The Rev. Rocío Morales distributes Holy Communion at worship during the 2017 International Women’s Seminar in Wittenberg, Germany. Rev. Morales serves as the vice bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (Iglesia Evangélica Luterana de Colombia). Photo: Kristen Opalkinski / ELCA
For information about where the ELCA and its companions are at work, including ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response and the ELCA Malaria Campaign, visit ELCA.org/map.

The ELCA partners with our global companion churches to build up Christ’s church throughout the world. This directory highlights ELCA Missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission, International Leaders and Global Ministries – people and programs that work together to grow the church. Support from ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response and the ELCA Malaria Campaign are not included in this directory.

The information in this directory is accurate as of October 2018. For more information, contact info@elca.org or 800-638-3522.
"As the Father has sent me, so I send you" (John 20:21).

Our God is a missionary God. The word "mission" was used to describe the work of the Trinity in the world. That work, as we describe it in our accompaniment theology, is to restore community. For that purpose, God revealed God's self in Jesus Christ. In him we have seen the “fullness of God,” participating in the life full and abundant that is a sign of the kingdom. That mission continues in our days.

This text from John's Gospel has been used to emphasize the missionary character of Jesus' church. We participate in being sent into the world proclaiming the good news of the gospel. "As the Father has sent me ... " tells us about the manner in which we participate in this mission: in the same way as Jesus did, that is, in servant service. However, this preposition points to the mission itself. We participate in Jesus' project for life, for humankind. The mission has already been set for us.

The ELCA Constitution describe ourselves as “called, gathered, and sent to proclaim God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.” In the Gospel according to John we heed the command of Jesus: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” Sentness (the act of being sent) is the essence of being church, it connects us to the mission and to the one who sends. We are sent not only to engage in a task (the doing of mission) but as an expression of our life together as members of the body of Christ (the being of mission). In the pages of this annual directory you will find our sisters and brothers in Christ who have accepted the call of this church to go in Jesus’ name. Please keep them and our companions with whom they serve in your thoughts and prayers. I also encourage you to support them through ELCA Global Church Sponsorship.

Pax,

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

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21).

Abundantly walking alongside

"God doesn’t need money. But God's work needs money.” I remember hearing these words five years ago from the Rev. Arden Strasser, a former missionary in Zambia. I was struck by the reality that, yes, God's work does need money to grow, be sustained and thrive. As financial giving to global mission continues to grow, I have had the privilege of seeing God’s work in action grow around the world.

In a time of change and decline in church membership and average attendance in the ELCA, it has been inspiring to witness the abundance our congregations and members are choosing to live into. Last year we received more gifts to ELCA Global Church Sponsorship than ever before. Clearly, together we are answering God’s call to do more and be church for the sake of the world.

As a “sent church,” we must continue to answer God’s call to share in mutuality and interdependence with our global companions. We do this by sending missionaries, sending young adults to serve through the Young Adults in Global Mission program, receiving International Women Leaders (IWL) scholars at our ELCA colleges and universities, and receiving invitations by our companions to join them in their evangelism and outreach. All of this requires the generosity of our congregations and members. And you have responded.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support for God’s work around the world. Because of you we can continue to walk alongside our companions through missionary service; equip, empower and send young adults in global mission to 10 country programs around the world; provide 27 full-tuition scholarships to young Lutheran women from the “global south” (Africa, Latin America and developing Asia) to attend one of nine partner-ELCA colleges or universities; and support evangelism in countries such as South Sudan, Malaysia and Costa Rica.

As we continue to walk alongside our siblings in Christ around the world, we will continue to offer our thanks and gratitude to you for making our shared ministry possible.

In God’s peace,

ANDREW G. STEELE
DIRECTOR
ELCA GLOBAL CHURCH SPONSORSHIP
Mission rooted in relationship means mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, sustainability and empowerment. Mostly it means growth – for everyone involved. Together we listen, learn and deepen our understanding of one another. As we recognize and affirm one another’s gifts, we become invested. These investments are the center of global mission.

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.

