

 **Companion Synod Sunday**

 **May 20, 2018**

The Upstate NY Synod is in a Companion Synod relationship with two international Lutheran bodies:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (ELCZ)

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZa)

***Answers to FAQs***

* All synods within the ELCA have one or more international partners.
* Relationships focus on accompaniment or walking together.
* Covenants to pray for each other and support each other in ministry are signed every five years by residing bishops.
* Some congregations have a twin congregation in Zimbabwe with whom they communicate.
* Pastors and lay people participate in exchanges between the UNYS and Zimbabwe.

For more information about our Companion Synod relationship, contact Beth Walker, UNYS Global Mission Chair, at rbowsend@rochester.rr.com



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**More Information!**

Zimbabwe (ELCZ)

* Located just north of South Africa
* Vision - “To be a spiritually vibrant, self-sustaining and self-propagating church that preaches reconciliation of all human beings to God in Jesus Christ.”
* Three Dioceses – Eastern, Central, Western
* Three bishops with rotating responsibility as head bishop (current head bishop is Rev. C. Faindi)
* Sunday School, Youth, Luther League Seniors’ Fellowship, Women and Men’s Fellowships
* NY Congregation to Parish twinnings
* Pastoral and lay exchanges
* [www.elcz.co.zw](http://www.elcz.co.zw)

Zambia (ELCZa)

* Located north of Zimbabwe and Mozambique
* Smaller church body with Senior Pastor instead of a bishop (current senior pastor is Pastor A. Chana)
* Current focus on building church structures to allow year-round shelter for worship
* UNYS Partnerships: Hope for the Heart Outreach Center Nursery School, Pig and rice farming, Kindles for Pastors.

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