

The Ministry and Mission



The ministries of the Seward Peninsula grow disciples of Christ and support their communities. The Seward Peninsula Endowment fund enlarges the capacity for

sustainability in these congregations. Endowment income enables the following:

1. **Ministry leader support** – salary and benefit support for rostered leaders
2. **Facilities support** – building maintenance and utility costs for these buildings that also serve a variety of community needs
3. **Leadership development** – training lay leaders in worship, youth and Christian education as well as training toward ordination



4. **Missional outreach** – meeting community needs as well as outreach to Alaska Natives in urban areas
5. **Cultural support** – training to emphasize being fully Native and fully Christian

The Alaska Native people enrich the wider church with their gifts of hospitality, testimony, faith-sharing and music. They help build bridges of understanding and reconciliation between peoples.



Your gifts can assure that the ministry of Jesus Christ continues in this treasured land for years to come.



Send gifts to:
SPLM Endowment Fund
Alaska Synod, ELCA
1847 West Northern Lights Blvd. #2
Anchorage, Alaska 99517-3343



For gifts of other assets (stock, mutual funds, IRA distributions, tangibles) please contact the Alaska Synod's gift planner, Beth Adams, at 360-953-4401 or beth.adams@elca.org. All conversations are confidential and her assistance is brought to the synod by the Foundation of the ELCA.

Affirming the Past,
Securing the Future
for the
Seward Peninsula
Lutheran Ministries





“The songs teach people how to be strong. Songs help the younger people live the right way, more truthful to themselves and others. Church has a lot of meaning for young people. Church brings out gifts in people they didn’t know they had. When they realize their gifts they can bring their lives back into line.”
 – an elder from the Seward Peninsula

Challenges and Opportunities

Ministry on the Seward Peninsula continues despite real challenges:

- Many people live below the poverty line; some communities lack running water
- Most people live a low-cash, subsistence lifestyle of hunting, fishing and gathering
- Job opportunities are scarce
- Air travel and freight costs, as well as utility costs, continue to increase
- Rates of suicide, substance abuse and violence are disproportionately high



These ministries have been and will continue to be **interdependent partnerships** with mission partners and the wider church. In the 1990’s, Alaskan leaders created an endowment fund to support the Seward Peninsula Lutheran Ministries, including **significant and on-going gifts** from individuals and congregations of the Seward Peninsula. A small amount of interest income is available each year, which is split evenly among Seward Peninsula cluster congregations. As the SPLM Endowment Fund grows, it will have the capacity to more effectively support and grow these ministries and ensure their future.



The Place and the People

People have been living continuously on Alaska’s Seward Peninsula for more than 12,000 years. The Inupiat people first welcomed Lutheran missionaries to this land in 1894 and together established congregations in four villages just below the Arctic Circle:

Brevig Mission, Teller, Shishmaref and Wales.

Lutheran congregations were later established in **Nome** and **Anchorage**. These Christians live out their faith by serving each other and their communities, trusting God through immense challenges of a harsh Arctic climate and socioeconomic realities of a changing world. Churches, especially in the rural villages, are the social and spiritual centers of community life, a stabilizing presence for the village and an integral partner with schools and tribal councils.

