

Quyana (thank you) from SPLMA President Bryan Weyauvanna

Before his grandmother died, she made Bryan Weyauvanna promise one thing: keep serving God through the Lutheran church. He promised and he did. "I'm trying to fulfill that," said Weyauvanna, who was raised in Shishmaref, Alaska. "With God's help, my labors will bear some fruit," he said.

Weyauvanna is thankful to all who have given to the Seward Peninsula Lutheran Ministry Endowment Fund. Read more on how he's seen God at work in his life and in the life of the SPLM congregations.

As a young man in Shishmaref, Weyauvanna was already an active church volunteer; the encouragement from his grandmother kept him going. Years later, he now serves as the vice-president of the congregational council at Our Savior's Lutheran in Nome, where he now lives. Weyauvanna is also the current president of the Seward Peninsula Lutheran Ministry Association (SPLMA) comprised of representatives of the six ELCA congregations of the Seward Peninsula Cluster. Weyauvanna has held several other leadership roles in the church through the years. He has also served as a synod assembly representative and on the synod comprehensive ministry review team.

The impact of the Seward Peninsula congregations on the communities is significant, Weyauvanna said, as the church is a safe place and stabilizing force in the villages. He sees God at work in the many ways the church serves, such as weekly worship, singing in homes as members are dying, singing translated (Inupiat) songs and sharing the first fruits of harvest of the land and sea with elders. "If you look, you can see where God is at work in the church in each community," Weyauvanna said. "The congregations of the Seward Peninsula truly appreciate your donations."