



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

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AUGUST 2015

'Confronting Racism' webcast

How do we talk about race, systemic racism and becoming a more inclusive church? [Watch the webcast](#) of the Aug. 6 conversation as ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton and William B. Horne II, a member of the ELCA Church Council, discuss the complexity and implications of racism. This page includes [many resources](#) to support this important conversation in your congregation.

New mission in South Sudan calls for peace and reconciliation

Won't you help raise \$1.2 million to establish the Evangelical Lutheran Church Africa Mission in South Sudan? Working with local leaders and partners, including ELCA Sudanese congregations, the Episcopal Church of Sudan and the South Sudan Council of Churches, this initiative [supports the emerging Lutheran church in training leaders for outreach](#) and contributes to efforts underway to foster peace and reconciliation between those of different ethnic and religious backgrounds. "[South Sudan: A New Church for a New Nation](#)" is a priority of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*.

ELCA Youth Gathering

Lutheran teens and young adults from all over the country made a good impression in Detroit, says this article from [USA Today](#). Collaborating with the Women of the ELCA, attendees [contributed a million diapers](#) to the Detroit Area Diaper Bank, which distributes diapers to low-income families with young children. For a glimpse into yesteryear, see photos of the 1964 ALC Luther League Convention in Detroit on this month's [blog of the ELCA Archives](#) – or relive Luther League conventions of the 1940s, '50s and '60s in the [online Archives photo albums](#).

Responding to flooding in Colombia

Lutheran Disaster Response has committed \$80,000 and is working with The Lutheran World Federation to respond to the humanitarian needs of 30,000 people affected by [spring floods in the Arauca Department of Colombia](#). Food vouchers, water filters, buckets and tank cleaning kits have been distributed to more than 3,000 families.

Nepal earthquake update

[Dalits, the "untouchable" caste](#), are one of the vulnerable groups addressed by The Lutheran World Federation following the April earthquake in Nepal. Lutheran Disaster Response continues to fund relief work by LWF, Lutheran World Relief, and the United Mission to Nepal and will soon shift to long-term [rebuilding and rehabilitation needs](#).

When disaster hits your hometown

To confidently and faithfully offer its resources in the midst of disaster, a congregation needs to be able to build resiliency to weather the storm. Use this [Congregational Disaster Preparedness Guide](#) to create a

comprehensive plan that will help equip your congregation to respond after a disaster strikes.

Giving thanks to God through service

The son of a Jewish father, Helmut Diefenthal and his wife, Rotraut, survived Nazi Germany and World War II. After the war, they committed their lives to serving God for 36 years as missionaries in Malaysia and Tanzania. [In this short video](#), they talk about their experiences as workers in the global church. Your gifts to [ELCA Global Church Sponsorship](#) help support the more than 220 ELCA missionaries serving today.

YAGM orientation begins

The 74 new participants in the Young Adults in Global Mission program will be heading to orientation in a couple weeks and moving into their new placements in early September. [Listen to YAGM alum Karis Ailabouni share](#) about her first days in Madagascar and how she learned that God calls us to be in deep relationship with each other, “not only to share in the struggles and joys of others but also to make ourselves vulnerable, to share our own burdens. That is when true community happens, when the body of Christ becomes one.”

Apply for an ELCA Hunger Grant

Once a month, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Bloomfield, Iowa, posts a sign out by the road: “Free meal this Saturday 11 to 1.” As many as 95 parishioners, neighbors and friends gather for conversation, connection, and a great meal prepared and served by members of the congregation – and supported by an ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant. Applications for 2015 grants are now being accepted from congregations and synods seeking to creatively educate and mobilize people to address the root causes of and solutions to hunger. [Click here](#) to learn how to apply.

Give today!

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