A lot of mission work historically looked like this: there is God’s story, my story and your story. Mission meant me bringing God’s story to you. God’s story is on my side, and you are on the other side. I’m crossing boundaries to bring God to you.
Engaging in mission through accompaniment, we remember that life in Christ comes through community rooted in mutuality and interdependence. God, who has reconciled all things through Christ's death and resurrection, calls us to actively participate in the work of reconciliation through relationship. This relationship of reconciliation can be characterized by the following values:

**MUTUALITY**
A commitment to relationships that receive one another's gifts and expertise.

**INCLUSIVITY**
A commitment to relationships that address exclusion in communities.

**VULNERABILITY**
A commitment to relationships that are open to Christ's transformation and reconciliation.

**EMPOWERMENT**
A commitment to relationships that build one another's strengths and capacity for God's mission.

**SUSTAINABILITY**
A commitment to relationships of accountability that steward God's given-gifts for the present and future.

In action, accompaniment means using these values to guide our mission work in the areas of life together where brokenness and asymmetries of power often are present. These include decision-making, network-building, sharing resources and expertise, and the way we understand and tell the stories of others.

Together with our companions, we listen, learn, share gifts and grow together in relationship with God and with one another to proclaim the good news and serve our neighbors. In this journey of accompaniment, we seek to raise up leaders and congregations in the church who are globally formed and informed, through which the spectrum of God's creation is both honored and celebrated.

ACCOMPANIMENT HELPS US SEE MISSION DIFFERENTLY:
In reconciliation, we realize that my story and your story are not divided by boundaries but are both reconciled within God's story. We bear witness to the transformative and life-giving promise found in the gospel and seek to hear and honor the witness of others.
MISSIONARIES

Invited by companion churches; sent by the ELCA.

HOW MANY?

135 missionaries including
21 new missionaries in 2018

WHERE?

42 countries around the world

WHAT?

EDUCATION
55 missionaries serve as teachers, professors and trainers.

ADMINISTRATION
27 missionaries serve as representatives, program facilitators and communicators.

PARISH MINISTRY
25 missionaries serve as pastors, pastoral interns and worship assistants.

YAGM
14 missionaries serve as coordinators for Young Adults in Global Mission.

HEALTH
8 missionaries serve as doctors and health care coordinators.
A transformative year of being, serving and growing in faith.

WHO?

Young adults 21 to 29 with connection to the ELCA

HOW MANY?

76 volunteers serving in 2018-19

WHERE?

10 programs encompassing 14 countries

HISTORY: 925 young adults have served with YAGM since it began in 1999.

IMPACT: 30 percent of YAGM alumni go into seminary; 50 percent work in nonprofit organizations; 60 percent get involved in advocacy and justice-related work.
AFRICA

The ELCA supports systems and programs of companion churches addressing peace, reconciliation, evangelism, faith formation, food security and diseases intensified by poverty.

Jodi and Steve Swanson, along with their three children, arrived in Tanzania in 2013 to work as global health personnel at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center and Selian Lutheran Hospital. Jodi is a pediatric nurse with a passion for community health and development, and Steve is a pediatrician with advanced training in infectious and tropical diseases. Their focus lies within three areas: training Tanzanian health professionals, developing a neonatal intensive care unit and establishing a feeding program for malnourished children.

One of the greatest joys of their time in service has come through the relationships they have formed with their Tanzanian colleagues. “Though there are some great challenges we face together as we care for sick children,” says Jodi, “to be welcomed by a beaming smile and a warm embrace at the beginning of a day of work gives us great encouragement. The Tanzanian nurses and physicians have been receptive and eager to learn, and when we see growth in their understanding of the physical exam or confidence in their ability to care for an 800 gram (28 ounce) baby, there is a deep and satisfying joy.”
CAMEROON

REV. DR. ELISABETH JOHNSON
Theological education

ANNE AND WILLIBROAD LANGDJI
Regional representatives for Madagascar, West and Central Africa

ELIE SANDA
Regional consultant

REV. BRIAN PALMER
Theological education

REV. LINDA JOHNSON SEYENKULO
Curriculum advisor and trainer

REV. KIRSTEN LADERACH
YAGM country coordinator

REV. LANCELOT THEMBA AND KWENA MKHABELA
Regional representative for Madagascar, West and Central Africa

MADAGASCAR

REV. BRIAN PALMER
Theological education

REV. LINDA JOHNSON SEYENKULO
Curriculum advisor and trainer

REV. KIRSTEN LADERACH
YAGM country coordinator

REV. LANCELOT THEMBA AND KWENA MKHABELA
Regional representative for Madagascar, West and Central Africa

MADAGASCAR (CONT’D)

