



## ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

AUGUST 2018



### 'Thad's Story' – discerning vocation through YAGM

Meet Thad, a young leader who dedicated a year of his life to service with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary through ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM). [Watch Thad talk about the impact](#) the YAGM program had on his life and vocational call. With 80 participants beginning their YAGM service this month, there are many opportunities to support a transformative experience like Thad's for the young adults of our church. If you or your congregation is interested in supporting a YAGM, please contact [globalchurch@elca.org](mailto:globalchurch@elca.org).

### New ELCA podcast – 'Three Sides'

"Three Sides" is a new monthly podcast featuring stories from the ELCA. As a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together, "Three Sides" presents diverse voices from across the ELCA. Listen as we share stories from the many expressions of this church. Join the conversation at [LivingLutheran.org/podcast](http://LivingLutheran.org/podcast).

### ELCA welcomes 12 new missionaries

In July, the ELCA welcomed 12 new missionaries into service. **Erica Bryer, Jordan Collins-Brown** and **Erin Ryan** will serve as teachers in Japan. **Megan Freudenberg, Patrick Lynch, David Meza, Carol Schwantes, Kevin Tresselt** and **Deborah Zudell-Dickey** will serve as teachers in Slovakia. Three seminarians will complete their pastoral internships with our companion churches – **Tom Gehring** will serve in Malaysia, **Caitlyn Melillo** will serve in Uruguay, and **Joshua Menke** will serve in Switzerland. Please join us in celebration and prayer for these new missionaries! To learn more about how you can support their ministry, please contact [globalchurch@elca.org](mailto:globalchurch@elca.org).

### Travel to West Africa with the ELCA

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 The Gambia in West Africa! 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 one of the newest Lutheran churches in the world, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in The Gambia and see how their evangelism and community projects are growing the church. Trip dates: March 15-22, 2019. Cost: \$3,500 (including flight, food, accommodation, transportation). For a trip brochure, application and more information, email Rahel Mwitula Williams, manager for donor relations for ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, at [rahel.mwitula-williams@elca.org](mailto:rahel.mwitula-williams@elca.org).

### Interested in having a YAGM visit your congregation?

This fall, three returning Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) participants will work with the ELCA to share stories of the global church and the ministries supported by *The Campaign for the ELCA* with congregations in their area. If you are a congregation in or near Wisconsin, Nebraska or the Carolinas and are interested in a visit, please email [globalchurch@elca.org](mailto:globalchurch@elca.org).

### 'Creating space to experience God'

An alum of the Young Adults in Global Mission program in South Africa, Nate Berkas now serves as the site director of Wilderness Canoe Base, Grand Marais, Minn., where he helps young people connect with creation and experience God in new ways. In this [Living Lutheran article](#), read how Nate's experience serving with YAGM helped him discern the call to outdoor ministry.

### YAGM Endowment Fund

Thanks to a major gift from a generous ELCA family, an endowment fund in support of the Young Adults in Global Mission program has been created! The endowment fund will support the program in perpetuity. You may make gifts to the fund at [ELCA.org/yagm/give](http://ELCA.org/yagm/give). Select "Young Adults in Global Mission Endowment" from the drop-down menu.

### Effective evangelism – learning from our Tanzanian companions

Since 1963, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) has grown from 500,000 members to 6.1 million – approximately 13 percent of the population of Tanzania. Now, the ELCT sees an opportunity to share the important lessons they've learned about effective evangelism and outreach strategies with other churches in East Africa and beyond. The ELCA has been invited by the ELCT to help make this training program possible. Learn more about this [initiative](#) and how you can support it.

### Mexico learning opportunity

Visit Mexico this fall to learn about migration from Central America and Mexico first-hand. The trip includes expert speakers, visits to a migrant shelter and marginalized communities and learning about Mexican culture. Choose between two trips: Sept. 21-25 in Mexico City or Oct. 19-23 in Palenque, Chiapas. For more information, email Wendy Alcantara at [semillas@amextra.org](mailto:semillas@amextra.org).

### Serve abroad with the ELCA – new positions open!

ELCA Global Mission has recently posted four openings in global service: YAGM country coordinator for the Argentina/Uruguay program, a theological professor in Indonesia, a regional representative to East Africa, and a teaching pastor in Lutheran Identity in Honduras. Follow the link to view these and other [global service positions](#).

### 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: [community.ELCA.org/globallinks-newsletter-subscribe](http://community.ELCA.org/globallinks-newsletter-subscribe). Download the latest edition of Global Links [here](#). Help share the story of our global church!

### Give today!

To make an online gift to God's work around the world, [click here](#). Thank you!

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