



## Tanzania by: Gail Brecht

I recently served as a Glocal Musician-Educator to lead workshops, music and worship at the 1st ever ELCA - ELCT Bishop's Summit in Moshi, Tanzania.

Since returning from Tanzania, many have asked me, "How was your trip?" I think about it for a minute and then muster up an, "Incredible." But then I have no idea how to summarize in a few sentences all that I experienced in the Motherland of Africa. I felt warmly welcomed, safe and have been extremely blessed and changed by my experience there. And yes, I saw *all* of the animals when we went on a safari in the Ngorongoro Crater our last day there. And yes, in Kiswahili, "Hakuna Matata" means no worries, and yes, they really do say that.

But what was this trip? And why did I go? What did I do? Well, I was invited to lead worship with other Glocal Musicians from around the world for two "first ever" conferences in Tanzania: The ELCA/ELCT Bishops' Summit, and the 1st Annual International African Lutheran Conference. The ELCA's Companion Synod program includes 20 companion relationships between US and Tanzania (ELCT.) All Bishops/representatives from these synods were invited along with those Bishops/ reps. in the Tanzanian dioceses. These relationships are rooted in "accompaniment," which promotes the values of mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, empowerment, and sustainability. Through the program, companion churches and ELCA synods nurture and strengthen one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources.

We Glocal musicians actively engaged in cross-cultural relationships using a shared language and set of tools: music. We embodied this companionship by sharing and

teaching songs in many languages from around the world, along with 4 highly respected Tanzanian musicians (Hezron, Opendu, Matzuki, and Dr. Sululu) It was an honor to teach, sing, lead, and work together with these incredible musicians (pictured above). We created a safe space and broke down many cultural barriers. Feel free to ask me more about it, but for now I will remember hospitality, large smiles, kind words, joy in song, tightly packed bus rides, open-air markets, hard-working women, Maasai tribes, clothes and traditions, and of course, the animals. Above all, I will hold in my heart my new family in Tanzania.

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## **Consecration of Gail Brecht as a Minister of Word and Service (aka Deacon)**

Jesus said, “The greatest among you will be your servant”. (Matthew 23:11) The word that Jesus most frequently used to describe Christian leadership was “servant”. The Greek word used in the Bible for this was “diakoneo” from which we today take the word “deacon”. Servanthood is, of course, a central component of discipleship. We are all called to love God and one another and to express that love in action by caring for and serving others.

But when that term is applied to someone in leadership in the church it has a very specific meaning. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a Deacon is a leader who has extensive seminary training and a very specific calling. According to the gifts and grace that God has given them, a Deacon is called to assist the people of God to carry out their ministries to one another and the world. Often the Deacon’s ministry is specialized and focused in a particular area of the church’s life. In Gail’s case, her specific role at Good Shepherd is to lead us in the worship of God. She has been called to serve as the Director of Contemporary Worship. She has been blessed with an abundance of talent and enthusiasm and we are blessed to have her serving among us.

On October 21st, at the 11:00 am Contemporary Service Gail Brecht will be consecrated as a Deacon / Minister of Word and Service. Bishop Roger Gustafson will preside and preach at the 11:00 am Contemporary Service when Gail will be commissioned and consecrated. This will be a wonderful day in the life of Good Shepherd! Join us for lunch in the gym following the service.

Pastor Rich

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### **Why Have a Healing Service?**

In recent years, services of healing have received renewed emphasis throughout the church. Of course, Scripture affirms the importance of ministries of healing and caring. In fact, the root of the word healing in New Testament Greek is *sozo* — a word that also means salvation and wholeness. Spiritual healing is God’s work of offering people balance, harmony, and wholeness of body, mind, spirit, and relationships. Jesus himself made healing a major part of his ministry on earth.

That being said, we recognize that all healing comes from God and we do not presume to be able to heal anyone by our own power, righteousness, or authority.

