

# 2019 ACCOMPANIMENT

*Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this (Esther 4:14b).*

It is hard to live in a foreign land. Your roots are severed and the life-giving connectivity to the place that has given you birth is discontinued. Your tradition, customs and culture take second place to the dominant culture of the land where you now reside. Often there is no receptivity to the newcomers, who are expected to embrace a new (and superior) culture.

This is what the Jewish community experienced under the rule of the Persian king. A series of events created an interesting situation for Mordecai and his cousin Esther, who found herself a member of the royal family. Mordecai shared with Esther what was at stake for their community (survival) and asked her to intercede with the king on behalf of her people. Mordecai was well aware of the risks. Esther could have been killed. Esther listened and responded. Centuries later another courageous woman, Mary, the mother of Jesus, responded in the same manner: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

For Esther, a gift, being part of the royal family, was given, and she was asked to use it to open up the possibility of a better life for her people. God equipped Esther to face such a time where the lives of thousands were dependent on the gift she had. We, too, face the same predicament as Esther: "Keep silence at such a time as this ..." or engage our broken, sighing, groaning-in-pain world, bringing our gifts together "for the healing of the nations" (Revelation 22:2b).

This resource provides a glimpse of the many stories that are touching people's lives around the globe. These are stories of gifts from our companions as well as our own, used to build flourishing communities that resemble God's intention for the world and that point to God's kingdom. For such a time as this we have been called, gathered and sent.

In Christ,



The Rev. Dr. Rafael Malpica Padilla  
Executive Director  
ELCA Global Mission

## ELCA GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

[ELCA.org/globalmission](http://ELCA.org/globalmission)

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

ELCAGM1013

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MISSION ROOTED IN RELATIONSHIP MEANS MUTUALITY, INCLUSIVITY, VULNERABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY AND EMPOWERMENT. IT MEANS 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 GIFTS, WE BECOME INVESTED IN GOD'S MISSION. THESE INVESTMENTS ARE AT THE CENTER OF GLOBAL MISSION.

#### ACCOMPANYING MIGRANT MINORS WITH PROTECTION, ADVOCACY, REPRESENTATION AND OPPORTUNITIES (AMMPARO)

Mary Campbell

#### DIAKONIA (INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND DISASTER RESPONSE)

Rebecca Duerst  
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#### LUTHERAN GLOBAL HEALTH VOLUNTEERS

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#### ELCA GLOBAL CHURCH SPONSORSHIP

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#### LUTHERAN OFFICE FOR WORLD COMMUNITY

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Refugees and migrants — some of them children — walk through the Hungarian town of Hegyeshalom on their way to the border with Austria. The ELCA is working alongside our companions in Europe to help respond to the needs of people throughout the region displaced by conflict, political turmoil and socioeconomic strife. *Photo: Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance*

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### 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 multifaceted approach to global mission: from sharing personnel to offering grants and scholarships designed to strengthen church leadership, to supporting the ministries of congregations, to 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](http://ELCA.org/globalmission)

### COMPANIONS IN RELATIONSHIP

As a member of the Lutheran World Federation, the ELCA is one of 148 member churches in 99 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](http://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](http://ELCA.org/campaign)).
- Equipping yourself and your congregation for global engagement by participating in Global Mission Gatherings ([ELCA.org/glocal](http://ELCA.org/glocal)).
- Making a contribution to deepen the outreach of ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Global Church Sponsorship ([ELCA.org/campaign](http://ELCA.org/campaign)).
- Promoting or engaging in global service in one of 40 countries ([ELCA.org/globalservice](http://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](http://ELCA.org/companionsynods)).
- Subscribing to our e-newsletter, Global Links, which can be found as a widget on the right-hand side at [ELCA.org/globalchurch](http://ELCA.org/globalchurch).
- Visiting the ELCA website to learn how the context of mission is changing ([ELCA.org/globalmission](http://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.

