This amendment concerns the procedure for recalling or suspending a synod officer.
Motion: To adopt the mandated changes to the Alaska Synod Constitution **ACTION: PASSED**

Seward Peninsula Lutheran Ministries Endowment Fund (Sue Delgado)

- Presiding Bishop Eaton was able to attend Spring Conference in Nome and visit Shishmaref.
- Endowment at \$1.5 Million
- Interest Bearing Account \$77,000.
- SPLM Committee voted to disperse \$10,000 per SPLM congregation
- Voted to help support the Chaplaincy work for Alaska Native Hospital

Preview of the 2018 Election of Synod Bishop (Sue Delgado, AK Synod)

- Next Synod assembly we will elect Bishop
- We are required to use an Ecclesiastical Ballot

Alaska Synod Women’s Organization (ASWO) (Shannon Topkok – Our Savior’s, Nome – Member at Large Board member)

- Many women going to the Triennial Convention

Lutheran Men in Mission (Pr. Jeff Hackler)

- Currently, three congregations in Anchorage are meeting for breakfast once a month
- They want to expand.
- David George (St. Mark) will be reaching out to congregations.

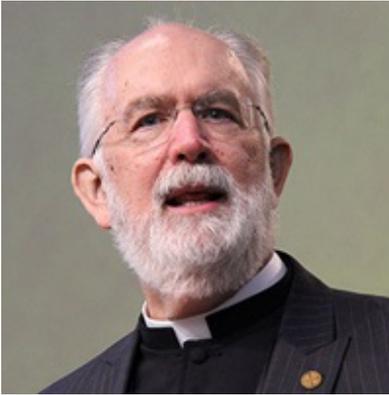
Report of Director for Evangelical Mission (Pr. Lisa Smith Fiegel, AK Synod DEM)

- Deployed Staff from Churchwide that focuses on assisting: Evangelism; Stewardship; New Ministry Starts and Explorations; Congregational Vitality
- Two Synodically Authorized Worshiping Centers (SAWC)
- Trapper Creek Fellowship
- MatSu Latino Ministry
- Coaching Ministry
- Three leaders trained to be coaches: Zach Manzella, Pr. John Van Haneghan and, Amanda Beebe.

Adjournment of Plenary Session

MOTION: To Adjourn **ACTION: PASSED**

Presenter Information



The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger was elected Aug. 16, 2013, to a six-year term as secretary of the ELCA at the Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburgh.

Ordained June 18, 1978, Secretary Boerger served as lay mission developer/pastor at Lutheran Church of the San Juans in Friday Harbor, Wash., from 1975 to 1980; pastor of Central Lutheran Church in Everett, Wash., from 1980 to 1990; and pastor at Northlake Lutheran Church in Kenmore, Wash., from 1990 to 2001. He was elected bishop of the ELCA Northwest Washington Synod based in Seattle in 2001 and served two six-year terms.

Secretary Boerger earned a Master of Divinity degree at Christ Seminary SEMINEX, St. Louis in 1975, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication arts at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash., in 1971.

Secretary Boerger served on a variety of boards and committees, including: Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Regents; liaison bishop to the ELCA Church Council (2011-2013); ELCA Northwest Washington Synod Council; Interim Ministry Association, Advisory Bishop; Washington Association of Churches Board; Lutheran Advocates for Maritime Ministry Advisory Board; and Synodical and Churchwide Relations Committee.

The Rev. Dr. Robin Steinke came to Luther Seminary as president in June 2014. She was the first woman in the 145-year history of the seminary to be named to the position.

Prior to coming to Luther Seminary, Steinke was the dean of the seminary and professor of theological ethics and public life at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, where she served from 1999. She previously served as an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) pastor; a training manager and financial planner at American Express Financial Advisors; and a middle school band director in Marietta, Ga. Steinke is a graduate of Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D.



She holds a Master of Divinity and a Master of Sacred Theology from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge in England.

Steinke is known for her strategic leadership and passion for sharing the gospel. She is involved in a number of important church and academic initiatives. She recently co-chaired the national ELCA Theological Education Advisory Council that made a variety of recommendations for the future of theological education. She serves as the ELCA Representative to the Lutheran World Federation Council and chairs their Endowment Fund. She is a member of the ELCA Ecclesiology Task Force and serves on a number of other church and academic committees. She previously served a six-year term as a commissioner for the Association of Theological Schools' Commission on Accrediting.



The Rev. Dr. Raymond Pickett serves as Rector of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, a graduate school of California Lutheran University.

Dr. Pickett joined the LSTC faculty in 2009. The Public Church curriculum that he helped to develop for the seminary has been named one of the most innovative in North America.

Pickett was ordained in 1989 and was the pastor of congregations in Kansas and Oklahoma. He earned his PhD from the University of Sheffield, England. His recent scholarship on Luke-Acts interprets the texts through a political theology lens. He has written and presented on economic aspects of New Testament texts and their significance for today's contexts. He is the author of *The Cross in Corinth: The Social Significance of the Death of Jesus* (Sheffield Academic Press, 1997) and "Conflicts at Corinth" in *Christian Origins: A People's History of Christianity* (Fortress Press, 2005) as well as a number of articles. Pickett lives out his commitment to bringing faith into the public

sphere in his research, writing and involvement with local faith-based community organizing.

Naomi Ford is the current General Secretary for the Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL). As such she reports directly to Bishop Daniel Jensen Seyenkulo. She is directly responsible for the implementation of most the LCL's programs across the country. Naomi also served the LCL under the previous bishop Rev. Sumoward Harris during the recent civil war.

She is an active member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Monrovia, the largest congregation in Monrovia. Naomi has personally and through the LCL, supported the Kuwaa Mission and it's role in Liberia since the Kuwaa Missions founding in 2010. She is an active supporter of the Days for Girls program that the Kuwaa Mission has recently started as well as the "Big Belly Program".

We are excited to have Naomi at the Alaska Synod Assembly representing the Lutheran Church in Liberia and the Kuwaa Mission's programs in Liberia.





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

“For by grace you
have been saved through
faith, and this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God.”
– Ephesians 2:8

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are Lutheran. For the past year it has been “all Reformation all the time!” So now what? The Lutheran Confessions teach that God freely and graciously creates a trusting relationship between us and Jesus. As we gather to meet in synod assemblies, let us remember that our hope is in the living Christ and share that assurance with the joy of the gospel.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are free of the burden of making ourselves acceptable to God. The cross of Christ and the living Christ assure us that God's final word for us is life and freedom in Christ. Lutherans confidently and enthusiastically claim this promise: “For freedom Christ has set us free” (Galatians 5:1). How does this claim affect your faith journey as an individual, a congregation, synod or member of the church universal? Through his death and resurrection, we have a truly living Lord who meets us, forgives us and calls us to follow, and in that we find our freedom.

Because we are set free in Jesus Christ, we are free from trying to save ourselves and free for loving and serving others. As a church, we walk by faith, trusting God's promise in the gospel and knowing that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word.

“Future Directions 2025”

Through “Called Forward Together in Christ – Future Directions 2025,” we are addressing the challenges and embracing the opportunities of the church we are becoming – a church that is confident about who we are in Christ and what God is calling us to do. I invite you to lift up these goals and engage how we journey forward in Christ as church together. You can learn more by visiting ELCA.org/future.

ELCA Youth Gathering

Many of us will be together at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston June 27-July 1, 2018. I look forward to sharing in the excitement and energy of our young people as they experience the wonder and joy of being with more than 30,000 Lutherans and grow in their faith formation. For information and resources on the Gathering, go to ELCA.org/gathering.

The Campaign for the ELCA

We are in our final year of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. Help us rally to the end! As of Dec. 31, the campaign has received more than \$138.6 million in cash and multiyear commitments, representing 70 percent of our \$198 million goal. Read more about the campaign's progress at ELCA.org/campaign. Thank you for your continued support!

“God's work. Our hands.” Sunday

Sept. 9 is our suggested date for the 2018 dedicated day of service. If your congregation cannot participate on this date, please consider another day. “God's work. Our hands.” Sunday is an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. To order T-shirts or download resources, go to ELCA.org/dayofservice.

Join the conversation

There are two opportunities for you to provide feedback about what this church says on important issues. One is "Draft of a Social Statement on Women and Justice." The draft is in two sections: basic theses and fuller explanations, which speak about how sexism harms us all in church and society. The task force wants to hear from you about the content of the draft and this innovative format. Find the draft, supplementary materials and order information at ELCA.org/womenandjustice. The other is on the draft of "A Declaration of our Inter-Religious Commitment: A Draft Policy Statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America." The comment period is open from now until June 30, 2018. Visit ELCA.org/ecumenical for more information and the document.

I have shared some of the ways we are loving and serving our neighbor. This is what being free in Christ looks like. This is part of our Lutheran story. This is part of your congregation's story and your synod's story.

Wherever you are for your synod assembly, from the Alaska Synod to the Caribbean Synod, there is something that we all have in common – our life in Christ. We have our life in Christ – in the crucified and risen Savior, in the one who poured out his life for us, the one who gave himself away for the life of the world so we may be free. As Lutheran Christians, we live in the freedom of Christ.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Bishop's Report to the Alaska Synod Assembly

Worthy to be praised a phrase of Psalm 145 collects the thanksgiving, the remembering, the foretelling of God's work as Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer of all of life. Praise is our humble response.

Jesus said that even the rocks would cry out if people did not. Our hymns are full of descriptions of all of creation singing God's praise. Consider the lyrics of *Earth and All Stars! Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee, Joy to the World, Let All Things Now Living...*

This synod assembly will include worship Friday night using hymns from around the world. During the assembly we'll sing hymns we know by heart and ones that aren't. We have a team of musicians preparing to lead us. Following the anniversary celebration Saturday evening, we'll join in *Prayer Around the Cross*. Central Lutheran's sanctuary has the space to host the assembly for Sunday morning worship, so we are invited to join their congregation for worship on Sunday, 9:30am.

Leading our Biblical Work during the assembly will be the president of Luther Seminary, The Rev. Dr. Robin Steinke, and the Rector of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University, The Rev. Dr. Raymond Pickett.

Naomi Ford, General Secretary for the Lutheran Church in Liberia, and a supporter of Kuwaa Missions, will join us during her tour of US congregations.

With us to oversee the bishop's election for the 2018-2024 term will be The Rev. Chris Boerger, Secretary of the ELCA.

This is the only time of the year that all of our congregations have the opportunity to sit as a representative body to make learn from each other and make decisions on our synod's behalf. Thank you for your part in our deliberations.

