

Your gifts exceeded the Fund for Leaders challenge

Bishop Steven and Ruth Ullestad challenged this synod to make contributions to the H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders. They even promised to match 1:1 every dollar given up to \$10,000.

Among the things I love about this synod is that we are a generous people and this synod does not shrink from a challenge. Remember when we raised more than a half million dollars over three years to provide malaria nets? This synod saved thousands of children

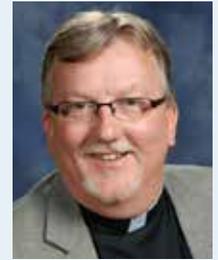
from contracting the mosquito-born disease.

Again, over the last three years we have raised more than a half million dollars for seminary scholarships through the Fund for Leaders.

So, what about the Bishop's challenge?

Bishop and Ruth challenged the synod to match their gift of \$10,000. As of Dec. 31, 2019,

we have received more than \$50,000 — and that's before adding the Ullestad's matching gift!



Thank you! We are incredibly grateful for your gifts.

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

Young adults are invited to apply for YAGM service abroad

Applications for the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program are now open. Please invite young adults age 21 to 29 to apply for this yearlong mission journey abroad. The priority deadline for applications is Wednesday, Jan. 15, though applications will be accepted until Saturday, Feb. 15. Volunteers begin serving Aug. 11, 2020.

YAGM is a one-year, international service-learning and faith-formation opportunity for young adults to serve in accompaniment with Lutheran companion church bodies and organizations and become immersed in a new community.

Volunteers will be placed in one of 10 country programs: Argentina and Uruguay, Australia, Central Europe, Jerusalem and the West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal, and the United Kingdom. Host families, churches, workplaces and communities are ready to welcome YAGM volunteers.

Young adults will work with congregations, schools and social service ministries and gain work experience in several types of fields, including health care, human rights, homelessness, education, immigration, environmental justice, communication, youth ministry and more.

CONGREGATIONS SUPPORT YAGMS

A number of congregations from the Northeastern Iowa Synod annually support young adults from this synod in their YAGM journey, and YAGM volunteers who serve in Hungary as part of this synod's Companion Synod relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary.

Congregations and individuals have

supported YAGMs by following their blogs, subscribing to their newsletters, writing them letters, praying for them, and sponsoring them with financial assistance.

Applicants who apply before the priority deadline of Jan. 15 will receive a decision on their application by the end of February. Applicants applying by Feb. 15 will receive a decision by the middle of March.

For more information on the Young Adults in Global Mission program and to begin the application process, visit www.elca.org/yagm.

