



ALONG WITH PASTOR KRISTIN

Pastor Kristin Engstrom, ELCA Global Missionary

April 2023

Meeting the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia

Since arriving in Zambia a little over a year ago, I have focused on meeting the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZa), understanding the ministry of the church, and learning about and living into the diversity of cultures in Zambia. (There are 73 languages spoken here!) One of my

favorite parts of being a missionary is listening and learning how culture and faith are put together and lived out in different ways in different places.



During Holy Week, ELCZa congregations gather to worship and participate in workshops. In the Lusaka district, five congregations gathered together. These women are from the Kamwala congregation in Lusaka, which is a Swahili speaking congregation of people from Tanzania.

My work in Zambia has three foci: supporting the administrative leadership, connecting ELCZa students studying on scholarships from the ELCA or Lutheran World Federation with the needs of the church, and partnering with ELCZa pastors to increase ministry capacity in congregations. In 2023, I will also begin working with Youth League leaders to develop their leadership capacity and long-term planning.

In this work, I often need to remind myself that progress is made up of many small steps. Please join me in celebrating both the small and big steps made in ELCZa this past year: the Church Council met for the first time since COVID began, we created the first ELCZa lectionary calendar, construction of the new ELCZa Church Center is 50% complete, and a recently ordained pastor revived and led Ash Wednesday worship in their congregation for the first time in 10 years.



The ELCZa Church Council during Sunday morning worship following their first meeting since COVID began. ELCZa Senior Pastor is on the far right.

Accompanying Pastor Kristin

My work as an ELCA Global Missionary is possible thanks to the generosity of many congregations and individuals in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thank you! You can contact me at kristin.engstrom@elca.org and follow my blog at <https://alongwithpastorkristin.blogspot.com>. You are also invited to support me as an ELCA Global Missionary here.



Pastor Kristin Engstrom

I serve as the Facilitator for Leadership Development and Capacity Building with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia. From 2016–2020, I served as the Senegal Country Coordinator of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program.

I'm originally from the mid-western United States, and served as a parish pastor in northern New Jersey for six years prior to serving with ELCA Global Mission.





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Ministry in Action

Often a photo helps tell the story of ministry and gives a glimpse into ministry in action, especially in different contexts. Here are some glimpses into ministry with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia from the past couple months.



The three congregations of the Masuku parish gathered for workshops and worship in November 2022. Pastor Moonga (2nd from left) walks four hours every Sunday to reach these very rural congregations.



Youth of Chongwe parish discerning and sharing their gifts for leadership during Lusaka Easter gathering.



Youth of the Matero congregation confirmed their faith in March. Eight baptisms also took place in the same worship service. Rev. Mathilda Banda of the Matero congregation and ELCZA General Secretary (right), confirmation youth in purple.



Leading Bible Study on Intersectional Justice at the Lutheran Communion of Southern Africa (LUCSA) Christian Education Consultation.