



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



# ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

OCTOBER 2016

## **Journey with the Global Church in 2017**

We are excited to share that the theme of [Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA](#) for 2017 is the Global Church. This means that throughout the year there will be resources and ideas shared for how ELCA congregations and members can talk, learn and pray about and support the Global Church in new ways in 2017. Be on the lookout for a Campaign Resource Packet that will be sent to every congregation this fall.

## **'Even in the midst of the conflict, God is in South Sudan; let us be there too.'**

As part of *The Campaign for the ELCA*, one of the main Global Ministry projects is helping build a Lutheran center and clinic in Juba, South Sudan. [Watch a video](#) of one of the two missionaries who is serving in South Sudan, the Rev. Mawien Ariik, sharing his story and explaining why the ELCA has made this project a priority in the midst of conflict and violence in the nation. Pastor Ariik says, "Even in the midst of this problem [the violence in the country], God is there. So I pray that let's keep being there whether there is a problem, whether there is a fight or discouragement. We have to be there." [Click here](#) to support this important and life-changing project.

## **'Fields' – a poem**

Renee Celestain is serving as a Young Adult in Global Mission volunteer in Jerusalem this year. Recently, she posted [a powerful poem](#) about a moment during her in country orientation when her country group saw a boy get tear gassed just two football fields away and how their tour guide responded to the moment.

## **'From We to Me'**

For many years, Jen Engquist – one of the country coordinators in Cambodia for the Young Adults in Global Mission program – was a "serial 'we'-speaker" because of her communal and inclusive lens toward the world. It wasn't until a graduate school class that she was challenged to not assume that her thoughts are representative of everyone else's thoughts. [Read her blog](#) about how she has been challenged to consider the lexicon that she uses and to consider how her lens through which she sees the world is changing and reforming as she continues to engage deeper in Cambodia.

## **Where does your offering go?**

For many people, the act of placing money in the offering plate every week is a ritual. It is an opportunity to share one's gifts and to practice generosity weekly. But how many of us actually know where the money we drop in the offering plate goes? [Watch this short video](#) about what happens after you place your offering in the plate.

## **A symbol of life and hope**

For Christian Chavarria Ayala, the small, wooden crosses he hand paints in La Résurrection

Lutheran congregation in San Salvador, El Salvador, bring a message of hope and peace. These crosses will be distributed to all Lutherans and Catholics who gather to commemorate the Reformation anniversary on Oct. 31, 2016, in Lund and Malmö, Sweden. For more about Ayala, [read this article](#) and learn how an artist in a country filled with conflict shares his vision of hope and peace throughout all lands.

### Winter in Mexico with Amextra

Trade a week of snow for a week in the jungle! Learn about issues that contribute to world hunger. See how the Mexican non-profit organization Amextra works with marginalized indigenous groups in the south of Mexico toward sustainable and ecological solutions. The January-February dates are yet to be determined. For more information, visit [amextra.org/seeds](http://amextra.org/seeds) or email [seeds@amextra.org](mailto:seeds@amextra.org).

### Are you a Thrivent Choice member?

We are excited that ELCA Global Church Sponsorship has been added as an organization that can receive funds through the Thrivent Choice program. If you are a Thrivent member, [consider supporting](#) Global Church Sponsorship through your Thrivent Choice Dollars and support us in sending missionaries and volunteers, training leaders, planting churches and supporting existing churches as they continue to expand their efforts and reach.

### Give today!

To make an online gift to God's work around the world, click [here](#). Thank you!

### Link to Global Links

Help people to stay informed, be inspired and get involved. [Download or view](#) the latest edition of Global Links.

### Learn more

To find out how you can sponsor a missionary or global ministry or support International Leaders through ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, visit [elca.org/globalchurch](http://elca.org/globalchurch).

---

### Contact us

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

---

### Share ELCA Global Links

Please forward **ELCA Global Links** in whole or in part, for use in publications, websites or blogs.

---

### Subscribe or unsubscribe



Find us on **Facebook**  
[facebook.com/  
ELCAGlobalChurch](https://facebook.com/ELCAGlobalChurch)



Follow us on **Twitter**  
[@ELCAGCS](https://twitter.com/ELCAGCS)



Join us on **Instagram**  
[instagram.com/  
elcaglobalchurch](https://instagram.com/elcaglobalchurch)



You received this email because you provided the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#) with your email address.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Rd, Chicago, IL 60631 | 800-638-3522  
[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [ELCA Global Mission](#) | [ELCA Home](#)