**NORTH AMERICA:** "In Texas it was a breathtaking moment to see how big the Lutheran community is, and good to know how other teenagers praise God," said Donato Grep after participating in the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname, he was among youth from eight global companion churches who attended the Gathering and visited their companion synods through the International Companion Program. As a budding musician, Donato was surprised by the similarities between Sunday service in his home congregation and Advent Lutheran Church in Orlando, Fla.



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



**SERBIA:** Of the 68.5 million forcibly displaced people in the world today, 25.4 million are refugees. The Asylum Protection Center (APC) touches the lives of more than 5,000 people a year who are fleeing Syria, Iran, and Afghanistan. The APC offers legal, psychological and integration/inclusion support while advocating for improving the system, working with migrants and fighting prejudice and xenophobia. With ELCA World Hunger support, more than 24,000 people have been assisted and/or represented in asylum and other proceedings.



**WEST BANK/PALESTINE:** Who doesn't love a valentine? In the West Bank, second-graders at the Lutheran School of Hope in Ramallah (part of Lutheran Church of Hope, an Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land congregation) managed to reach out to participants in the Meals on Wheels program it sponsors. With Young Adults in Global Mission volunteer Katharine Jones, the kids made valentines for homebound seniors and women with cognitive disabilities who look to Meals on Wheels for wholesome hot meals, Christian and community fellowship, and holiday celebrations.

**WEST BANK/PALESTINE:** Meet Sally Azar, soon to be the first woman ordained by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. A scholarship funded through the ELCA International Women Leaders initiative helped her complete a Master of Divinity degree from the Near East School of Theology in Lebanon. In a context known for conflict and unrest, Azar wants her people to know that God is there but needs their assistance. "People get angry at God," she said. "I want people to know that God doesn't will anything bad for us."



**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.

## 2019 ESTIMATED ELCA SPENDING PLAN FOR GLOBAL MISSION

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

### SOURCES OF SUPPORT

- \$15.67 million Gifts for ELCA World Hunger
- \$3.04 million Gifts for ELCA Global Church Sponsorship
- \$9.02 million Mission Support and other revenue
- \$1.14 million Endowment and restricted funds

### EXPENDITURES

- \$15.67 million alleviates poverty and meets human needs through long-term sustainable development.
- \$522,500 develops and educates leaders for companion Lutheran churches.
- \$807,500 helps ELCA members receive the gifts of the global church through events, education, resources and the companion synod program.
- \$7.4 million supports over 230 missionaries in 40 countries.
- \$4.46 million supports the ministries of companion churches and organizations.

### 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](http://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 2019, donations to ELCA World Hunger will count toward *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. See [ELCA.org/hunger](http://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 2019 will deepen our outreach through *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. See [ELCA.org/globalchurch](http://ELCA.org/globalchurch).

## 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 at [ELCA.org/globalmission](http://ELCA.org/globalmission)

**REGIONAL EMPHASIS – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:** Accompany churches as they train new leaders, explore new ministry models, strengthen their Lutheran identity, defend human rights and promote economic, gender and climate justice. Seek just and humane treatment of migrant children and families through the work of AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) companions in Central America, Mexico and the United States.

**COSTA RICA:** Recently ordained, the Rev. Jeffrey Campos now helps the Costa Rican Lutheran Church (ILCO) serve its many new mission points. Gifts to *The Campaign for the ELCA* prepare other candidates for pastoral ministry in the ILCO. A high school teacher during the week and a pastor on the weekend, Campos exemplifies the "bi-vocational" model gaining acceptance in Costa Rica and elsewhere as a sustainable alternative for Lutheran faith communities that need a pastor but lack the means to pay a salary.

**COLOMBIA:** In Bogotá, Colombia, the Lutheran School of Theology (LST) trains community leaders for mission and service, especially in low-income areas. LST offers access to higher education in theology, administration and leadership development to members of the church and society in general, using Latin American popular education principles and practices. Leaders learn to see all participants as equals, to stimulate debate and discernment rather than dictate facts, and involve the whole group in planning, training and action.



