

Apply today!

Visit ELCA.org/YAGM and click "Apply Now!"

Applications for YAGM are open from Nov. 1 through Feb. 15 for service starting the following August. Priority is given to those who apply before Jan. 15.

Connect with us

For stories, photos and blog posts from current and former YAGM volunteers, visit our Facebook page at

 facebook.com/ELCAYAGM

For more information contact us at:

Young Adults in Global Mission
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631

globalserve@elca.org
800-638-3522
ELCA.org/YAGM



"My YAGM year gave me so much! It gave me new friends and family across the world. It gave me direction for my future and helped me understand some of my past! I grew so much as a person during my year that I was able to leave a part of me behind and still come home completely changed!"

—Joshua Harold

"The YAGM experience was a life-changing one for me. I got to experience community in a way that was so drastically different from the one I knew. My host family, my community, my school and friends that I made helped nurture a journey of faith I didn't even fully realize I was on. I would not be the same without this year and the many joys and challenges I faced."

—Renee Celestain

"Two of my children have participated in the YAGM program. For both of them, it was a very positive experience. Living and working in communities very different from the one they grew up in, for a significant amount of time, provided them with life skills that will enable them to be more open to others' life experiences and more understanding of others' views – invaluable assets."

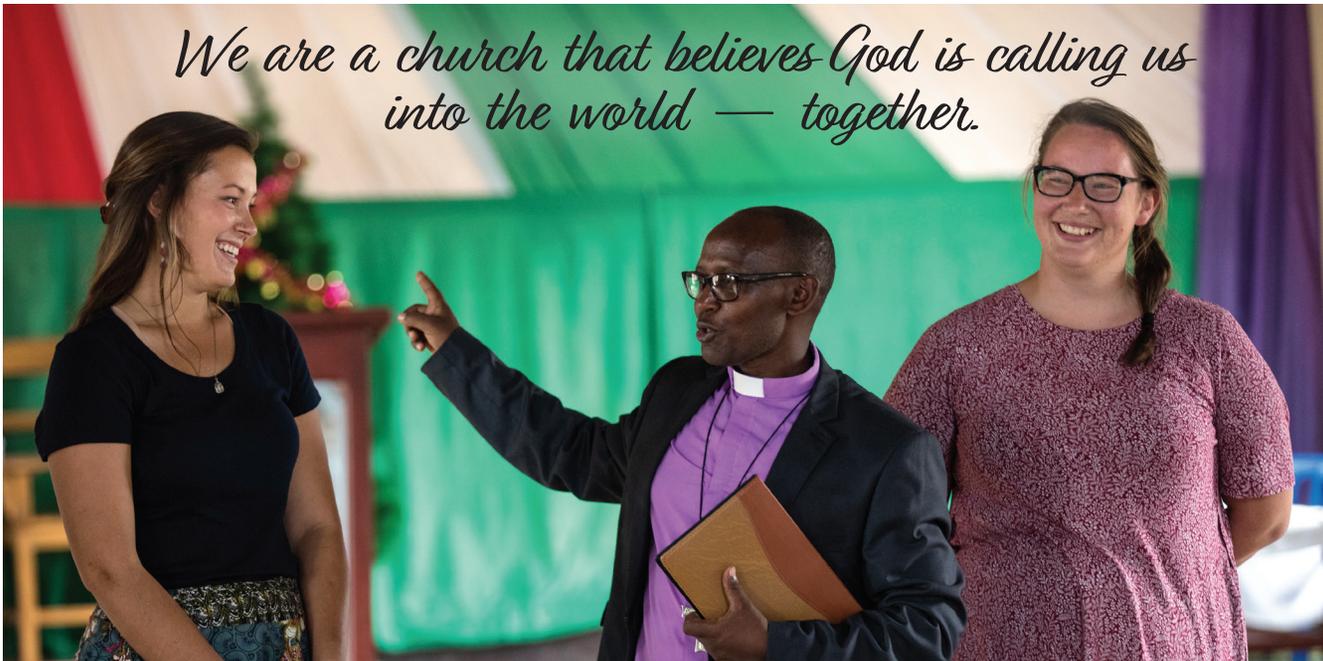
—Debra Young

Young Adults in Global Mission



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together.



What is Young Adults in Global Mission?

The Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) invites young adults to embark on a life-changing journey.

Participants serve in a variety of fields in one of **10 country programs** and experience the transformation that comes with one year of international mission service. Volunteers serve in the spirit of accompaniment – walking together with global companions in mutuality, solidarity and interdependence.

In recent years, the YAGM program has sent **around 80 volunteers** into service annually. Volunteers are placed according to skill and experience in alignment with requests from our global companions.



YAGM requirements

- young adults ages 21-29 with at least one year of post-high-school experience
- an ELCA connection
 - member of an ELCA congregation
 - student at an ELCA college or university
 - involvement in campus ministry, camp program or event
- a commitment to serving and building relationships with host communities
- flexibility, curiosity, patience and a sense of humor
- emotional health and resilience
- openness to exploring and deepening one's faith
- willingness to learn a new language (in some country programs previous foreign language skill is highly recommended)

How is the program funded?

The average annual cost to support one volunteer in service is about \$15,000. Volunteers commit to a \$5,000 fundraising effort to help support the cost for their year of service.

Support from the ELCA is available to assist in raising these funds, as well as scholarship allocation based on need.

What kind of support do volunteers receive?

- room and board
- travel to and from the country of service
- medical insurance
- monthly stipend allowing volunteers to live simply
- federal student-loan deferment or forbearance
- group retreats in the country of service that can include
 - faith formation
 - team building
 - social-justice education
- pastoral and administrative support from staff living in the country of service

How do I know where I'll serve?

Candidates apply to the program as a whole and not to a specific country program. Candidate preferences are considered, but ELCA staff and the international program coordinators make the final country placement decisions. Willingness to serve in a variety of country programs strongly increases the chances of making a successful match between the candidates and the country program.