

2021 ALASKA SYNOD ASSEMBLY: Presenter Information

Beth Adams

Gift Planner, ELCA Foundation – Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington



Beth Adams is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University and a lifelong Lutheran.

As a regional gift planner with the ELCA Foundation, Beth can partner with you, your congregation, synod or other ELCA-related organizations as you explore the variety of possibilities to give with generosity, and planning.

She can provide expertise — as well as resources, financial education and investment and endowment management services to help you joyfully answer the call to love and serve your neighbors. All of the Foundation's gift planning services are made available to individuals and congregations without cost or obligation.

Iain Chester

Manager for Innovation, ELCA Churchwide



Iain Chester (He/Him) lives in Chicago, Illinois, and serves as Manager for Innovation for the newly formed Innovation home area. In his role, Iain works with congregations and communities as they address the church's biggest challenges of today while generating a path forward for the future. He believes the church can be part of positive change and likes to hear the stories of the creative ways people make that happen.

Iain has served with the ELCA Churchwide Organization over the past six years in a variety of roles, including as Manager for Network Engagement with ELCA World Hunger. During his time with ELCA World Hunger, he worked with a network of over 2,500 congregational leaders across the ELCA working toward a just world where all are fed. Iain is a graduate of North Park University, Chicago, Illinois (biblical studies and history) and enjoys watching or playing soccer and exploring local restaurants.

Ashlei Cramer

Program Coordinator, ReconcilingWorks



Ashlei Cramer (she/her), after finishing her bachelors at University of Wisconsin —Eau Claire in religious studies, packed her bags and headed off to St. Paul, MN! In St. Paul, she studied at Luther Seminary, where she acted as a leader in her LGBTQIA+ organization, Emmaus, as well as in Proclaim's Seminary Outreach Team. In May of 2018, Ashlei graduated with her Master of Arts in Christian Ministry. As part of God's call in her life, she enters into her work at ReconcilingWorks as the Reconciling in Christ Program Coordinator, to serve her fellow LGBTQIA+ community where faith and sexual orientation, gender identity and expression intersect. Ashlei enjoys trying out Minnesota's many wonderful breweries, long boarding and exploring the outdoors with her wife, dog, and cat!

Dave Daubert

Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Elgin, IL



Dave is a second career pastor whose first career was in engineering. That brings a unique gift set that uses gifts for analysis and design that find their way into his church work as well. Dave has two Master's degrees in ministry, a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching, and a PhD in Theological Studies. He also holds certificates in Non-Profit Management, Coaching and Spiritual Formation.

Dave's work experience has included parish ministry, serving on a judicatory staff, and work as Director for Renewal of Congregations for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In addition to his current work consulting, teaching, writing and coaching - he currently serves as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Elgin, IL

He is the author of several books and articles, including his best sellers Living Lutheran, Lutheran Trump Cards and The Invitational Christian.

Meredith Harber

Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Soldotna



Pastor Meredith was installed to her calling in Word and Sacrament to Christ Lutheran Church on October 8th, 2017. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, she earned her BA in Psychology from Seton Hill University and her M.Div. from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago with an emphasis in American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries, as well as an emphasis in Biblical Studies.

Prior to attending seminary, Pastor Meredith spent a year with the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program of the ELCA, where she volunteered at Dar al-Kalima Lutheran School in Bethlehem, Palestine. During seminary, she completed her pastoral internship on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Pastor Meredith answered the call to come to the Kenai Peninsula because she is committed to youth and young adult faith formation within the context of a multigenerational and multicultural congregation. And because she believes we are all broken, messed up people, trying to figure out how to be faithful followers of Jesus. She believes that we are all beloved children of God and that our job is to love the other, not to decide who God loves. You'll find her working to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable.

In her spare time, Pastor Meredith enjoys cooking tasty vegetarian food, photography, performing in community theater and spending time with her energetic and loving dog, Jimmy.

Zach Manzella

Alaska Synod Attorney and Parliamentarian



Zach is an attorney and practices out of Anchorage. He attended Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University.

In addition, he has a Masters degree from UAA, and has completed several classes through Wartburg Theological Seminary.

Wendi Shackelford

Training Coordinator, Youth Mental Health First Aid, UAA Center for Human Development



Wendi Shackelford obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 1994. She also holds Advanced and Instructor Police Certifications from the Alaska Police Standards Council. Wendi is a retired uniformed police officer that served with the Anchorage Police Department for 20 years. She worked within the Patrol division until she transferred to Chugiak High School as one of the first twelve officers in the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program, where she served for ten years.

She is an FBI-and LAPD-trained hostage negotiator and served as the Coordinator and lead instructor for the Department's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) since its inception in October 2001.

Anne Zink, MD, FACEP

Chief Medical Officer, Alaska Department of Health & Social Services, Division of Public Health



Anne Zink, MD, FACEP was appointed Chief Medical Officer (CMO) in August 2019. Dr. Zink has 13 years of experience in emergency medicine and joins DHSS from the Mat-Su Regional Medical Center, where she served as the Emergency Department medical director (2010-18) and also on the Board of Trustees (2012-18). In addition, she helped create the High-Utilizer Mat-Su (HUMS) (2017-18) program that aims to improve patient health and cost savings for some of the state's most vulnerable patients.

Dr. Zink is a practicing emergency room physician who is passionate about helping to shape and transform our current health care system. In all the work she does, she strives to create work environments, policies, and practices that are data-driven, foster collaboration and build system efficiencies that put patients first. Her priorities as CMO include building stronger partnerships between DHSS and Alaska's health care providers and providing support statewide in locally relevant ways to help establish healthier communities across Alaska.

Dr. Zink received her medical degree from Stanford University School of Medicine and completed her residency at the University of Utah.