

Hand in Hand newsletter

STORIES FROM THE GLOBAL CHURCH WINTER 2014 www.ELCA.org/globalchurch



SOUTH SUDAN AND EGYPT

LEFT: Kirsten Fryer **RIGHT:** Two ethnic communities put aside their differences and came together to worship on Christmas Day 2013.

Light shines in the darkness

Kirsten Fryer is an ELCA missionary in Cairo, Egypt. In this excerpt from a recent entry to her blog, "Cairos," she describes the unity at a Christmas Day worship despite political division and unrest.

If you've been following the news from South Sudan, you'll understand why I will treasure Christmas Day 2013 for a very long time. Even while Nuer and Dinka in South Sudan fight and kill one another, these two ethnic communities came together as part of the Sudanese Lutheran congregation that worships at St. Andrew's in Cairo for worship on Christmas Day.

In five languages – Arabic, English, Nuer, Dinka and Shilluk – we prayed and sang and came together at the Lord's Table. For those three and a half hours, differences were set aside and prayers were lifted up in thanksgiving and celebration. Prayers were lifted up for peace, in South Sudan and Syria and throughout the world.

The Spirit moved among us and did not distinguish us by tribe or language but called us together and made us witnesses of the good news of great joy for all peoples. This good news takes strangers and enemies and brings them together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

This promise of the incarnation that we celebrate on Christmas – that God has come to us and continues to come to us, God's beloved people – is worth remembering and celebrating, not just on Christmas but always. It is indeed good news of great joy and the light that shines in the darkness.

To read more stories from ELCA Missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission, visit the Hand in Hand blog at <http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/blogs/HandInHand>.



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

Hand in Hand newsletter

STORIES FROM THE GLOBAL CHURCH WINTER 2014 www.ELCA.org/globalchurch



SOUTH SUDAN AND EGYPT

LEFT: Kirsten Fryer **RIGHT:** Two ethnic communities put aside their differences and came together to worship on Christmas Day 2013.

Light shines in the darkness

Kirsten Fryer is an ELCA missionary in Cairo, Egypt. In this excerpt from a recent entry to her blog, "Cairos," she describes the unity at a Christmas Day worship despite political division and unrest.

If you've been following the news from South Sudan, you'll understand why I will treasure Christmas Day 2013 for a very long time. Even while Nuer and Dinka in South Sudan fight and kill one another, these two ethnic communities came together as part of the Sudanese Lutheran congregation that worships at St. Andrew's in Cairo for worship on Christmas Day.

In five languages – Arabic, English, Nuer, Dinka and Shilluk – we prayed and sang and came together at the Lord's Table. For those three and a half hours, differences were set aside and prayers were lifted up in thanksgiving and celebration. Prayers were lifted up for peace, in South Sudan and Syria and throughout the world.

The Spirit moved among us and did not distinguish us by tribe or language but called us together and made us witnesses of the good news of great joy for all peoples. This good news takes strangers and enemies and brings them together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

This promise of the incarnation that we celebrate on Christmas – that God has come to us and continues to come to us, God's beloved people – is worth remembering and celebrating, not just on Christmas but always. It is indeed good news of great joy and the light that shines in the darkness.

To read more stories from ELCA Missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission, visit the Hand in Hand blog at <http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/blogs/HandInHand>.



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