

500 YEARS LATER: A GROWING GLOBAL COMMUNION

As the ELCA commemorates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we join with Lutherans from across the globe sharing what Martin Luther describes as a “living, daring confidence in God’s grace.”

The ELCA’s connection to the global Lutheran church is realized through The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), a communion of 145 churches in the Lutheran tradition representing over 74 million Christians in 98 countries. The ELCA is the communion’s only member church from the United States.

A delegation from the ELCA joined more than 800 Lutherans in May in Windhoek, Namibia, for the LWF’s 12th Assembly, which observed the historic Reformation anniversary and elected new leadership.

But what does this global connection mean for the ELCA in our local context? Building

on relationships established in the LWF, our church is connected to 85 companion churches in other countries through the ELCA churchwide organization. Each of the ELCA’s 65 synods have at least one international church companion.

For example, the ELCA Nebraska Synod is engaged in ministry with the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Argentina and Uruguay and the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

“We’re grateful for the inspiration we get engaging our companion synods in Tanzania and Argentina and Uruguay, and for the models of ministry we see them using to witness to the gospel,” said Brian Maas, bishop of the ELCA Nebraska Synod. “We know true mutual benefit in these continually growing relationships, church-to-church, congregation-to-congregation and person-to-person.

Your Mission Support dollars are used by the ELCA churchwide organization to support the ecumenical, missional work of The Lutheran World Federation.

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.