



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



## ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

DECEMBER 2018



### **A call to the ministry of word, sacrament and welcome in Jerusalem**

The Rev. Carrie Ballenger Smith is an ELCA missionary serving as the pastor of the Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem. In this video she talks about her journey as a pastor and her role as a woman and leader in her community. Smith is one of 230 missionaries currently serving alongside our global companions in more than 40 countries. She serves not only Redeemer, but also is the assistant to the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and welcomes ELCA members and groups during their visits to the Holy Land. [To support missionaries like Smith, select ELCA Missionary Sponsorship from the drop-down menu.](#)

### **Applications for 2019-20 Young Adults in Global Mission now open**

Do you or someone you know have an interest in being a servant leader, living and serving alongside one of the ELCA's global companions? ELCA Young Adults in Global

Mission (YAGM) is a one-year international service-learning and faith-formation opportunity for young adults, ages 21 to 29. Young adults serve alongside Lutheran companion church bodies and organizations in one of 11 country programs, being shaped by the witness of our global neighbors in a cross-cultural journey of faith. Service opportunities currently exist in Argentina, Uruguay, Australia, Serbia, Cambodia, Jerusalem/West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda, Senegal and Tanzania. Areas of service include, but are not limited to, health and development, congregational ministry, human rights, education, homelessness, addiction recovery, women's issues, and children and youth. All site placements provide opportunities for young adults to confront issues of wealth and poverty, racial privilege, economic disparity and globalization through the lens of faith. **Applications are open now through Feb. 15, 2019; [learn more and apply today.](#)**

### **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with the ELCA**

Interested in visiting the Holy Land? Curious how your gifts to ELCA global mission make an impact in this part of the world? Do you have a desire to potentially increase your investment in ELCA ministries? Join the ELCA on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March 2019. We will visit with our companions, the church Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land; spend time with ELCA missionaries and YAGM volunteers; and walk in the footsteps of Jesus at holy sites in Jerusalem and the West Bank, as well as a visit to Petra in Jordan. Trip dates: March 16-30, 2019. Cost: \$5,000 (including flight, food, accommodation, transportation). For a trip brochure and more information, email [Andrew G. Steele](#), director for ELCA Global Church Sponsorship.

### **Thanksgiving in Senegal**

Over the American holiday of Thanksgiving, YAGM volunteers in Senegal gathered for retreat. This year, each YAGM made a dish to bring to dinner, potluck-style. [Check out the different dishes](#) the volunteers made. What would be your Thanksgiving potluck addition?

### **Christmas in the Holy Land, Lutheran-style**

Did you know there are Lutherans in the Holy Land? The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land is an important church, doing important ministry. Christmas is obviously a busy time for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and you can [visit its calendar of events here.](#)

### **“The Struggle, and the Journey, are Real”**

The Rev. Kirsten Laderach serves as the country coordinator for the YAGM program in Madagascar and [recently shared some of her experiences.](#) Read her powerful narrative about what it is like to shepherd young adults as they discern their calling in the YAGM program.

### **International Women Leaders Endowment Fund**

The International Women Leaders Endowment Fund was recently launched to ensure sustainability for [this new and important ministry.](#) To ensure more international scholars for the future, the creation of an endowment fund was paramount. We are excited about this new opportunity to invest in women's education! To make gifts to the fund, [select “International Women Leaders Endowment Fund”](#) from the drop-down menu.

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## Spread the word

Know someone interested in receiving these Global Links updates? Share this [subscription link](#) with family and friends or post it on your congregation's website. Download the latest edition of Global Links [here](#). Help share the story of our global church!

## Give today!

[Make an online gift to God's work around the world today](#) – thank you!

## Contact us

[Please reply](#) to this email with your ideas and comments.

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