Greeting and Introduction – Pastor Susan

This is Companion Synod Sunday. We celebrate our connection with Zimbabwe and Zambia, our two companion synods. We encourage you to hear a multilingual version of the Pentecost reading given by Central Crossroads Conference’s guest from Zimbabwe, Mbongeni Dube, intern at Good Shepherd. This has been posted on our website. It is my hope that we will have an opportunity to videoconference with him in the near future. Please review the resources you have been sent and consider offering a special prayer or making an offering to our companion synods in a time of great hardship in Africa.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden.  
**In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,**  
and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.  
**At the cross, you watered us from Jesus’ wounded side,**  
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.  
**Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.**  
**Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.**

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Readings and Reflections (Local Clergy)

Numbers 11. 24-30  
• Reflection  Pastor Tara Eastman

John 7.37-39  
• Reflection  Pastor Susan Salomone

John 20. 19-23  
• Reflection  Pastor Dana Smith

Psalm 104. 24-34, 35b responsively or divided among leaders

Acts 2. 1-4  
• Reflection  Pastor Susan Feurzeig

Acts 2. 5-13  
• Reflection  Pastor Norma Malfatti

Acts 2. 14-21  
• Reflection  Pastor Hannah Benedict

The Prayers  
A: Lord, in your mercy  
C: hear our prayer

Offering

Prayer
Merciful God,  
our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration,  
but you make of them an abundance,  
just as you do with our lives.  
Feed us again at this table  
for service in your name,  
in the strength of the risen Christ.  
Amen.

Spiritual Communion

This is the point in the service when we would normally share the meal of Holy Communion, a meal of Christ's victory over death, a meal that brings us forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation through the presence of Jesus. But these things come to us in many ways, not just through Communion. That is the embodied way that we receive them, but it is not the only way. Therefore, I invite you to pray with me this prayer of spiritual communion in the gifts of God.

Jesus, I want to receive you and I cannot do it in the sacramental way. Therefore, I ask you to come to me and fill me with your presence, your peace and your love. Grant me, Lord, the graces I need most, and make me one with all your faithful people everywhere. Amen.
Lord’s Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing
May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

Dismissal
Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Companion Synod Sunday
Pentecost Sunday

The Upstate NY Synod is in a Companion Synod relationship with two international Lutheran bodies:
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (ELCZ)
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia (ELCZa)

Answers to FAQs
• All synods within the ELCA have one or more international partners.
• Relationships focus on accompaniment or walking together.
• The values of accompaniment are: Mutuality, Inclusivity, Vulnerability, Empowerment, and Sustainability
• Some congregations have a twin congregation in Zimbabwe with whom they communicate.
• Pastors and lay people participate in exchanges between the UNYS and Zimbabwe.

For more information about our Companion Synod relationship, contact Beth Walker, UNYS Global Mission Chair, at rbowsend@rochester.rr.com
Also there’s a video on the synod website, a reading for Pentecost and greeting from our Zimbabwe intern at Good Shepherd: https://vimeo.com/422872743
Zimbabwe (ELCZ)

- Located just north of South Africa
- Vision - “To be a spiritually vibrant, self-sustaining and self-propagating church that preaches reconciliation of all human beings to God in Jesus Christ.”
- Three Dioceses – Eastern, Central, Western
- Three bishops with rotating responsibility as head bishop
- Sunday School, Youth, Luther League Seniors’ Fellowship, Women and Men’s Fellowships
- NY Congregation to Parish twinnings
- Pastoral and lay exchanges: We currently celebrate the presence of Zimbabwe intern Mbongeni Dube at Good Shepherd, Glenville
- www.elcz.co.zw

Zambia (ELCZa)

- Located north of Zimbabwe and Mozambique
- Smaller church body with Senior Pastor instead of a bishop
- Current focus on building church structures to allow year-round shelter for worship

To: Congregations of the Upstate NY Synod
From: Upstate NY Synod Global Ministry Team
Re: Companion Synod Sunday, May 31, 2020

Bishop John Macholz has designated Pentecost on May 31 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 C. Faindi (pronounced “Find”) (ELCZ) and Senior Pastor G. Njapau (ELCZa) in your prayers of the people.
- Watch for a future link to short messages from our partners, 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 which 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.
• Contribute to two initiatives which support our companions: 1) Drought and Hunger Relief and 2) Publication of Faith Formation Material in native languages. Promote these initiatives to your congregations. Funds may be sent to the synod office clearly marked.
• Encourage your congregation to explore the church in Zimbabwe [http://www.elcz.co.zw/]

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.

**Remember to** fill out your census if they haven’t done so already and maybe consider applying for an absentee ballot, (note: they are “temporarily disabled.”)