ANNIKA JOHNSON
YAGM

BRYN KOSKINEN
YAGM

ARIN LISZKA
YAGM

RACHEL PETERSON
YAGM

KASEY SHULTZ
YAGM

KRISTIN SLAYBAUGH
YAGM

REV. JANELLE NEUBAUER
YAGM country coordinator

RWANDA

ANNIKA JOHNSON
YAGM

BRYN KOSKINEN
YAGM

ARIN LISZKA
YAGM

RACHEL PETERSON
YAGM

KASEY SHULTZ
YAGM

KRISTIN SLAYBAUGH
YAGM

REV. JANELLE NEUBAUER
YAGM country coordinator

RWANDA (CONT’D)

STEPHEN BRYANT
YAGM

HOPE GUELZOW
YAGM

CLAIRE HERONEMUS
YAGM

KHADIJAH ISLAM
YAGM

ABIGAIL LARSON
YAGM

MARIAH SANDS
YAGM

CARTER WOOLLY
YAGM

SENEGAL

REV. KRISTIN ENGSTROM
YAGM country coordinator

RACHEL HECKROTH
YAGM

HANNAH JOHNSON
YAGM

MADELIN LINDAHL
YAGM

RACHEL OLSON
YAGM

ZEBEDIAH ROSE
YAGM

ANDREW WEBB
YAGM

SOUTH AFRICA & ESWATINI

REV. PHILIP AND LOU MARIE KNUTSON
Regional representative for Southern Africa

REV. ALEX LACHAPELLE
YAGM country coordinator for Southern and East Africa

FIONA CARSON
YAGM

LOUISA ISHIDA
YAGM

RACHEL PERKINS
YAGM

VICTORIA VALCARCEL
YAGM

REV. MAWIEN ARIIK
Evangelism

SOUTH SUDAN

REV. PHILIP AND LOU MARIE KNUTSON
Regional representative for Southern Africa

REV. ALEX LACHAPELLE
YAGM country coordinator for Southern and East Africa

FIONA CARSON
YAGM

LOUISA ISHIDA
YAGM

RACHEL PERKINS
YAGM

VICTORIA VALCARCEL
YAGM

REV. MAWIEN ARIIK
Evangelism
SOUTH SUDAN (CONT'D)

REV. WAL LUOT REAT
Refugee ministry

DR. STEVEN AND BETHANY FRIBERG
Physician

DR. MARK AND LINDA JACOBSON
Physician

REV. DR. CYNTHIA HOLDER RICH AND REV. DR. MARK RICH
Theological education

DR. DERRICK MATTHEWS
Pediatrician

DR. STEPHEN AND JODI SWANSON
Physician

TANZANIA (CONT'D)

DR. RONALD AND INGRID EGGERT
Lutheran Global Health Volunteer

ROBERT KASWORM
Health-care administration

REV. MARY JO MAASS
Theological education

MELANIE NELSON
Teacher

DEACON ROBERT AND CAROLEE STUBERG
Music ministry

TANZANIA

APRIL TROUT
Program coordinator

SEAN BRYANT
YAGM

AISLING GREEN
YAGM

PATRICK MCCARTHY
YAGM

REV. DEBORAH & JOSEPH TROESTER
Leadership development

ZAMBIA

NOT PICTURED

KENYA

REV. TIMOTHY AND DIANE SONNENBERG
Theological education

LIBERIA

JAMES & LORREVA FOSTER
Project coordinators

NIGERIA

DORTHEA HUSTOFT-HAMMAN
Teacher

TANZANIA

DR. RONALD AND INGRID EGGERT
Lutheran Global Health Volunteer

ROBERT KASWORM
Health-care administration

REV. MARY JO MAASS
Theological education

MELANIE NELSON
Teacher

DEACON ROBERT AND CAROLEE STUBERG
Music ministry

ZIMBABWE

DR. AMBROSE MOYO
Regional consultant
The ELCA accompanies churches as they renew their Lutheran identity and meet challenges of a religious plurality in today’s context. We work to increase the capacity of churches and development organizations to address critical issues of sustainable development and justice.

**THE REV. HITOSHI AND SATOKO ADACHI – JAPAN**

The Rev. Hitoshi and Satoko Adachi arrived in Kumamoto in the summer of 2018. Hitoshi serves as co-pastor of the Kuwamizu and Matsubase congregations of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC) and also preaches for the international service at the JELC Kumamoto congregation. Additionally, he serves as chaplain for the Jiai-en social services facility, which has been a JELC ministry for almost 100 years. Satoko serves as pianist/organist for the Matsubase congregation.

