

One unique part of this synod assembly was electing a new bishop who begins his term on July 1. Pastor Susan Halvor, manager of Spiritual Care for Providence Medical Center-Anchorage was the runner-up after five ballots.

Tim Oslovich, the Bishop-elect of the Alaska Synod, was born in the northeastern Pennsylvania town of Hazleton. He was raised by his grandparents, a factory worker and a waitress. His grandfather taught him that spending time in nature is life-giving, and his grandmother encouraged him to love reading. His mother and father taught him that giving something up is sometimes the most powerful example of love. He continues to have a close relationship with them. His great-grandmother, who lived next door, taught him to pray and showed him that we can trust that Jesus is always with us. He learned the value of being connected to extended family and being a good neighbor.

He was educated at Deep Springs College where he learned how to shoe horses and milk cows as well as how to discuss literature and do calculus. He finished his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science at Swarthmore College and completed theology degrees at Harvard Divinity School and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.

In 1992, Tim married Synje Holleck, three years after they met on her father's sailboat. The first congregation they served was Shishmaref Lutheran Church. They both learned the deep joy of experiencing God through singing from the people of the Seward Peninsula. Their six years doing ministry with the people of Shishmaref shaped the way they look at the world. The Inupiaq values of spirituality, humor, humility and hospitality continue to be essential in Tim's ministry. Their son, Samuel spent his first two and a half years growing up in Shishmaref. Samuel is starting a PhD program in Computer Science.

The Oslovich family moved to Vernon, Connecticut in 2003 in order to help support Synje's mother in the last months of her life, and Tim began serving as the pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church. Twenty-one years at Trinity provided opportunities to deepen spiritual practices such as centering prayer and mindful walks to appreciate God's good creation as well as opportunities to advocate for justice for people in Sudan and Hartford, CT. During their years in Vernon, they also had the blessing of being able to care for Tim's grandmother and Synje's father as their health declined.

In 2005, Elisabeth Tovah was born and is now pursuing a double major in Dance and Creative and Professional Writing.

In addition to serving as the pastor of Trinity, Tim has also taught at Bay Path University for fifteen years as an adjunct professor. He enjoys reading, hiking, good conversations and shared meals.

The Rev. Shelley Wickstrom, Bishop