Nor do we wish in any way to detract from the gifts God gives through medicine and other healing arts. What we do is no substitute for either medicine or the proper care of one's health. Those who participate in healing ministry are simply channels of God's love. God does not promise that we will be spared suffering but does promise to be with us in our suffering. Trusting in that promise we are enabled to recognize God's grace and sustaining presence in pain, sickness, injury, and estrangement.

At a Service of Healing, we gather together as a community in worship and prayer, trusting in God's merciful care. Individual prayers for healing, laying on of hands, and anointing with oil, along with the Sacrament of Holy Communion help us to experience the presence of the healing Christ in tangible ways. We pray for one another and for ourselves, longing for Christ's healing touch in our lives. We at Good Shepherd will have a Service of Prayer and Healing on **Saturday, October 20th as part of our regular Saturday, 5:30 pm service.** Please come and join us for this very special worship opportunity.

Pastor Rich



### Liberated by God's Grace

Last year, we Lutherans celebrated a milestone of 500 years as a church. If you Google what it means to be a Lutheran, it reads:

*Lutherans are Protestant Christians, who stress that it is through God's grace that those who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are brought into right relationships with God. We call that being justified by grace, through faith. This faith empowers us to freely express love to our neighbors- not to win salvation- but in thanks and praise to God who loves us unconditionally and eternally.*

**The Lutheran World Federation (72 million members from Lutheran bodies around the globe)**

It's humbling to know our own limits, frailties and sins. Even though we are proud that at Good Shepherd we have a strong and active mission, we are ever aware that our work may represent a mere ripple impact on major issues. As we gear up for the annual Feed My Starving Children Pack, we are energized to see over two thousand people from the community come together, work hard, enjoy fellowship and to actually save the lives of children who are starving. This work is much more than a ripple effect on hunger. The FMSC project over ten years has moved hearts and changed lives for children and adults here as well who turn from their busy lives and face a completely different world. Each year for a week, we bend our brains to care for people and issues we would rather not consider and then return to our priorities just a little changed. We are following Christ, growing in faith and we share God's love when we tell others about this experience.

Consider when we worship each week and share the songs and liturgy of our history how we are indeed connected to both our history and to the millions of Lutherans around the world as we freely express love to our neighbors. Together, our ripples may even be whitecaps of change.

Glenn Kraft, Council President



**Central States Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## A Way to Support our Bishop's Election

Every six years, the members of the Central States Synod of the ELCA

elect a bishop. When we gather in Assembly on June 6-8, 2019, we will participate in electing a bishop for the next six-year term. That election, as always, will be through an **ecclesiastical ballot**. Recently, the Synod Council appointed an Election Facilitation Committee (EFC) to oversee a process in the months leading up to Synod Assembly that will help us, the members of Central States Synod, with a process of additional discernment and education about who the next bishop might be. Here's what will happen:

- **Informational Survey:** The EFC will be seeking input through a survey about the state of the synod, and the needs and desires for the next term of the bishop. This information will be compiled to create a comprehensive picture of this synod. The survey is available [here](#), on the [Synod website](#), or may be **printed** and mailed. The deadline for submission of this survey is November 30, 2018.
- **Seeking interested individuals:** Over the next few months, the EFC will be collecting names of individuals (Ministers of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA) whom you believe should discern a call to the office of bishop. This allows for months of conversation and discernment for those individuals to consider this call. Individuals can self-identify or be identified, and they do not need to currently serve in this synod. Please submit the names and contact information of those individuals to Dennis Allerheiligen by February 28th, 2019, so their information can be collected and disseminated.
- **Sharing information with the voting members:** Information about those potential nominees will then be shared with the congregations, worshiping communities and organizations within the synod. Members of the synod's congregations, worshiping communities and organizations are encouraged to spend time learning about these individuals, praying and discerning for themselves whom they would like to nominate for the bishop's election at Synod Assembly.
- **Ecclesiastical Ballot at Synod Assembly:** The first ballot of the ecclesiastical ballot allows for all voting members at Synod Assembly to cast their first vote for bishop. This person can be any Minister of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA, whether or not their information has been previously shared through this process.

