



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

A world map graphic composed of green dots, with a white banner overlaid on the left side containing the text 'ELCA GLOBAL LINKS'.

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

APRIL 2018

THANK YOU!
We exceeded our
\$100K match.

INTERNATIONAL
Women's
DAY

International Women's Day match successful

In celebration of International Women's Day (March 8) and Women's History Month (March) this year, two generous ELCA families created a \$100,000 matching gift in support of our International Women Leaders initiative. Thanks to the generosity of ELCA members, our matching challenge was met with **\$110,031 in gifts!** Combined with the matching gift, these gifts will equal two, four-year scholarships for international Lutheran women to attend our ELCA colleges and universities. If you missed the video on the Wittenberg Seminars as part of International Women's Day, [you can watch it here.](#)

Global Mission updates now available on ELCA website

Curious to know more about recent happenings in the global church? Check out the new [Global Mission Updates](#) widget on the ELCA's Global Mission page. This new feature will house ELCA Global Mission's bi-annual report on important activities and events in the unit and around the world with our companion churches. The spring 2018 edition is available now for download.

Take a walk through Jerusalem

ELCA missionaries Adrainne and Ben Gray share a [video](#) of their daily commute through the streets of Jerusalem. Learn more about Adrainne and Ben's work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land on their [blog](#).

Have a missionary visit your congregation this summer

Is your congregation interested in having an ELCA missionary visit to preach or present about the global church? Every summer, a portion of our missionaries come to the United States for a few weeks to share the story of their ministry with supportive members and congregations around the country. Hosting a missionary is a great way for your congregation to deepen its engagement and support of the global church. We are currently looking for congregations interested in hosting a missionary in or around these areas:

- Chicago, Ill.
- Madison, Wis.
- Santa Barbara, Calif.
- San Francisco, Calif.
- Houston, Texas
- Atlanta, Ga.
- Birmingham, Ala.

For more information about this opportunity, email globalchurch@elca.org. Host congregations contribute to the cost of travel, lodging and meals associated with missionary visits.

LWF delegates speak at U.N.'s Commission on the Status of Women

At this year's 62nd session of the U.N.'s Commission on the Status of Women, a panel of representatives from The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and other faith-based organizations discussed the significant role that faith-based organizations play in advocating for women's rights. Learn more about the [faith coalition](#) on the LWF website.

'Education for the people'

Members from two Minnesotan congregations recently visited the Chilean-based organization Educación Popular En Salud (EPES, Popular Education for Health), a nonprofit directed by ELCA missionary Karen Anderson that promotes health through experiential learning. In this [Living Lutheran article](#), read about how the trip opened the eyes of the visitors to the possibility of new ways of doing things at home.

Renewal in Nigeria

[The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria](#) is in the midst of a renewal campaign to revitalize the church's educational ministries and welcome members and youth to better understand their faith as Lutheran Christians. The ELCA has been invited to be a part of this renewal process, helping raise \$350,000 toward evaluating and restructuring education initiatives and increasing youth engagement in creative new ways. Click to learn more about this [global ministry project](#) and how to support it.

Interview with a Central Europe YAGM

Pearl Penumaka serves in Budapest, Hungary, as part of the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) Central Europe program. She was recently interviewed by a student at the Lutheran secondary school where she spends part of her time teaching English, and the article was published on the [Lutheran Church in Hungary's](#) website. [Learn more about why Pearl chose the YAGM program and what her experience in Hungary has been like so far.](#)

Mission Immersion trip to Tanzania and Rwanda

Do you want to see ELCA ministries and God's work in action around the world? Are you interested in making an increased financial investment in ELCA ministries? Join the ELCA on a mission immersion trip to Tanzania and Rwanda this fall! We are inviting current and prospective supporters to see the work that gifts to ELCA Global Church Sponsorship and ELCA World Hunger are making possible. We will visit with ELCA missionaries in Tanzania, as well as leadership from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. In Rwanda, we will visit with Young Adults in Global Mission and leaders of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda while visiting multiple ELCA World Hunger projects throughout the trip. The journey includes three days of safari at Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire National Park. Trip dates: Sept. 20-Oct. 4, 2018. Cost: \$5,000 (including flight, food, accommodation, transportation). For a trip brochure, application and more information, email Andrew Steele, director for ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, at andrew.steele@elca.org.

Make gifts to global church through your IRA

If you are 70½ or older, you can make gifts to the global church from your IRA that will help change lives all over the world. According to irs.gov, "Your required minimum distribution is the minimum amount you must withdraw from your account each year. You generally have to start taking withdrawals from your IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, or retirement plan account when you reach age 70½. Two important reminders: You can withdraw more than the minimum required amount; your withdrawals will be included in your taxable income except for any part that was taxed before or that can be received tax-free (such as qualified distributions from designated Roth accounts)." Contact globalchurch@elca.org with questions or for assistance.

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. Help share the story of our global church!

Stay connected

Follow our ELCA Global Church [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for photos, stories and news about the global church. [Download the latest edition](#) of Global Links to share with your congregation.

Give today!

[Make an online gift](#) to God's work around the world. Thank you!

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