Kumamoto, where the Adachis serve, was the center of a devastating earthquake in April 2016. As of July 2018, over 24,000 people were still living in temporary housing. Part of Hitochi’s ministry is listening to people as they share the fear they felt during that time and the pain and troubles that persist in the aftermath. He is not alone in this ministry, however; he feels the importance of the long-term presence of many Christian caregivers who were trained to listen to and care for those affected by various disasters. Hitoshi says, “Hopefully and prayerfully may these disaster victims find the presence of God’s grace and mercy in the midst of their hardships. Amen.”

*Pastor Hitoshi (right) and Rev. Mizuhara of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church help with recovery work following a flood in the Hiroshima prefecture. Photo: K. Kozaki*
EUROPE

The ELCA accompanies and builds the capacity of minority Lutheran churches re-emerging in a postcommunist era for evangelism, mission, and lay and pastoral leadership development.

THE REV. VIKING AND MARISSA DIETRICH – GERMANY

The Rev. Viking and Marissa Dietrich live in Berlin, Germany, where he serves as Global Mission’s regional representative for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa (EuMENA). The Dietrichs live with their youngest of four children, Margaret, who will finish her secondary school program this year. After a career spanning 28 years with Global Mission in West Africa, Viking and Marissa are enjoying the discovery of a new region, new cultures and new ministries.

As regional representative, Viking serves as a liaison with companion churches and organizations. To foster these relationships, he makes regular visits to the companions, monitors grants and projects, and provides support to ELCA missionaries and associates. Through these ministries in the EuMENA region, ELCA congregations and members support the well-being and witness of minority churches, promote gender equity, seek justice for refugees and migrants, and advocate for the Roma people. Viking says the best part of his work is “the privilege of meeting so many faithfully committed people who are dedicated to improving the lives of the people they serve.”
DENMARK

REV. TIMOTHY AND MARY ANN STEWART
Parish ministry

GERMANY

REV. VIKING AND MARISI DIETRICH
Regional representatives

HUNGARY & SERBIA

REV. DR. ROBERT AND KATHRYN MOORE
Director, ELCA Wittenberg Center

REV. RACHEL ESKESEN AND ZACHARY COURT
YAGM country coordinators for Central Europe

CALLIE ARENDT
YAGM

JONATHAN BAUNACH
YAGM

JOHN BAYNTON
YAGM

HUNGARY & SERBIA (CONT’D)

SYDNEY EWING
YAGM

CHRISTINA GEISTFELD
YAGM

JESSICA HILL
YAGM

ANASTASSIA KONDRAITEV
YAGM

TABITHA SANDERSON
YAGM

TAYLOR WALKER
YAGM

TONY YANG
YAGM

RUSSIA

REV. BRADN BUERKLE
Parish ministry

STEPHANIE BLACK
Teacher

BILL AND KATHY FREDELL
Teacher

MEGAN FREUDENBERG
Teacher

PATRICK LYNCH
Teacher

JAY AND KELSEY MESSERVE
Parish ministry

DAVID MEZA
Teacher

SLOVAKIA

CLARK CHAPMAN
Teacher

JOHN ROGERS
Teacher

REV. PETER AND GERALDINE ROGNESS
Parish ministry (interim)

SUE STREKAL
Teacher

BELGIUM

REV. KATIE OSWEILER
Parish ministry

GERMANY

DR. CLAUDIA BERGMANN
Project coordinator

REV. DR. MARI THORKELSON
Parish ministry

HUNGARY AND SERBIA

REV. ANNE MORAWSKI
Communications

NOT PICTURED

NORWAY

REV. INGEBJORG LAUGALAND
Parish ministry

REV. JOEL AND EMILY ROVA-HEGENER
Parish ministry

POLAND

LEAH HILL
ESL teacher

SLOVAKIA

CLARK CHAPMAN
Teacher

JOHN ROGERS
Teacher

REV. PETER AND GERALDINE ROGNESS
Parish ministry (interim)

SUE STREKAL
Teacher

SWEDEN

REV. ANNA BALLAN
Parish ministry

SWITZERLAND

REV. ANDREW AND GRETA WILLIS
Parish ministry

UNITED KINGDOM

JEFFREY MARTIN
Parish ministry
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The ELCA supports holistic ministries that blend Word and sacrament, advocacy and ministries in human rights, gender and economic justice, education and health. The issue of unaccompanied and migrant children requires advocacy and coordinated work in the United States, Central America and Mexico.