The Bishop's Election Process Committee and the Synod Council has sent every congregation questions for conversation. Bring those responses to our assembly to be part of conversation during the bishop's election process. Nominees for bishop will hear those responses. We are using the standard ecclesiastical ballot where every voting member writes down a name of a nominee for bishop who could be any ELCA pastor. That first ballot becomes the nominating ballot; there are four other possible ballots, each time with a reduced number of candidates until a bishop is elected.

Pre-Assembly workshops will be offered Friday morning. Workshops will be offered twice on Saturday. See the descriptions for more information. You'll be asked to register for your preferences of workshop when you sign in on Friday.

Joel Wudel, of the Mission Investment Fund, Andrea Arey of Portico Benefits, and Beth Adams of the ELCA Foundation will be with us to offer resources and education to you and your congregation.

Around the Synod

Synod Assembly Logistics Review

The Synod Council reviewed our practices for synod assemblies and adopted a schedule that will allow the assembly account to build so that we can continue to hold an assembly off-the-road system now every seven years rather than every six years.

Constitution Review Committee

Constitutions are documents that guide our shared work. They are the agreed upon ways of our making decisions that guide our congregational life. After each Churchwide Assembly, congregations can download any changes to the constitution from the elca.org website. From that, you can update your constitution, send it to our review committee, then present it to your congregation for adoption. Our committee of Larry Graham (Central), Keith Oines (Joy) and Richard Clinch (Trinity) are well-versed in how to incorporate by-laws into a constitution and they review so many constitutions they can ably help your congregation update your constitution. Send your draft to our synod office at elcaalaska@gmail.com.

Hunger Relief

ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering

Glenn Mitchell (Shepherd of the Valley) and Don Bladow (Lutheran Church of Hope) represented the Alaska Synod. Don gave a presentation of the Harvest of Hope Memorial Garden while there. Each spent significant time with our senators. Senator Murkowski asked her staff to schedule some weeding time with Don this summer. Glenn spent three hours with Senator Sullivan's staff talking about the impact of the Farm Bill on hungry Alaskans from his perspective as the chief of the Summer Lunch Program and the Shepherd of the Valley Food Pantry.

Garden Ministries that support the local food pantry or offer community garden space are offered at Central Lutheran-Anchorage, Joy-Eagle River, Lutheran Church of Hope-Anchorage, River of Life-Chugiak, Shepherd of the Valley-Juneau, Trinity-Palmer.

Food Pantries and freezers are either housed or supported by nearly all of our congregations. Thank you!

Housing for homeless families is being offered through our congregations in Juneau and the MatSu Valley with Family Promise, in Fairbanks/North Pole with Loving Families in Fairbanks/North Pole, and at Central Lutheran in Anchorage with the Emergency Cold Weather Shelter Program for Families.

The **ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grants** continue to be the main way that ELCA congregations and synods steward the funds so generously given in support of our shared ministry toward a just world where all are fed. The \$9,500 of grants in the Alaska Synod are part of over \$715,000 that will return where needed most in our communities and congregations across the ELCA in accompaniment of our shared hopes, dreams and ministry.

Those Alaska Synod groups awarded grants for 2019 include:

Trinity Lutheran Church - \$2,500.00 Community Garden in Palmer
Good Shepherd Lutheran - \$3,000 Five Loaves Two Fish Ministries in Wasilla
Anchorage Faith & Action - Congregations Together - Organizing Grant \$4000

Youth

National Youth Gathering *This Changes Everything!*

We have *nine* congregations sending youth and adults to the ELCA National Youth Gathering this summer! Thanks to these congregations, their youth and adults. Jane Hanson continues as our Synod Coordinator. Pastor Julia Seymour will be our Synod Day Coordinator at the gathering late June in Houston. Mary Huntington, Shishmaref Lutheran, will be one of the presenters for the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event just preceding the Gathering.

Synod Youth Leadership Summit Two youth from Good Shepherd represented the synod at this annual youth leadership gathering with youth from across the church. Thank you Olivia Young, Jeremy Sanchez and Laura Anderson, adult advisor, for representing us.

Western States Youth Gathering *Dream Big!*

The triennial gathering at California Lutheran University had youth from Central Lutheran and Good Shepherd Lutheran in attendance last summer. I went for the first time and ended up being a presenter. We had a staff person from every ELCA camp in the west lead games.

Summer Camp

Thank you to all who plan and work year-round to provide summer camp for our youth and children every summer. The Seward Peninsula Cluster offers three weeks of camp at Salmon Lake Bible Camp. The Southeast Cluster offers a week of camp at Glacier Bible Camp. The Southcentral and Knik Clusters offer a week of camp at Victory Bible Camp.

Adult Education

Currently, 28% of ELCA congregations across the 65 synods are without a pastor. We need to raise up and train lay leaders for our congregations as well as recruit more pastors. In the future, pastors will likely coach multiple Synodically Authorized Ministers who will provide the face-to-face spiritual leadership of their congregations.

Through grants from Churchwide, the synod has been able to offer more programs and training for our own lay leaders and clergy. This year, the Council Orientation Workshop included presentations by Pastor John Herman on discipleship and council members as spiritual leaders. The emphasis for the council orientation is the council's role in stewarding, planning and discerning vision for the congregation.

Synodically Authorized Ministers are lay people who have engaged training in biblical studies, theology, history, pastoral care and preaching. With the support of their congregations, students register then study either with a pastor using DVD curriculum and books or participate in lectures and workshops.

With our ecumenical partners, the Alaska Synod is jump-starting a shared adult education program that Alaska Pacific University hopes to oversee in the future. These course offerings will vary and while most will fulfill the requirements for serving as a Synodically Authorized Minister, adults are can also participate for the simple joy of learning.

Ecumenical Work

The Lutheran – Catholic Commemoration of the Reformation included services with the Archdiocese of Anchorage at Our Lady of Guadalupe, with Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Good Shepherd Lutheran in Wasilla, with Trinity Lutheran and St. Michaels Catholic Church in Palmer and with Epiphany Lutheran Episcopal Church and St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Valdez.

The judicatory leaders of the Presbytery of the Yukon, United Methodist Conference, Episcopal Diocese and Alaska Synod continue to be in conversation. Bishops are often asked to weigh-in on local matters of concern. My practice has been to defer to our local pastors on local issues unless there are statewide implications or audience. The Synod Council and all of synod rostered leaders receive a copy of my letters to our legislators or governor.

ACEs Adverse Childhood Experiences An Alaskan network of church leaders is forming to continue the church participation in this statewide effort. The Governor's Office launched this with the help of Pastor Elizabeth Schultz who serves as the governor's liaison to non-profits. We join school districts, health professionals, and chambers of commerce in understanding how ACEs impact children and adults.

Mobility

This synod has paired the role of the bishop with overseeing mobility and candidacy. That involves working with pastors discerning a change in call, congregational councils when a pastor resigns, Ministry Site Profile writing teams, Call Committees, and recruiting pastors for consideration.

Congregational Transitions May, 2017 – April, 2018

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church is interviewing to call a new solo pastor. Pastor Edwin Weber has served as the only pastor following the resignation of The Rev. Adam Barnhart with whom he was the associate pastor.

Christ Lutheran Church – Fairbanks: Father Steve Reed is serving as interim pastor.

Christ Lutheran Church – Soldotna called The Rev. Meredith Harber from Eben Ezer Lutheran Church and Oaks Indian Mission of Oklahoma. She was installed October 8, 2017. The Rev. Dan Bollerud served as interim pastor.

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church is served by Synodically Authorized Minister and seminary graduate, Lowell Chilton while the congregation decides its staffing pattern. The Rev. Marsha Hendrickson served as interim previously.

Epiphany Lutheran Episcopal Church called Kaitlin Pabo-Eulberg who was ordained February 23 and installed on March 25.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is in the active call process. Retired pastors have served as short-term interim pastors.

Petersburg Lutheran Church called The Rev. Eric Olsen from his position as director of Luther Heights Bible Camp in Idaho. He was installed November 19. The Rev. Al Solmonson was the interim pastor.

Resurrection Lutheran Church – Juneau called The Rev. Karen Perkins from California. She was installed November 20. The Rev. Mark Peterson was the interim pastor.

Resurrection Lutheran Church – Seward called Ben Bohart who was serving under contract with them while he completed his Lutheran Studies. Ben was ordained and installed on November 12.

Roster Changes

Deacon (retired) Fran Victor moved to Iowa.

The Rev. Marsha Hendrickson retired and moved to Nevada.

The Rev. Dr. Pat Kiefert retired from Luther Seminary and will transfer to the Montana Synod.

The Rev. Richard Kraiger (retired) transferred to the Southwestern Washington Synod.

The Rev. Christina Mauntel resigned from Epiphany Lutheran Episcopal Church to serve as an active duty chaplain with the US Navy. She is stationed in Bahrain.

The Rev. Karen Sonray went on-leave-from call after resigning from Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Nome to move to Anchorage.

The Rev. Randy Young went on disability leave 9/4/2017 and moved to Arizona for treatment.

Candidacy

Those preparing to serve in professional roles in the ELCA study through a variety of programs: through seminary residence, or while serving a congregation through a combination of online and intensive courses at a seminary. Rostered leaders are either pastors who serve as Ministers of Word and Sacrament, or deacons who serve as Ministers of Word and Service.

To become a pastor or deacon, each student also must be entranced, endorsed and approved for ELCA rostered service through a process we call Candidacy. Members of our synod Candidacy Committee include Kathleen Brandt (Sitka Lutheran), The Rev. Carol George (St. Mark –Anchorage), The Rev. Julia Seymour (Chair and member of Lutheran Church of Hope), Dr. Michael Swenson (Christ Lutheran-Fairbanks), Dr. Moses Penumaka (Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary) and Candidacy Manager for Regions 1 and 2, The Rev. Mark Nelson.

Current Seminary Students

Hazel Davidson, a member of Good Shepherd, is the mission developer of Mesa Sagrada/MatSu Latino Ministry, and is completing her studies through Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University as a TEEM student. She previously graduated from Fuller Seminary.

Amanda Lindquist, a member of Amazing Grace-Anchorage, is student in Luther's MA Program. She is in candidacy to serve as a deacon.

Rich Mauer, is a member of Faith Lutheran-Delta, is serving there as a Commissioned Presbyterian Elder and is studying through Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University as a TEEM student.

Dr. Paul Peterson, a member of St Mark-Anchorage, is a Luther Seminary Distributive Learning student. Ron Rucker, a member of Good Shepherd-Wasilla, is serving as mission developer of Trapper Creek, and is completing his studies as a TEEM student through Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University.

Rachel Swenson, a member of Christ Lutheran – Fairbanks, is a residential student of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University. Rachel will serve her internship this upcoming year.

Melanie Vesco, a member of St. Mark-Anchorage, is a Distributive Learning Student through Luther Seminary.

Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) allows students to serve as pastoral leaders while completing their seminary education. Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran offers this program that allows a student to serve a congregation part-time while completing their coursework. A certificate can be earned.

