

Apply today!

Visit ELCA.org/YAGM and click "Apply Now!"

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, year-round. Those who apply by Feb. 1 will be considered for the service year beginning the following August. Priority will be given to those who apply before Jan 15.

Connect with us

For stories, photos and blog posts from current and former YAGM volunteers, visit us at

 facebook.com/ELCAYAGM

 [elcayagm](https://instagram.com/elcayagm)

For more information contact us at:

Young Adults in Global Mission

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"My YAGM year gave me so much! It gave me new friends and family across the world. It gave me direction for my future and helped me understand some of my past! I grew so much as a person during my year that I was able to leave a part of me behind and still come home completely changed!"

—Joshua Harold

"The YAGM experience was a life-changing one for me. I got to experience community in a way that was so drastically different from the one I knew. My host family, my community, my school and friends that I made helped nurture a journey of faith I didn't even fully realize I was on. I would not be the same without this year and the many joys and challenges I faced."

—Renee Celestain

"Two of my children have participated in the YAGM program. For both of them, it was a very positive experience. Living and working in communities very different from the one they grew up in, for a significant amount of time, provided them with life skills that will enable them to be more open to others' life experiences and more understanding of others' views – invaluable assets."

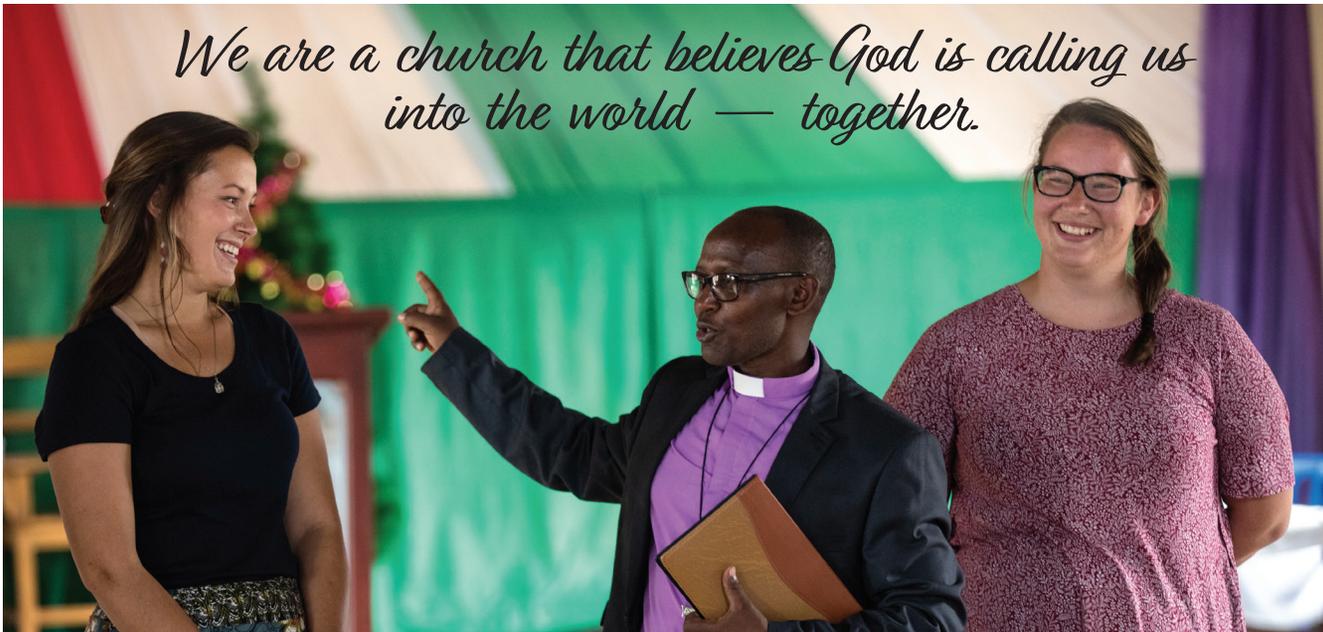
—Debra Young

Young Adults in Global Mission



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together.



What is Young Adults in Global Mission?

The Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) invites young adults to experience fellowship in a life-changing way.

Participants engage with partners and hosts in one of **nine country programs**. Volunteers experience the transformation that comes from living among our siblings around the world. Participants serve in the spirit of accompaniment, which places an emphasis on mutuality and vulnerability as we walk alongside our partners. In an effort to counter the damage of colonial Christianity, relationships and listening are at the core of the YAGM experience.

In recent years, the YAGM program has sent **around 80 volunteers** into partnership annually. Volunteers are placed where their gifts, passions and skills best match the requests and needs of our partners.



YAGM requirements

- Young adults ages 21-35. A college degree is not a requirement.
- Connection to the church through an ELCA member, congregation or community; enrollment at an ELCA college or university; involvement in a campus ministry, camp program or event; or interest in the ELCA community
- A commitment to serving and building relationships with host communities
- Flexibility, curiosity, patience and a sense of humor
- Emotional health and resilience
- Openness to exploring and deepening one's faith
- Willingness to learn a new language (in some country programs previous foreign language skill is highly recommended)

How is the program funded?

The average annual cost to support one volunteer in service is about \$15,000. Volunteers commit to a \$5,000 fundraising effort to help support the cost of their year of service.

Support from the ELCA is available to assist in raising these funds, as well as scholarship allocation based on need.

What kind of support do volunteers receive?

- Room and board
- Travel to and from the country of service
- Medical insurance
- Monthly stipend allowing volunteers to live simply
- Federal student-loan deferment or forbearance
- Group retreats in the country of service that can include
 - Faith formation
 - Team building
 - Social-justice education
- Pastoral and administrative support from staff living in the country of service

How do I know where I'll serve?

Candidates apply to the program as a whole and not to a specific country program. Candidate preferences are considered, but ELCA staff and the international program coordinators make the final country placement decisions. Willingness to serve in a variety of country programs strongly increases the chances of making a successful match between the candidates and the country program.