



**Alaska Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

November 2, 2023

Dear Alaska Synod siblings in Christ,

Your faithfulness and generosity make our shared ministry possible. Thank you. We are the Alaska Synod; together we equip leaders to proclaim the gospel and create partnerships and networks to learn and serve.

Here's what we did together this year:

**Equipping leaders to proclaim the gospel**

- Three rostered leaders were ordained – two new pastors and one deacon.
- Four people are in the candidacy process to become rostered leaders for the church.
- The first Alaskan in Wartburg Seminary's collaborative learning program began serving at Lord of Life-North Pole (half-time work, full time in school).
- Leaders of Thornton Memorial Lutheran Church in Wales voted to change their name to Kingigin Lutheran Church. The name means "people of the high place."
- One-third of congregations have a Synodically Authorized Minister or one in process.
- A temporary pastor-in-residence and two lay leaders from Good Shepherd-Wasilla emerged to serve Trapper Creek Fellowship. Rev. Rick Cavens provides support.

**Creating partnerships and networks**

- Four volunteers partnered with leaders in Wales for a week of Camp Noah (for children who have experienced trauma). A Lutheran Disaster Response grant made it possible.
- Three summer opportunities helped synod youth grow in faith: Salmon Lake Bible Camp (Nome); Glacier Bible Camp (Juneau); synod-wide youth trip to Valdez. Thank you to our adults and youth!
- Two Indigenous synod leaders (from Nome and Soldotna) joined the ELCA's new Theological Education for Indigenous Leaders cohort, launched in October.
- Together we prayerfully and financially support our ministries in Trapper Creek and Bethel, and our partner congregations of the Seward Peninsula Cluster.
- The Bishop Election Committee conducted a synod-wide values exercise.
- All 30 synod congregations have a hunger-related ministries (food pantries, grocery bags, community meals, volunteering with local non-profits and more).

We are partners in this work. Thank you for all you do in your communities and beyond to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. We're in this together.

In Christ,

Rev. Shelley Wickstrom  
Bishop of the Alaska Synod

Rev. Lisa Smith Fiegel  
Director for Evangelical Mission