THE REV. DR. ELISEO PÈREZ-ALVAREZ AND DR. REGINA MUSSELMAN DE PÈREZ – JAMAICA

The Rev. Dr. Eliseo Pèrez-Alvarez and Dr. Regina Musselman de Pèrez have served as missionaries in Kingston, Jamaica, for three years, where Eliseo is a professor at the United Theological College of the University of the West Indies (UTCWI). Since it was founded in 1966, UTCWI has been educating Protestant and Roman Catholic laity and clergy leaders from across the Caribbean. Unsurprisingly, this ecumenical environment can spark interesting topics of conversation, like a Reformation 500 panel discussion led by Eliseo about the history of the Virgin Mary in Latin American Lutheranism.

Neither Eliseo nor Gina are strangers to missionary service – Gina’s parents were Mennonite missionaries in Brazil for 36 years, and Eliseo served for six years in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands through the ELCA before this current call. Both have been very appreciative of being able to do ministry in diverse languages, cultures and countries. Throughout 40 years of marriage and of ordained ministry, Gina and Eliseo say they are “still enjoying and learning other ways of being missionaries, of conceiving God, of envisioning the reign of God and its justice, of worshipping, of dreaming and drumming, of feasting and of eating.”
ARGENTINA & URUGUAY

ALBERTO (GUSTAVO) DRIAU
Regional representative for South America

KRISTLE MORASKA AND IGNACIO MADRUSSAN
YAGM country coordinators

CAITLYN MELILLO
Horizon Intern

OSCAR ALVARADO
YAGM

TARA BARNARD
YAGM

JEANERIA HARTSFIELD
YAGM

ERIC JENSEN
YAGM

ARGENTINA & URUGUAY (CONT’D)

NICOLA LAGUARDIA
YAGM

GABRIELLE LASKE
YAGM

GRAICIA LUOMA-OVERSTREET
YAGM

ELIZABETH RODERICK
YAGM

KAREN ANDERSON
Director of International School for Health Education (EPES)

RYANA HOLT
ESL teacher

COLOMBIA

REV. ROSEMARIE DOUCETTE
Parish ministry

DR. REGINA MUSSelman DE PÉRÉZ AND REV. DR. ELISEO PÉRÉZ-ALVAREZ
Theological education

REV. MEGHAN BROWN SAAVEDRA
YAGM country coordinator

ANNE HALLOIN
YAGM

CHRISTINE HART
YAGM

COLOMBIA

LINDA GAWTHORNE
Bible translator

CLAUDIA LOPEZ ORTEGA
Mission hospitality coordinator

MEXICO

REV. STEPHEN DEAL AND MARTA GIRON
Regional representative for Central America

REV. ROSEMARIE DOUCETTE
Parish ministry

DR. REGINA MUSSelman DE PÉRÉZ AND REV. DR. ELISEO PÉRÉZ-ALVAREZ
Theological education

REV. MEGHAN BROWN SAAVEDRA
YAGM country coordinator

ANNE HALLOIN
YAGM

CHRISTINE HART
YAGM

NOT PICTURED

COLOMBIA

LINDA GAWTHORNE
Bible translator

NICARAGUA

CLAUDIA LOPEZ ORTEGA
Mission hospitality coordinator
The ELCA accompanies companions in their steadfast Christian witness, service and faith, which are threatened by regional turmoil. We advocate with them for nonviolent paths to more peaceful and just societies and respond to humanitarian needs.

HANNAH WRIGHT OSBORN – YOUNG ADULTS IN GLOBAL MISSION (2017-18), JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK

Hannah Wright Osborn served as a Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) volunteer in Jerusalem/West Bank with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). Her year focused on being intentional about building relationships with her Palestinian host community. She volunteered part time at the Lutheran school in Bethlehem, where she helped teachers introduce English to math and science classes for sixth- through ninth-graders. She also volunteered at the Environmental Education Center (EEC) near Bethlehem, another educational ministry of the ELCJHL. There she learned how to communicate the EEC’s multifaceted work to local Palestinians, global sponsors, church leaders and international visitors through writing and editing reports, proposals and essays.

Of her time as a YAGM, Hannah says, “I felt so blessed to be serving in such a rich community and to be reminded daily that I was welcome. I was amazed at the depth of the collective attitude that Palestinians have toward serving and caring for one another. Hospitality is deeply embedded in Palestinian culture and it made quite an impression throughout my year. Seeing God’s love in action in this way gave me the desire to adopt this approach to service and to share it with friends, family and strangers back home.”

