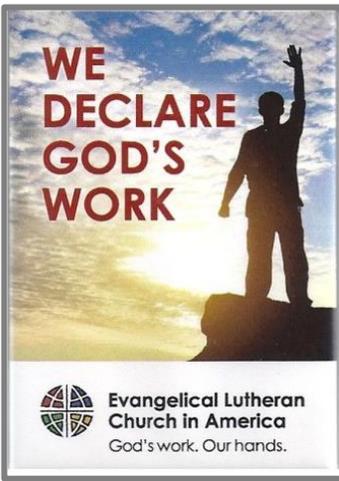
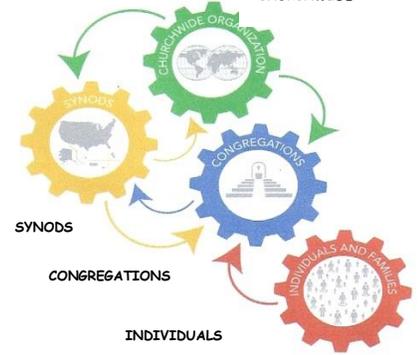


Mission Interpreters

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

Did you know?

- Mission Support funds social ministry organizations under the heading **Address social issues and work for justice.**
- The ELCA and LWF (Lutheran World Federation) share an office in the United Nations building.



New LWF member: United Evangelical Church in Cuba Lutheran Synod

When the United Evangelical Church in Cuba Lutheran Synod (UECCLS), learned it had been accepted as a member of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the celebrations lasted over a week.

"For UECCLS, to join the LWF meant the certainty that we are now part of the international Lutheran community. We are no longer alone. Now we can begin to take united steps with our brothers and sisters of faith," says Bishop Ismael Laborde Figueras.

"Being part of the Lutheran communion allows us to give and receive in every way. We can learn from others and at the same time can offer the gifts the Holy Spirit gave us," he says. "We can offer the experience of planting a Lutheran church in a non-European and much less German context. We can offer experience in the education of leaders in a country without a legal framework for the action of our church. Before, we were relatively alone. Now we are accompanied."

The UECCLS has 1,500 members in 11 congregations over seven provinces. It has more women than men in ministry as pastors and deacons, including one auxiliary bishop. Women also enjoy the same right to hold decision-making positions within the UECCLS and the diocesan council is composed largely of women. Moreover, it is the only church in the country with a missal of Cuban music, and its productions include gospel and children's music.



Did you know the Ministries of the ELCA use the **Accompaniment Model**?

The accompaniment model for mission shapes ministries of the ELCA and WIS. Accompaniment is the ELCA model for *Global Mission* which allows for a respectful, dignified, healthy walking together in mission—whereby the following values of **(MIVES)** are incorporated into the relationship.

Mutuality—walking together as one

Inclusivity—bringing many/all parties to the table

Vulnerability—recognizing power imbalances and seeking to equalize/rectify

Empowerment—ensuring that all have voice and power in the relationship

Sustainability—ensuring the healthy, on-going nature of the relationship, working to make projects sustainable on their own accord in the local context.



How Lutheran congregations Helped Transform the Business of Palms

In 2005, Lutheran congregations across the U.S. were the first to bring Eco-Palms to their Palm Sunday celebrations. Instead of buying palms from conventional sellers, who are rooted in a lengthy and wasteful business model that relies on middlemen and leaves growing communities with little profit — you saw a better option. And the impact is clear.

Lutheran World Relief partners with the University of Minnesota Center for Integrated Natural Resources & Agricultural Management (CINRAM), the Rainforest Alliance and Continental Floral Greens — a wholesaler in San Antonio — to bring Eco-Palms to congregations across the U.S. ([Read more](#))



Palms are harvested deep in the rain forest and carried out.



The process of packaging and sorting the palms is a communal task in the community of Carmelita, Guatemala.

SACCOS

Facts we learned at Synod Assembly 2018:

- You must save to borrow. May borrow \$3 for every \$1 saved.
- Money saved in the SACCOS cannot be taken out for 90 days.
- Starts as a Lutheran project in a village but open to all.
- Creates on average 2 jobs per loan.
- 100% of gifts to SACCOS goes to SACCOS
- There continues to be some money left in the matching-funds gift at \$1 for each \$2 given.

This past year the Iringa Hope network of Savings and Credit Cooperatives Societies (SACCOS) continued to grow and provide the services to members to improve their lives and that of their families. During this last year our loan capital grew, which initiated new agricultural training programs and completed organizing more Agricultural and Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS).

By year's end, we were serving 2,400 families in our registered SACCOS and 1,364 families in our registered AMCOS. When we account for families who belong to both we are now serving almost 3,100 families or almost 20,000 people. Based on a survey of 132 members, we estimate that our members sent over 3,350 children to secondary school, over 600 children to advanced training programs (typically technical school or college), and built or improved over 600 homes. In addition, they donated \$100,000 to their churches, bought land to expand their farms, and provided much needed jobs to their communities.

Interesting Development

Since secondary school in Tanzania is now FREE, Iringa Hope will no longer be reporting on how many children are being sent to school!

WIS SACCOS

There 4 SACCOS in the Southern Diocese of Tanzania, our synod companion. Money given to WIS SACCOS will be used to infuse money into the existing SACCOS so more loans can be made.

Edda is a Resourceful Woman



Edda is a resourceful woman with six children. The oldest is 25 years old while the youngest is only two. Last year she took out a loan for \$315 to buy soybean and sunflower seeds and fertilizer to plant on her four-acre farm. She also hired two laborers. Soybeans are very uncommon for farmers to grow but Edda said that the soil seems to be particularly good for soybeans. She sold her soybeans for \$630 and her sunflower seeds for \$270. After paying back her loan with interest her profit was \$630. She paid school fees for 5 children, put electricity into her home, and started a chicken business. She hopes that this chicken business will help her pay school fees in the future. She said that she even has some extra money to help her oldest child who is at teachers' college.

**ELCA World Hunger,
is a designated Mission Support.
This is your gifts at work.**



Yim Kheng and her husband, Yi Pheng, live in Cambodia with four of their children and one granddaughter. Thanks in part to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, they received help preparing their land for planting, raising chickens and building a coop. Their flock has grown to 100 chickens that lay eggs to eat and sell at the local market. Your gifts also enabled them to start a small grocery stand with a loan from the village savings and loan group, supported and trained by **Life With Dignity**, an ELCA World Hunger partner.

Videos You tube video **ELCA Channel**

Where Two Can Eat, Three Can Eat 3:11

It might not look like your typical Lutheran church, but Santa Maria de Guadalupe is known for two things, hospitality and grace. The story of a growing immigrant congregation that got its start with four members on a Palm Sunday.

Voices of Dignity - ELCA missionary Adrainne Gray 2:52

Deacon Adrainne Gray, an ELCA missionary in the Holy Land, finds inspiration in the hope that young Palestinians draw from leaders of the civil rights movement in the U.S. Deacon Adrainne Gray is currently working as a communications coordinator alongside our companions at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. In this vignette, Adrainne reflects upon her ministry as a woman and a person of color.

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