

1. Name: Martin Eldred
2. Current Position: On Leave from Call
3. Congregation Membership: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon, VA
4. Date and Year of Birth: [REDACTED]
5. Date and Year of Ordination: June 1988
6. Previous Positions:
 - Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Stevenson, Washington (1988-1994)
 - Hope Lutheran Church, Enumclaw, Washington (1994-1998)
 - Joy Lutheran Church, Eagle River, Alaska (1998-2019)
 - Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Herndon Virginia (2019-2024)
7. Education and Earned Degrees (with institutions and years, most recent first):
 - Graduate Theological Foundation, Doctor of Philosophy, 2016
 - Wartburg Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity, 1988
 - Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor of Arts, 1983
8. List up to five (5) current or past synod or churchwide activities that would inform your service as bishop of the Alaska Synod.
 - 1) Alaska Synod Council, Knik Conference - Clergy Representative
 - 2) Alaska Synod Council Secretary
 - 3) Alaska Synod Ventures in Stewardship Leader
 - 4) Seward Peninsula Endowment Board Member
 - 5) Voting Member at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans (2016)
9. List up to five (5) current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as bishop of the Alaska Synod.

- 1) Founding Member of Christians for Equality, an Anchorage-based, ecumenical collaboration seeking to promote inclusion, liberation, and justice throughout the state. Worked closely with the LGBTQ+ community and local faith leaders to establish civil rights guarantees in housing and employment. Successfully advocated to State Leaders to sustain Medicaid funds state-wide. Worked with local Assembly for more efficient and just aid to unhoused neighbors.
- 2) Assistant Scout Master, Boy Scout Troop 219, Eagle River, Alaska. Worked with community young people and their families to build leaders for the community.
- 3) As a member of the Synod's Seward Peninsula Endowment Committee, worked with a wide variety of our Synod's congregational leaders throughout the state to help establish a stable funding foundation for ministries among the Seward Peninsula congregations.
- 4) While serving as pastor at Joy Lutheran, began community-based educational events including the series, "Understanding Our Neighbors" – exploring issues through the eyes and heart of faith by hosted evenings centered on topic such as: "Understanding our Homeless Neighbor"; "Understanding our Muslim Neighbor"; "Understanding our LGBTQ Neighbor"; and "Understanding Climate Change." One of our main goals was to invite our neighbors to a place where they are welcome to learn in safe place. We hoped to model a faith community where such conversations are welcomed and celebrated.
- 5) As pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran, worked with ecumenical leaders from four congregations to re-establish "Lunch for the Soul" a weekly food, fellowship, and spiritual nurturing opportunity for local day workers. Each congregation rotates responsibility for providing lunch and a spiritual message (optional for the gentlemen). Holy Cross also served as host site for this ministry that welcomed 30-80 neighbors each week. To support this ministry, I have been learning Spanish in an effort to more authentically communicate to those we serve.

10. What gifts would you bring to the office of bishop of the Alaska Synod? (1,000 characters maximum - continue on attached pages as needed)

I have a great passion for the gifts of our Lutheran expression of Christianity, the message of God's unconditional love for all people in Jesus, the affirmation of sacredness in all of our daily vocations, and for our commitment to service for our neighbors. These are as alive and necessary today as they were in Luther's time.

In Alaska, I was able to visit 75% of the congregations in the synod - a wonderful collection of contexts where the gospel is alive. Celebrating and cultivating those rich expressions, encouraging pastors and lay people as they minister, and fostering communication between our places of mission would be key elements of service as bishop.

