



Resurrection Lutheran Church
740 W 10th Street, Juneau, AK 99801 | 907 586 2380 | 907 586 6225 fax
rlcjuneau.org | juneaulive.org | showrunnercamp.org | rlcnourishes.org | [Zoom](#)
[Juneau Live! Studio on YouTube](#)

September 4, 2026

Sent by email to bishop@elca.org, sec@elca.org and jodi.slattery@elca.org.

The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop
ELCA Churchwide Council, c/o the Rev. Lucille “CeCee” Mills, Secretary (and Jodi Slattery, ELCA)
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631

Regarding: Resurrection Lutheran Church of Juneau; Lawfer, et al. v. Resurrection Lutheran Church, et al., Alaska Supreme Court No. S-19777
Notice of Pending Appeal — Request for Independent Churchwide Review, Preservation of Records, and Protection of Resurrection Lutheran Church Assets

Summary

The litigation and the underlying church-governance controversy are not finally settled. The Alaska Supreme Court appeal remains pending (*attached [Appellants’ accepted opening brief](#)*; the *[accepted Excerpt of Record](#)* is available upon request), and the appellees’ response brief is not due until September 25, 2026 (*attached [Alaska Supreme Court Order Extending Time to File Brief, S-19777](#)*)—after RLC’s September 18–20 centennial weekend. I ask ELCA and Alaska Synod leaders to avoid treating the trial-court judgment (*attached [Superior Court Final Judgment and Decree and the November 24, 2025 Order on Pending Motions](#)*) as final vindication, to preserve relevant evidence, and to arrange an independent review before any major action involving RLC’s assets or future. For background on the controversy, see the attached *[RLC Programs Brochure \(September 2025\)](#)*, *[Helpful Summaries to the RLC Council Position Statements](#)*, and *[One-Page Constitutional Overview](#)*.

Purpose and timing

We write because Resurrection Lutheran Church of Juneau (“RLC”) is preparing to celebrate its centennial from September 18 through September 20, 2026. The celebration materials (*attached [Plaintiffs’ Distributed Centennial Program and \\$100,000 Fundraising Solicitation](#)*) seek \$100,000 for roofing and building improvements, identify Alaska Synod Bishop Tim Oslovich as a participant, and promote continued outreach. In appellants’ view, however, they describe only a small portion of RLC’s former outreach and outside use of the facility since the superior court’s November 24, 2025, order. We respect RLC’s century of ministry and want that ministry to continue. At the same time, the anniversary should not be used—expressly or by implication—to suggest that the governance, pastoral, financial, and property disputes have been finally resolved or that the ELCA has endorsed one side’s account.

If Presiding Bishop Curry or other churchwide representatives plan to attend, speak, lend their names to the celebration, or support the fundraising appeal, we respectfully ask that they receive this notice and the attached court documents first.

What the public court record establishes

- The appeal is pending in the Alaska Supreme Court as No. S-19777; it is not a criminal appeal and is not pending in the Alaska Court of Appeals.
- On August 26, 2026, the Clerk of the Appellate Courts granted the appellees' request for a 30-day extension. Their response brief is now due September 25, 2026.
- The superior court entered a Final Judgment and Decree in favor of the plaintiff as the prevailing party, based on its November 24, 2025 order granting a motion to dismiss and a cross-motion for summary judgment. That judgment is the subject of the pending appeal.
- No Alaska appellate court has yet affirmed that judgment or adopted the appellees' factual narrative. The appeal asks the Supreme Court to reverse or vacate the judgment on jurisdictional, neutral-principles, summary-judgment, and discovery grounds.

Disputed matters requiring independent review

The following are **contested allegations and issues**, not findings we ask you to accept as proven. They are identified because they warrant preservation of evidence and review by persons who are not implicated in the dispute:

- **Governance authority.** Whether the selection and actions of Lisa Brendle and the council or officers acting with her complied with RLC's constitution and bylaws, and whether subsequent actions were valid.
- **Pastoral call and roster process.** Whether the removal of the Rev. Karen Perkins from her call, and any related discipline or roster-status consequences, complied with RLC, Alaska Synod, and ELCA governing documents and required procedures.
- **Synod involvement and conflicts.** The roles, communications, and potential conflicts of former Alaska Synod Bishop Shelley Wickstrom, current Bishop Tim Oslovich, members of the Synod Executive Committee and Council, and RLC officers concerning governance, pastoral status, finances, property, and litigation strategy.
- **Finances and property.** Appellants have raised serious concerns about control, accounting, expenditure, or possible diversion of substantial congregational funds; access to records and personal property; and possible plans affecting the continued operation, encumbrance, closure, or sale of RLC. These claims should not be publicly stated as proven criminal conduct without evidence and adjudication.
- **Conduct and motive.** Allegations of bullying, retaliation, and intentional efforts to punish dissenting members or leaders and to reshape or end RLC's historic ministry in Juneau.

