

SPLM Endowment Newsletter: December 2015



SPLM is six Lutheran (ELCA) congregations located on or connected to Alaska's Seward Peninsula, near the Arctic circle in rural northwest Alaska. These primarily Alaska Native congregations share the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed in beautiful and remote areas. This newsletter is brought to you by the Seward Peninsula Lutheran Ministries Endowment Committee to share what these ministries are doing and invite your partnership in what God is doing on the Seward Peninsula.



Pastor Marvin Jonasen and the children of Shishmaref Lutheran Church, 2014 Christmas Eve program.

Christmas in Shishmaref

On a cold, clear December 24th afternoon, with the sun slowly rising on the southeastern horizon around 1:00 p.m., the Arctic Inupiaq Eskimo village of Shishmaref, Alaska, prepares for Christmas Eve and the excitement and activities, hope and promise that the birth of Jesus brings.

What's it like to celebrate Christmas in a frozen land where the sun shines dimly above the horizon for about two hours? [Read more](#) about the unique ways this village of about 600 celebrates the season.

Quyana (thank you) from SPLMA President Bryan Weyauvanna



Weyauvanna, back row far left, sings an arrangement of Amazing Grace with members of Thornton Memorial, Wales, Fall Conference, 2015.

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.

Fall Conference renews faith

More than 90 people gathered in Wales, Alaska for the Seward Peninsula Lutheran Ministry Fall Conference. Held in the spring and fall each year and hosted in rotation by congregations, the conferences are multi-day gatherings which include daily worship, testimony, fellowship and the business of the cluster.

For Joanne Keyes, congregational president of Thornton Memorial Lutheran in Wales, conference was a time of spiritual renewal. “At time we need to rejuvenate our spirits with others who need to hear the word of God and to sing and listen to gospel songs. These help us much in our lives,” Keyes said. [Read more](#) here about the impact of conference gatherings and to participate next time.



A mass choir sings at Fall Conference 2015 in Wales.



Pastor Marvin Jonassen, Shishmaref, leads youth in song at Fall Conference 2015, Wales.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12TH
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

ANLC Annual Bazaar
to benefit Women's Ministry.

Ornaments, slippers, pin cushions, gloves, hats, yo-yo's, kuspuks, jewelry & other Alaskan Native handmade items.

ALASKA NATIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1420 Cordova Street; 15th & Cordova.
(907) 277-3930

In Anchorage this weekend? Join the members of Alaska Native Lutheran Church for their annual bazaar. Funds raised support the ministries and outreach of ANLC.

The church is located at 1420 Cordova Street in Anchorage. Learn more about the ministries of this vibrant urban congregation at their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/alaska.nativelutheran>

Make a year-end gift!

Want to support the many ministries of the Seward Peninsula through the SPLM Endowment Fund? Call the Alaska Synod at 907.272.8899 to set up a recurring gift from your bank or send a gift via check to:

SPLM Endowment Fund
Alaska Synod ELCA
1847 W. Northern Lights Blvd. #2
Anchorage, AK 99517



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SPLM Endowment
Alaska Synod, ELCA
1847 W. Northern Lights Blvd. #2
Anchorage, AK 99517

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