



ALONG WITH PASTOR KRISTIN

Pastor Kristin Engstrom, ELCA Global Missionary

February 2024

Leadership Formation in the Copperbelt

For Reformation weekend (Oct 27-29), the Senior Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZA) and myself, joined with the ELCZA Copperbelt District Council and five newly ordained pastors for ministry workshops and worship. The Copperbelt district of ELCZA is a strong district of seven rural and urban congregations. One of the congregations even worships in Swahili as the members are Tanzanian.



Copperbelt District leaders celebrate their small group work on God's Mission for the church.

On Friday, Senior Pastor and I gathered with the eight pastors who serve in Copperbelt for workshops on Lutheran theology and stewardship. On Friday, the District Council joined us to discuss God's mission for the Copperbelt and church administration. I especially enjoyed the conversations to decide the best Bemba language words for theological terms. I was also impressed by the energy and focus the

District Council showed when approaching administrative challenges in their district and the church.

Reformation weekend culminated with a Reformation Sunday worship service, that included the installation of Rev. Lasson Mushani as district pastor. I was also honored to preach. Near the end of worship, we were all surprised as a vehicle drove up to the door of the church building. It was a gift from one of the congregations for the District Pastor, who had previously been using an old motorbike to move around the district!



Blessing the newly installed Rev. Lasson Mushani as Copperbelt District Pastor.

These weekends with local ministry leaders always bring me much needed joy and hope for our work together with ELCZA missionary and for ELCZA.



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.



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.



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Ubuntu Youth & Young Adult Tree Project

For the first time in the history of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia, the young adults applied for and received a project grant from the Lutheran World Federation. For this Climate Justice Project, the young adults chose to focus on environmental education and tree planting. This is especially important in Zambia, which has the highest rate of deforestation in the world.

The Tree Project Team worked with youth in two congregations to develop relationships with their local leaders and schools. Then, once everyone was on board, the Project Team and local youth hosted environmental education workshops after Sunday worship and at the local schools, followed by intergenerational tree planting. In total, 90 indigenous trees were planted, with the participation of about 100 people.



Mulendema ELCZa Congregation and Makombwe School Participants



Ubuntu Youth Leadership Team
(I served as an advisor and support to the team.)



ELCZa youth showing what they have learned about the effects from tree-cutting