We are not asking you to prejudge these issues in appellants' favor. We are asking you **not to prejudge them in the other direction**, and not to permit celebration, fundraising, or institutional messaging to substitute for a fair review.

Requested actions

- **Acknowledge the pending appeal.** Please confirm that ELCA and Alaska Synod leaders understand that Supreme Court No. S-19777 remains pending and that the appellees' response brief is due September 25, 2026.
- **Use accurate public language.** Please do not describe the trial-court judgment as a final appellate resolution, a complete factual exoneration, or proof that all governance and financial allegations were adjudicated after discovery and trial.

- **Designate an independent churchwide reviewer.** Please appoint a person or panel outside the Alaska Synod leadership and RLC leadership whose conduct or communications are at issue, with authority to review governing documents, financial records, nonprivileged communications, and pastoral-process records, subject to applicable privileges and confidentiality requirements.
- **Preserve documents and data.** Please direct all relevant ELCA, Alaska Synod, and RLC custodians—including current and former bishops, council members, officers, employees, volunteers, and agents—to preserve paper and electronic records, email, text and messaging data, cloud files, calendars, minutes, recordings, financial records, donor records, property records, and communications with counsel concerning RLC, its pastor, governance, litigation, assets, or possible closure or sale.
- **Protect congregational assets.** Pending appellate review and independent inquiry, please request that no extraordinary transfer, distribution, encumbrance, sale, or other disposition of RLC real property or substantial funds occur without documented congregational authority, independent review, and compliance with applicable law and governing documents.
- **Disclose participation and conflicts.** Please identify who from churchwide and the Alaska Synod plans to participate in the centennial or fundraising and disclose any role those persons had in the events now under appeal.
- **Meet before the centennial.** Please arrange a prompt meeting with appellants' designated representatives and counsel or provide a written response before September 18, 2026.

Why this matters to RLC's mission

RLC's centennial should honor a congregation that has served Juneau for one hundred years, including people in need. The present conflict has fractured that community and threatens confidence in its governance, pastoral care, finances, and future. A careful response from churchwide and synod leaders can protect both due process and the congregation's ability to continue its ministry, whose mission is:

"The mission of Resurrection Lutheran Church is to promote spiritual growth in Christ and service to all people."

Nothing in this notice asks the ELCA or the Alaska Synod to decide the Alaska appeal. It asks you to recognize that the appeal is active, preserve evidence, avoid misleading institutional messaging, and avoid creating the appearance through the centennial celebration or fundraising campaign that the controversy is over.

Sincerely,



Karen Lawfer, President
Resurrection Lutheran Church
klawfer@gci.net, (907) 723-2123

cc: Pastor Mark Holman, by email to holman28@gmail.com and rlcjuneauak@gmail.com.
Pastor Mark Griffith, by email to pastor@slukes.org.
Alaska Synod Council, by email, c/o Alaska Synod Bishop by email to aksynodbishop@gmail.com.

Alaska Synod Bishop Tim Oslovich, *by email to* aksynodbishop@gmail.com.

RLC Council Members, *by email*.

Bradley Perkins, counsel to the RLC Council and President (admitted in California and Hawaii, not Alaska), *by email to* producer@juneaulive.org.

Jeffery Troutt, Esq., Counsel to RLC, *by email to* jefferytroutt@gmail.com.

Attachments

[Appellants' accepted opening brief accepted](#)

[Alaska Supreme Court Order Extending Time to File Brief, S-19777](#)

[Judgment and Decree and the November 24, 2025 Order on Pending Motions](#)

[Plaintiffs' distributed centennial program and \\$100,000 fundraising solicitation](#)

RLC Council materials

[RLC Programs Brochure \(September 2025\)](#)

[Helpful Summaries to the RLC Council Position Statement](#)

[RLC One-Page Constitutional Overview](#)

[Download All Attachments](#)

[Download this Letter ELCA Notice of Pending RLC Appeal](#)