



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
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# ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

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MAY 2015

## **Vatican City: Presiding Bishop Eaton, Pope Francis meet**

With the goal of learning, sharing and deepening dialogue with Christian partners around the world, a recent trip to Europe by an ELCA delegation led by ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton included a general audience with Pope Francis. See [www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/7724](http://www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/7724).

## **World Malaria Day 2015 resources are here!**

World Malaria Day is Sunday, April 26. There are new materials from the ELCA Malaria Campaign to help your congregation commemorate the day. See <http://ELCA.org/malaria/resources>.

## **ELCA delegation hears 'harrowing' stories of migrant minors**

"Gang violence (in these Central American countries) is very pervasive. If you don't comply, death is certain and swift," said the Rev. Stephen Bouman, executive director of ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission. He and other ELCA leaders visited Central American to hear first-hand accounts from families and are now urging the church to continue its assistance and its work toward immigration reform. See [www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/7731](http://www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/7731). Also, Alaide Vilchis Ibarra, assistant director of Migration Policy and Advocacy, provides her perspective at [www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/ELCAAdvocay/124](http://www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/ELCAAdvocay/124).

## **Syria, Iraq: Letter pushes for non-military solutions**

Given the possibility of continued and renewed U.S. military intervention in the Middle East, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and other U.S. religious leaders are urging President Obama to "move away" from militarization and address the root causes of violence in Syria and Iraq. See [www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/NewsBlog/77](http://www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/NewsBlog/77).

## **Serbia, Bosnia: ELCA aid provides for long-term recovery**

The ELCA continues to provide humanitarian support for the more than 3 million people affected by the May 2014 cyclone that hit Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Lutheran Disaster Response has disbursed more than \$400,000 to assist in the relief and recovery efforts. See [www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/NewsBlog/76](http://www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/NewsBlog/76).

## **Cambodia: YAGMs prepare to break new ground**

In August a group of young adults will begin their service with the newly established Lutheran Church in Cambodia, thanks to generous members who have supported *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. Cambodia is the newest country for the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program. See [www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/7725](http://www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/7725). To learn how you can support Young Adults in Global Mission, visit [www.elca.org/globalchurch](http://www.elca.org/globalchurch).

### **Papua New Guinea: Building relationships**

"I learned so much more than I thought I would. I learned about building relationships with people," said Alex Lang, a high school student and member of Atonement Lutheran Church in Overland Park, Kan. For more on his trip to Papua New Guinea with four other members of the ELCA Central States Synod, see [www.ELCA.org/Living-Lutheran/Stories/2015/03/150311-Building-relationships-in-PNG](http://www.ELCA.org/Living-Lutheran/Stories/2015/03/150311-Building-relationships-in-PNG).

### **Egypt: Providing nutritious meals for refugee students**

During Lent, the Rev. Kirsten Fryer, an ELCA missionary in Cairo, wrote a series of daily Lenten reflections. For her thoughts on the word "hunger" and to learn how ELCA members are helping the students served by St. Andrew's Refugee Service avoid hunger, see [www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/HandInHand/488](http://www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/HandInHand/488). To learn how you can support Kirsten and other missionaries, visit [www.elca.org/globalchurch](http://www.elca.org/globalchurch).

### **ELCA supports projects that sustain families and communities worldwide**

The ELCA contributed \$3.3 million in 2014 to Lutheran World Relief to fund 28 projects in 14 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, projects that include agricultural production and food security, income generation and disaster risk reduction. See [www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/NewsBlog/75](http://www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/NewsBlog/75).

### **Burundi: Malaria education through song, dance and drama**

Hundreds of spectators from three communities in Burundi gathered to watch malaria education presentations and hear personal stories about the disease from performers from three local health clubs. See [www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/ELCAMalariaCampaign/308](http://www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/ELCAMalariaCampaign/308).

### **Link to Global Links**

Help people to stay informed, be inspired and get involved. Link your website to Global Links at <http://download.ELCA.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA%20Global-Links%20Newsletter.pdf>.

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