



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



# ELCA GLOBAL LINKS



MAY 2019



### Investing in women leaders around the world

As part of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has pledged to raise \$4 million to equip more than 200 women leaders from our global companion churches with educational opportunities through the [International Women Leaders](#) initiative. We are close to reaching this goal — [will you make a gift to help us close out the campaign?](#)

### Churches in the Americas: Witnessing together for justice and peace

Nearly 60 church leaders from [the Latin America and Caribbean \(LAC\)](#) and [the North American region of the Lutheran World Federation](#) gathered for a [regional leadership conference in Lima, Peru, May 10-14](#). Leaders committed to strengthening collaboration throughout the Americas, particularly relating to issues of migration, theological formation, public witness, youth action, climate justice and gender equity. The conference emphasized the importance of grounding all aspects of ministry in faith in Jesus, which compels the body of Christ to action in responding to the needs of all people.

### **Extending beyond our comfort zones**

Amelia Schurke currently serves in the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program in a small, indigenous mountain community in northern Puebla State, Mexico. [In a recent blog post, “Fear,”](#) Amelia wrestles with what it means to be vulnerable and how fear holds us back from growing as people. She feels that YAGM has given her the chance to push herself beyond fear in order to experience the world around her: “There is beautiful fruit that blossoms when we [choose] to ‘put ourselves out there’ and say no to fear, when we challenge ourselves and make decisions that extend beyond our comfort zones. Connection, joy, wholeness and growth await us.” You can read this and more of Amelia’s reflections on [her blog](#). [Give today to support future YAGMs](#) as they learn and grow in faith and service—visit [ELCA.org/GlobalGive](https://ELCA.org/GlobalGive) and select “Young Adults in Global Mission” or the “Young Adults in Global Mission Endowment” from the drop-down menu.

### **Stewardship and gender justice in Sierra Leone**

Twenty-eight pastors, evangelists and church leaders from the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone](#) gathered in Bo, Sierra Leone, from March 27-30 to participate in a first-of-its-kind workshop on stewardship, facilitated in partnership with the ELCA. The Rev. Dr. Andrea Walker, ELCA area director for Madagascar, West Africa and Central Africa, and her cofacilitator, the Rev. Dr. Yolanda Denson Byers, an ELCA pastor from Minneapolis, led those in attendance through the four-day workshop, which tied Scripture to themes of financial stewardship, fundraising and sustainability. Nine of the participants were women leaders, who met to discuss the gender justice initiatives in the church that mirror the work of Sierra Leone’s [“Hands Off Our Girls” campaign](#), aimed at protecting the rights of women and girls and preventing child marriage and sexual violence.

### **A new era of storytelling**

Over the next few months you might notice some changes in Global Links and other places where we share the stories of God’s global church. As we near the end of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, we will make a transition to new ways of lifting up the ministries of our global companions. ELCA Global Church Sponsorship has been an important way to support these global ministries — including our ELCA missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission, and International Women Leaders. As we make the transition into a new era as church, we will continue to support the same critical ministries and lift up the stories of global engagement and the work of our companions under the name Global Mission. Thank you for being part of this journey — we look forward to the road ahead!

### **Two spots left! Global Mission immersion trip to Tanzania and Rwanda**

Join us on a trip to Tanzania and Rwanda to witness the transformative work taking place there and to experience the power of Lutheran evangelism beyond church walls. Immerse yourself in the hospitality and faith of our companions in Christ, witness the impact of projects funded by the ELCA and rejoice in our ongoing global partnerships. Upon returning home, we invite you to make transformative gifts to sustain and grow the ministries you witnessed firsthand. To register or for more information, please contact Rahel Mwitula Williams, director for mission funding, at [Rahel.Mwitula-Williams@elca.org](mailto:Rahel.Mwitula-Williams@elca.org) or 773-380-2647.

### **International Women Leaders Endowment Fund**

An endowment fund was recently launched to ensure the sustainability of our new and important ministry: International Women Leaders. We are excited about this new opportunity to invest in women’s education alongside our global companions. To donate to the fund, visit the [ELCA Global Church Sponsorship](#) donation page and select “International Women Leaders Endowment Fund” from the drop-down menu.

**Follow and “like” ELCA Global Church on Facebook!**

The [Facebook page](#) for ELCA Global Church offers photos, links to stories, and all the most recent updates.

**Spread the word**

Know someone interested in receiving these Global Links updates? Share this [subscription link](#) with family and friends or post it on your congregation’s website. Download the latest edition of Global Links [here](#). Help share the story of our global church!

**Give today!**

[Make an online gift to God's work around the world today](#) – thank you!

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[Please reply](#) to this email with your ideas and comments.

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