



# ALONG WITH PASTOR KRISTIN

Pastor Kristin Engstrom, ELCA Global Missionary

July 2023

## Youth on the Move

Early this year, I started working with the Youth and Young Adult League of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZA) as part of my responsibilities in leadership development. Throughout my life and work, I have been involved in youth and young adult ministry, so this addition to my work in Zambia comes as no surprise. In addition, the general population in Zambia and in ELCZA is young. So, developing youth leadership and capacity is necessary for the church to move forward.



Beatrice presents impacts and reactions to psycho-social issues.

In the past months, I have participated in a youth psycho-social support training workshop, youth camp in the Northwestern District of Zambia (see back page), and have been accompanying a Youth Environmental Advocacy Project in the church. I am constantly encouraged by the dedication, openness, and energy youth embody in their lives and in the church.

I'm especially proud of the young adults who are leading the Youth Environmental Advocacy Project, or the "Umozi (one) Tree Planting Project." This is the first development project the youth of ELCZA have facilitated.

The Umozi project will work with one urban and one rural congregation. The Umozi Youth Team will host an environmental care and tree conservation workshop in each congregation. The congregations will then connect with schools and community organizations to host a community environmental education and indigenous tree-planting weekend.



Three leaders of the Umozi Youth Environmental Advocacy Project completing their online project application to the Lutheran World Federation.

## 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](mailto: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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### Northwestern District Youth Camp

The Northwestern Districts where the majority of ELCZA congregations are located, most in small towns and villages. In May, the youth organized themselves to hold a camp of 5 parishes or about 15 congregations. We sang, danced (a lot), learned, ate, shared, played games, and more. I also learned how proud the Northwestern youth are of their tradition of choral dance. I will post videos of the choirs dancing on the blog (<https://alongwithpastorkristin.blogspot.com>)



Manyinga Youth Choir singing AND dancing.



Praying before everyone departs camp. Transportation is difficult and expensive in Zambia, and the roads in Northwestern Zambia have been damaged by logging trucks. But, everyone arrived home safely.



We all processed through town singing to begin Sunday worship on the last day of youth camp.

#### Reading Recommendation:

The Old Drift by Namwali Serpell, follows three generations of three intertwined families.

It gave me a glimpse into hidden realities of Zambian life as well as the shifting influences of history, relationships, money, and power.

Plus, you get to visit my neighborhood (Handsworth Park) and the neighborhoods of two ELCZA congregations (Matero and Kamwala).

