

To: Congregations of the Upstate NY Synod
From: Upstate NY Synod Global Ministry Team
Re: Companion Synod Sunday, May 31, 2020

Bishop John Macholz has designated Pentecost on May 31 as Companion Synod Sunday in the UNYS. This is an opportunity for congregations to intentionally recognize and celebrate the Upstate NY Synod's international relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (ELCZ) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZa).

Some possible ways to celebrate our brothers and sisters in Christ are:

- Include Head Bishop C. Faindi (pronounced "Find") (ELCZ) and Senior Pastor G. Njapau (ELCZa) in your prayers of the people.
- Watch for a future link to short messages from our partners, which can be viewed by congregations.
- Know that congregations in the ELCZ and the ELCZa are also thinking of us on that same day, and will have a message from Bishop Macholz which they can view.
- If you have a twinned congregation in Zimbabwe, reach out through Skype, WhatsApp, or Facebook to let them know you are thinking and praying for them. If your relationship with your twin has faded, commit to renew it.
- Contribute to two initiatives which support our companions: 1) Drought and Hunger Relief and 2) Publication of Faith Formation Material in native languages. Promote these initiatives to your congregations. Funds may be sent to the synod office clearly marked.
- Encourage your congregation to explore the church in Zimbabwe
<http://www.elcz.co.zw/>

The intent of Companion Synod Sunday is to hold the Lutherans of Zimbabwe and Zambia in our hearts and remember the connection we have. This is different from Global Church Sunday. Congregations are encouraged to also celebrate a Global Church Sunday, focusing on ministries around the word, our ELCA missionaries, and Young Adults in Global Mission on a Sunday of their choosing. Questions? Please contact Beth Walker, UNYS Global Ministry Chair, at rbowsend@rochester.rr.com.