Contact the synod office for conversation to explore serving as a pastor or deacon. See the elca.org website for information on the Candidacy Process of the ELCA. There you will find the application and a description of the process of preparing.

Your support of the **Alaska Synod Seminary Scholarship Fund** provides scholarships based on need to our students studying at ELCA seminaries. Thank you to those individuals and congregations who are supporting this fund.

The **Seminary Tuition Reimbursement Fund** grants newly ordained pastors one month's payment per year on their seminary education loan while they are in their first call in the Alaska Synod. Thank you to those individuals and congregations who are making this possible!

Partnering with Churchwide and the Region

Every bishop has assignments beyond the synod for the sake of our shared ministries. I serve as one of three Region 1 bishops on the Pacific Lutheran University Board of Regents. Dr. Ose Matsutani, Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, is also a member. We both serve on the Academic Affairs Committee as chair and vice-chair.

The Assignment Process which assigns each graduating seminary senior to a region has a bishop from each region at the assignment table; I represent Region 1.

On the Conference of Bishops, I serve on the Executive Committee and on the Roster Committee. Bishops choose to serve on Ready Benches through which the presiding bishop can ask for counsel. My interests have been Care of Creation and Justice in Not Just Us. The leadership committees of the Church Council, the Conference of Bishops and the Churchwide Administrative Team have met in consultation for Called Forward Together in Christ: ELCA Future Directions 2025.



Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) Report to the Alaska Synod Assembly

“But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.” – Luke 24:29-31

The Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) is an ELCA churchwide deployed position to the Alaska Synod. This half-time position works with stewardship, new starts and congregational renewal/vitality. This report highlights work with the three expressions of our ELCA: churchwide, synod and congregations.

Churchwide

For FY 2018, Alaska Synod congregations received a total of nearly \$174,000 in Congregational Vitality (formerly Partnership Support) grants from our churchwide partners. These funds support ministry on the Seward Peninsula and the Alaska Synod's newest ministries: Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities (SAWC) PLUME Latino Outreach and Trapper Creek Fellowship. A SAWC Exploration for Prince of Wales Island is also included in this funding (see below).

ELCA Director for Mission Support Victoria Flood attended the Alaska Synod Council for Mission Support Symposium in October. The visit was about building relationships between synod and churchwide, sharing resources and exploring trends. Alaska Synod mission support (funds from congregations shared with synod and churchwide) has been relatively steady, notable in a state in a recession.

I continue to serve on the churchwide Domestic Mission Unit Mission Support/Stewardship Table, which serves as a resource and visionary body for mission support/stewardship. I am serve on the planning team for Stewardship Kaleidoscope, a Presbyterian-ELCA stewardship conference held each fall.

In July 2017, the Alaska Synod hosted churchwide partners who offered a **training for Behavioral Interviewers**, a discernment tool used to identify mission developers. Three Alaska Synod leaders were trained; a fourth was later trained elsewhere in October. This more than doubles the number of trained interviewers in our synod and increases our capacity to identify leaders for mission development. One mission developer was interviewed here in January 2018 by a person trained at the past July event.

Synod

The Alaska Synod's **Rooted in Christ: Connected in Community cohort** launched in early 2017 with three congregations and one additional doing a coaching-only component. An initiative for discipleship and mission, the Rooted cohort met four times in 12 months, focusing on assessment through tools including the Congregational Vitality Survey. The next steps are discerning and implementing “mission experiments,” informed by assessments and deep listening. One more congregation joined the cohort, which will continue to meet throughout 2018. The cohort met this February, which included an open-to-all discipleship workshop by visiting presenter Rev. Dr. John Herman, attended by more than 20 people.

Coaches for Rooted are Rev. John Van Haneghan (Fairbanks Lutheran) and Zach Manzella (St. Mark- Anchorage). Rooted leaders include Zach Manzella, Rev. Carol George (St. Mark-Anchorage), Marilyn Rosene (Dillingham Trinity Lutheran) and Rev. Sandra Rudd (Sitka Lutheran). Rooted leaders gather each time with the Road to Emmaus story (Luke 24, as above) to ground their work.

PLUME Latino Outreach and Trapper Creek Fellowship are our two SAWCs, as mentioned above. Their leaders Hazel Davidson and Ron Rucker, respectively, do ministry with a missional focus. PLUME Latino continues to host festivals such as Day of the Dead and Las Posadas, which reach into the community. The group has launched monthly dinner church (Mesa Sagrada) and monthly Bible study and Hike Church. Trapper Creek continues weekly worship and monthly spaghetti feeds and added a monthly movie and pizza night. Ron and the congregation have been asked by the community to host a grief group. This February, Ron and two lay leaders from Trapper Creek attended the ELCA Missional Leaders re-development workshop, held in Houston. Both Hazel and Ron are seminarians completing their studies this spring and will be available for call.

A SAWC Exploration has launched on **Prince of Wales Island** in Southeast Alaska to explore a possible Lutheran ministry on the island. The exploration is a response to people on the island with a Lutheran background who have requested Lutheran worship and the sacraments. Rev. Keith Anderson (First-Ketchikan) is serving as the mission developer for this 6-month exploration while still under call in Ketchikan. The exploration includes conversation with the Presbyterian church on the island.

Members of the Southcentral cluster hosted **“Talking about Race in our Families,”** this past February at Lutheran Church of Hope. The event had separate content for children and adults and drew attendees from the community. Conversations are ongoing about a similar event for the Knik cluster and a “201” event in Anchorage. Contact synod office if interested.

The **ELCA Generosity Project workshop will be offered in three sites in Fall 2018:** Anchorage, Fairbanks and Southeast, dates and host sites TBD. This intergenerational and interactive workshop explores stories of God’s generosity and equips participants to return to their homes and congregations to make those places more vital centers for faith formation and generosity. Look for information and travel scholarships this summer.

Congregations and Clusters

A **Comprehensive Ministry Review** was completed in Shishmaref in January 2018. This is process for congregations receiving churchwide grants engages churchwide, synod and local leaders to listen and learn about a ministry and offer supportive affirmations and recommendations. The process has been done in several other Alaska congregations and will be facilitated at Alaska Native-Anchorage in May.

The Seward Peninsula Lutheran Ministry Association Fall Conference was held at Alaska Native-Anchorage Fall 2017. I enjoyed attending evening worship.

I am available to do mission planning and visioning with your congregation, as well as stewardship education, whether with the congregational council, such as council retreat, or with a small group of leaders. Some places I have been this past year include: Amazing Grace-Anchorage, Christ Lutheran-Soldotna, Christ Our Savior-Anchorage, Alaska Native-Anchorage, Lord of Life-North Pole, PLUME Latino Outreach, St. Mark-Anchorage, Joy-Eagle River, Shishmaref Lutheran, First Lutheran-Ketchikan and Trinity-Palmer. Please invite me to your congregation!

- Rev. Lisa Smith Fiegel -



Treasurer's Report to the Alaska Synod Assembly

Last year, the synod ended the year in the red for the first time since I became treasurer. This was due to several congregations giving way below their statement of intent. The deficit would have been larger, but we had several congregations give more than their intent amount and the synod held the line on some costs. The amounts that congregations put on their intent forms are what the synod uses to form the spending plan. These amounts for 2018 are almost what was on the 2017 statement of intents and subsequently there is a projected deficit for 2018 as well. The synod is functioning at the lowest level of expenses it can. The bishop is getting basically no salary increase. She has for the third year in a row offered to take no pay increase, but the council felt it was important to recognize her efforts, even if the amount is small.

The synod has continued to provide coaching and programs as resources for congregations and to explore new ministries such as the Prince of Wales ministry site. There are always pastors coming and going and the Bishop continues work on finding ones for our congregations to consider. Programs on stewardship and discipleship grow and work with other ministry partners continues. We, as congregations together, continue through the synod to send on 40% to churchwide and international work. I am always thankful for the generosity of all in the Alaska Synod.

I am always available as a resource for our congregations. Don't hesitate to email or call. I'm here to help in financial matters. (h 248-9563, w 561-5136, norquist@alaska.net)

Carol Norquist
Treasurer

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Spending Plan Line Items -2017 Cash Basis	2017 Actual	2017 Revised	2018 Approved	2018 Revised	2019 Proposed	
2							
3	Synod Income						
4	Partnerships						
5	Congregation Giving (For Mission/New Ministry)	7643	7899	8370	7900	8137	2%
6	Congregation Giving (For First Fruits)	38212	39493	41850	39500	40685	10%
7	Congregation Giving	<u>336263</u>	<u>347540</u>	<u>368280</u>	<u>347600</u>	<u>358028</u>	
8	Total Congregation Giving	382118	394932	418500	395000	406850	
9							
10	EOCM DEM Grant	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	
11	Churchwide Support - Synodical Relations	28000	28000	28000	28000	28000	
12							
13	Other Income						
14	Gifts	120	200	200	200	200	
15	Misc Income	150	800	800	300	300	
16	Interest Income	<u>1939</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>800</u>	
17	Total Income	422327	434332	457900	434300	446150	
18	Synod Administration						
19	-Salaries & Benefits						
20	Bishop's Salary	47167	47167	47650	47650	48126	
21	Bishop's Housing	35000	35000	35000	35000	35000	
22	Bishop's SECA	6803	6803	6843	6843	6883	
23	Bishop's Pension/Disability/Medical	26264	26200	26500	26500	28000	
24	Bishop's Workers Compensation	1096	975	975	1100	1200	
25	Bishop's Continuing Education	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	
26	Bishop's Auto Reimbursement	1687	1000	1000	1000	1200	
27	Professional Reimbursement	<u>521</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>700</u>	
28	Bishop's Salary & Benefits	120038	119345	120168	120293	122609	
29							
30	Administrative Assistant's Salary	30388	32640	32700	35000	35350	
31	Administrative Assistant's FICA Tax	2325	2497	2502	2678	2704	
32	Administrative Assistant's Pension/Medical	0	0	0	0	0	
33	Administrative Assistant's Workers Compensation	470	550	550	500	550	
34	Administrative Assistant's Continuing Education	<u>175</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>	
35	Administrative Assistant's Salary & Benefits	33358	35987	36052	38478	38904	
36							
37							
38	Administrative Expenses:						
39	Staff Travel	13139	12000	12235	14000	14000	
40	Staff Travel Per Diem	941	400	400	400	400	
41	Other Administrative Travel	38	100	100	100	100	
42	Other Administrative Per Diem	<u>2</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Spending Plan Line Items -2017 Cash Basis	2017 Actual	2017 Revised	2018 Approved	2018 Revised	2019 Proposed	
43	Total	14125	12600	12835	14550	14550	
44							
45	DEM Expenses	7166	9000	9000	9000	9000	
46	Professional Meeting Expenses	407	900	900	700	700	
47	Shipping and Mailing	155	300	300	250	250	
48	Supplies & Materials	1723	1500	1500	1500	1500	
49	Telephone / Internet	4634	3950	4000	4500	4500	
50	Website	188	225	225	225	225	
51	Insurance	1653	1895	2100	1800	1850	
52	Resource Materials and Services	425	200	200	200	200	
53	Sm. Equip. Purchase and Equip. Maintenance.	300	200	200	200	200	
54	Equipment Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	
55	Occupancy - Utilities	3923	3925	4000	3925	3925	
56	Candidacy	674	1200	1000	1000	1000	
57	Synodical Transition Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	
58	Bishop's Sabbatical Reserve	0	600	400	400	400	
59	Miscellaneous	2538	500	500	500	500	
60	Reimbursable Expenses	511	0	0	0	0	
61	Synod Council Travel	3387	6500	6500	5000	5000	
62	Synod Council Travel Per Diem	0	100	100	100	100	
63	Council Meeting Expenses	487	500	500	500	550	
64	Total	28171	31495	31425	29800	29900	
65							
66	Partnerships						
67	Churchwide Support	153487	157973	167400	158000	162740	40%
68							
69	Region 1:						
70	Archives (At PLU)	700	700	700	700	700	
71	Region 1 Center Shared Mission	14277	14277	15000	13885	14000	
72	Cost Sharing	689	400	400	400	600	
73	Consultation to Clergy	7700	7700	7700	7700	7700	
74	Total	23366	23077	23800	22685	23000	
75	Local Mission:						
76	Mission and Ministry	0	2899	3370	2900	3137	
77	Latino Ministry Development	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	
78	Trapper Creek Ministry Development	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	
79	Seward Penn. Ministry	15000	15000	15000	15000	15000	
80	Total	20000	22899	23370	22900	23137	
81							
82	First Fruits Giving - (Benevolence):						
83	AFACT	574					

