

In 2018, ECSW members are travelling to our Companion Synod in South Africa.

Will you join us?

Bishop Ubane of the ELCSA Western Diocese writes "I am hereby formally inviting you to come to our Diocese... I personally look forward to this visit because it strengthens this companionship. One can attest that there are wonderful memories to this encounter. As I have already said, this Diocese is your home at all times."

Every ELCA synod has an assigned companion relationship with an international church body. Our relationship is with the Western Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa.

This companion relationship is an **immersion experience**. Both when we visit there and when they come to visit us our purpose is to experience and be what our Lord states in Matthew 10 and Luke 10:

- ⇒ to bring and experience peace – by our presence in that congregation and community
- ⇒ to remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide – by a host
- ⇒ through this visit to experience the kingdom of God

The intentions of this trip can perhaps be best learned through the words of Luke:

Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!'⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.⁷ Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house.⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you;⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' (Luke 10:5-9 NRS)

Please join us for an introductory meeting:

- ⇒ Saturday, **October 21st**, 10am-11:30a @ St Mark's, Neenah
- ⇒ Thursday, **October 26th**, 6:30p –8p @ Trinity, Waupaca
- ⇒ Saturday, **October 28th**, 10a—11:30a @ Immanuel, Wausau

Come hear a brief explanation on accompaniment, learn about trip dates, cost, general schedule, and the application deadline. ?s → pastorziemer@gracetomahawk.org