



In the name of Jesus Christ, through your mission support in 2020, we as the Alaska Synod have:

- Given more than \$12,000 in COVID-19 relief grants to synod congregations and ministries.
- Collaborated to offer Zoom workshops on digital technology, stewardship during the pandemic, disaster preparedness, congregational online annual meetings and healthy boundaries for rostered leaders.
- Networked online as rostered leaders and seminarians for support, resourcing and study.
- Supported first call pastors through yearly grants to reduce seminary debt.
- Provided partnership grants to six congregations and four mission developments.
- Equipped seven Alaskans studying to become Synodically Authorized Ministers, who are from Shishmaref, Valdez, Palmer, Anchorage, Chugiak, Soldotna and Fairbanks.
- Accompanied five Alaskans currently in the candidacy process to become pastors or deacons. (Thank you for your support of the Alaska Synod Seminary Scholarship!)
- Sponsored St Mark's Intern Pastor Mel Vesco and youth Caleb and Garrett (Amazing Grace) for the online Youth Leadership Summit.
- Supported a congregation making bathrooms ADA compatible through a TEAM Grant (Together Emphasizing Alaska's Mission)
- Returned a PPP Loan because your mission support covered the synod office personnel costs.

Alaska Synod congregations and ministries this past year have:

- Pivoted to online worship, study and fellowship for our existing congregations and newcomers. Welcomed newcomers to worship from the community, the Lower 48 and internationally.
- Engaged in intentional anti-racism work through book studies and community conversations with local native leaders.
- Alleviated hunger by donating food and finances, packing and distributing food boxes in church parking lots, stocking food pantry shelves and providing rental assistance.
- Made masks for congregations and communities
- Hosted study hall spaces for online students at Shepherd of the Valley and Resurrection – Juneau.
- Called new pastors using an entirely online or conference call process. Congratulations to Pastor Lou Peters and the people of Fairbanks Lutheran and Pastor Sue Bahleda and the people of Island of Faith Lutheran Churches. Pastor Liz Lowry was installed in February as pastor of Lutheran Church of Hope a month before we went online. Sister Annette Janka was installed as Mission Developer of Our Neighbors in an online service with participants from around the world. Pastor Rich Mauer of Faith Lutheran/Delta Presbyterian was ordained and installed using every pandemic in-person protocol and online resources.
- Partnered ecumenically. Resurrection Lutheran Church collaborates with Seward United Methodist and Moose Pass United Methodist Churches to offer online worship and study.
- Offered online confirmation and other Christian education opportunities.
- Offered online youth activities including synod-wide meetings.
- Hosted interns at Our Savior's, Central Lutheran and St. Mark Lutheran Churches.

And you have more to add!

We are stronger together as we share the good news of Jesus Christ! Thank you!