



# COLLABORATION

**The African proverb, “It takes a whole village to raise a child,” could just as easily be a Lutheran proverb, “It takes the whole church to raise a child.”**

In the baptismal liturgy, parents make promises for their child to live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church. The gathered community then promises to support and pray for the child’s life in Christ. So begins a life of collaboration.

Meet Carter Woolly. Carter was baptized at St. Andrew’s, Columbia, S.C., his childhood faith was formed at Bethel, Winchester, Virginia, and then he moved to St. John’s, Salisbury, where he was confirmed. Over the years, Carter has been both a camper and counselor at Lutheridge, attended NC Synod youth events, travelled on congregation mission trips, and attended ELCA Youth Gatherings. Recently, Carter graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne University and participated in a college student mission trip to Guatemala. The wider church’s collaboration of camps, colleges, gatherings, and more, provided experiences that Carter’s faith family alone could not offer.

Now, Carter has discerned a call to serve as an ELCA Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM). He explains, “It’s sort of like the Peace Corps, but you come alongside a church, serving in an area where the church needs help. The point is accompaniment.” During the YAGM placement event, Carter considered several locations, but heard the call to Rwanda. In fact, he compares the knock on his door and someone calling his name at 6:30 a.m. to the biblical story of Samuel and Eli. The YAGM leaders had been in prayer overnight and came to him early Sunday morning to ask him to consider placement in Rwanda. Something clicked — the Holy Spirit? — and before noon he was assigned to Rwanda.

The ELCA's YAGM program is another way our church collaborates with congregations and synods. Almost a third of YAGM alumni go on to seminary, and over two-thirds are involved in justice-related issues when they return. Katie Elkin, of St. Mark's, Mooresville, is a recent YAGM alumni (Madagascar) who says, "I learned how much I can do for myself. But more importantly, I learned how much I don't have to do by myself... I begin each morning by lifting my concerns to God...I receive God's peace. Now I am able to start my days less stressed, and I can go to work with the confidence that, despite what I can do alone, I am not alone."



*Thanks be to God, we are not alone!*

**VISION STATEMENT**

**God calls the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA to...**

*Cultivate & Celebrate  
Vital Congregations*

*Identify, Equip and Nurture  
Whole & Healthy Leaders*

*Embrace & Engage  
in Collaboration*

*Proclaim the Promise of the  
Resurrection with a Prophetic Voice*

**...all for the sake of the world.**

Bishop Tim, the synod staff, and Synod Council thank you for all the work you do for the sake of the Gospel – in your congregation and community, as well as in partnership with other congregations in the synod and across this church!



**North Carolina Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
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