Indicates Young Adults in Global Mission

EGYPT

REV. KIRSTEN FRYER
Parish ministry

REV. MICHAEL PARKER
Theological education

ISRAEL/PALESTINE (Includes work in Israel, Jerusalem/West Bank, Jordan and Palestine)

REV. COLIN AND REV. JENNIFER GRANGAARD
YAGM country coordinators for Jerusalem/West Bank

BENJAMIN AND DEACON ADRAINNE GRAY
Communications

REV. VICTOR AND SARA MAKARI
Regional consultant, communications

REV. CARRIE BALLINGER SMITH
Parish ministry

COURTNEY ARTHUR
YAGM

ISRAEL/PALESTINE (CONT’D)

GENNA CLEMEN
YAGM

KATIE EVANS
YAGM

CALLA GILSON
YAGM

HANNAH JOHNSRUD
YAGM

CHARLES (PHIFER) NICHOLSON
YAGM

ELI YACKEL-JULEEN
YAGM
## COMPANION-SYNOD RELATIONSHIPS

ELCA synods participate in nearly 120 relationships with international companions that extend the bilateral relationship between the ELCA and Lutheran church bodies in other countries, as an expression of the communion fellowship among the 145 member churches of The Lutheran World Federation.

### ELCA Synod Partnerships

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<th>International Companion</th>
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**Note:** The table above is a subset of the full list available on the ELCA.org website. Each synod is paired with one or more international companions, often reflecting shared interests and needs. The relationships are designed to foster mutual understanding, support, and partnership in the global mission of the church.
Through the International Women Leaders initiative, the ELCA is making a bold investment in the crucial role of women as leaders in the life of the church and society. Thanks to close partnerships with global companion churches and the ELCA’s excellent colleges and universities, this initiative is supporting both established and emerging women leaders in their pursuits of further education. The International Women Leaders initiative provides scholarships for young women from companion churches to pursue a four-year degree at an ELCA undergraduate institution and also offers scholarships for women from companions to study at ELCA seminaries and at institutions in their home contexts. The initiative is also funding short-term networking and teaching events that bring together women from around the world to share perspectives on leadership, culture, and gender justice. Since 2015, more than 30 women have received International Women Leaders scholarships, and nearly 100 women from 40 countries have participated in women’s leadership and networking events.

The ELCA has a long history of providing scholarships to international leaders. Since the ELCA formed in 1987, the church has partnered with global companions to equip more than 1,000 individuals from around the world to complete their studies at universities, colleges and seminaries as part of the International Leaders Program. These leaders pursue their studies in their home contexts or in the United States and return home to build the capacity of their sending churches and institutions. International Leaders Program alumni are leading the global Lutheran movement as church presidents, bishops, principals of seminaries, and Lutheran World Federation officers, and in other key roles.

In April 2018, Sarah Abendanon became the first International Women Leaders (IWL) scholarship recipient to complete her degree program, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in marketing from Augsburg University in Minneapolis. Sarah grew up in Paramaribo, Suriname, and is a member of the Evanglcal Lutheran Church in Suriname. She was part of the first group of IWL scholarship recipients, who began their studies in 2015.

For Sarah, the experience of being an IWL scholar has been one of connectedness among her peers. She saw herself as a leader within the program, helping fellow IWL scholars navigate shared challenges as they transitioned into life as students in the United States. The sense of community that exists among IWL scholars has been one of the most valuable takeaways from the program for Sarah. She reflects:

“We had never met each other, we came from different countries, speak different languages, but still, we feel like family.” Through the program, Sarah says she has “personally witnessed how much can be done when people come together and work toward a vision they all believe in.”

The IWL program has shaped Sarah’s view of herself as a leader and the possibilities for other youth in her home church. “I want them to be aware never to settle but to always seek more and ask questions. Do not be afraid to go out of their comfort zone because by doing so only great things can happen. I want to be a part of the church community where I can help others be themselves and empower them in their dreams.”

Through the IWL initiative, 26 women like Sarah have received academic scholarships to study at ELCA colleges and universities.
“I want them to be aware never to settle but to always seek more and ask questions. Do not be afraid to go out of their comfort zone because by doing so only great things can happen. I want to be a part of the church community where I can help others be themselves and empower them in their dreams.”