We live in a very diverse context. It is essential to hear and respond to the voices of those who have felt excluded by the church. As part of the process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation, I saw how important it is to be intentional in our welcome, especially to those who may feel disenfranchised by church. For these siblings, we can proclaim: “you are *safe*, *affirmed*, and *welcome* here.” The bishop leads by building bridges and partnerships with all - living out the “many colored grace of God.” (I Peter 4:10)

11. What do you see as the principal challenge to the Alaska Synod in the next six (6) years, and how would you address it? (1,000 characters maximum - continue on attached pages as needed)

Society and the Church’s place within it have changed in the last decades. There is a deep distrust of organized religion among many. Some of that distrust is justified. God’s people have been given this time to shine and to share Jesus’ liberating love for all. This is our greatest challenge and opportunity. We will need to continue to be open to new ways, new voices, and new partnerships with which we will continue to share the timeless love of God in Jesus Christ.

The Synod has an opportunity to share Jesus in ways very different from how society often sees the church. Our cross-centered, grace-infused message that we are sinners/saints saved by grace plus our passion for service shows many that there is indeed Good News. The Synod is a key leader in this action and we are known as those who put our faith into action, working ecumenically to bring justice and change.

Going forward in Jesus’ name, we listen to our neighbors in this blessedly diverse state and work with partners, bringing God’s inclusive love to our communities. Traditions inform present mission. Elders and youth, led by the Spirit can and will work together to explore God’s calling as we journey in grace together.

12. Describe your leadership style. (1,000 characters maximum - continue on attached pages as needed)

I am a collaborative leader. In some areas in the life and mission of congregations, I have considerable expertise. Even so, I value listening to others voices and ideas. In some instances, as bishop, I would be called to make a leadership decision, but I always try to bring in as many of the opinions of others as possible.

In so many areas of the life of the community, however, I am not the expert at all, but rely on the spiritual gifts of others to help make decisions about finances, about engineering and building maintenance, about well, so many things that I was not trained in seminary to do. This is working out the Body of Christ in action: being confident in our gifts, being humble in our conversations and deliberations with our siblings in Christ, and living out our faith with joyful and gracious service.

1. Name: Rev. Susan M. Halvor
2. Current Position: Manager, Spiritual Care Department, Providence Alaska Medical Center (PAMC), since 2015. Anchorage, Alaska
3. Congregational Membership: Lutheran Church of Hope, Anchorage, Alaska
4. Date and year of Birth:
5. Date and year of ordination: August 28, 2000
6. Previous positions:
 - Senior Chaplain, PAMC, 2011-2015
 - Children’s Hospital Chaplain, PAMC, 2004-2011
 - Associate Pastor, Joy Lutheran Church, Eagle River, Alaska 2000-2004
 - Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary Public Relations Associate, part time, 1996-2000
 - Evening Coordinator, Sarah House (post-treatment residential program for women who are homeless and in recovery from substance abuse), Washington, DC, 1993-95
7. Education and earned degrees:
 - Certificate in Spiritual Care Management and Leadership, Department of Health Systems Management, Rush University Medical Center and Transforming Chaplaincy, 2022.
 - Board Certified Chaplain (BCC), by the Association of Professional Chaplains, 2008
 - ELCA Endorsement for Specialized Ministry, 2007
 - Many courses, trainings and workshops related to grief and bereavement, trauma, and crisis intervention.
 - Master of Divinity, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA, 2000.
 - Bachelor of Arts, Pacific Lutheran University (majors in communications – journalism concentration, and global studies – international relations concentration), 1993.
8. **List up to five current or past synod or churchwide activities that would inform your service as bishop of the Alaska Synod**
 - a. I served on the Synod Council of the Alaska Synod from 2009-2021 as the multicultural ministry representative, under two bishops. This gave me a good understanding of the work of the Synod Council.
 - b. I have supply preached throughout the synod over my 23+ years in Alaska, including at least a third of the churches in the Alaska Synod, and other churches in the community.

