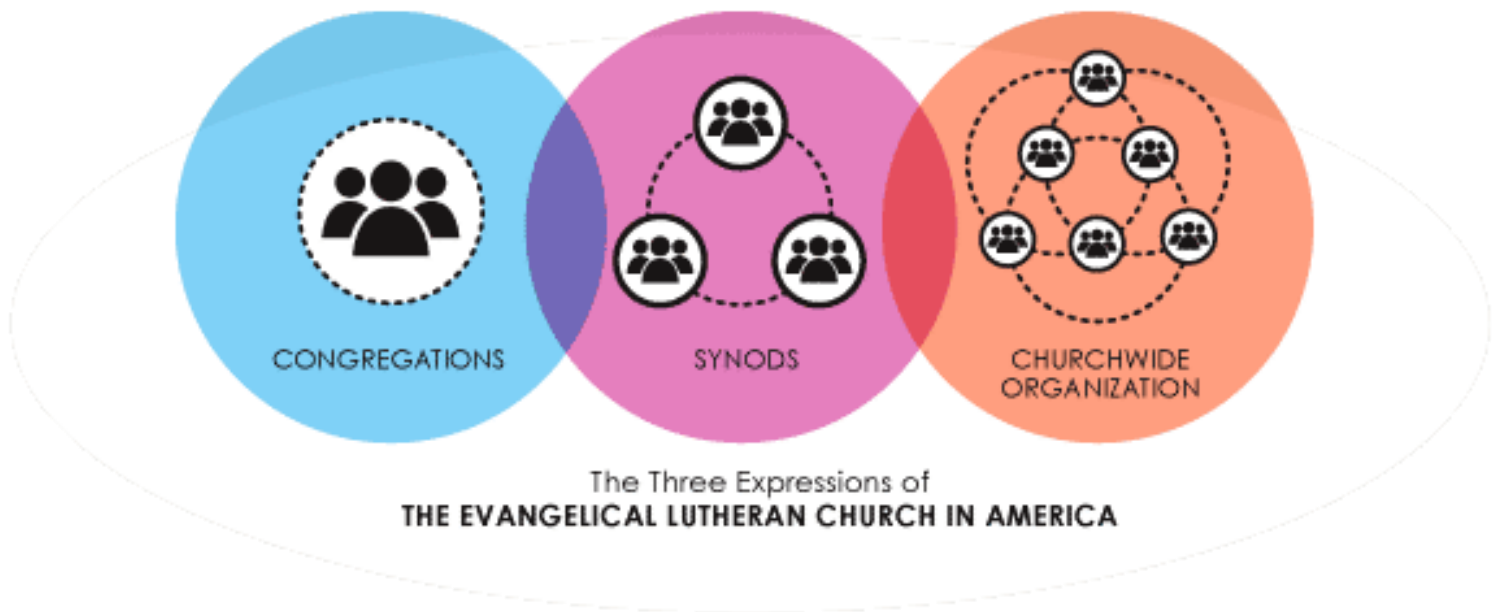


Missional Storyteller

We say **THANK YOU** and **SHARE MISSION SUPPORT STORIES**.

Did you know?

- Your undesignated Mission Support addresses social issues and work for justice like AMMPARO.
- Your designated Mission Support to World Hunger in part supports Lutheran World Federation projects in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Mexico.



The Lutheran World Federation,
A Communion of Churches – a Fourth Expression.

Lutheran World Federation is:

- Over 70 million people
- 140 member churches
- 79 countries
- Seven regions
- Five continents

Where are we?

- **Africa: 31 churches in 23 countries**
- **Asia: 47 churches in 18 countries**
- **Europe: 43 churches in 25 countries**
 - Central West, Central East and Nordic Regions
- **Latin American and Caribbean: 16 churches in 14 countries**
- **North America: 3 churches in 2 countries**

In North America

- The Member Churches in North America are:
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
 - Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad
- The North American Region has the largest number of non-LWF Lutherans, including Missouri Synod
- There are more Lutherans in Asia than in North America
- ELCA now fourth largest Lutheran church; two African churches are larger
- ELCA has 65 synods, with over 120 international companion relationships
- [@elca.org, Global Mission, Engagement, Lutheran World Federation 1 \(power point\)](#)

AMMPARO UPDATE, SUMMER 2019

Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities

(AMMPARO)

Lutheran World Federation / Department for World Service:

- 100 returned migrants received initial psychological screening; 12 cases required extended psychological treatment due to the severity of the traumas experienced during migration.
- 60 microenterprises were started by returned migrants.
- A savings-and-loan cooperative has grown to include 30 microentrepreneurs.
- By the end of 2018, 30 returned migrants were active participants in a network for public communications and advocacy that they organized themselves.

AMMPARO has sent nearly \$1.8 million for four projects that support migrants along their journey and for reintegration initiatives, including livelihood and psychosocial support for those who have returned to Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Mexico.

