



ALONG WITH PASTOR KRISTIN

Pastor Kristin Engstrom, ELCA Global Missionary

October 2021

A New Call in Zambia

Since March 2020, when all ELCA missionaries were called back to the United States due to COVID precautions, my call as Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) Coordinator in Senegal became uncertain. Out of caution and care for the YAGM young adults and our companions, the ELCA has paused the YAGM program for two years, and my call as the Senegal Country Coordinator ended in March 2021. Thankfully, I was able to return to Senegal in February and March 2021 to say thank you and goodbye to our YAGM companions, friends, and siblings.



My last Sunday in the Dakar parish, where I worshipped most often.

I am excited for the challenge and opportunity to use the skills and understanding I gained working with YAGM leadership formation in Senegal, but in a new context working directly with our companions to form Zambian Lutheran leaders.

At this time, I am still in the midwestern United States, as I wait for my Zambia work permit. Thank you for your continued support of the global church and of my work as a missionary during this time of transition. Hopefully I will deploy to Zambia soon! "On est ensemble. Nio farr. We are together."

It is with great joy, then, that I share that I have a new call as an ELCA missionary! I have been called to serve as the Facilitator for Leadership Development and Capacity Building with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia.



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 midwestern United States, and served as a parish pastor in northern New Jersey for six years prior to beginning my call with ELCA Global Mission.



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.

[You are also invited to support me as an ELCA Global Missionary here.](#)

I have started a new blog at <https://alongwithpastorkristin.blogspot.com>, where soon you will find stories and pictures from my call in Zambia.



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Celebrating YAGM Senegal 2016–2020

When I was called by ELCA Global Mission to start the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program in Senegal in 2016, I could never have imagined the joy and challenges that these past five years would bring. I am so thankful for the ways I have been blessed and formed in faith and in life by the YAGM young adults and our companions in Senegal who make the program possible. While my call as a YAGM Senegal Coordinator has ended, the ELCA plans to restart the YAGM program (including YAGM Senegal) in August 2022. I trust that our companions in Senegal will receive the new YAGM Senegal Coordinator as graciously as they received me, and the 24 young adults who have participated in the Senegal YAGM program.



2019-20 YAGM with the young adults of the Lutheran Church of Senegal, Dakar parish

2016-17 YAGM celebrating the Muslim festival of Tabaski with Mamadou Bathily, Senegalese Lutheran Development Services, Education Director



2018-19 YAGM with their host families (L-R: Rose, Maddie, Koundoul, Rachel, Cheikh, Robert, Hannah, Zeb, Rachel, Oumy, Mambasse, Pr. Kristin, Mahmadou



2017-18 YAGM at the Lutheran Church of Senegal Annual Festival Day