- c. While pastoring at Joy Lutheran Church, I was the chair of the Alaska Synod anti-racism committee. With team members across the synod, we attended churchwide anti-racism training and led various trainings in Alaska.
 - d. I served as a voting member at the ELCA Churchwide assembly in 2019 in Milwaukee, WI. This was a great opportunity to participate in the legislative work of the church, speaking to resolutions, connecting and reconnecting with Lutherans from across the ELCA.
 - e. Member of PLTS Advisory Board, 2014-2020. I'm familiar with many of the challenges currently facing theological education. I was also a student representative to the Advisory Board while a student at PLTS.
- 9. List up to five current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as bishop of the Alaska Synod**
- a. Multi-cultural experience: At the hospital, I've gotten to work with a cross-section of people from across Alaska, from a variety of different cultural and religious backgrounds (including in my team of chaplains), and many people (both patients and hospital caregivers) who would describe themselves as spiritual but not religious. I've also gotten to collaborate with ecumenical and interreligious partners.
 - b. Managerial experience – I'm comfortable with working as a leader within a large organization, including managing budgets, working with human relations and personnel challenges, and team development. As a middle manager, I'm comfortable with leading a team while also being accountable to goals, directives and vision from leadership.
 - c. Community and individual well-being: I founded a peer support program at PAMC in 2017 and have co-lead our hospital debrief team for more than a decade, collaborating closely with behavioral health partners. I have a strong commitment to individual and community well-being, addressing this directly with individuals and systemically.
 - d. I have been involved in the queer community in Anchorage in the 24 years I've lived in Alaska, including participating in a community line dancing group, writing for an LGBTQ+ publication, officiating at weddings and funerals, etc. As a lesbian in the church, I have both an insider and outsider perspective that has always been important to my ministry. I have both witnessed and experienced the pain, anger, frustration, grief and impatience of those who don't feel welcome by communities of faith for many reasons.
 - e. Grief and Bereavement work – direct support of grieving families, helping coordinate community remembrance events, teaching nurses, chaplains and other hospital caregivers about perinatal loss and pediatric loss.

10. What gifts would you bring to the office of bishop of the Alaska Synod? (1000 characters max)

I have deep Lutheran roots as well as sharing the perspectives of those who are outside the church. As a hospital chaplain, I've found Lutheran theology to be very practical when encountering suffering and loss, speaking to the ambiguity and complexity of life and reminding us that death does not have the last word. I've seen a lot of ways of "doing church," having visited (and sometimes preached at) most of our Alaska Synod congregations, as well as preaching at other ecumenical congregations.

I bring the perspectives of people who aren't Lutheran, who are unchurched, and who have felt unwelcome or rejected by church. Most of my ministry has taken place outside congregational walls.

I'm skilled at supporting and accompanying people through change. I'm curious about what new thing God is doing, and discovering how people and communities find hope, strength and resiliency in difficult times. I have strong managerial skills, and experience in middle management in a large organization.

11. What do you see as the principal challenge to the Alaska Synod in the next six years and how would you address it? (1000 characters max)

I believe we're in a period of significant change – that is a challenge that is exciting, terrifying, and unsettling. Across Alaska we see clear indications of the impacts of climate change – loss of sea ice, receding glaciers, dramatic weather events. Our society is politically polarized, and there is much uncertainty politically, economically, perhaps in every area of our communities and churches.

As a chaplain, it's important to me to have honest conversations about the reality of situations, and to identify possibilities, shared values, and hopes. I'm curious about creative ways we can strengthen our connections, and also get outside the walls of our congregations. We learned a lot about creativity and resiliency during the pandemic; many of us also suffered. I wonder about ways that we heal, learn and grow from those experiences. I hope that with deeper listening within and outside of our congregations, we can discern ways the Spirit is leading us into something new.

12. Describe your leadership style. (1000 characters max)

At my best, I am a calm and grounded leader who is also creative, curious, faithful and joyful. I do my best when I'm collaborative – I appreciate others' perspectives and find involving others results in more creative results that better suit the situation or context. I like to gather information, learn history, see how others do things. I admit it when I'm wrong. I'm not afraid to have hard conversations (and when I am afraid, I pray, reflect, and plan the conversation). I'm used to juggling a variety of projects and tasks. As a manager in a hospital setting, I'm comfortable navigating systems to complete administrative paperwork and tasks. I'm a better leader when I prioritize exercise and time outdoors, as well as prayer and meditation.