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Spending Plan Line Items -2017 Cash Basis	2017 Actual	2017 Revised	2018 Approved	2018 Revised	2019 Proposed	
84	Safe & Fear Free Environment	1548					
85	LSSA	20319					
86	Love Inc ER	1064					
87	Love Inc Fairbanks	1064					
88	Support of PLTS	5322					
89	Luther Seminary	5322					
90	Support of PLU	2999					
91	Total	38212	39493	41850	39500	40685	
92							
93	Synod Programs:						
94	Youth Program	0	1000	1000	1000	1000	
95	Multicultural Program	0	0	0	0	0	
96		0	1000	1000	1000	1000	
97							
98	Total Income	422327	434332	457900	434300	446150	
99	Total Expenses	430757	443869	457900	447206	456525	
100	Available	-8430	-9537	0	-12906	-10375	
101							
102							
103							
104							
105							
106							
107							

Designated Accounts

As of 1/31/2018

Temporary Restricted

02-341-04001 – Funds Held-Seminary Tuition Reduction	\$10,528.66
02-341-04121 – Funds Held-Bishop's Sabbatical	\$3,000.00
02-341-04141 – Funds Held-Synodical Transition	\$11,888.48
02-341-04181 – Funds Held-Oxereok Scholarship	\$310.00
02-341-04271 -Funds Held-Youth Reserves	\$4,224.86
02-341-04281 – Funds Held-Community Camp	\$1345.58
02-341-04331 – Funds Held-Lay School of Theology	\$2,030.35
02-341-04341 – Funds Held-Lay Education Scholarship	\$750.00
02-341-04351 – Funds Held- DEM	\$268.86
02-341-04421 – Funds Held-Multicultural Fund	\$4,628.67
02-341-04431 – Funds Held-Stewardship Task Force	\$1,860.98
02-341-04451 – Funds Held-Rooted Grant	\$1,737.59
02-341-04741 – Funds Held-Ministry Formation	\$2,024.36
02-341-04751 – Funds Held-Mission/Ministry	\$15,523.86
02-341-04761 – Funds Held-Pastor's Emergency	\$4,956.35
02-341-04771 – Funds Held-T.E.A.M. Ministry	\$10,358.42
02-341-04821 – Funds Held-Thornton Memorial	\$48,280.28
02-341-04841 – Funds Held-Alaska Native Calling	\$1,595.56
02-341-04911 – Funds Held-Collegium Speakers	\$749.69
02-341-04931 – Funds Held-Collegium Retreat	\$(2,756.13)
02-341-04981 – Funds Held-Brevig / Teller	\$35,789.98
02-341-05691 -Funds Held-Seminary Scholarships	\$5,284.30
02-341-06011 – Funds Held-Campus Ministry	\$1,526.80
02-341-14031 – Funds Held-All AK Youth Gather	\$5,360.26
02-343-00001 – Funds Held-Large Equipment Reserve	\$1,781.66
02-346-00001 – Funds Held-Synod Assembly	\$36,375.07

Temporarily Donor Restricted

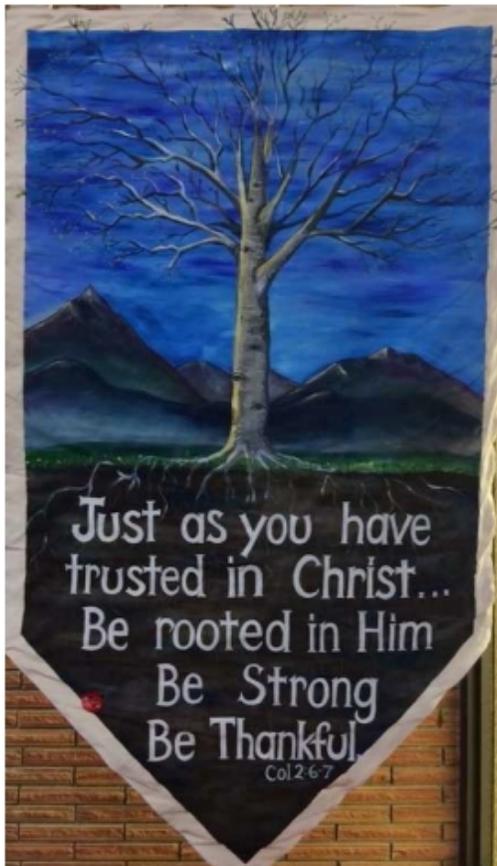
02-341-04091 – Funds Held-Multicultural Leadership	\$2,143.92
02-341-04211 – Funds Held-Large Congregation	\$2,967.52
02-341-04691 – Funds Held-Interior Cluster Grant	\$6,505.00
02-341-04711 – Funds Held-Wasilla Corridor	\$925.00
02-341-04731 – Funds Held-Prince of Wales	\$2,991.02
02-341-04871 – Funds Held-Seward Peninsula Coalition	\$0
02-341-04891 – Funds Held-SPLM	\$288.74
02-341-04921 – Funds Held-SPLM Ministry	\$60,702.46
02-341-05661 –Funds Held-Macedonia Grant	\$515.87
02-341-07041 – Funds Held-Latino Ministry Development	\$787.05
05-341-10001 – Funds Held-MIF – SPLM	\$103,161.56
05-341-20001 – Endowment Funds Held-ELCA Foundation	<u>\$1,783,360.74</u>

Total Designated **\$2,383,199.86**



The Alaska Synod is one of three expressions of the ELCA (along with congregations and churchwide). We are working together to do ministry as God's hands. Mission support from our members allows all three expressions to accomplish many things that could not be accomplished alone. As a member of the ELCA your support allows ministry in your local area (congregation), in the state (synod), and the national/world area (churchwide). The more generous the giving, the more we can accomplish—together.

Mission Partnerships – 40% As a synod we know we can't do everything by ourselves; we need partnerships with other organizations to maximize our effectiveness. We partner with Pacific Lutheran University, Churchwide, seminaries, other denominations, other synods and many community groups. You do this by sponsoring missionaries in more than 90 countries, including 79 Young Adults in Global Mission. Your mission support assures that, when disaster strikes anywhere in the world, there will be Lutherans to help care for the injured and bring hope to the suffering. You support and are part of a network of eight seminaries, 26 Lutheran colleges, World Hunger, Missionary Sponsorships, Global Missions, the SPLM congregations and local work in addressing hunger issues. Alaska Synod congregations receive more back in financial support from the ELCA than we give. Resources we expect to use in 2018 amount to \$158,000.



Community – 10% The synod encourages local community outreach through new program grants for creative mission projects. The bishop speaks on social justice issues through the lens of the ELCA. Resources expected to be used in 2018 are \$39,500.

Leadership – 24% The Synod helps congregations find pastors well matched to the needs of their specific situation. The Synod provides pastoral support and has key involvement in the candidacy process. Developing leaders who will provide vision and energy to meet the challenges of ministry is an important part of the job of bishop. Continuing education programs for clergy leaders and having a program of training and equipping qualified lay persons for congregational-based ministries of preaching, sacraments and worship leadership, and where appropriate, providing leadership for bible study, catechetical instruction, visitation and spiritual growth are also key components of the role of the synod. For 2018 resources needed will be \$95,000.

Congregation Resource – 15% The Synod helps nurture newer congregations and emerging faith communities such as Valley Latino ministry, Trapper Creek, and Table of Grace. Exploration of a new ministry in Prince of Wales is in progress. Discussions with congregations interested in collaborating in new forms of ministry are part of the synod. The Synod is here to mediate when congregations are in conflict or crisis. The Bishop presides and preaches in congregations when asked. Congregation council consultation and leadership training are all resources for each of our congregations. Your synod staff is available to guide the way. They provide educational events in areas like stewardship and evangelism, help with new mission starts and multicultural ministries, and offer guidance in times of crisis. Information about best practices that can be used in your congregation is available and the treasurer is a resource for financial questions. Supporting the work of our congregations is important. 1. New starts: this is the place for dreaming and planning new mission starts in Alaska. We're keeping our eyes and hearts open to how God might be calling us in the Alaska Synod into new and creative ministries. 2. Renewal: All congregations need renewal! We are here to work with congregations on mission planning and mission strategy. We have resources to share on outreach, evangelism and leadership development. 3. Stewardship: Our response to God's goodness comes in sharing time, talent and treasure. But sometimes other things get in the way. We offer resources and coaching to help congregations work on the faith practice of giving. If your congregation needs help or information on some aspect, please call. The synod is here for our congregations needs. \$59,250 is set aside for this area of synod ministry in 2018.



Administration – 11% Like any well run organization, the synod needs the equipment, supplies, telephone, fax, email service, printing and postage, etc. to be effective in our ministry. The bishop has work with the Synod Council, the Executive Committee, staff supervision, policy review and development, and other committee meetings. Communications from the synod office, including E-news, website, and social media, are an important part of information for our members and congregations to use in keeping up on issues affecting our congregations. Resources needed for 2018 will be \$43,250.

