

May/June Liberia Newsletter

Greetings from Liberia!



I'm writing to you from the front porch of our house, as the breeze blows the palm trees and cools the air. This is rainy season in Liberia. This year's rainy season is cold and hot, a bit unusual. This will be my last Newsletter as an ELCA Missionary to Liberia. I am retiring as of the end of this year, December 31, 2024. My time with Global Mission in Liberia ends on June 30, at which point I will travel to the U.S. for a period of 5-6 months of visiting sponsors, family, friends, and planning for the next chapter of my life. My husband, Bishop-Emeritus Jensen, and I will be settling here in Liberia.

I have been an ELCA pastor for thirty-one years. During that time God called me to serve in suburban and urban Chicago (Resurrection-Franklin, Park, Zion, southside Chicago, Trinity-Park Forest and the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago) and lastly as an ELCA missionary to the Lutheran Church in Liberia. The calls have been interesting, challenging, and always showing glimpses of God's grace and presence in the world. This last chapter of my life has led me to amazing ministry opportunities here in Liberia, and also sharing about Liberia in the U.S. and on-line world wide.

I thought for this last newsletter I would share highlights of the last 9 years and what's ahead for me in this retirement. I'm a photographer. It seemed the best way to represent these last 10 years has been through pictures of the people and places I love.

Most of all, I want to say thanks to you for your prayers and financial support as well as to the ELCA and the Lutheran Church in Liberia for the unlimited opportunities in ministry. It was and continues to be an amazing journey.

Rev. Linda Johnson Seyenkulo, May 22, 2024

Update: Before the pictures begin, here is a link to the May 15, 2024 edition of "Living Lutheran", the ELCA on-line magazine. The article "Holding on to God and Each Other" was written by me and tells the story of the aftermath of the gas tanker explosion in Totota, Liberia where I live, teach, and work as a pastor.

https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Global-Mission/Global-Service/Support-Missionaries?_ga=2.193463981.1842930507.1716423944-2071451763.1705189266

My Ministry Highlights in Liberia



Teaching the Evangelists and Deacons of the LCL at the Louis T. Bowers Lay Leaders and Ministers Training Center has been the joy of my life these past nine years. The learning, and the theological insights shared by those students has been a gift of God's grace to me.

Teaching, learning, serving in ministry with my colleagues, the Pastors, Deacons/Deaconesses, Evangelists and Lay people of the LCL.



Serving in the pastoral ministry at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church as Associate Pastor under five different Pastors-in-Charge and serving in the Monrovia District of the LCL.

Founding the Empowered by Light Program and working with the amazing women and students of that program, as well as the Deaconess Community of the ELCA and other friends of the program.



Serving as the "Mother of the Lutheran Church in Liberia" during my husband's tenure as Presiding Bishop of the LCL and witnessing the joy and love the people of the LCL have for God.

Serving as an Advisor to the National Lutheran Women's Fellowship of the Lutheran Church in Liberia. Those women are powerhouses!



Again, thanks for your support and your interest in ministry here in Liberia. Blessings on you and prayers appreciated as I move forward into this new venture in life. As I leave, I encourage you to continue supporting Global Mission through the Service and Justice arm of the ELCA. **Here is a link to get you started:** https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Global-Mission/Global-Service/Support-Missionaries?_ga=2.193463981.1842930507.1716423944-2071451763.1705189266