

# The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic: Our Companion Synod

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Central African Republic (CAR) is a thriving community of over 55,000 Lutherans in 300 congregations who are, perhaps, the one abiding light and promise of hope throughout the land. CAR is a country that struggles to survive amidst poverty, disease, political upheaval and under-developed conditions. But, the church in CAR leads its people through these challenges.

They are spirit driven people who dance and sing on their way to offer their gifts at the altar; whose pastors walk or ride motor bikes to serve 5-6 congregations, who ride in the back of a truck over rutted roads to attend a General Assembly of the church, who lack Bibles but pass on the faith through story telling in Sunday School, in classrooms and in the community. These are people who staff Gallo Health Clinic, build spring boxes for clean water, and who actively train to rebuild after years of civil war. As important, these fellow Lutherans make up the synod with which our synod partners and through which our prayers and gifts bring sustenance and hope.

As we celebrate this month the partnership between our synod and CAR, let us continue to pray for peace and stability for the church in CAR, let us gather monies to continue to provide materials, medicine, church roofs, classrooms, university scholarships, motorcycles, Bibles, and so much more. And let us strengthen one another for life and ministry.

Bishop Ndanga-Toue of CAR recently expressed to us his heartfelt gratitude for our prayers and wishes for peace and prosperity and for the partnership and gifts we share. Our opportunities for mission and ministry through our own congregation together with the church in CAR are unlimited. We have only to learn, share, give and pray in service to one another – far and near.

May we dance and sing together with our brothers and sisters in CAR as we offer our gifts to the glory of God.



**When Companions Engage With One Another in Authentic Relationships, Everyone's Lives Are Changed: Here's How We Can Make That Happen**

Looking for WhatsApp Communication Partners, Ages 18 to 40, with our African Companion Synod

Young adults, would you like to communicate with a member of our companion synod, the Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic (EEL-RCA) via cell phone app (WhatsApp or Messenger)? The church there is keenly interested in this project. They have suggested the age range between 18 and 40. Participants would be matched up with someone within about 5 years of their age. If you know some French, that would be helpful, but this is not an absolute requirement since Google Translate can give you rough translations.



The goals of the project are to share information about each other's lives and circumstances and to promote awareness and understanding of our companion synod. For more information or to register, contact the synod's CAR team chair Carolyn Jacobs at [caroloujacobs@gmail.com](mailto:caroloujacobs@gmail.com) and use Communication Project as the subject.

Each year, the synod CAR committee sets as its goal \$50,000 to be received by the church in CAR in the following ways. What you give – whatever the amount – matters.

CAR Fund Goal	2019
Capacity-building Training, and National Rebuilding	\$10,000
Church Roofs	\$5,000
Motorcycles	\$6,000
Emmanuel Health Center (Gallo)	\$5,000
PASE - spring boxes/water	\$2,000
Sunday School Translation	\$5,000
University Scholarships	\$4,000
Veterinary Project	\$2,000
Village Education Operations	\$4,000
Village Permanent School Fund	\$4,000
Visits and Communications	\$3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

Pray without ceasing that peace, hope and sustenance will surround our family in CAR.