Mission Partnerships	40%	\$158,000
Community	10%	\$39,500
Leadership	24%	\$95,000
Congregation Resource	15%	\$59,250
Administration	11%	\$43,250





Nominating Committee's Report to the Alaska Synod Assembly

Synod Council terms ending 2018: 4 year term, may serve 3 consecutive terms

Term ends 2022

- Southcentral Lay: Ed Mjolsnes (Central Lutheran) _____
- Knik Lay: John Copenhaver (River of Life) _____
- At Large Lay: Jan Dodds _____

Consultation Committee

Term ends 2023

- Lay: Noah Dressel (Good Shepherd) _____
- Clergy: Tari Stage-Harvey (Shepherd of Valley) _____

Pacific Lutheran University Corporation Board

Term end 2021

- Knik Lay: Paul Krauszer (Trinity Lutheran) _____
- Interior Clergy: Pastor Curtis Matz (New Hope) _____
- Southcentral Clergy: Pastor Carol George (St. Mark) _____

AK Child and Family Board

Term ends 2021

- Lay, Female: Eva Leonard _____

Churchwide Assembly: August 5-10, 2019 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Alaska has six voting Members: 3 women + 3 men = 2 clergy + 4 laypeople;

at least 2 who are Alaska Native

(1 clergy will be the bishop, 1 layperson will be the synod vice president)

One Clergy

- Pastor Rick Cavens (Good Shepherd) _____
- Pastor Susan Halvor (Spiritual Care at Providence Hospital)
- Pastor Sandra Rudd (Sitka Lutheran)
- Pastor Julia Seymour (Lutheran Church of Hope)
- Pastor John Van Haneghan (Fairbanks Lutheran)

Lay Delegate: One youth or person under 30 years

- Melissa Ihly (St. Mark) _____
- Mikey Jackson (Fairbanks Lutheran)
- Kelsey Ramos (Good Shepherd)

Lay Delegate

- Megan Bladow (Female, Lutheran Church of Hope) _____
- Adam Bryant (Male, Lutheran Church of Hope)
- Bobbie Ochoa (Native Female, Good Shepherd)
- Roy Roberts (Native Male, ANLC)
- Teri Watkins (Native Female, ANLC)
- Bryan Weyauvanna, (Native Male, Our Savior's Lutheran Church)

Submitted by the Nominating Committee: Pr. Keith Anderson (Southeast Cluster), Phyllis Gielarowski (Knik Cluster), Shannon Miller (Seward Peninsula Cluster), Phyllis Rude (At-large), Marilyn Rosene (Council), Pr. John Van Haneghan (Interior Cluster).

Nominee Biographies

Churchwide Assembly

August 5-10, 2019 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Alaska has six voting Members: 3 women + 3 men = 2 clergy + 4 laypeople

(one clergy will be the bishop, one lay delegate will be the synod vice president, one lay delegate will be under 30 years old, at least one lay delegate will be Alaska Native)

Megan Bladow (for Lay Delegate)

Megan is a life long Alaskan and life long member of Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage. From baptism to confirmation to serving on council and being the congregation President, she has been a part of most aspects of church life. Megan also serves on the Alaska Synod Stewardship Table, and has been trained as a "Ventures in Growing Stewards" Leader by the ELCA national office. She worked with Rev. Martin Eldred from Joy Lutheran and Rev. Diane Krauszer from Trinity Lutheran as a stewardship leader, taking many congregations on a journey to help them serve their mission as a congregation with their time, treasure and talents. Megan holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Willamette University, and works as an Events Manager for the University of Alaska Anchorage. She has a passion for live theatre, and serves as the Associate Education Director for TBA Theatre in Anchorage. Megan is a director, actor, acclaimed dance choreographer, and award winning costume and scenic designer. She loves Alaska, and would be honored to represent her state at the Churchwide Assembly.

Adam Bryant (for Lay Delegate)

Adam was born and raised in Anchorage, AK. Although Adam considers many churches his "home church," he was baptized at Central Lutheran Church and is a member and current council president at Lutheran Church of Hope. Adam graduated from Pacific Lutheran University in 2010, where he was able to take a professor-led study away course in Germany focusing on the Lutheran heritage and identity. Currently, Adam works at the University of Alaska Anchorage coordinating a domestic exchange program for the university and is a volunteer football coach at Dimond High School, his alma mater.

Pastor Rick Cavens (for Clergy)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Pastor Susan Halvor (for Clergy)

Susan is the manager of the Spiritual Care Department at Providence Alaska Medical Center (Anchorage) where she has served since 2004, including positions as Children's Hospital Chaplain and Senior Chaplain. She came to the Alaska Synod in 2000, for her first call as associate pastor at Joy Lutheran Church. She has served as the multicultural representative to the Synod Council since 2009, and has offered various workshops, training and presentations throughout the synod related to race and privilege. She is also a member of the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary Advisory Board, a member of Proclaim (a professional community for Lutheran clergy who publicly identify as LGBTQ+), and involved at the hospital with the Debrief and Peer Support teams, Ethics Committee, Culture and Diversity Committee, and CPE Professional Advisory Group.

Melissa Ihly (for Lay Delegate under 30 years old)

St. Mark Lutheran Church

Mikey Jackson (for Lay Delegate under 30 years old)

Fairbanks Lutheran Church

Bobbie Ochoa (for Alaska Native Lay Delegate)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Kelsey Ramos (for Lay Delegate under 30 years old)

I'm 28 years old and grew up attending Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Wasilla, AK. My husband and I have been married for almost two years and we are expecting our first child together. My husband and I met at Trinity Lutheran College where I received my Bachelor's Degree in Children, Youth & Family Studies. I spent a couple of years outside of Alaska working as a youth director but found my way back to Alaska when my husband and I were trying to figure out where we wanted to start our life together. Faith is a very big part of my life and I enjoy volunteering at Good Shepherd in it's many ministries.

Roy Roberts (for Alaska Native Lay Delegate)

Alaska Native Lutheran Church

The Reverend Sandra S. Rudd (for Clergy)

I was ordained in 2009 and am still in my first call serving Sitka Lutheran Church. I am interested in being a delegate to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly because I would like to bring the perspective of the "off-the-road-sytem" congregation to the wider church. Here in small town Sitka we do ecumenism everyday. The wider church is striving to do this too. It is how we all should be doing church if at all possible. I believe my ability to listen well, think well, and speak well will serve both the wider church and the Alaska Synod. Thank you for your consideration.

The Reverend Julia Seymour (for Clergy)

Julia has served the Alaska Synod since 2007. She completed her internship at Gloria Dei in Anchorage. She was called to and continues to serve Lutheran Church of Hope. Pastor Seymour has served before on Synod Council and continues to serve as chair of the Candidacy Committee. She has twice served as Dean of the South Central Cluster. She also serves in the community by being a board member of Anchorage Faith and Action-Congregations Together, a board member of Justice Not Politics-Alaska, and on the steering committee for Christians for Equality. Pastor Seymour has written for Gather magazine, a publication of the Women of the ELCA, including a three part study on the Apostles' Creed. She is also the current board president of RevGalBlogPals, the international support and resource group for women clergy and their supporters. She lives in Eagle River with her husband, Rob, and their two children, Daniel and Victoria.

Pastor John Van Haneghan (for Clergy)

Fairbanks Lutheran Church

Teri Watkins (for Alaska Native Lay Delegate)

I was baptized in Holy Spirit, Our Savior's Lutheran Church (Nome, 1973) and I am a member of Evangelical Churches of America. I was a Board Member, and am a choir singer, at the Alaska Native Lutheran Church. I was a delegate at the Seward Peninsula Lutheran Ministries Fall Conference in 2017. I was a recipient of a Women of the ELCA Scholarship for Laypersons. I am currently Secretary for the Alaska Native Lutheran Church Women's Group, and a Board Member of the Alaska Synodical Women's Organization.

I believe that I was nominated because of my dedication to serve our Lord in any ways possible through the gifts given me such as leadership and organizational skills, perseverance in times of great change, ability to communicate across cultures with respect to cultural diversity, and the ability to faithfully instill inspired involvement from the community, within the church, and individually with empathy and encouragement.

Bryan Weyauvanna (for Alaska Native Lay Delegate)

Bryan is the President of the Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council. He also serves as President for both the Seward Peninsula Conference and the Seward Peninsula Lutheran Ministry Association. He is the Treasurer of the Bering Sea Women's Group, a shelter for domestic violence victims of the Norton Sound region. Bryan is a choir member and active in the subsistence lifestyle.

Pacific Lutheran University Corporation Board

Paul Krauszer (for Knik Lay Person)

I am a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Palmer Alaska, and a retired hospice chaplain. I have been a member of Trinity for about 20 years. Our eldest daughter is a PLU graduate. I have already served one term as a PLU corporate delegate and look forward to doing so again.

Pastor Carol George (for Southcentral Clergy)

St. Mark Lutheran Church

Pastor Curtis Matz (for Interior Clergy)

New Hope Presbyterian/Methodist Church

Synod Council

Terms ending 2018: 4 year term, may serve 3 consecutive terms

John Copenhaver (for Knik Lay Person)

I am a member of the River of Life Lutheran Church (ROL) in Chugiak. For the last 25 years, I have been working at a land surveying company in Eagle River as a land survey technician and registered land surveyor. I graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage with a bachelors degree. I have been regularly attending church services with my family at ROL for over 12 years now. ROL is where I've learned about the word and faith. There are several hats that I wear at ROL: soundboard operator, cook, financial secretary, cleanup crew member, etc. On several past occasions, I've had the opportunity to represent my congregation at the statewide assemblies. I am glad to help my congregation where I can.

Jan Dodds (for At-large Lay Person)

I am a lifelong Alaskan and lifelong Lutheran. I moved to Anchorage after college and have lived here ever since. I have been an active member of the Lutheran community through my home church for most of that time. I am currently employed at Providence St Joseph Health System as a financial analyst. I expressed a willingness to fill a vacancy on Synod Council for a partial term and then was elected for a second term which ends this year. I am willing to fill another term. As a lay member of a small congregation, I hoped I might have a perspective, and a willingness to participate, that might be of value to somehow to help to make the work of the Alaska Synod known and relevant to all congregations, and to help congregations become better informed about the work of the ELCA on a national and worldwide level.

