In her address at St. Olaf College’s chapel service, International Women Leaders scholarship recipient Marina Fomgbiami reflected on why she chose to study nursing — and the important role of health care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. She pointed out that Black Americans are 2.1 times more likely than white Americans to die from COVID-19, among many other racial disparities.
In a video conference on Oct. 22, representatives of the ELCA Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the Löbau-Zittau church district of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony signed a partnership agreement. It was the first covenant signing via Zoom! Read more here.

News Around the World

“Therefore it’s our responsibility as nurses, doctors, social workers, physical therapists and every other profession to make a difference by being impartial and just in our treatment,” Marina said. “That is what I love most about the nursing program at St. Olaf, because it doesn’t just teach us how to be great nurses. It teaches us how to be holistic and culturally competent nurses.”

Marina is a senior nursing major from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon. Watch Marina’s address here.

Mission Personnel Reflection

Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)

Country Program: Central Europe (Hungary & Serbia)

Name: Tony Yang & Tabby Sanderson
From: Rochester, Minnesota
Year: ALUM 2018-2019
In these three new videos, Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) alums reflect on their international service year. Tony Yang, a YAGM Central Europe alum, learned what it means to work in a spirit of accompaniment. “You just show up and you share what the people around you ask of you,” Tony said.

Watch the three YAGM videos here:

- “My YAGM Year: Deja”
- “My YAGM Year: Renee”
- “My YAGM Year: Tabby and Tony”

If you are a young adult ages 21 to 29, you can apply for an international service year with YAGM. The deadline to apply is Jan. 15, 2021, for service beginning in August 2021. Spread the word! Learn more and apply for YAGM here.

Mark and Linda Jacobson Documentary Facebook Watch Party Update: The new documentary about ELCA missionaries Mark and Linda Jacobson is coming soon! The Facebook Watch Party has been postponed to a later date. Look for a new date announcement in next month’s newsletter or at Facebook.com/Lutherans.

YAGM Country Program Fun Facts:
Follow Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) on Instagram to learn interesting facts about each country program. This month, YAGM is highlighting the Jerusalem/West Bank and Rwanda country programs. Test your knowledge below.

- What do locals call Jerusalem?
- What does the name “Rwanda” derive from?

See the answers in YAGM’s Instagram story highlights here.

Get Involved
During the Advent season we often talk about the Holy Land of the past without talking much about the Holy Land of the present. What is going on in Bethlehem today? How are we called to accompany our Palestinian siblings in love, joy, hope, peace and justice? What does this mean for our own Advent journey?

Join ELCA Young Adults and Peace Not Walls starting Nov. 30 for an Advent Pilgrimage in Palestine. Over the four weeks of Advent, young adults from the ELCA and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land will lead us on this pilgrimage through story, education and theological reflection. Every Monday we will share a video reflection, and every Wednesday we will share a blog post, accompanied by discussion questions and actionable items.

Register here to receive Advent Pilgrimage in Palestine resources and/or to sign
up for the opening educational webinar.