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1. Name: Timothy R. Oslovich

2. Current Position: Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Vernon, CT (2003-present)

3. Congregation Membership: Trinity Lutheran Church, Vernon, CT

4. Date and year of birth:

5. Date and Year of Ordination: October 4, 1997

6. Previous Positions:

- Adjunct Professor, Bay Path University, Longmeadow, MA (2009-2024)
- Pastor, Shishmaref Lutheran Church, Shishmaref, AK (1997-2003)
- Administrative Assistant, American Bible Society, Philadelphia, PA (1996-1997)
- Advisor, FIRST Drug and Alcohol Hotline, Cambridge, MA (1993-1994)
- Cowboy, Deep Springs Ranch, CA (Summers 1988, 1989, 1990)

7. Education and Earned Degrees:

- Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management, Bay Path University, 2008
- Master of Divinity, Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, 1997
- Master of Theological Studies, Harvard Divinity School, 1993
- Bachelor of Arts with Distinction, Political Science, Swarthmore College, 1991
- Deep Springs College, 1986-1989

8. List up to five (5) current or past synod or churchwide activities that would inform your service as bishop of the Alaska Synod.

- Alaska Synod Council
- Seward Peninsula Lutheran Ministries Committee
- New England Synod Listening Team (conflict resolution and mediation)

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- Parliamentarian (Alaska Synod and New England Synod Assemblies)
- Congregational Constitution Reviewer (New England Synod)

9. List up to five (5) current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as bishop of the Alaska Synod.

- Greater Rockville Area Interfaith Clergy Council
- Chairperson, Connecticut Coalition to Save Darfur
- Core Team Member, Act for Sudan
- Board Member, Collaborative Center for Justice
- Clergy Caucus, Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance

10. What gifts would you bring to the office of bishop of the Alaska Synod? (1,000 characters max)

The primary gift that I bring is that I receive the grace and love of God with gratitude, and the Holy Spirit empowers me to invite and encourage others to receive these gifts, too. I receive these gifts daily as I spend thirty minutes in Centering Prayer, listening to God in silence. I have engaged in this practice for eleven years, and it has helped me see that people experience God in a variety of ways: in silence, in nature, in community, in singing, in serving, and many other ways. This practice has helped me realize that experiencing God is what is crucial. I am a mystic; I believe that humans can connect deeply with God. That connection has transformed me.

Other gifts that God has given me are the ability to teach and serve as an adjunct professor for 15 years, the opportunity to be an advocate for justice, and the joy of serving God with the people of Shishmaref, AK as well as the people of Trinity in Vernon, CT.

11. What do you see as the principal challenge to the Alaska Synod in the next six (6) years, and how would you address it? (1,000 characters max)

I have lived outside Alaska for the last 21 years, so my first task if I were elected would be to spend time listening to people in the synod to see what the principal challenge is. I also sense that the biggest challenge Alaska Synod faces is the challenge the Church in the U.S. faces: How do we continue to live inspired by God's Spirit of courage and hope rather than give in to a spirit of fear and despair? We are often told that the Church in the U.S. is dying. While it is true that our numbers have decreased, it is also true that God's people have been given incredible gifts. We have been empowered with the Holy Spirit to do God's work in the world. In order to face the fear of decline, God invites us to respond with faith, curiosity, and boldness: faith that God's work will unquestionably continue, curiosity about new ways that we can be involved in Christ's activity in the world, and boldness to follow the Spirit in new directions even though that means that we will often fail.

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12. Describe your leadership style. (1,000 characters max)

Leaders in the Church are called to serve collaboratively and approach the world with deep curiosity. In the Gospels, Jesus asked more than 300 questions and answered fewer than 10. An important part of my leadership style is to ask questions about what is going on in the church and the world and to be open to hearing the answers that come from a variety of sources. God also invites us to engage in collaborative leadership. Just as a group of disciples gathered to determine how to welcome Gentiles into the Church in Acts 15, we must seek God's wisdom and future together.