[@elca.org, Global Mission, Engagement, Breaking Down Walls, AMMPARO summer 2019 updates](#)

AMMPARO STORY

Eduardo, at 14, the oldest child in his family, which lives in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, and his father went to the U.S., both seeking work. While the journey was grueling and frightening, they made it to the U.S. border where they were separated, and Eduardo's father was deported to Guatemala. After six months alone in a shelter with no one who spoke his language - and he couldn't speak Spanish or English - he fell and hurt his back. All he wanted to do was go home, and he asked to be sent back. It was a long process, but after returning home, **Pop Noj, an AMMPARO companion in Guatemala**, helped him reintegrate into his community, get the medical attention he needed, including getting glasses, and re-enrolled in school. He has no desire to ever leave again. [@elca.org](https://elca.org), [AMMPARO](#), [40 stories for 40 day Bible and prayer challenge](#)

Church on a rock

From: *Stories of Faith in Action* pages 14 and 15



First [they] said we were crazy for building a Lutheran church," recalled Fabian Gaspar Cardenas, pastor of St. Augustine Lutheran Church in La Esmeralda, Guatemala. "Then they said we were crazy for building it on top of a hill."

But the St. Augustine community believed this audacious space — high on a rock overlooking La Esmeralda — was exactly where God had called them to be. Cardenas said they were inspired by other churches and holy

places they'd seen that were built on hilltops.

"It is better to build on a rock than in the sand, so that is why we built here," he added, referencing the Gospel of Matthew.

Though St. Augustine's building is new, the congregation has worshipped in La Esmeralda for more than 20 years since their return from Mexico, where they spent the worst years of Guatemala's civil war in refugee camps. Today the congregation

strives to support sustainable livelihoods, health care and education for its community, said Stephen Deal, ELCA regional representative for Central America.

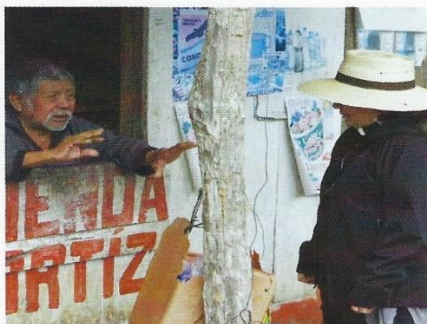
The ELCA has invested in the ministry of St. Augustine by accompanying leaders within the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala (ILAG in Spanish).

Cardenas and other ILAG pastors receive theological and evangelism training at retreats funded by Mission Support. For him, the opportunity to connect and grow together has been a great gift.

"[Hope] has been the thing that has supported us the most," Cardenas said. "And that is what I have been able to share with my fellow pastors, especially in the retreats." In his own ministry journey, a serious health condition nearly left Cardenas blind and delayed his pastoral training by over eight years.

Despite challenges to his health and the community, Cardenas has kept his vision fixed on God. For all who visit or pass by St. Augustine, he hopes that "when you look at the church, you remember that God is with you always, and you can do anything with God at your side."

To find a video story about the ILAG, visit [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).



St. Augustine serves its community through ministries that connect members with sustainable livelihoods, health care and education. Your Mission Support gifts assist Cardenas and other leaders in the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala in their evangelism.

Video: **Church on a Rock (ILAG) Casa Milagro in Guatemala 2:28**

Find it at ELCA.org, search **Stories of Faith in Action**, click video tab, look for **Church on a Rock**.

Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG) opened Casa Milagro in 2018 to provide education to young women from rural communities. **This program is supported in part by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger.**

Casa Milagro (Miracle) Women's Education Center is at the Augustinian Lutheran Center of Guatemala in Guatemala City. Rural women will attend the MILAGRO Women's Education Center to continue their education and develop a wide range of skills vital to a future of improved daily living. Utilizing these skills, the women will be empowered to return to their communities to start a sustainable business, to serve as leaders and examples to be followed in their churches, community and family. The objective is to break the cycle of poverty in the rural areas of Guatemala where ILAG has a presence, bringing about changes in young women between 12 and 20 years of age. The young women selected will be active members of the Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala and will have the opportunity to: develop their leadership skills, learn a trade that could provide them with an income to be economically independent, develop their self-esteem, learn to express their needs, know their civil rights as Guatemalan women. Found Casa Milagro [@casa milagro ILAG | Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala](#)

Bulletin Insert for **Church on a Rock**

Find it [@ ELCA.org](#), search **Stories of Faith in Action**, click **Current Issues** tab, look for **Church on a Rock** (bulletin insert).

Video: Youtube video - **We did it! Campaign for the ELCA 1:49**

Thank you!

Together, through Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA, we raised more than \$250 million in support of new and existing ELCA ministries. Through this first-ever effort, we made a commitment to invest in the future of this church, deepen our relationships and expand ministries that serve our neighbors and communities here at home and around the globe. Now, at the conclusion of this effort on June 30, we have been richly blessed. We have witnessed a significant impact across this church unlike anything we've seen before. Together, we are achieving things on a scale and scope we could never do otherwise. Thank you for your support!

Barb Brennan, Missional Storyteller

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