



ALONG WITH PASTOR KRISTIN

Pastor Kristin Engstrom, ELCA Global Missionary

September 2023

Shall We Gather at the (Zambezi) River

In August, delegates and pastors from every congregation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZa) gathered for the Church Assembly. Since the Church Assembly has not met since before COVID, this gathering was more important than normal. I especially enjoyed meeting and working with delegates from every congregation, which helped me appreciate the diversity of gifts and abilities among congregation leaders. There is great potential in ELCZa, if we can find ways to work and move together.



ELCZa Church Assembly

One reason the Church Assembly was so important was because church leadership positions were due for election or appointment. In the past, elections have brought conflict and controversy in

this church. But this year, the election was peaceful and transparent. Senior Pastor Geoffrey Njapau was re-elected for a second term. Rev. Christopher Manianga was elected Vice-Senior Pastor. ELCZa will have a new General Secretary, Rev. Godfrey Nguvulu, and a new Treasurer, Mrs. Mbutolwe Kamendu. A finance committee chair was also elected for the first time.

At the close of the Assembly, we witnessed the ordination of 12 new pastors. These new pastors previously served as evangelists, where they led congregations under the supervision of a district pastor. The new pastors only have one year of theological education, so I am looking at ways to continue their pastoral formation.

Please keep all of these new ELCZa leaders in prayer.



Newly ordained ELCZa pastors, with Bishop Sibanda of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe.

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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Lusaka District Youth Camp

In August, the schools take a one-month break, making it prime time for church and youth gatherings. At the end of August, the Lusaka District youth held their annual youth camp. This year, they gathered in the rural town of Mulendema. As with all ELCZa youth camps, the gathering was entirely planned and led by the elected district youth leaders. In response to feedback from the youth, the Lusaka district youth leadership changed the usual schedule to include soccer games, morning workouts, skits, community outreach and evangelism, and a special preacher every evening. Every time I gather with the ELCZa youth, my hope for the future of ELCZa and for this world increases.



Bible Study on stewardship.



Greeting one another at the beginning of a workshop.



Current Lusaka District Youth Leaders.



Youth from the host congregation, Mulendema.



Music leaders, made up of youth from two Lusaka congregations.