

MISSIONARY UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2020

Zach, Rachel & Dorothy / zachandrachel.wordpress.com / September 2020



LOOKING FORWARD

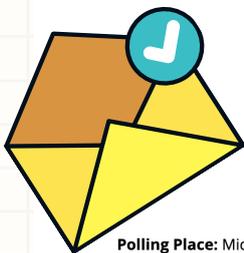
The Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Vojvodina-Serbia will be installing a new Bishop this October.



LOOKING AROUND

A snapshot of what's happening locally with the corona virus here in Hungary.

MY NEXT ELECTION



2020 General Election

Tuesday, November 3, 2020



Polling Place: Middleton Town Hall | 7555 W Old Sauk Rd, Verona, WI

Hours: 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM | [More Information](#)

Town Of Middleton - Ward 8

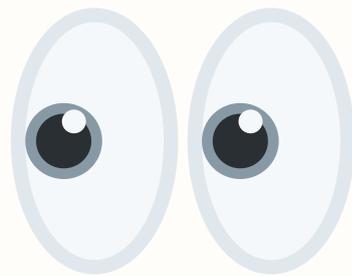


FAITH IN POLITICS PREPARING IN FAITH

Voting? Yes! From Hungary?!? Yes!
Learn more about how engaging in the public sphere is an important expression of our faith.

Preparing for the 2021-2022 YAGM Program year is well underway--meet the new recruiters!

LOOKING FORWARD



Pastor Rachel and Mgr. Jaroslav celebrate Holy Communion together on Palm Sunday 2018 in Kulpin, Serbia.

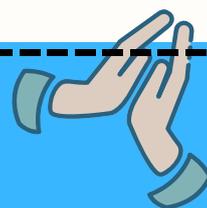
The Mgr. Jaroslav Javorník, PhD. will be installed as the Bishop of the Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Vojvodina-Serbia. We give thanks to God for Mgr. Jaroslav's service to the Church, and we look forward to him leading in this new and important role.

Mgr. Jaroslav has been a big supporter of the YAGM program in Serbia, and his congregation in Kulpin, Serbia hosted the first ever YAGM to serve in Serbia. He is already well connected with ministries of the ELCA. As a part of his pastoral formation, he was a pastoral intern in Pennsylvania, and he maintains a close relationships with the ELCA's Northwest Ohio Synod.

Please join us in celebrating this exciting time of transition with our global partners!

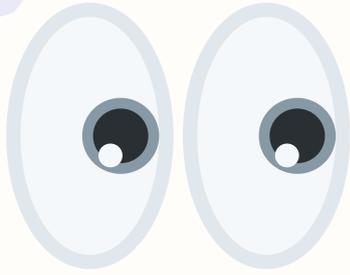


Pray With Us!



Join us in prayer on October 31st!

This Reformation Day, we pray for Bishop Jaroslav Javorník as he leads the Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia into the future. May he guide the church along your path's of justice, mercy, and grace. Give him wisdom, strength, and knowledge to be a beacon of Your hope and love in Serbia and beyond. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!



LOOKING AROUND

The second wave of COVID19 has arrived here in Central Europe. Hungary is seeing a strong increase in those who are infected with the virus--at rates higher than the first wave. The virus has also spread to the countryside, whereas during the first wave it was almost all concentrated in bigger cities. Here are some of the rules and restrictions in place throughout the entire country:

- Everyone inside stores and crowded areas must wear a mask for face covering--including public transportation.
- If you have been asked to home quarantine for 2 weeks b/c of travel or another reason, you must comply.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms should not leave their house, but call the doctor in their community to arrange an at home visit or other next steps
- COVID19 tests in Budapest cost approximately \$65USD per test.



Rachel, Zach, and Dorothy at a small English Language Worship service

Because of the large increase in COVID19 cases, many communities have returned to online worship and/or outside worship services.

This month, Hungary has been setting new records for the amount of people who are infected. We move into the cold and flu season of the Fall, not knowing what to expect, but confident in God's presence with us no matter what the future holds.

Daily change

Daily count of new cases. Data from World Health Organization.





FAITH IN POLITICS

Actively participating in the democratic process of one's community and country is an important part of the work we can do to bring the morals and ethics from our belief system into public life.