Edward "Ed" Mjolsnes (for Southcentral Lay Person)

Ed is a life-long Lutheran, currently at Central Lutheran in Anchorage. In the past four decades, he served as a member of the Central Lutheran Congregational Council several times and served as Congregational Council President twice. He served as Board President of LSSA when the 501 C(3) was reinstated circa 1990 and subsequently served as LSSA Board Secretary for one term. He served as a member of the old NOM (Native Outreach Ministry) Board in the 1980's while a member of Central Lutheran. Ed is currently a volunteer with The Listening Post (under the LSSA umbrella) and ending his first term on Synod Council. He has been a member of church councils in five different congregations (Washington and California) before moving to Alaska in 1974. He joined Lutheran Church of Hope in 1974 and moved to Central Lutheran in 1979. Ed received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Washington (Seattle) and is currently licensed as a Profession Engineer in Alaska and Washington. He was self-employed most of the time since 1978, and is now basically retired. He became a widower in 2015.

Consultation Committee

Noah Dressel (for Lay Person)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Tari Stage-Harvey (for Clergy)

Shepherd of Valley Lutheran Church

AK Child and Family Board

Eva Leonard (for Lay Person)

My name is Pa lule tuk. I was named after a wise woman in my village of Shishmaref. I have spent my life being an advocate for fair and just treatment of my people. I have worked with different groups and people to address child/teen/young adult needs and the continuing racism my people face in all walks of society. My desire has been in my lifetime to have our voices heard and not exploited for gain. I will continue to address these issues through education, advocacy and confrontation.



Together Emphasizing Alaska's Mission (TEAM) Report to the Alaska Synod Assembly

Through donations to TEAM, the people of the Alaska Synod support new projects and programs within Alaska that are beyond a congregation's budget. Through the generosity of individuals and congregations, a Firestarter grant of \$3000 was awarded to Central Lutheran Church - Anchorage to expand their urban garden through the addition of vegetable beds alongside their perennial beds.

The project emphasizes growth and development of ministry through:

- Help with food insecurity for the poor & homeless. Provide demonstration & education on food production & gardening. Be a good neighbor in our immediate community.

The Synod Goals the project connects with:

- Live out our gratitude for God's gracious abundance, despite the challenges of limited resources, doing the work of God's Kingdom of serving, inviting and connecting.
- Work to help assure that the young and the poor will thrive and be nurtured in the Christian faith while empowering them to seek voice and justice in our communities.

We have been thinking about a food garden for the homeless for some time. Last year we put in the perennial food garden. Now we are ready for the vegetable garden. People needing help with food seems to be growing each year and this will help families in transition at the Adelaide House. There will be 9-10 families from the Adelaide house growing food for themselves.

Any vegetable beds not used will be used to provide food (hopefully up to 500#) for the LSSA food bank.

Recent recipients of TEAM Grants have included:

- Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church - Juneau was awarded a grant to assist in the development of a Day Shelter for Family Promise of Juneau.
- Good Shepherd Lutheran - Wasilla received a grant to help them fund a kitchen manager for their newly Two Fish Five Loaves Kitchen Ministry.
- Joy Lutheran - Eagle River received a grant to help them build a raised bed garden for their local food pantry.
- Lutheran Church of Hope received a grant to help them build their Garden of Hope.
- Table of Grace - Bethel received a grant to help with confirmation retreats for their youth with Trinity Lutheran in Palmer. Instruction was provided online. Joy Lutheran is providing Confirmation instruction now.
- Trinity Lutheran - Palmer received a grant to assist them with their garden for the food pantry.

Thank you for your gifts that have multiplied funding and ministry.

TEAM Committee members include Pat Kilman of Trinity Lutheran, Palmer; Brooke Andrews of Resurrection Lutheran, Seward; Roger Birk of Shepherd of the Valley, Juneau and Bishop Wickstrom. We'd like to include a member of the Interior Cluster and a member of the Seward Peninsula Cluster in this work. This committee reviews applications and forwards them to the Alaska Synod Council for action. See elcaalaska.net for more information.



2018 Alaska Synod Assembly Report AK Child & Family

Greetings from AK Child & Family! And thanks be to God for the ministry we share! The young people at AK Child & Family are the next generation to which we can share and declare God's power. We are so grateful for our connection to the Alaska Synod and for all the ways you are a part of our ministry!

Please continue to pray for our shared ministry as we work to respond to the state of Alaska's economic situation, as well as ever-changing community needs. As 90% of our funding (Medicaid) is in question, and with managed care on the horizon, we continue to search for ways to provide quality care for those in need of our services. We are working hard to increase our Community Programs services and are excited to announce our STARS (School, Treatment, & Autism Rehab Services) Program. This is a new day treatment/school/home support services program we are offering in conjunction with the Anchorage School District. And as always, we are exploring other ways we can be of service to our community. We are striving to be resilient and strong!

As part of our strategic direction we have re-committed to fully funding our Spiritual Life Program which costs us approximately \$150,000 per year. Now more than ever, the AK Child & Family Spiritual Life Program relies on church support to be able to continue our work in ministry for young people and their families suffering from trauma in their lives.

Alaska Synod ELCA offerings to AK Child & Family this fiscal year through March 7th are \$3,739. We budget ELCA giving at \$15,000 per year. We are about a quarter of our way to this year's goal. Thank you for all your gifts.

Thank you for all the ways you faithfully share your time, talents, and treasures with AK Child & Family! We could not do this work without you! Thanks to all who pray for our students. Thanks to congregations and individuals who financially support our Spiritual Life ministry. Thanks also to Rev. Lisa Smith Fiegel, Tim Astle and Eva Leonard for their faithful service as members of our board of directors. Your contributions make you an important part of providing hope to those we serve.

Thanks be to God for AK Child & Family's connection to the Alaska Synod. Let us move confidently forward into another year of ministry together. There is no end to God's greatness!

In Gratitude & Service,

Denis McCarville
President & CEO

Kelli Williams
Director of Spiritual Life

Spring 2018 Report of Faith Community Nursing in the ELCA churches in Alaska

Faith community nursing unites the professional practice of nursing with additional education and mentoring in spiritual care to bring a practice that supports whole person health: physical, emotional and spiritual wellness. To serve as a faith community nurse (FCN), also known as a parish nurse, a registered nurse is required to have a license in the state of practice and adhere to the Scope and Standards of Practice for this specialty as set forth by the American Nurses Association. Nurses do not do traditional hands-on care, but rather promote wellness and partner with parishioners to navigate the health care system with advocacy, resourcing, counseling, and providing a healing presence while providing spiritual support in all they do. Non-nursing participants are also welcomed and supported through this program in their commitment to integrate faith and health as health ministers. The Alaska Faith Community Nurse Resource Center at Providence serves the roll of nurturing our Alaskan FCNs by coordinating education; providing updates; supporting program development; facilitating networking opportunities to strengthen programs in our individual churches and supporting outreach projects as identified by those faith communities.



Currently we have had 194 faith community nurses and 30 health ministers complete training in Alaska. There are 13 FCNs and 5 health ministers from this group serving at 5 ELCA congregations in the state, with one new health minister from Central Lutheran and one FCN from St Mark joining this ministry in 2017. Our ELCA nurses and health ministers reported about 500 hours of service in 2017, including health screenings (blood pressure assessment, consult and referrals, as well as no-cost options for colon cancer screening) and home and hospital visits that assisted parishioners in navigating the health care system by helping to decipher the complexities of diagnoses and pairing them with needed resources, spiritual support through prayer and presentation of prayer shawls and Eucharistic ministry. They provided education opportunities concerning end of life and advance directive planning, mental health care including teen anxiety, suicide prevention and substance abuse concerns as well as one-on-one counseling. They have participated in events supporting advocacy for the poor and vulnerable regarding options for the homeless population and healthcare reforms. Education opportunities that the group attended this last year covered the topic of adverse childhood experiences and how we can intervene to combat their negative effects. We have upcoming training on human trafficking and how we can intervene with prevention in this area as well as provide support and a healing presence to those who have been affected.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Orley, FCN Program Coordinator, AFCNRCP
Providence Health and Services Alaska

ELCA Foundation: Your life. Your faith. Your gift to the future.

We are pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2018, the Endowment Fund of the ELCA, a separately incorporated ministry, began doing business as The ELCA Foundation. This follows action by the ELCA Church Council last November to assign additional responsibilities to the Endowment Fund corporation for all work historically associated with the ELCA Foundation.

- The new structure anticipates an expanded role for the Endowment Fund Board of Trustees in overseeing the work of the ELCA Foundation. To accomplish this goal, four sub-committees of the Board of Trustees, in addition to the executive committee, have been created: audit, finance, investment and resource development.
- We have moved several positions, previously in the Office of the Secretary and the Office of the Treasurer, to the Foundation: Compliance, Investment Administration, and Chief Financial Officer.
- This year will be a time of transition as we review processes and procedures around the management of the gift pools. To ensure uninterrupted services as systems are transitioned, we are entering into a Service Level Agreement with the Office of the Treasurer for financial and trust administration.
- The work of the regional gift planners will not change much in terms of the day to day interaction with your synod and its ministries. The ELCA Foundation will continue to work in coordination and cooperation with the ELCA churchwide organization, particularly through its Mission Advancement unit.

The ELCA Foundation supports 21 regional gift planners throughout the U.S. These gift planners provide a number of services:

- They help congregations, synods and other Lutheran ministries identify their financial needs and wants and develop a Ministry Funding Plan.
- They help members of the congregations align their passions with the ministry funding needs through planned giving.
- Gift planners help donors make decisions about whom they want to help.
- Gift planners make sure everything is in place to fulfill the donor's wishes.

In 2017, the 17 ELCA Foundation Regional Gift Planners (RGP) completed \$34.7M in planned gifts and \$800,000 in current gifts. Congregations will receive \$11.2M and synods \$3.4M when those planned gifts are realized. In addition to the new written gifts, the Foundation stewarded \$11.3M of gifts written in previous years, meaning a call was made to the previous donor to confirm that the gift was still in place and fair market value was updated. The Foundation opened 56 new Fund A accounts with \$7.8M of deposits and added \$20.1 in net deposits to existing accounts, while writing \$5.1M in planned endowment deposits.

- Our RGP partner in Nebraska completed \$3.5M in planned gifts and \$115,000 in current gifts, but left our network in August. The RGP is currently open. Our South Dakota partner hired a new RGP in 2017.
- Our Texas partner, Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest, which consists of 4 gift planners, completed \$9.6M in planned gifts and \$288,000 in current gifts.
- Our total network of 23 RGPs completed \$47.8M in planned gifts and \$1.2M in current gifts in 2017.



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



The Mission Investment Fund (MIF) is the lending ministry of the ELCA. MIF makes low-interest loans to ELCA congregations and ELCA-related ministries for building and renovation projects. With MIF loans, congregations and ministries can purchase property, construct new buildings, and expand or renovate existing facilities.

MIF loans expand the capacity for ministry. MIF loans help create expanded worship spaces, updated space for education and youth ministry, new kitchens for community meals and soup kitchens, affordable housing units for the community and much more.

