



The Good News From the Office of the Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime, 8th Bishop of Alaska

April 2017

Episcopal Diocese of Alaska, 1205 Denali Way, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 ~ www.episcopalak.org ~ alaskcopalians@gci.net

Easter Triumph

With the clergy of the Diocese I have been reading and discussing Brian McLaren's most recent book, "The Great Spiritual Migration." For me, one of the most significant points McLaren makes is an invitation to rediscovery and transformation in understanding how the life, death on the cross, and resurrection of Jesus reveals the heart of God, the way of Jesus, is the way of nonviolence, self-giving, humble gentleness, and servant leadership.

Easter is a dramatic rejection of the way of the world: the way of power, domination, violence, and concern for self above all.

As we sing "Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day," let us recognize that the triumph of Easter is not found in a dominating supremacy of God, or an all-powerful sovereignty wielded with controlling fear. The triumph of Easter is that these ways of the world are put to death on the cross. What is raised in Jesus reveals an image of God who, as McLaren writes: "is not armed with lightning bolts but with a basin and towel, who spewed not threats but good news for all, who rode not a warhorse but a donkey, weeping in compassion for people who do not know the way of peace. In Christ, God is supreme, but not in the old discredited paradigm of supremacy: God is the supreme healer, the supreme friend, the supreme lover, the supreme life-giver who self-empties in gracious love for all. The king of kings and lord of lords is the servant of all and the friend of sinners. The so-called weakness and foolishness of God are greater than the so-called power and wisdom of human regimes."

And THAT is the triumph of Easter. And that is the way of Jesus.

Let us walk this Easter walk and see the world transformed into peace, joy, and love.

Happy Easter.

The Faith Into Tomorrow (FIT) 2017 grant application packets were mailed to each congregation in March. Applications are also available on the diocesan web-site, www.episcopalak.org or through the Bishop's Office by calling 907-452-3040 or 1-800-478-3043.

Below is a summary of the grants available in 2017.

Case 4 – Youth Ministries. This program has \$5,911 available for granting. The purpose this grant is to enrich our youth ministries. Examples of programs that this grant provides funding for are: activates that promote local congregational, deanery, or diocesan youth ministries; support for campus ministries; youth leadership training events and retreats; and youth attendance at Episcopal conferences, retreats, camps, and national events. Applications must be postmarked no later than **October 11, 2017**.

Case 5 – Caring for Victims of Poverty and Abuse. This program has \$5,924 available for granting. Examples of programs that this grant provides funding for are: food pantries, food banks, clothing, service to the homeless, shelters, soup kitchens, support of ministry to victims of substance abuse, victims of abuse, and prison ministries. Applications must be postmarked no later than **October 11, 2017**.

Case 6 – Encouraging Spiritual Growth and Outreach. This program has \$2,114 available for granting. Examples of programs that this grant provides funding for are: gatherings, retreats, workshops, conferences dedicated to enhancing spirituality; travel for the purpose of sharing Christian education, music, worship, resources; or the support of media programs (TV, radio, video, etc.) to reach out to people with the Good News of the Gospel. Applications must be postmarked no later than **October 11, 2017**.

Case 2B – Traveling Work Team Support Grant. This program will provide up to \$500 per year, per congregation for team of workers (2 or more people), from outside the congregation, to help build or repair churches, rectories, retreat centers, camps or diocesan centers. The annual cap for total distribution is \$3,000. Applications must be postmarked no later than **May 15, 2017** which is a different deadline than the above ministry grant programs. Grant awards will be made by June 15, 2017.

CASE 2A – Facility Emergency Repair or Replacement Enhancement. This program has \$61,098 available for grants/loans. Maximum per applicant church is \$10,000. Case 2A provides funds for the immediate response to emergencies such as, but not limited to: fire, floods, wind, extreme cold, failed heating or plumbing fixtures or systems, sudden structural failure” ***These funds are to help pay for facility repair or replacement due to damage or destruction from an unexpected or suddenly occurring event.*** Applications must be received within 60 days from the date of the incident or event.

- 1) **EMERGENCY GRANT’S** are available to churches with an average Sunday attendance of 75 or less or diocesan facilities (non-congregational) whose operating income is less than \$100,000.00
- 2) **EMERGENCY NO INTEREST LOANS** are available to churches with an average Sunday attendance of 76 or greater or to facilities (non-congregational) whose operating income is more than \$100,000.00.

**Applications must be postmarked no later than deadline. ** Applications are available on the diocesan web-site, www.episcopalak.org or through the Bishop's Office by calling 1-800-478-3043.