**EL SALVADOR:** The fish business is good in the coastal village of Cara Sucia. Support from AMMPARO helped this young man launch his hometown venture after he was deported from the United States. AMMPARO's Central America companions help migrants deported back to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras make new lives by finding places to live, ways to earn a living, and recover from experiences during all stages of the migrant journey through psychosocial trauma counseling.



**CAMEROON:** Dora Pomdoooh Houma from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon enjoys her studies at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn. Majoring in global studies and sociology, thanks to an ELCA International Women Leaders scholarship, Dora traveled with other "Cobbers" to accompany and assist neighbors in Texas impacted by Hurricane Harvey. A member of Concordia's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission, Dora is preparing herself for decision-making and leadership roles in her church. "As my mom says, 'What a man can do a woman can do, and even better.'"



**CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC:** Farmer Paul Daina started an association to help local farmers, especially women, improve techniques and reduce harmful practices. Instead of cutting down trees to harvest caterpillars, for example, farmers now wait for the insects to come down the trees in the evening. Through ELCA World Hunger funds, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic is increasing the impact of the association. Daina recently finished a year of community-based learning on rural development at the Asian Rural Institute in Japan, which also receives support from the ELCA.



**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.



**RWANDA:** Through vocational training provided through the Lutheran Church in Rwanda's youth welding project, Iyitegetse Dorca has gained the skills needed to earn a living wage as a welder. "I am able to make a door, windows or even stoves," she said. "Now I have money to buy health care products and have managed to buy two goats and three chickens." Holding a job occupied by few women in Rwanda gives her a sense of purpose.



**SINGAPORE:** In weekly family groups, ELCA missionary Jeffrey Truscott and students at Trinity Theological College in Singapore gather for mentoring, accountability and fellowship. Teaching and living in this international, ecumenical setting prompted Truscott, a missionary for 18 years, to re-explore understandings of worship and the sacraments. His two books, used throughout Asia, look at these central Christian practices in their historical and cross-cultural contexts. They help bridge differences that could hinder the proclamation of the gospel in a part of the world where Christians are a minority.

**SOUTH SUDAN:** After surgery to repair a fistula that developed after a prolonged labor, Agong is smiling again. Medical personnel from Arusha, Tanzania, along with staff from the Evangelical Lutheran Church Africa Mission South Sudan, helped 20 women like Agong regain their health and dignity. For women suffering from this condition, medical staff say that fistula surgery is an important ministry of reconciliation and a restoration of wholeness in the name of Christ.



**TANZANIA:** Where have we been, where are we now, where are we going? Drawing on two-plus decades of relationships through the ELCA companion synod program, 140 pastors, bishops and laypeople from the ELCA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) spent four days in Tanzania probing these questions. "I am grateful for unity, integration, and people from different contexts sitting around the table and discussing different matters," said Jerda Ebyalipima Shumuni from the ELCT North-Western Diocese, a companion to the ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod.



**MALAYSIA:** As part of the Horizon International Internship program, Tom Gehring has been surrounded by God's grace through the congregation of Luther House Chapel, part of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia. The Luther Seminary student has been especially glad to find accompaniment at the table. "I've shared so many meals with people that it's impossible to not feel welcomed into this church family," he said. "I know that I'm being cared for just as much as I strive to care for my parishioners."



**BANGLADESH:** Rahama, her husband and three children came to Bangladesh after being forcibly rerouted from their home by the Myanmar military. Now settled into a refugee camp, "we have received food, water, shelter materials, blankets and hygiene items," she said. "We feel safe, and I do not have to worry about the safety of my children. We maintain hope that we can, someday, safely return home." Through ACT Alliance, the ELCA has provided critical support for humanitarian aid in conflict-affected communities.

**INDONESIA:** Friska Simamora is a busy person – manager of women's empowerment projects, youth coordinator, evangelism contact person and host for the radio variety show of the Mentawai Protestant Christian Church in Indonesia. On these isolated Mentawai islands off the coast of Sumatra, where getting around involves coastal boat trips or motorbiking along narrow paths, this radio ministry reaches beyond the Christian community with pop music and talk on various subjects of community interest.