I learned a great deal about leadership during my six years with the people of Shishmaref. The elders showed me the power of deep listening, patience, and consensus-building. As a leader, it is my role to invite, encourage, and inspire God's people. As someone who has been entrusted with authority, I am called to use my influence to empower others, to work for justice, and to help resolve conflicts in healthy ways.

1. **Name:** Rev. Dr. Moses Paul Peter PENUMAKA
2. **Current Position:** Director of Theological Education for Emerging Ministries TEEM and Senior Lecturer at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University, Berkeley, CA
3. **Congregation Membership:** University Lutheran Chapel, Berkeley, CA
4. **Date and Year of Birth:**
5. **Date and Year of Ordination:** March 07, 1987
6. **Previous Positions:**
 - Mission Developer, Good Shepherd South Asian Ministry, Fremont, CA, ELCA
 - National General Secretary of the Student Christian Movement of India (SCMI) affiliate to the World Student Christian Federation, (WSCF) Geneva, Switzerland
 - Bishop's Assistant for Youth Ministry in the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church, AELC, Andhra Pradesh, AP South India
 - AELC Parish Pastor, Nine-point rural parish, Daggupadu, AP South India.
7. **Education and Earned Degrees** (with institutions and years, most recent first):
 - Doctor of Theology Th.D., in Systematic and Philosophical Theology
Graduate Theological Union, California 2000- 2006
 - Master of Theology M.Th., in Systematic Theology 1991 -1993
 - Bachelor of Divinity B. D., 1980-1985
Senate of Serampore, Serampore, West Bengal, India
 - Bachelor of Science –Geology, Major Physics and Chemistry 1977-1980
Andhra University, Vishakapatnam, India
8. **List up to five (5) current or past synod or churchwide activities that would inform your service as bishop of the Alaska Synod.**
 1. Serving on the Alaska Synod Candidacy Committee as a Seminary faculty representative.
 2. Attended AK Synod Assemblies consecutively from 2009 to 2014 as PLTS faculty representative.
 3. Guest Pastor First Lutheran Church, Ketchikan, AK June - July 2016 and April 2023.

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4. Member of ELCA Taskforce for Authentic Diversity “How Strategic and Authentic is Our Diversity; A Call for Confession, Reflection and Healing Action”
Currently serving on the Advisory Board for Authentic Diversity to the Church Council.
5. Member of Theological Round Table of the office of the Presiding Bishop

9. List up to five (5) current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as bishop of the Alaska Synod.

1. Preparing pastors for the Alaska Synod and the ELCA through TEEM program at PLTS.
2. Working with Alaska Natives and American Indians in developing TEIL Theological Education for Indigenous Leaders.
3. Lead workshop on ELCA Social Statement on “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust.” In Ketchikan, AK.

10. What gifts would you bring to the office of bishop of the Alaska Synod? (1,000 characters maximum - continue on attached pages as needed)

As a called and ordained Lutheran pastor in the ELCA and in India, I have been rooted and growing in faith, witness, ministry, service, and the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ: crucified and raised from the dead. I bring this faith of persistence and hope in our “Crucified God.”

As a pastor, teacher, and administrator, I bring rich experience to lead the Synod and contribute to Region 1 (one), the national church as well as the ecumenical church bodies.

As the director of TEEM for the past 17 years, I have been building relationships, collaborating with partners in the ministry, and contributed to the formation of gifted leaders who are dedicated to serving our churches. I have facilitated the education of, and mentored, students/candidates for ministry who are serving in various important ministries throughout the ELCA. TEEM has given me the opportunity and experience preparing leaders of color who embrace diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice.

With your help, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I am open to learn to be a Pastor and Servant Leader for the Alaska Synod. I feel a strong sense of call and a preparedness to lead the Alaska Synod as your Shepherd. I will learn to be a bishop at the synod, regional and national levels and continue the ecumenical relationships. In that role, my first priority is to serve all the peoples of God in frontier Alaska. As an immigrant from the global south, I have learned to listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples, faith communities, and committed leaders who sacrifice their lives, share their gifts and resources to serve the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. I follow in the footsteps of the ancestors and elders.

