

Facts about Namibia

Being a Companion Synod

Companion synod relationships of the ELCA connect Lutheran churches throughout the world with ELCA synods and congregations. These relationships are concrete expressions of the communion and fellowship with the more than 140 Lutheran member churches of The Lutheran World Federation. Each of the 65 synods has at least one international church companion and many have additional relationships, resulting in more than 120 companion synod relationships.

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.

Our relationship with the Lutheran church in Namibia has been lived out in a variety of ways across the years. Several trips to Namibia from NJ Synod congregations and from Namibia to New Jersey have strengthened bonds of connection and transformed relationships. Sister churches, New Jersey Synod and Namibian congregations paired up have led to mutual learning and sharing. The New Jersey synod has also supported the ministry and work in Namibia by supporting their work around the HIV/AIDS epidemic, ministry with orphans, providing Sunday School materials, books and resources for those communities.

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together. Companion church relationships enrich and deepen our ministries by exposing us to global challenges and perspectives as we seek to work with one another to build up the body of Christ and the world.