At year-end 2017, MIF had 888 loans outstanding, totaling \$539.1 million.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a portfolio of investments for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. At year-end 2017, MIF investments totaled \$506 million.

MIF is a financially strong and stable organization, with a record of steady, controlled growth. With total assets of \$715.7 million and net assets of \$203.9 million at year-end 2017, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 28.5 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds. For more information, visit mif.elca.org.

MIF loans and investments in the Alaska Synod (as of December 31, 2017):

- 6 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$1,939,925
- \$2,220,699 in Mission Investment Fund investments.

MIF representative:

Joel S. Wudel, Regional Manager, Tel: (773) 682-1765; email: joel.wudel@elca.org

Mission Investment Fund | 8765 West Higgins Road | Chicago, Illinois 60631
Tel: 877-886-3522 | Web: mif.elca.org

There are two significant pieces of data that shine a light on the changing church in which we all find ourselves.

- Within the next couple of years, between the rate of retirements in the ELCA and the trends in seminary enrollment, there will be 1,000 congregations who could otherwise afford a full-time pastor who will not have one.
- The ELCA seminary system does not have the number of students needed to respond to those vacancies.

At the same time, we see a world that needs more than ever the honesty, integrity and unconditional welcome embodied in the gospel message. We see ministry erupting in the most surprising places and forms. Our students are so clearly called to serve in the name of the gospel, inspiring us all to do our very best.

From within our circle of influence, Luther Seminary has been addressing these realities and leveraging these assets. Our mission is to educate leaders for Christian communities, called and sent by the Holy Spirit, to witness to salvation in Jesus Christ, and to serve in God's world. We need to be innovating in a rapidly changing world

Over the last year, we have embraced the hallmarks of adaptive change: adjusting to and understanding the rapid change occurring in the church and authentically undertaking the gradual but meaningful process of change.

Our staff and faculty spent the latter half of the year imagining a new future for Luther Seminary, a future that will be more suited to the context in which we and our students minister. In addition,

- our budget was reduced by \$1 million so we could focus our core operations;
- the proceeds from the land sale are earmarked for strategic reinvestment, not to fund operations; and
- 112 new leaders were launched to lead across the globe, 43 percent of them without any educational debt.

We are eager to engage in new kinds of listening and learning to pay attention to where God's Holy Spirit is stirring. The results of this last fiscal year have positioned us well to invest in new arenas and to experiment with new pathways of leadership formation, to deeply engage and listen to places where innovation is happening.

Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for mentoring people for leadership in the church and inviting us to accompany them in their preparation and discernment. Thank you for your financial support which makes it possible for us to engage in this adaptive work.

- Robin Steinke, President -



Lutheran Social Services of Alaska

Providing hope by responding to human need
through services that sustain and transform lives

1303 W 33rd Ave Anchorage AK 99503 907-272-0643

We wish to thank the Alaska Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for your continued support of our ministry. Here is a brief report of our assistance to our neighbors in need in 2017.

Emergency Food Program – our Food Pantry distributed over 730,816 pounds of food to over 16,650 households or 54,578 individuals. Our Mobile Food Pantry distributed 242,827 pounds of food to 5,658 families.

Emergency Housing Program – our Transitional Living Program served 18 single homeless men and our Roosevelt House housed 6 residents who have long term behavioral health issues. We helped 79 households with rental and/or utility assistance.

Direct Assistance Program – 1,043 individuals received one or more emergency vouchers to assist those looking for work or newly employed with state ID's or driver's license, birth certificates, bus passes, or clothing.

Medical Transportation Program – we assisted 270 clients with more than 386 rides to or from their medical/therapy appointments.

Association for Stranded Rural Alaskans – provides emergency shelter, food and transportation for rural Alaskans who are stranded in Anchorage after being medivaced for medical treatment. We helped 17 Alaskans with transportation home and other various needs while in out-patient treatment.

Listening Post – Changes this past year were moving from the transit center to the Loussac and Mountain View Libraries while still going strong at the Brother Francis Shelter, Beans Cafe and Central Lutheran Church.

Lutheran Disaster Response – Continued support for relief and recovery efforts in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico from hurricanes and the California wildfires. Total raised through the ELCA is over 15 million dollars for hurricane relief and over 7 million dollars for other disasters.

We are grateful for the army of volunteers who make this all possible. Together we are caring for others.

- Alan Budahl, Executive Director -

Thank you Alaska Synod for being a ministry partner!

Your prayers, direct synod gifts of \$4,694 last year, and encouraging our students like Rachel Swenson and Ron Rucker who give us strength and courage in our mission of equipping faithful leaders. In addition, there are 12 alums of PLTS that live and work on the territory of your synod, many of them in congregational ministries.

New Curriculum for a New Day

We are excited to share the news that our faculty have collaborated to develop a new curriculum which will be implemented in the fall of 2018. The new curriculum can be completed in three years instead of four, including internship. This addresses concerns regarding student debt by saving a year of residential costs. The new curriculum is shaped by four orienting perspectives that emphasizes cultivating spiritual practices and skills for building community, putting Christian beliefs and practices into collaborative engagement with other religious traditions and secular disciplines, and faithful social transformation grounded in the good news of Jesus Christ. The curriculum maintains the solid theological, biblical and ministerial formation that is the hallmark of Lutheran theological education and aims to prepare pastors for both traditional and emerging forms of Christian communities that are centered in the gospel of Jesus Christ, social justice, and ecological well-being. The new curriculum will take advantage of our central location in Downtown Berkeley, California by providing a growing number and expanding opportunities for community engagement.

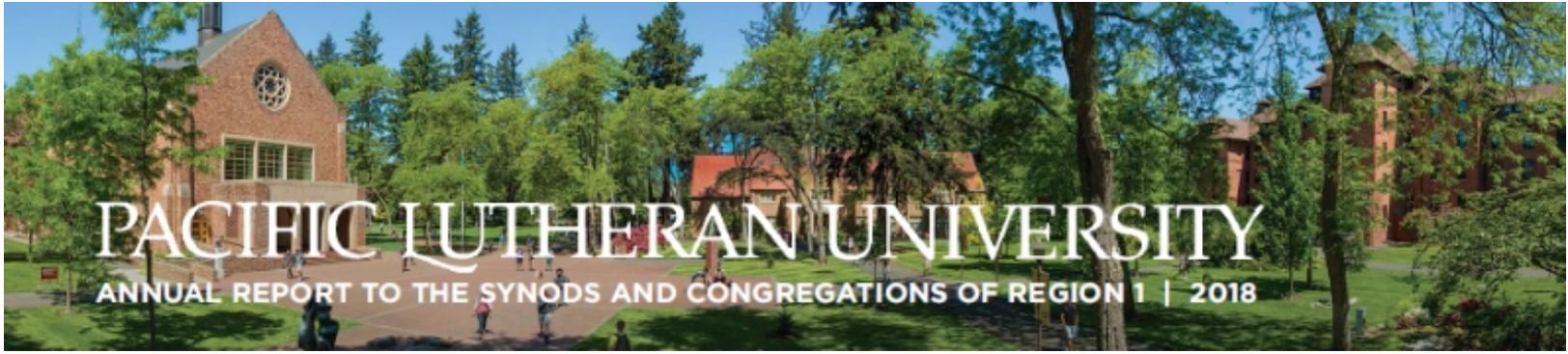
Synod Spotlight: Rachel Swenson, Seminarian

Rachel Swenson, who hails from Christ Lutheran Church in Fairbanks, is now a third-year student at PLTS, and looking forward to internship in Evergreen, Colorado this coming fall. She is proud of her home state and its fiercely independent and loyal people, who are always willing to bring another person into their fold. Rachel loves all of the work of a pastor, and is noted for her cheerful and positive manner, as well as her fine leadership skills. She is currently president of the PLTS student association. She thinks it would be fun to become involved again with Young Adults in Global Mission, perhaps as a country coordinator. Rachel is also excited that another PLTS grad, Kaitlyn Pabo-Eulberg, has accepted the call as pastor at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Valdez!

To learn more about PLTS, or to make a gift, visit PLTS.edu.

Quick Facts about PLTS

- Number of Students (including TEEM): 89
- Number of Graduates (2017): 16
- Tuition (Full-time M.Div): \$13,920
- Total Average Cost of Attendance: \$35,312
- Scholarships Awarded (2016-2017): \$436,286 to 100% of need-based qualifying students
- Average Total Educational Debt for Seminarians Upon Graduation: \$46,386



PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SYNODS AND CONGREGATIONS OF REGION 1 | 2018

Pacific Lutheran University's priority is to continue to focus on our students — their learning and their success. We realize this priority when we increase scholarship opportunities, when we invest in academic programs that match 21st-century needs, or when we develop new resources that support students from admission to graduation at PLU. This year, several projects and initiatives undertaken stand out as especially noteworthy for the positive impact they've had and will continue to have on this institution and its students.

We are hard at work on a **new student success center** (located in the Mortvedt Library) that will provide our students with individualized academic and personal support and resources through a collaborative, student-centered approach. Services offered will include academic advising, tutoring, supplemental course instruction, registration transactions, coaching and other specific support services for all students, with particular attention to first-generation, low-income, first-year, veteran and transfer students.

Another way we've invested in student success is by creating a one-stop financial shop by restructuring **Financial Aid and Student Services**. This newly created office provides students with counseling and processing for financial aid, billing and payments, VA benefits, financial literacy and student loan repayment. This effort has been an example of how PLU can innovate on behalf of our students.

Service is a fundamental part of our university's mission, and as Lutes we've always tried to answer the needs of our communities. **The PLU School of Nursing** recently received a \$1.4 million ANEW grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The grant is targeted at expanding curriculum, doubling nurse practitioner student numbers and sending those students into medically underserved areas around the state. With support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, faculty continue to explore important curricular revisions that create strong learning communities, build intentional connections across the curriculum, and foster our Integrative Learning Objectives. Two Mellon Foundation grants — an initial grant for \$100,000, and a second grant awarded this summer for \$500,000 — provide funding for building faculty capacity across a range of curricular initiatives.

Supporting social justice is intrinsic to the core tenets of Lutheran higher education.

The Undocumented Student Task Force was formed in fall of 2016 with the goal of purposefully reviewing and addressing the unique barriers to success that undocumented students experience at PLU. The Task Force initiated a crowdfunding campaign and raised over \$30,000 — nearly four times the group's original goal of \$8,000. The funds have assisted individual undocumented students in persisting at PLU and also assisted in setting up a textbook lending library.

Beginning in January 2018, Dr. Jennifer Smith was installed as PLU's first **Dean for Inclusive Excellence**. In this role, Dr. Smith provides necessary attention to diversity and inclusion issues directly affecting student success, while simultaneously investing in professional development and support for faculty in areas ranging from recruitment and hiring to curriculum development.

