



May 14, 2018

On the Road with Rachel and Zach!

We have been traveling all over the United States the month of April to share about the Young Adults in Global Mission, City Park Lutheran, and other partner ministries in Central Europe. The time we spend on the road allows us to showcase the different ministries in which our young adult missionaries to participate, as well as share the ways that we've experienced God at work in Hungary and in Serbia. It's also a time for us to learn about the ways God is at work through our church partners in their communities around the United States.

Our first stop was at the ELCA Churchwide Headquarters in Chicago, IL. At the Churchwide offices we reconnected with our colleagues that are country/region coordinators in other parts of the world. We also participated in the Discernment, Interview, Placement (DIP) weekend event, where we discern who will be a part of the 2018-2019 cohort of Young Adults in Global Mission Central Europe.



Our next stop was NE Iowa! The NE Iowa Synod of the ELCA is the companion synod with the Northern Diocese of the Lutheran Church in Hungary. We were warmly welcomed by the pastors, parishioners, and educators that contribute to the many ministries that are at work in NE Iowa. We began the weekend at Luther College, a liberal arts school that consistently sends graduates of the college to the YAGM program. Campus pastor, Mike Blair, attributes so many Luther graduates choosing to participate in the YAGM program to the wholistic community approach to education, personal, professional, and spiritual development that is a part of Luther College's culture.

RACHEL AND ZACH HOME ASSIGNMENT 2018



After our visit to Luther College, we headed over the one of the local coffee shops to meet the pastors and members of some of our supporting congregations. In this time, we learned about their different congregations, and spoke to them about the different volunteers that they support within the YAGM Central Europe Program. On Sunday we worshipped with our supporting congregation, Immanuel Lutheran Church, in Cresco, Iowa. I preached during the service and Rachel prepared a visual presentation to speak with people about the YAGM Central Europe ministry during fellowship hour.

After Iowa, our next stop to share about the YAGM program was out to the Pacific Northwest. Rachel and I led an adult forum at Messiah Lutheran Church in Auburn, Washington. The following Sunday, Rachel preached at her home congregation Messiah Lutheran in Auburn, WA. That same day, Zach headed to Phinney Ridge Lutheran in Seattle where he led an adult education hour and attended their congregational meeting. The following Wednesday, we led a confirmation class at Phinney Ridge Lutheran and discussed baptism and vocation.



On our last Sunday in the Pacific Northwest, we worshiped at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Maple Valley, Washington. Pr. Andy Arnold invited us to share about our work as missionaries in Central Europe. On Sunday evening, we joined Pr. Paul Kacynski at Roots of the Table in Renton, Washington. We led a Table Talk discussion during worship. It was a gift to be able to connect with an ELCA domestic mission congregation, Roots of the Table, and share together our experiences as missionaries in global and local contexts.



The last leg of our journey is here in the Bay Area of California. In the coming weeks we will preach in congregations around the area, including St Mark's in Pleasant Hill, Marin Lutheran in Marin and St. Paul's in Oakland. Shortly after arriving in the Bay Area this week, Rachel and Zach returned to their Alma Mater, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, for Wednesday Chapel. The chapel service was focused on Global Mission and Global Lutheranism. Rachel preached and Zach shared about our experiences as missionaries.



Thank you all for your continued prayers and support!

Szeretettel (with love),

Zach & Rachel