

Our gifts to others celebrate God's generosity

All summer it seemed like my Facebook feed was crammed with pictures of Lutherans on mission trips. If only we could count all the hours of service young people and adults gave this summer to help others — I bet the number would be staggering!

A mission trip is a great example of stewardship. We all receive the blessing from God of time, energy, and skill, and so many people give a portion back to serve. Those who cannot go on a mission trip often donate out of their financial abundance so others can.

We take from what God has given us and share it with others. Why? It has

been said that in all the other world religions, the people behave in a certain way to get their god(s) to do something for them. This is also the perspective of many Christians who worship or donate or volunteer thinking it will earn them blessings from God in this life and the next.

Lutherans, on the other hand, believe that God has already done for us what we need. God has given His Son to die for us and it is God's good pleasure to give us the kingdom. This is the grace we celebrate, especially on Reformation Day.

In the same way it is God's joy to give us what we need, it is our joy to celebrate grace by serving God's

people. Every time we worship, volunteer and donate, we are simply thanking God for what God has already done for us.



This fall many of our congregations will be asking their members to make a financial commitment for the next year. Let us treat our ministries with the same joyful generosity that God has shown us.

— *Pastor Mark A. Anderson*
Assistant to the Bishop

Support Young Adults in Global Mission
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He will also serve with the congregational choir, the high school Lutheran youth group, and vacation Bible school.

Anna Eastham of South Carolina will serve in Szeged with congregational ministries, including youth groups, Bible studies, worship services and rural ministries. She will also serve with the Jesuit Roma College, leading a weekly English language conversation class.

YAGMS CONNECTED TO THIS SYNOD

Five young adults with connections to the Northeastern Iowa Synod are also serving as YAGMs for the 2019-2020 year.

Alexis Olson — Luther College Lutheran Church, Decorah, serving in Madagascar

Katie Linthicum — Redeemer, St. Paul's and Wartburg College, Waverly, serving in Australia

Lyndsay Monsen — First Lutheran and Luther College Lutheran Church, Decorah, serving in Jerusalem/West Bank.

Madison McCabe — Decorah and First Lutheran, Decorah, serving in the United Kingdom.

Courtney and Chris Garza — Good Shepherd and Luther College Lutheran Church, Decorah, serving in Argentina/Uruguay.

To learn more about how to support these Young Adults in Global Mission, call Rev. Mark Anderson, assistant to the Bishop, at 319-352-1414 or visit www.neiasynod.org/yagm.

National Donor Sabbath

Nov. 15 - 17, 2019

Congregations are invited to observe National Donor Sabbath to raise awareness about the need for organ donors and to encourage people to sign up as organ, eye and tissue donors.

In 2015, the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly adopted a resolution to encourage congregations to observe National Donor Sabbath, which this year is Nov. 15 - 17.

Resources about National Donor Sabbath and organ donation are available for download, including a guide to help faith leaders reach out to their congregation members and communities. Visit www.organdonor.gov/awareness/events/donor-sabbath.html.