To: Congregations of the Upstate NY Synod

From: Upstate NY Synod Global Ministry Team

Re: Companion Synod Sunday, May 20, 2018

Bishop John Macholz has designated May 20, Pentecost, 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 Faindi (pronounced “Find”) (ELCZ) and Senior Pastor Chana (ELCZa) in your prayers of the people.
* Include the bulletin insert on our companion relationships, which will be sent to congregations, in your bulletin that Sunday.
* Watch for a future link to short messages from either or both of these leaders, 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 that 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.
* Have a computer available for people in your congregation to explore the ELCZ website at <http://www.elcz.co.zw/>

or publicize this website ahead of time for parishioners to explore.

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.