



ELCA Global Engagement 2018

ELCAGM013

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

Love is the essence of God, bestowed on humankind as God's gift and purpose for the world. This one-syllable word is so overused in our daily lives that it has lost meaning. We love to go to the movies; we love to eat a certain type of food; we love this or that. However, God's love is more than liking certain things. God's love is the freeing and sustaining essence of our existence that pushes us into the world to live our lives as Christ did.

Douglas Hare, a New Testament scholar, defines love as "stubborn, unwavering commitment." This is what we see in Jesus as he proclaimed the good news of God's kingdom. People at the margins, struggling to survive, or not to die, found in him a source of sustenance, of healing, of inclusion. The apostle Paul encouraged Christian communities he served to live in that love, for "it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). It is because of this "stubborn, unwavering commitment" that we "bear one another's burdens." We help each other, we support one another, we become Christ to the other, as Martin Luther taught us.

The stories in this brochure give you a quick glance at the work we do together to touch people's lives and to be touched by their lives as well. Together, we are fulfilling "the law of Christ." Thank you for your prayers and for your support so that this work of love continues throughout the world in God's name.

Pax,

THE REV. DR. RAFAEL MALPICA PADILLA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ELCA GLOBAL MISSION



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

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Worshippers at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Goroka, Papua New Guinea, join together in the Lord's Prayer, knowing they are accompanying Christians throughout the world in this common prayer. In the common Pidgin language used in PNG, the Lord's Prayer ends with the words, "oltaim olataim. I tru" (forever and ever. Amen ... it is true).

Photo Credit: Franklin Ishida

Mission rooted in relationship means mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, sustainability and empowerment. It means transformation and growth - for everyone involved. Together, in response to God's liberating grace, we listen, learn and deepen our understanding of and love for one another. As we recognize, affirm and receive one another's God-given gifts, we become invested in God's mission. These investments are at the center of global mission.

ELCA IN RELATIONSHIP

The ELCA has organized its global engagement around the theology and practice of accompaniment, walking together with Lutheran, ecumenical and interfaith sisters and brothers around the world. We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world - together.

Our church has a multi-faceted approach to global mission: from sharing personnel to offering grants and scholarships designed to strengthen church leadership, supporting the ministries of congregations and building on the capacity of our Lutheran companion churches in their theological education. In response to requests from our global companions, ELCA missionaries accompany them in their work.

In the United States, the ELCA challenges its members to become global citizens and responsible, compassionate Christians. We are committed to:

- Addressing the root causes of poverty and hunger and meeting human needs
- Calling and preparing missionaries
- Connecting ELCA members to the global church
- Educating global church leaders
- Fostering church-to-church relationships
- Responding to national disasters
- Supporting evangelism and other global ministries

Learn more at ELCA.org/globalmission.

COMPANIONS IN RELATIONSHIP

As a member of The Lutheran World Federation, the ELCA is one of 145 member churches in 98 countries all over the world. Combining our gifts and working together, Lutherans can achieve things on a scale and scope that we could never do alone.

Working with international Lutheran churches allows the ELCA to address ministry opportunities effectively while skilled and faithful companion churches self-govern and take the lead on local ministry. Together we:

- Advocate for one another
- Build personal relationships across cultures
- Connect congregations and synods through relationships
- Create and collaborate on ministries and programs
- Exchange pastors and leaders
- Pray for and visit one another

We are called to walk alongside our Lutheran brothers and sisters to grow the church and to do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities everywhere.

Learn more at ELCA.org/companionsynods.

YOU IN RELATIONSHIP

Receiving the gifts of the global church opens ELCA congregations to strengthening their proclamation and service. You can participate in the global community of the ELCA by:

- Engaging in *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* by supporting Missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission, International Leaders and/or Global Ministries (ELCA.org/campaign);
- Equipping yourself and your congregation for global engagement by participating in Global Mission Gatherings (ELCA.org/glocal);
- Making a contribution to deepen the outreach of ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Global Church Sponsorship (ELCA.org/campaign);
- Promoting or engaging in global service in one of 40 countries (ELCA.org/globalservice);
- Recognizing all companions in ministry as strong, faithful and gifted people;
- Strengthening your local ELCA companion synod relationship through active involvement (ELCA.org/companionsynods);
- Subscribing to our e-newsletter, Global Links, which can be found as a widget on the right side of the page at (ELCA.org/globalchurch); and
- Visiting the ELCA website to learn how the context of mission is changing (ELCA.org/globalmission).

The ELCA's global engagement is made possible by missionaries, international companions and ELCA members like you.

ACCOMPANIMENT

Your gifts support the ministries of our global companions



REGIONAL EMPHASIS – NORTH AMERICA: Equip ELCA members for proclamation and service by receiving the gifts of the global church. Collaborate with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada concerning missionaries, global events and companion synod relationships.