As you can imagine, voting from a different continent has its challenges. I'm registered to vote in my home state of Wisconsin, and I'm currently engaged in the absentee voting process. Because of all the real and anticipated difficulties with voting this November, I strongly encourage all who can vote to begin the voting process as soon as possible. If you need to learn more about voting in your area, check out

[VOTE.ORG](https://www.vote.org)



The ELCA sees voting as another way we can care for the wellbeing of our neighbors and creation. Take a look at [Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's statement on the right to vote](#) from a few years ago. Curious to find out more ways the ELCA advocates for policies that promote human dignity and love of neighbor? Check out the [ELCA Advocacy Action Center!](#)

"We are a publicly engaged church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. We do God's work in the world, the work of restoring and reconciling communities. We pursue justice and seek peace no matter how long the journey or wide the chasm. Because we are grounded in God's love and forgiveness, we are well equipped to live and serve here and now, in the world, with all its complexities, tensions and ambiguities." - [elca.org](https://www.elca.org)

MY ABSENTEE STATUS

Mailed to: [redacted], Budapest 1062, Hungary

Zach's

Absentee request submitted Aug 27, 2020	Absentee request approved Aug 27, 2020	Preparing your absentee ballot Sep 16, 2020	Absentee ballot sent Sep 17, 2020	Completed absentee ballot received!
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PREPARING IN FAITH

Olivia



Kara



Jayme



Kendra



Olivia Slagle (she/her/hers)
Jerusalem/West Bank 2019-2020 alum
East Coast recruiter
olivia.slagle@elca.org

Kara Barkman (she/her/hers)
Mexico 2019-2020 alum
West Coast recruiter
kara.barkman@elca.org

Jayme Kokkonen (she/her/hers)
Madagascar 2019-2020 alum
Midwest recruiter
jayme.kokkonen@elca.org

Kendra Hernandez (she/her/hers)
Central Europe 2019-2020 alum
Southwest and Rocky Mountain
recruiter kendra.hernandez@elca.org

There are many unknowns about the future staring us all in the face these days. That said, in faith, we are moving forward with preparations for the 2021-2022 YAGM year of service.

Of course here in Central Europe, and in our YAGM sites all over the world, thoughtful and careful preparation is being made with our church partners. However, lots is being done in the USA right now as well!

This September, the four short-term recruiters for the YAGM program have kicked-off their work across the USA. They are looking to connect with you and/or the young folks in your life that might be discerning a year-long international call of service.

I am especially excited that YAGM Central Europe Alum Kendra Hernandez will be the recruiter for the Southwest and Rocky Mountain region. Kendra served here in Budapest this past year!

Remember, the YAGM program is open to all people ages 20-29. Don't be shy in reaching out to them to learn more about the YAGM program possibilities, or to connect them with eligible candidates!

VIRTUAL HOME ASSIGNMENT THANKS

KÖSZÖNJÜK SZÉPEN!

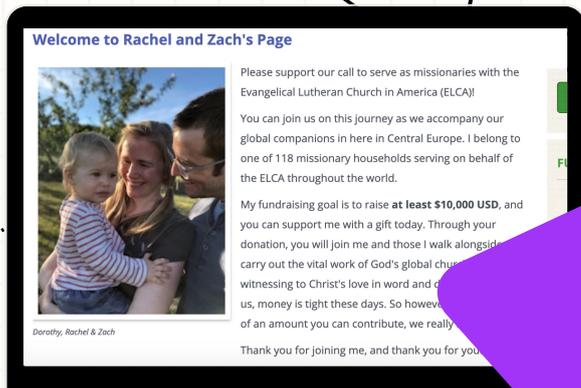


Another big thanks to everyone who "hosted" us this summer during virtual home assignment. We appreciate your support of us, and your support of our ministry.

Remember, when you support the YAGM Program, you are supporting the church globally--and locally!

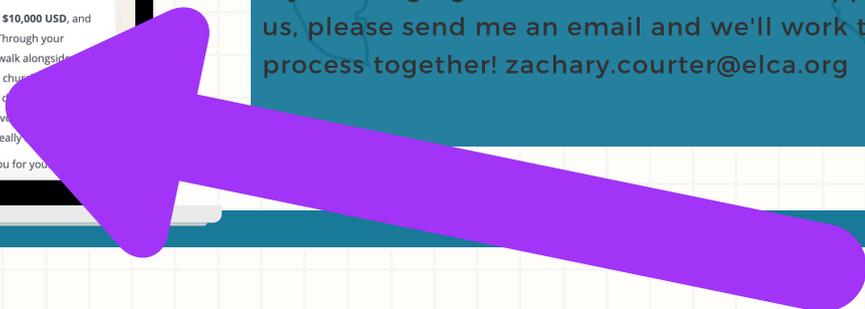
Our young missionaries bolster the ministries of our global partners, and they learn from these global experiences to be leaders in their local ELCA churches and ministries upon returning to the USA!

These were some of the **HOT SPOTS** of virtual visits



Still looking to donate some money to support our ministry? [Check out our fresh fundraising page designed for individuals!](#)

If your congregation would like to start supporting us, please send me an email and we'll work the process together! zachary.courter@elca.org



DOROTHY'S CORNER



Dorothy is 15 months old this month, and she runs anywhere that one might walk. It's her world, and we're just living in it.