Sarah Abendanon became the first International Women Leaders scholar to complete her degree program, graduating from Augsburg University in April of 2018. Photo: Kaleb Sutherland / ELCA
The ELCA has deep, long-standing relationships with Lutheran churches around the world and at the same time is helping build and support new relationships with Lutheran churches that are just beginning. Through these partnerships, we walk in solidarity, mutuality, interdependence, vulnerability and inclusivity.

As part of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, we have identified 11 priorities that will help strengthen, support and empower our companion churches in the ministry to which they are called. Each of these 11 Global Ministry Projects supports the expansion of ministries – from building new congregations, to extending youth outreach, training pastors and evangelists, to helping found a Lutheran church in a new country, and so much more.

Invited by our companions, together (as the ELCA), we have accepted this invitation and will work to reach these goals. Together, we can do more.

**WEST AFRICA: PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL IN URBAN AREAS**
(GCS4035) – $700,000

**SENEGAL & THE GAMBIA: GROWING THE CHURCH**
(GCS4031) – $100,000

**SOUTH SUDAN: A NEW CHURCH FOR A NEW NATION**
(GCS4032) – $1,225,000

**TANZANIA: EFFECTIVE OUTREACH IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**
(GCS4034) – $300,000
EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH IN MALAYSIA

For more than 60 years, the Lutheran Church in Malaysia (LCM) has developed in Peninsular (West) Malaysia as an ethnic-Chinese church. National laws that prohibit Christian evangelism to certain portions of the population, including ethnic-Malay and Muslim people, make growing the church a challenge. Despite these obstacles the Lutheran Church in Malaysia continues to share the gospel through their outreach to the Orang Asli indigenous peoples of Peninsular Malaysia.

Because many Orang Asli communities are isolated in rural and mountainous areas, they have often been left behind as the rest of the country has undergone accelerated growth and development. LCM is working alongside the Orang Asli people through evangelism and leadership development to help build thriving communities of faith that reflect their own cultural identity as well as the Lutheran theology of grace, rooted in the love of Christ.

In addition to building strong faith communities, LCM provides social ministry support, including education and housing support, job training, sustainable food development, income-generating projects and counsel regarding land rights. The ongoing ministry and partnership between the Lutheran Church in Malaysia and the Orang Asli people is just one example of how your support for ELCA Global Ministries is helping to transform communities through God’s love in action. You can help continue this work with a gift to ELCA Global Church Sponsorship using the designation code GCS4021. Learn more about how to give to this ministry and others on page 27.

ZAMBIA: CONSTRUCTING NEW CHURCHES (GCS4036) – $500,000

ZIMBABWE: BUILDING UP THE CHURCH (GCS4037) – $800,000

CAMBODIA: EXPANDING OUTREACH (GCS4005) – $300,000

MALAYSIA: OUTREACH AMONG INDIGENOUS NEIGHBORS (GCS4021) – $500,000

SIBERIA: EQUIPPING THE FAITHFUL (GCS4030) – $500,000

HONDURAS & COSTA RICA: STRENGTHENING SMALL CHURCHES (GCS4018) – $500,000

JERUSALEM & THE WEST BANK: STRENGTHENING ARAB CHRISTIAN EVANGELICAL WITNESS (GCS4009) – $400,000

To learn more about and donate to these 11 Global Ministry Projects, please visit, please visit ELCA.org/globalchurch and click on “Supporting Global Ministries.”
There are so many ways ELCA Global Church Sponsorship is working alongside our siblings in Christ to build up God’s global church. You can join us in these vital ministries in a number of ways, including prayer, creating a covenant and raising money to support the work that is happening around the world.

1 IN 6 ELCA CONGREGATIONS GAVE A DIRECT GIFT IN SUPPORT OF A GLOBAL CHURCH MINISTRY IN 2017.

SOME EXAMPLES OF YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN ACTION

$15,000
YAGM VOLUNTEER

THE COST TO SUPPORT A YOUNG ADULTS IN GLOBAL MISSION VOLUNTEER DURING A YEAR OF SERVICE. COST INCLUDES TRAINING, AIRFARE, A SMALL LIVING ALLOWANCE, HEALTH INSURANCE, AND SIMPLE ROOM AND BOARD.

$25,000
IWL SCHOLARSHIP FOR ONE ACADEMIC YEAR

THE COST TO SUPPORT ONE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT FOR A YEAR OF STUDY AT AN ELCA COLLEGE OR INSTITUTION. COST INCLUDES TUITION, ROOM AND BOARD, AND HEALTH INSURANCE.

