**Everyone Has a Story**

Lisa Smith Fiegel, DEM

I studied journalism in college and a professor once issued this reminder and challenge to our class: everyone has a story. In fact, she said, you should be able to open up a phone book (remember those relics?), randomly point to a name, call them up and find a good story. My professor added that if you ask the right questions and listen long and well, the stories will appear.

Storytelling is an essential part of our life of faith: the Bible is the story of God, Jesus told stories, faith is shared through stories. Stories teach us who we are, help us make meaning in tragedy, bridge across cultures and inspire us in our faith walk.

This spring, join us for a series of three Alaska Synod storytelling workshops, held over Zoom, free of charge and open to all. We hope these events will inspire you to reflect on your own faith stories, inspire you with the stories of your congregation and open your imagination to sharing all those stories in the world. No journalism experience required!

- - - - - - -

Workshop 1: **Telling the Story of Faith**. Join us Saturday, March 26, 9 AM Alaska time, via Zoom, for this event where we’ll explore our own stories of faith, encountering Jesus and transformation. Karen Kretschmann, ELCA mission interpreter coordinator, will be our facilitator. There is no cost, but please register [here](https://www.elcaalaska.net/telling-the-story-of-faith8203.html) on the Alaska Synod website to receive the Zoom link.

Workshop 2: **Telling the stories of our congregations**. This workshop will be held during synod assembly, Saturday, April 23, time TBD. ELCA churchwide communication staff will lead us in identifying a good story and how to tell it for various audiences. There will be time to share ideas about what’s happening in your congregation and how you might frame that as a story of God at work.

Workshop 3: **Telling our stories in the world**. May, date TBD. How can you best share your congregation’s story with those who aren’t part of a faith community? How do you engage local media in telling stories of faith? Who else can you partner with for storytelling? This workshop, led by ELCA churchwide communication staff, will include digital storytelling considerations.