The Lutheran Church of St. Andrew
Global Mission Team

Our Mission:

To demonstrate God's love by caring for people globally and helping them to know and follow Jesus. We do this by providing direct financial, physical, and spiritual support to selected areas of the world where we believe we can make a difference.

Our Work:

The Global Mission Team is about discerning God's call to engage in fresh initiatives that will extend our reach globally. Mission trips, fair trade sales, and fun fundraising events, like the annual "Soup Showdown" cook-off, and news and support of global missions are just a sampling of what this team is up to! More exciting plans are in process. We are here to serve the world, as Jesus did. Please join us. Mission trip opportunities provide additional support and assistance to these programs.

Join Us!

The Global Mission team typically meets on the third Tuesday of the Month in person and via Zoom. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the Global Mission Team by sending a message at mystandrew.org/contact. We welcome all to join our meetings to learn more and participate.

More information about our ministry partners and projects can be found on the following pages.

Focus Area	Description
Ukraine 	**The Objective for the Mission**: To provide direct financial, physical, and spiritual support to the people of Ukraine. **Approach to Mission**: Putin's war and invasion of Ukraine has brought a tremendous civilian toll and need for medical supplies, food, clothing, water, electricity, and all other needs for personal living and survival. Working in partnership with the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Silver Spring (uhcus.org) and other organizations, we seek to help mobilize resources to assist the Ukrainian people respond to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and the surrounding countries created by the Russian invasion and destruction of Ukraine, beginning in 2022 and continuing without end in sight. We collect and assist in packaging and shipping donations to Ukraine and have raised funds for their mission through appeals and events.
Ethiopia 	**The Objective for the Mission**: To provide direct financial, physical, and spiritual support to the northern areas of Ethiopia that have been ravaged by war since 2020 and support the work of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church of Mekane Yesus (EECMY). **Approach to Mission**: Working in partnership with the EECMY, we seek to help mobilize resources to help the Ethiopian people respond to the humanitarian crisis in the northern part of Ethiopia following the more than two-year-long war that began in November 2020. In November 2023 there was an agreement to end the fighting and civilian crisis, but that has not resulted in significant improvement to the civilian population. There is a huge need for food, personal living materials and money.

Mi Refugio – Guatemala

The Objective of the Mission

Mi Refugio Es Jesus is a non-denominational, Christian ministry which shares the love of Jesus by providing education (pre-school through high school), food, clothing, medical and dental assistance to these children and their families through planned mission trips and direct financial support.

Approach to Mission

Mi Refugio es Jesus is entering its 40th year just outside Guatemala City, Guatemala. The school was founded and is run by Kari Engen, who as a 21-year old student from Rockville, Maryland responded to God's call to serve the very poor in the Guatemala City Dump and empower them through education and by sharing the love of Jesus with students and their families.

Rooted in Christian values, Mi Refugio's mission is to share the love of Jesus through both word and action—offering quality education, spiritual formation, and compassionate care. Students are taught to know Jesus personally and to reflect His love in their lives and communities. Through this holistic approach, Mi Refugio seeks to break the cycle of poverty and instill hope, dignity, and faith in future generations.

Grace Christian Fellowship Ministries International in Liberia (GCFMI)

The Objective for the Mission: GCFMI strives to create greater good by positively impacting individuals, families, communities, and policies that transform lives.

Approach to Mission: GCFMI's mission is accomplished through direct service projects, programs, and support that serve identified needs, including food support, assistance in providing safe drinking water, assistance in health care through construction of clinics, counseling through ministering, and other support services. GCFMI meets people and organizations where they are and

work to ensure that the resources invested and entrusted to them are managed with the highest level of stewardship to serve the local and national communities.

We are friends in God's family through Jesus, strengthened by his spirit to represent Christ in our daily lives, our community and the world. Being committed to provide educational, social and spiritual development for our people, including opportunities and disability awareness.

GCFMI also promotes and actively trains church leaders in rural Liberia.

Our Savior Lutheran Church Liberia Mission Project

The Objective for the Mission:

To give hope by sharing God's love through Christ-centered education for underserved children in Gbueglay, #3 District, Grand Bassa County, Liberia.

Approach to Mission:

Our vision is that the Liberia Mission Team will serve as a conduit of God's love to these children and all people in that community, providing support through creative, self-help sustainable initiatives that empower them to be self-reliant and self-sufficient.

Ministry Beyond Myself

The Objective for the Mission:

Our Mission is to foster collaborative relationships with partners in developing communities, providing access to education, quality healthcare, and economic opportunities.

Approach to Mission:

We are committed to doing "ministry beyond ourselves". **Romans 12:10** says, "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." This is what Christ did! Christ came to earth to serve. In his selflessness, He modeled

how we should live. Therefore, Ministry Beyond Myself has built relationships with the residents of La Haciendita, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Because of our deep love and respect for them, we stand as partners committed to promoting spiritual health and community transformation.

Fair Trade Sale

The Objective for the Mission:

To raise awareness of the need to provide an ethical financial return to small farmers, growers and producers in developing regions of the world.

Approach to Mission:

Fair Trade Sale focuses on selling products from developing countries at a fair price to support improvement in social and environmental standards with the goal of achieving higher and fairer income and sustainable and equitable operations. The Global Mission Team has sponsored a Fair Trade Sale each year in late November to early December. Fairly traded items such as chocolate, coffee, tea and olive oil are purchased from reputable Fair-Trade-certified distributors and sold on several successive Sunday mornings between services until the supply is exhausted.

Soup Showdown

The Objective: To provide a fun activity for members and friends and raise funds for projects the GMT supports. GMT is currently supporting several world missions and may support additional programs as funding is available.

Approach to Mission: The Global Mission Team has sponsored a Soup Showdown each year on a Sunday morning in late January after the church services. Members are challenged to produce soups in a variety of categories to be sampled by the guests and then voted on. The goal for the cooks is to produce the best (highest vote-getting) soup in a particular category and thus obtain bragging rights.

How you can help, and/or get involved.

Financial contributions may be made to support any of these ministries through The Lutheran Church of St. Andrew, with Global Mission Team or the specific ministry noted in the check memo line or in the OTHER tile on our secure payment page. Begin your online donation at mystandrew.org/give.

Volunteering to assist with any of these ministries and projects is welcomed! Questions? Send a message to the Global Mission Team at mystandrew.org/contact.

Ukraine: In-kind donations for Ukraine may be brought directly to The Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and Humanitarian Center, just south of St. Andrew at 15100 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20905. Learn more and donate online at uhcus.org.