11. What do you see as the principal challenges to the Alaska Synod in the next six (6) years, and how would you address it?

Alaska Synod is strong in faith, diversity, and leadership. The synod has committed leaders, vibrant worshipping communities, and dedicated members who love ELCA. There is so much hope in this synod. As one who loves Alaska Synod, I have learned that in Alaska, people may not “sign up” but they do “show up”. There is a strong sense of community and respect for others and the nature in Alaska that I have not seen anywhere else in my life. In this synod, one of the important challenges I see is to recognize and accompany Alaska Native elders and siblings in their partnership for mission and justice with God and God’s creation. I will support, and work with, the campaign “Every Child Matters”.

We are at the cusp of a new creation. The post pandemic world has radically changed us in our life, in education, in technology, and in practicing of our faith. In this whole new world, the church continues to be a place of hope, a place of transformation, a place of resistance, and a place of refuge. However, the church is also a place of struggle for justice and peace. Bishop Eaton says that the ELCA is a “Best Kept Secret” but I know we are a living church. We are the witnesses for the crucified and risen lord with faith, hope and love, and that is no secret.

There is a huge need for more rostered leaders for the ministry of Word and Sacrament and Word and Service. This is a challenge the whole church is facing. We are in a time of transition into a new order. As history repeats, I hope for a robust way of being church together and preparing leaders for the church through our lay leaders training programs and our seminaries that are offering new and relevant pathways for preparing leaders.

Stewardship is another important challenge. There is always a need for financial resources. I learned from leaders like Mother Teresa that it is not what we need that will make us to change but what we have and how we use it for God’s reign in this world. Of course, we also need Foundations that are willing to partner with us for the mission of God.

Climate crisis is another challenge I recognize. Alaska is full of resources that are to be conserved, not carelessly consumed. The church has an important voice and prophetic role in preserving and protecting God’s beautiful creation.

Racism is still a social problem we have to resist in the synod and the ELCA. As a person of color, a Lutheran pastor, a theologian from the global south, and a leader in the ELCA, I feel the need in this church to be more inclusive and show earnest respect for each other. When more leaders of color emerge in our church, there is more hope for transformation of our communities of faith.

12. Describe your leadership style

I am humble. I grew up in a third-generation Lutheran family in India. Though I grew up in a poor family, my parents worked hard and brought us up in Lutheran faith and values. They dedicated three of us brothers for God’s ministry. I am humbled that God has lifted me up and brought me to this level to contribute to my church in India and the ELCA in the US. I am

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making an impact on the preparation and formation of our leaders through Theological Education for Emerging Ministries.

I am hard working, strategic, and diplomatic. I used to skip school to help my parents and take care of my little brother who died when he was one and half-years old due to malnutrition. I learned to be responsible as a child. I am honest and reliable. I complete the tasks entrusted to me. I am strategic. I develop a process based on both values and practicalities and implement them for the wellbeing of all. I use diplomacy (Mt. 10:16 “pure as dove and wise as a serpent”) to resolve conflicts and challenges.

I am a visionary. I can envision the future and be prepared in developing strategies and a plan of action to face it seeking the help of my colleagues, community of faith, and God.

One of my favorite hymns is “Lord Jesus, You Shall be my Song”. When I am a guest preacher visiting congregations, whenever possible, this is one of the hymns I choose. It is composed in French by “*Les petites soeurs de Jésus*” (“The Little Sisters of Jesus”) and *L’Arche* Community; and translated by Stephen Summerville, (b. 1931) ELW 808. The 4th verse goes as follows:

I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;

but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

And with all of the family you saved by your love,

we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey

With these words I present my candidacy for the election of the office of the Bishop of the great Alaska Synod which is very dear to my heart.