NEW YORK CITY: The Rev. Suyapa Ordoñez (left) from the Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras and Rita Flores from the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church are committed to advancing gender justice in their churches and countries. With 48 other leaders, they participated in a women's human rights training organized by The Lutheran World Federation with the assistance of the New York-based Lutheran Office for World Community. The workshop focused on understanding and using United Nations mechanisms and treaties, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. *Photo: LWF/C. Rendón*

REGIONAL EMPHASIS – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: Accompaniment of churches as they train new leaders, explore new ministry models, strengthen their Lutheran identity, defend human rights and promote economic, gender and climate justice. Just and humane treatment of migrant children and families through the work of AMMPARO companions in Central America, Mexico and the United States.



MEXICO: As a young leader in the Mexican Lutheran Church, Elisa Perez Trejo was nominated to receive an international Women Leaders scholarship from the ELCA to pursue a bachelor's degree in International Studies with a concentration in English at Newberry College. After completing her studies in 2019, Elisa plans to return home and dreams of starting a nonprofit to "help children who live in bad situations and give them a new ... life through art, sports, psychological therapy, an integral education, a place without violence, and an oasis in the middle of the chaos."



HONDURAS: Like many Central American youth, Pedro tried to go north but was arrested in Mexico and deported back home. Today, he bakes and sells fresh bread and sweet rolls daily. Support from AMMPARO and the Mennonite Social Action Commission helped Pedro get started. Business is good, and Pedro has no plans to take the perilous journey ever again. "I risked my life and am grateful that God protected me every step of the way. Now I can contribute to my family with my income from this bakery."



BOLIVIA: The companion synod relationship between Lutherans in Bolivia and Montana helps build each church's capacity to minister in multicultural, indigenous contexts. During a visit to Rocky Boy, Mont., President Emilio Asla and lay leader Luis Blanco from the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church brought their expertise to a meeting with many indigenous American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran leaders. Sharing communion was just one way the gathering nurtured powerful new connections between communities.



CHILE: When Andrea's ex-partner accosted her because she wouldn't let him see his son, Soledad Puebla, director of the Centro Comunitario El Sembrador, intervened, firmly stopping violence against her, and accompanied both to the police station. She encouraged Andrea to file a domestic violence complaint and her ex-partner to petition for a regular visitation schedule. A project of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile and its partners, the center focuses on preventing and eradicating violence against women, children and teens through promoting human rights and gender justice.

REGIONAL EMPHASIS – EUROPE: Accompany and build capacity of minority Lutheran churches re-emerging in a post-communist era for evangelism, mission, lay and pastoral leadership development. Encourage the exploration of Lutheran identity in context 500 years after the Reformation.



SLOVAKIA: By watching how others shop, order in a restaurant and run errands, Jay and Kelsey Meservy are learning how to live in a new culture. Students and teachers at the Lutheran high school in Liptovsky Mikalaus – where the bell that starts and ends classes plays Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" – are also a rich source of wisdom. The Meservys are among the 16 teachers in the ELCA Central Europe Teacher Program providing English language instruction in six Lutheran schools in Poland and Slovakia.



EGYPT: "I will not remove my shoes unless we go to school, now," said Yasmin to her mother, Luwam. "You have to bring me." For four months, Luwam, a refugee from Sudan born to Eritrean parents, visited St. Andrews Refugee Service in Cairo to ask the Montessori Preschool to enroll her daughter. When space finally opened, Luwam cried tears of joy. Now her daughter Yasmin speaks her native language with confidence and knows some English words. Through your ELCA Mission Support, Yasmin is also learning to drink from a cup and is enjoying nutritious breakfasts and lunches.

REGIONAL EMPHASIS – MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: Accompany companions in their steadfast Christian witness, service and faith, which are threatened by regional turmoil. Advocate with them for nonviolent paths to more peaceful and just societies and respond to humanitarian needs.

REGIONAL EMPHASIS – AFRICA: Strengthen mutual relationships and support programs of companion churches addressing conflict prevention, peace and reconciliation, evangelical outreach, faith formation, food security, sustainable livelihoods and health.



SENEGAL: During a visit to the Lutheran Church of Senegal, visitors from the ELCA Grand Canyon Synod were fed, guided, taught and served by Lutherans and Muslims alike. In the mostly Muslim nation, the small church's faith is not hidden but shared through actions of love. Said one visitor, "Christ is in the midst of this relationship, helping us see ministry through a global lens that celebrates all we share in common, whether we are an aging congregation in the suburbs of Phoenix or a young church in the heart of Dakar."



MALAWI: When 5-year-old Charles came to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM) Feeding Center, he weighed only 7 pounds. "He was miserable, and had no appetite," remembers long-time volunteer Chikondi Namalanda. "I gave him special attention by feeding him personally because he was refusing to eat. Gradually, Charles started gaining weight." Feeding centers in 60 ELCM congregations support 3,750 orphans and vulnerable children every year – reducing malnutrition in children 5 and under and saving children like Charles, who is now 26 years old and credits the feeding center with saving his life.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: "Without instructional materials, the young cannot grow in their faith," says Maurice Kemane, Christian education director of the Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic. Sunday school teachers will use a curriculum from the Lutheran Communion in South Africa that is being translated into Sango, the national language. The manuals are based in Lutheran theology and offer age-appropriate student activities plus plenty of pedagogical strategies. Adds Kemane, "The Sunday school teachers will also increase their biblical knowledge and, hopefully, their faith as well."



