

Peace to you, voting members of the Alaska Synod Assembly!

In about a week, we will gather in God's grace for fellowship, worship, dreaming, learning, and to elect a bishop to share in ministry over the next 6 years. This is a prayer-intensive process as we listen to our communities and God's Spirit. It will be different than any election you've been part of!

Here's why:

- The first ballot on Friday afternoon will be blank. You are asked to write in the name of an ELCA Pastor (a Minister of Word and Sacrament) that you believe God can use to encourage and guide God's work in Alaska. If 75% of the people in the room write down the same name, that person becomes bishop.
- If one name does not receive 75% of the vote, ballot one serves as a nominating ballot. Pastors may choose to withdraw their names for consideration (they will have until 6:45pm to do so).
- Later Friday afternoon we will have a "Faith Family Conversation" – a presentation of what has been discussed in churches around the state, with a time to share additional observations of ministry in Alaska. This not only helps us share our ministry together, but may give insight to those who have been nominated.
- The second ballot, taking place early Saturday morning, will include all the pastors who did not withdraw their names. It requires 75% of the vote to elect a bishop.
- The third ballot will have up to 7 names and require 66% of the vote.
- Fourth ballot will have up to 3 names and requires 60% of the vote.
- Fifth and subsequent ballots become majority votes to elect a bishop.

At different points in this process, there will be time for introductions, questions, and speeches from those nominated. Secretary of the ELCA, the Reverend Chris Boerger, will take the lead through the above process, and will explain this again as we gather.

May God bless and keep you as we travel to Anchorage over the next week!

~Amanda Kempthorne

Pastor, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, North Pole
Chair, Synod Bishop Election Committee