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### Expand the Joy by: Christina Kling-Garrett

As Christians, how can each of us *Expand the Joy* to those around us?

We all have the opportunity to *Expand the Joy*, to share our blessings with others to make a difference in the world.

My next-door neighbors invited a teenage orphan boy from Ukraine to visit for the summer so he could have a great summer vacation. Two years later, Andre' is now their son. They adopted him last month. They decided to *Expand the Joy*.

My 8 year old nephew, Blake, waits every day for his handicapped friend to get dropped off for school so he can help her with the door and her books so she can get to her class. He decided to *Expand the Joy*.

When we come together as Christians, we can pool all of our time and talent to make an even greater impact in the world, such as supporting Feed My Starving Children. We all can make an impact in the world by the everyday things that we do for others. How can we share our blessings with our family, friends and neighbors? How can we use our financial resources to help others in need? Each one of us can be a blessing to another person. Opportunities present themselves every day. Which will you embrace to *Expand the Joy*?

As members of the Stewardship Ministry Team, we are asking you to consider how you want to use your blessings to *Expand the Joy*? Consider what St. Theresa of Avila said: "Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good, and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now."

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## A "Wink" from the Welcome Ministry Team Elliott Haugen



We recently welcomed 30 new members into our congregation. I sensed they were as excited about becoming part of Good Shepherd as we were in including them in our shared faith journey. And what a journey it is! We are a healthier congregation when we continue to welcome and value the richness of thoughts, experiences and contributions of each other and these new members.

The following post "**Invitation to Join**" appeared in the "**Daily Grace**" on the "Women of the ELCA" web site on September 17, 2018:

When we invite people to join us at church, we do not invite them to change who they are. Rather, we invite them to join us so that we may together encounter God. Invite them to talk about themselves so you can find out who they really are. We join each other in community life so that we can be enriched by the diversity of our experiences of God.

When we invite people to be a part of our community, we do so knowing that the diversity of God's creation is present in every person. We should recognize their unique gifts and help lift them up in service to the world. We should also pay attention to the challenges people face. Embrace people as they are, and listen to what they have to say. The invitation isn't about the church. It's about encountering God in the life and ministry of a community.

We may not be expected to change when we join Good Shepherd, but we are certainly shaped by God's message and the caring, energy and love shared by those around us. Thanks for your contributions to Good Shepherd's growth and its welcoming and inclusive attitude!

Note: A “wink” is a brief form of communications that implies a hello or friendly greeting. Watch for future Winks with thoughts and information about Good Shepherd’s welcoming ministry.

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*Live Well.  
Be Well.*

### **New Wellness Facebook Group: An online, supportive community for those interested in Wellness.**

The Wellness Team has created a Facebook group within the Good Shepherd page. GSLC members and guests are invited to join by searching for the "Good Shepherd Wellness Group." Members of this group are encouraged to plan grassroots wellness efforts (such as organizing a Saturday hike in the park) as they desire, and to share information about wellness opportunities around our area. The Wellness Team exists to help people see that God cares deeply about all areas of our lives, and to seek out social, emotional, physical, financial, vocational, and intellectual wellness.

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### **Cancer—Now What?**

On Saturday, October 20, at the regular 5:30 pm Saturday night service Good Shepherd members and non-members alike are invited to participate in a Service of Healing.

## **CANCER Now What? MINISTRY**

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As part of our Cancer—Now What? Ministry, we want to urge anyone with cancer, cancer survivors, and family members to gather to pray for themselves and others and to receive the laying on of hands. We urge you to attend and to invite others in your neighborhood, at work, or in the community who are struggling with cancer to come. If possible, join or accompany them at the service. As always, Cancer—Now What? books will be available for those who have not yet received a copy. Pray for all those who will attend, that each person, whatever his or her needs, will experience God’s healing love.

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