SWAZILAND: Nonhlanhla Dlamini grows cabbages to feed her family and generate income. She learned about backyard gardening from a training program offered by the home-based caregivers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA) Eastern Diocese. The caregivers encourage and inform people about the transmission, prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS – a critical task in a country with the highest rate of HIV-infected adults. They also emphasize the importance of home gardening and good nutrition to boost the immune system.



NEPAL: Tara Badi and her neighbors earn a living growing tomatoes and eggplants in a greenhouse. Before, no land, little money, and deeply seated discrimination against the indigenous Badi people left them with few options to support themselves. Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, the Pariwartansil Mahila Community Empowerment Center supplied seedlings, the greenhouse, and technical services to the new farmers. Now, as a center adviser, Tara mentors other Badi families to break social misconceptions through tailoring, goat farming and other livelihood activities.



JAPAN: For 124 years, the Japanese Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC) and North American Lutherans have shared, prayed and learned together. Recently, delegations from the JELC and the ELCA South Carolina Synod deepened their companion synod relationship through mutual visits. Besides greeting friends, South Carolina Lutherans visited sites damaged by the devastating Kumamoto earthquake of 2016. A few months later, Japanese youth attended the South Carolina Bishop's School. These long-lasting friendships are nurtured by presence, prayer and financial assistance to specific projects.

REGIONAL EMPHASIS – ASIA/PACIFIC: Accompany churches as they renew their Lutheran identity and meet challenges of religious plurality in today's context. Increase the capacity of churches and development organizations to address critical issues of sustainable development and justice.



CAMBODIA: Pastor Lat Segan Mose and members of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia are growing their new church by engaging in their community. The ELCA's newest companion has two congregations, a community center and an outreach point in Kandal, just south of Phnom Penh. Computer and English classes for children, parent groups and worship opportunities are all tools for evangelism. So is a Khmer translation of Luther's Small Catechism. Keep up with their ministry on Facebook at "Lutheran Church in Cambodia!"



AUSTRALIA: "I was amazed how at home I suddenly felt," says Emily Edmonds, part of Young Adults in Global Mission, after two 5-year-old girls helped her settle into the aboriginal community of Hope Vale, Queensland. "They took me door to door, but I was nervous. At every home, the girls said, 'We brought Miss Emily to show her around the village because she doesn't know anyone or where they live.' Homeowners would respond, 'Well that's good. Take care of her now and have fun.' They really were taking care of me!"

The global mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Thanks to your generosity, the ELCA funds missionaries and projects in more than 90 countries. See color key below.

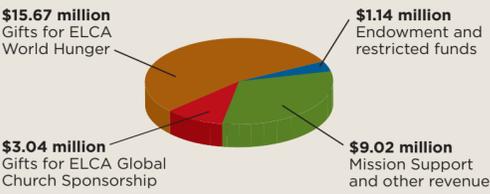
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Europe
- Middle East and North Africa
- Africa
- Asia/Pacific

Learn more: ELCA.org/globalmission

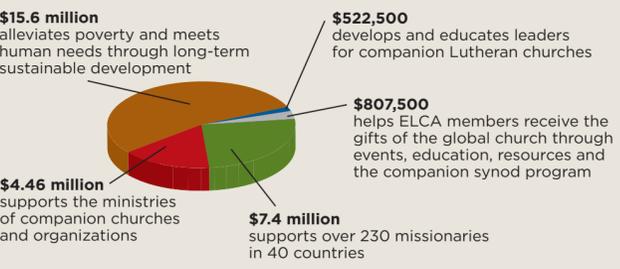
2018 estimated ELCA spending plan for global mission

\$28.87 million (excludes disaster and other special funds)

Sources of support



Expenditures



Your gifts in action

Thank you for your generosity! As part of the body of Christ, we participate in God's work in the U.S. and around the world through relationships, prayer, and financial exchange of gifts and resources. Mission Support dollars – weekly, unrestricted offerings from ELCA congregations to synods and the ELCA churchwide organization – are used to fund scholarships and to help build capacity among companion churches by supporting evangelism, Christian education, theological training and other ministries that grow their capacity to proclaim and serve. See ELCA.org/missionsupport.

Your ELCA World Hunger contributions are used to support long-standing partners, such as The Lutheran World Federation, Lutheran World Relief, Church World Service and our companion churches, as they respond to human need through food security and agriculture, water access and health care, education, training and income generation. In 2018, donations to ELCA World Hunger will count toward *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. See ELCA.org/hunger.

Your gifts to ELCA Global Church Sponsorship help grow the Lutheran church around the world. Your donations send missionaries and young adult volunteers to work alongside our global companions, train international leaders, plant new churches and grow existing ones. All gifts to ELCA Global Church Sponsorship in 2018 will deepen our outreach through *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. See ELCA.org/globalchurch.