Deanery News

The deanery meetings are where we begin the nomination process for the diocesan committees/commission positions that we will be elected at the 2017 Diocesan Convention, September 28-30, 2017 hosted by St. Matthews, Fairbanks. The deanery meeting dates are Arctic Coast Deanery, February 16-19; Southeast Deanery, April 27-29; Interior Deanery, May 4-6, South Central Deanery, May 13.

Summary of the positions open for election/appointment:

Commission on Ministry:

Arctic Coast Lay (elected, fill vacancy)

Arctic Coast Clergy (appointed)

Interior Lay (appointed)

Vocational Deacon (appointed)

Standing Committee:

Seat #1 Arctic Coast Lay

Seat #2 Interior Clergy

Seat #3 Southeast Clergy

Disciplinary Board:

Seat A Clergy (any deanery)

Seat G Clergy (any deanery, fill vacancy)

Seat F Lay (any deanery)

FIT Committee (Faith Into Tomorrow Endowment):

Seat B Clergy (any deanery, elected)

Seat #2 either Clergy or Lay (any deanery, appointed)

Please prayerful consider these positions and bring your nominations to your deanery meeting. We ask that a Nominee Profile Form be completed and submitted for each nominee. For more information and a copy of the Nominee Profile Form go to the diocesan web-site, www.episcopalak.org, under the Convention & Clergy Conference section.

Listed below are brief descriptions of the committees with open seats and the commitment needed for each.

Commission on Ministry:

Summary of Responsibilities: Assist the bishop in matters pertaining to the needs for the Ordained Ministry including enlistment and selection of persons for the Ministry, and in the guidance and pastoral care of all Postulants and Candidates for Holy Orders, Deacons and Priests, administering examinations required by Canon for Ordination and continuing education. Assist the bishop in challenging, training, and providing continuing education of the Laity for its ministry.

Commitment needed: attend regular teleconference (10-12 annually), receive and disburse documents (preferably electronically), meet face to face for a 2-3 day meeting at least once a year.

Standing Committee:

Summary of Responsibilities: Serve as a Council of Advice to the Bishop. Exercise Ecclesiastical Authority in the absence or disability of the Bishop. Act as the reviewing body in the selection, examination, and ordination of persons for Holy Orders. Advise and consent to the purchase, construction, encumbrance, and disposition of real property of the Diocese. Implement actions assigned by the Convention of the Diocese, including the regular review and oversight of the budget.

Commitment needed: attend regular teleconference (6-8 annually), receive and disburse documents (preferably electronically), meet face to face for a 2-3 day meeting at twice a year over

Disciplinary Board:

Summary of Responsibilities: The Disciplinary Board handles complaints and cases of clergy misconduct and other matters set forth in Title IV of the Canons of the Episcopal Church including the Trial of any Priest or Deacon of the Diocese.

Commitment needed: Be available to meet via teleconference and/or in person should a case/need present itself. Unless there is an active case this committee typically does not meet.

FIT (Faith Into Tomorrow Endowment) Committee:

Summary of Responsibilities: Oversee the on-going grants and operating budget funding provided by the FIT Endowment.

Manage the granting process including distributing, advertising, and evaluating annual grant applications for the multiple grant cases. Review the spending allocation annually and make recommendations for approval to the Standing Committee.

Commitment needed: attend regular teleconference (4-6 annually), receive and disburse documents (preferably electronically), meet face to face for a 2-3 day meeting at least once a year over

St. Simeon/St. Anna Society Nominees

Deanery meetings are also the time & place to bring your nominee(s) for Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna. As your congregation prepares for this year's deanery meeting please take some time to select the nominee(s) you may have for the Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna. A list of current members of the Society and a nomination form can be found on the diocesan web-site www.episcopalak.org , under directory.

Please complete one nomination form for each elder you wish to nominate and bring it to your deanery meeting. (Arctic Coast 2/16-19; Southeast 4/27-30; Interior 5/4-6; South Central 5/13) It is very important that we have the information on the form, especially the address and signature of the nominee. The Deans will forward them on to the Bishop's Office.

The eligibility for nomination to the Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna are:

1. Membership in the Society is open to all Elders in Alaska who have been active in the Episcopal Diocese for at least 15 years and who are 60 years of age or older.
2. Nomination by Parish Vestry, Parish Council, Church Committee, or comparable body.
3. Affirmation by the Deanery through prayer at their annual meeting.
4. Elders are nominated for the Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna by the local congregation. It is resolved as a way to show support for the nominee(s), each congregation will be responsible for the cost (\$25) of the St. Simeon and St. Anna cross.

The Good News is available on our website: www.episcopalak.org If you have something you would like published in The Good News, please submit it to the Diocese office. If you would like to receive an email from our office letting you know when new additions are available as well as website update notifications and prayers From the Office of the Bishop, please send an email to; alaskcopalians@gci.net asking to be added to our email list. To insure that you receive emails from us, please make sure to add us to your email contact/address list.