



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

January 5, 2010

Dear Bishop Bvumbwe and Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi,

The NW Synod of Wisconsin – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is pleased to invite the following group to visit the synod next April, 2010. This group will participate in a variety of events throughout the synod and will represent the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM). Besides visiting in their companion congregations, they will participate in a synod-wide *Glocal Mission Gathering* in Eau Claire on April 23-24th. The following weekend, April 30th and May 1st, they will participate in the bi-annual Synod Women's Organization convention. Thus the primary reason for their visit is to further reinforce relationships with companion congregations and to build relationships between the women's organizations of the ELCM and NW Synod of WI.

The following synod organizations and congregations are extending invitations and will provide the necessary support to bring the following people to Wisconsin from Malawi:

1. Bishop Duane Pederson, NW Synod of WI – Bishop Joseph Bvumbwe, ELCM, leader of delegation
2. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Eau Claire – Maria Bvumbwe, wife of Bishop, ELCM Women's Advisor
3. Synod Women's Organization – Mabel Madinga, Chairlady of ELCM Women's groups
4. Diane Kaufmann, Companion Synod Coordinator – Mphatso Thole, Companion Coordinator of ELCM
5. Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Eau Claire – Mitundu Parish, Agnes Ndalama, ELCM Women's Coordinator
6. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Whitehall – Dedza Mission Area
7. Joy Lutheran Church, Prescott – Mikolongwe Parish
8. Calvary Lutheran Church, Neillsville – Nkhata Bay Parish
9. Chetek Lutheran Church, Chetek – Chimvu Parish
10. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ashland – Chitipa Central Parish
11. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Eau Claire – Zomba Parish
12. Hope Lutheran Church, Ladysmith – Ngerenge Parish
13. Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Menomonie – Kasungu Central (Boma)
14. English Lutheran Church, Ellsworth – Chileka Mission Area
15. First Lutheran Church, Eau Claire – Salima Parish
16. Grace Lutheran Church, Eau Claire – Lilongwe Urban (Pastor)

I am very pleased with the response and with the geographic spread of the congregations here and the parishes in Malawi. Nearly all areas of the synod and Malawi are represented. After the group has been chosen and we have received their names, we will issue a formal letter of invitation to them for visa purposes. We cordially invite them to Wisconsin, and look forward to welcoming them into our congregations. These visitations are a key expression of the Companion Synod Program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If the invitation is accepted, we will at the appropriate time reserve round-trip tickets for each of the persons in the group to travel from Lilongwe International Airport to Minneapolis, MN. We will be responsible for their housing, food, transportation, health insurance, spending money, and any other necessary expenses while they are in the U.S.A. They will be guests in the homes of members of our congregations. We need the group to be in Wisconsin by April 23rd and they will return to Malawi during the week of May 3rd.

This will be a significant visit for our synod and our relationship with the ELCM. I look forward to working with you to make this dream a reality. We look forward to having many opportunities to learn about Malawi as we share our faith and life together.

Peace be with you,

Duane C. Pederson, Bishop

cc: Peter J. Ganser, Consul

Walking together † for the sake of mission † in God's world