$33,000
A NEW CHURCH BUILDING

THE COST TO BUILD A NEW CHURCH IN ZAMBIA THROUGH THE ELCA’S GLOBAL MINISTRY PROJECTS. EACH GLOBAL MINISTRY PROJECT DIFFERS, FROM BUILDING CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS, TO FUNDING LEADERSHIP AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS. ALL PROJECTS SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF OUR COMPANION CHURCHES TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS IN THEIR REGIONS.

$80,000
MISSIONARY HOUSEHOLD FOR ONE YEAR

THE COST TO SUPPORT ONE MISSIONARY HOUSEHOLD FOR A YEAR. ELCA MISSIONARIES SERVE IN MORE THAN 40 COUNTRIES IN ASSIGNMENTS THAT RANGE FROM A FEW MONTHS TO EIGHT YEARS OR MORE.

Please note that the amounts listed represent the approximate costs associated with our outreach and ministry projects and should serve only as a reference.
Deepen your relationship with a missionary through a commitment of prayer, communication and financial support. Covenant congregations receive regular newsletter updates from their missionary and the possibility of a visit every two years.

Contact globalchurch@elca.org or 800-638-3522, ext. 2820.

---

**GIVE BY CHECK**

Make your check out to "ELCA Global Church Sponsorship" with one of the designation names and codes* in the memo line. Mail your check to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Gifts Processing Center
PO. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

*For a list of designation codes, visit page 27.

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**MAKE A LEGACY**

An ELCA gift planner can help you plan a legacy gift, such as a bequest, endowment or charitable gift annuity. Contact elcafoundation@elca.org or call 800-638-3522, ext. 2299.

---

**GIVE BY CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD**

Visit ELCA.org/Globalchurch/donate or call 800-638-3522.

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**GIFT TO AN ENDOWMENT**

Make a lasting gift! Contribute to one of ELCA Global Church Sponsorship's endowment funds to help support these ministries for generations to come. Visit ELCA.org/GlobalGive and select either ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission Endowment (E272617) or ELCA International Women Leaders Endowment Fund (E272671) from the drop-down menu.

---

**GIFT THROUGH THRIVENT FINANCIAL**

If you are a Thrivent member, consider supporting ELCA Global Church Sponsorship through your Thrivent Choice Dollars.

---

**MONTHLY**

Set up an automatic monthly gift at ELCA.org/monthlypartners.
MISSIONARIES
Global missionary positions can vary based on the needs discerned by global companions and the ELCA. To view current open positions and apply, visit ELCA.org/GlobalService and click “View Opportunities.”

YOUNG ADULTS IN GLOBAL MISSION (YAGM)
Applications for YAGM are open from Dec. 1 through Feb. 15 each year for service starting the following August. To apply, visit ELCA.org/YAGM and click “Apply Now.”
**GIVING CODES**

Use these codes to designate a gift to a specific ministry or missionary* in the global church. Make your check out to “ELCA Global Church Sponsorship” with one of the designation names and codes in the memo line. Mail your check to: ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

### ELCA Global Church Sponsorship

- **Where needed most**
  - GCS1000

#### Missionary Sponsorship

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| **Young Adults in Global Mission**
  - GCS3000

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<td>YAGM Senegal</td>
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#### 2018-2019 Volunteers

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<td>Laske, Gabrielle</td>
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#### Young Adults in Global Mission Endowment Fund

- E272617

#### Global Ministry Projects

- GCS4000

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<td>Central America: Honduras &amp; Costa Rica: Strengthening Small Churches</td>
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<td>Israel &amp; Palestine: Strengthening the Christian Presence in the Holy Land</td>
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<td>Malaysia: Outreach Among Indigenous Neighbors</td>
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<td>Nigeria: Reforming, Revitalizing and Renewing Education and Ministry</td>
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<td>Senegal &amp; The Gambia: Growing the Church</td>
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<td>Tanzania: Effective Outreach in the Twenty-First Century</td>
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**International Women Leaders**

Endowment Fund

- E272671

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*This list includes only sponsorable missionaries. Any missionaries whose names are not on this list are not sponsorable at this time and the ELCA cannot accept funds designated for them.*
The ceiling of All Saints' Church, also known as Castle Church, in Wittenberg, Germany. It is believed that All Saints' Church was the site of Martin Luther’s posting of the 95 Theses in 1517.

Photo: Kristen Opalinski / ELCA

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