This past year also included meeting our challenges head on. Twenty members of the Faculty Joint Committee took on the challenge of realigning our educational program to meet the needs of our student body. The committee, comprised of faculty representatives from every academic division and school, spent seven months reviewing enrollment data, soliciting narratives from academic leaders to understand their enrollment trends, and analyzing the higher-ed landscape to develop its recommendations. The faculty took ownership of our educational mission and made the difficult choice to reduce their own ranks. In time of need, they didn't bury their heads in the sand, they stood up to the challenge. PLU will be a stronger university as a result of that work.

In the midst of challenges and opportunities, the power of our greatest resource — our people — and the impact they will continue to have for generations to come has never been more apparent. We are the heirs of an unfinished Reformation, a reform that is ongoing and that must always be open to new voices and fresh perspectives. At PLU, we are inspired by this challenge. We are convinced that our future will be as transformational as our past. In that conviction, we will continue to celebrate our successes and confront our challenges with a reforming spirit and unwavering resilience. In a world that faces growing uncertainty and societal divides, the world needs more Lutes — now more than ever.

- Allan Belton, Acting President -



Spring 2018

We are church together.

This call from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is at the core of Portico's identity: We serve those who serve the church, so they can serve others. Ecclesiastes 4:12 reads, "a three-fold cord is not easily broken." Imagine, then, the resilience that comes from a community more than 50,000 strong that includes:

- Active and retired rostered ministers, lay employees, and family members
- Congregations, synodical and churchwide ministries, and social ministry organizations
- The dedicated and talented staff at Portico Benefit Services

Together, we pool our resources and carefully steward our gifts, leveraging our collective strength to provide the care our members need. Together, we walk the path toward financial, emotional, and physical well-being, so all might experience God's abundant life. Together, we are church.

In 2017, our community's size and scope allowed Portico to:

Deliver personalized support that helps our members live well.

- Skillful Portico Care Coordinators by Quantum Health helped more than 70% of members with ELCA-Primary health coverage navigate the complex world of health care.
- More than 400 members enrolled in Livongo's innovative diabetes management program to make living with diabetes easier and more cost-effective.
- 35% of our sponsored members used Portico's Retirement Planning Tool to get a comprehensive picture of how much they're saving, and how it might last in retirement.
- 3,500+ members gained a better understanding of their financial picture after talking with our new in-house team of credentialed Portico Financial Planners.

Exceed our goals for practicing good financial stewardship.

- Over and above a record-breaking year for the markets, the expertise of our investment management team demonstrated our commitment to a long-term, diversified approach to investing.
- For the second year in a row, administrative efficiencies and innovative plan adjustments allowed us to hold our baseline increase for ELCA-Primary health benefits to 5% – below the national trend of 6.5%.
- Benefiting from the run of growth in the markets and strategic fund management, we announced a 4.0% increase in the ELCA Participating Annuity payments for 2018, the sixth consecutive annual increase.

Speak with one voice on behalf of those who serve the church.

- As part of the Church Alliance, Portico joined with 37 other denominations to advocate for legislation to protect 403(b)(9) plans designed to help church workers save for retirement.
- On behalf of ELCA investors, our shareholder advocacy team championed a history-making climate-change resolution at a major energy-producing company.

The church is a shining example of what happens when we come together to care for one another. Lives are changed, hearts are touched, hurts are healed, hope is shared. We are grateful to lead the ELCA in the good work of wellness, and thankful for your partnership that makes this possible. We are church together – and together, in Jesus' name, we are creating abundant life for those who serve.

In Christ,

The Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann
President and CEO

Alaska Synod Council Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
Ms. Anna Bryant, ASWO President anna_bryant@hotmail.com	9-1-2019	Ms. Trina Anderson, Interior trina56@gci.net	6-30-2019
Ms. Sue Delgado, Vice President aksynodvp@gmail.com	6-30-2020	The Rev. John H. Van Hanegan, Interior pastorfairluth@gci.net	6-30-2020
Ms. Jan Dodds, At-large janmdodds@gmail.com	6-30-2018	Mr. John Copenhaver, Knik jcopenhaver@mappingalaska.com	6-30-2018
The Rev. Martin Eldred, Secretary graced@mtaonline.net	6-30-2021	The Rev. Diane Krauszer, Knik pastordk@live.com	6-30-2021
The Rev. Susan Halvor, Multicultural shalvor@gmail.com	6-30-2021	The Rev. Brian Crockett, Seward Peninsula bmlc99785@yahoo.com	6-30-2020
Ms. Carol Norquist, Treasurer norquist@alaska.net	6-30-2020	Mr. Archie Kiyutelluk, Seward Peninsula archie2017@gmail.com	6-30-2019
Ms. Bobbie Ochoa, At-large bochoa@southcentralfoundation.com	6-30-2021	Mr. Edward Mjolsnes, Southcentral emds@gci.net	6-30-2018
The Rev. Lisa Smith Fiegel, DEM alaskadem@gmail.com	6-30-2018	The Rev. Mark Orf, Southcentral pastor@gloriadeilutheran.net	6-30-2019
The Rev. Shelley Wickstrom, Bishop aksynodbishop@gmail.com	6-30-2018	Ms. Marilyn Rosene, Southcentral marilyn.rosene@gmail.com	6-30-2021
		The Rev. Keith Anderson, Southeast pastorw1@mac.com	6-30-2019
		Mr. Randy Sutak, Southeast rsutak@gmail.com	6-30-2020

Acronyms

AFACT	Anchorage Faith and Action – Congregations Together
AIM	Associate in Ministry
ASWO	Alaska Synodical Women’s Organization
COB	Conference of Bishops
CLU	California Lutheran University
CTC	Consultation to Clergy
CIP	Common Indexing Protocol – Refers to the cost of living/consumer price index in the Alaska Synod Clergy Compensation Guidelines
CW	Churchwide – usually refers to ELCA offices in Chicago
CWA	Churchwide Assembly
DEM	Director for Evangelical Mission
DM	Domestic Mission
ELCA	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
FICA	Federal Insurance Contributions Act – payroll payments for social security
LCMC	Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ
LCMS	Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
LDR	Lutheran Disaster Relief
LMM	Lutheran Men in Mission
LSSA	Lutheran Social Services of Alaska
LTS	Luther Theological Seminary
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
LWR	Lutheran World Relief
MIF	Mission Investment Fund
MSF	Moved; Seconded; Failed
MSC	Moved; Seconded; Carried
NALC	North American Lutheran Church
PLTS	Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University
PLU	Pacific Lutheran University
PLUME	Ecumenical projects involving Protestant, Lutheran, United Methodist and Episcopal (Churches in Alaska)
SAM	Synodically Authorized Minister
SAWC	Synodically Authorized Worship Community
SECA	Self-Employment Contributions Act; cover their own Social Security, Medicare, and Old Age Survivors and Disability Insurance costs
SP	Spending Plan
SPLMA	Seward Peninsula Lutheran Ministries Association – includes Our Savior’s Lutheran, Nome; Shishmaref Lutheran, Shishmaref; Brevig Memorial Lutheran, Brevig; Teller Lutheran, Teller; Thornton Memorial Lutheran, Wales; Alaska Native Lutheran, Anchorage
SPLM	This refers to the fund set up to assist in the ministry on the Seward Peninsula
Endowment Fund	
TEAM	Together Emphasizing Alaska’s Mission
TEEM	Theological Education for Emerging Ministries
TRP	Theological Review Panel
WELCA	Women of the ELCA

Locations and Themes of Alaska Synod Assemblies

<u>Year</u>	<u>Congregation</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Theme Verse</u>
2018	Central Lutheran Church	Anchorage	Worthy to Be Praised – Psalm 145:3-4
2017	Shepherd of the Valley	Juneau	Come to the Table – Luke 13:29
2016	St. Mark	Anchorage	Rooted and Growing in Christ – Colossians 2:6-7
2015	Good Shepherd	Wasilla	The Fast that I Choose – Isaiah 58:6-7
2014	Fairbanks	Fairbanks	A Living Hope – 1 Peter 1:3-9
2013	Amazing Grace	Anchorage	Always Being Made New – 2 Corinthians 5:17
2012	Joy	Eagle River	Here I am, for you called me – 1 Samuel 3:5
2011	First	Ketchikan	Luke 1:17
2010	Gloria Dei	Anchorage	John 1:16
2009	Christ	Soldotna	Acts 1:8
2008	Hope	Anchorage	Revelation 21:1
2007	Good Shepherd	Wasilla	Ephesians 4:12
2006	Shepherd of the Valley	Juneau	Matthew 25:40
2005	Central	Anchorage	Galatians 3:28
2004	St. Mark	Anchorage	Claimed, Gathered and Sent
2003	Fairbanks	Fairbanks	For the Healing of the World
2002	Amazing Grace	Anchorage	Luke 1:78-79
2001	Joy	Eagle River	1 Peter 4:10
2000	Petersburg	Petersburg	1 Corinthians 3:9
1999	Gloria Dei	Anchorage	1 John 1:1-4
1998	Central	Anchorage	1 Peter 2:9
1997	Christ	Soldotna	Joel 2:28-29
1996	Hope	Anchorage	Isaiah 49:6b
1995	Amazing Grace	Anchorage	John 21:17
1994	First	Ketchikan	John 3:16
1993	Good Shepherd	Wasilla	Acts 2:26
1992	Gloria Dei	Anchorage	Galatians 3:26-28
1991	Christ	Fairbanks	Ministry in Daily Life
1990	Central	Anchorage	See Grow Serve
1989	APU	Anchorage	Many Voices One Song
1988	Sitka	Sitka	
1987	Central	Anchorage	Come Share the Spirit

Appreciation

Thank you to the following members of Central Lutheran
for their leadership in hosting this Synod Assembly.

Karen Emmel	Letty Jocius
Vicki Helm	Carol Norquist
Dahna Graham	Linda Padden
Judy Lynch	Bonnie Kragt
Denny Lynch	Sandy McKinney
Brian Bjorkquist	Anita Soiseth
Steve Lambert	Anna Bryant
Larry Graham	Kevin Jocius
Mardell Kiesel	Ken Helm
Sandy Johnson	Jean Boecker
Joyce Lofgren	Denise Creager
Barbara Baker	Judith Mueller
Victoria Braun	Ed Mjolsnes
Lucinda Wright	Mary Ann Nagy

Doxology

“Quyakluu God, igayuutaagun”



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;
Qu-yak - luu God, i-ga - yuu - ta - gun, qu-yak - luu uu - ma-zru-at maa - ni;



praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.
qu-yak - luu pak - ma-ni nu-na- mi it-tu - aq; qu-yak - luu A-taa-taan qi-lun-gaa il-it - qu-ziq.