

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Missionary to Zambia

Rev. Arden Strasser

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On your behalf we live and work with the people of Zambia. This is an honor and a privilege.

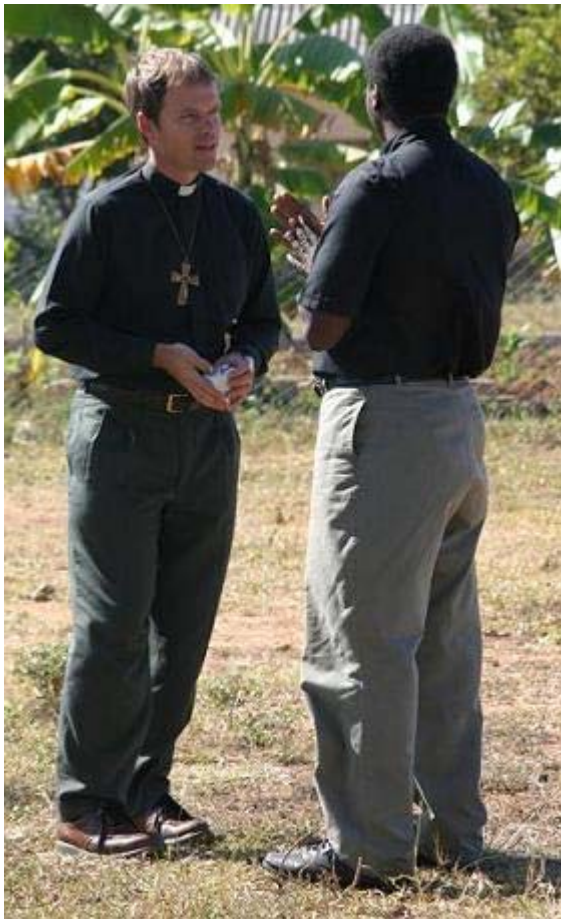
First, let me introduce you to my family.

My wife, Susan, serves here as Technical Advisor for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, focusing on improving the healthcare for children and mothers, specifically those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Susan is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and holds a PhD in Public Health. Susan enjoys knitting when time allows.



Our eldest daughter Chloe, finishes 10th grade in June 2008, and attends the American international School of Lusaka. The schoolwork is heavy, but she keeps a positive attitude about it all. Chloe likes basketball, soccer, reading, being with friends, and eating gummies. She just finished participating in the school musical-*Bye Bye Birdie*. She does wish she could learn to drive, a difficult request us to realize here although she does get some practice in.

Alea, 6, is in kindergarten at the same school, and is full of life and affection. She loves to play and to be involved in whatever is going on. She also has a strong will, which challenges Mom and Dad sometimes.



Since 2006, I have served alongside the leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia, with the shared purpose of reinvigorating and strengthening the church, developing all aspects of ministry, including outreach, church administration, and leadership. This church is quickly changing, and in order to build management capacity for effective change, I function as a close mentor, advisor, and collaborator. In other words, I don't work alone, but always with another Zambia pastor. Even after years in Africa, I continue to learn to communicate more effectively cross-culturally, and to be grateful for the unique ways Christ is revealed in the church in Zambia. Besides work with the leaders in the capital city, Lusaka, I also am involved with congregations throughout Zambia for workshops, outreach, worship, and our new micro-credit development program. The powerful partnership with you, as an ELCA congregation, is truly valued and appreciated by this national church body.

In my spare time, I like camping, technology, reading, and making music. I was raised in faith at the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, in Rochester, NY and my last call was to Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette, California.

We enjoy talking about how the church's call to follow Christ Jesus can shape your life, and one day perhaps we can do so with your congregation. We appreciate your support and remembering us and the people of Zambia when you pray.

Gratefully,
Pastor Arden Strasser ardenstrasser@gmail.com

Mission Objectives

1. Leadership

Development: I work side by side with church leaders in planning, evangelism, church planting, decentralization, and human resource management.

2. Training: We plan and hold workshops in theological upgrading, HIV/AIDS outreach, music, children's ministry, and social outreach.

3. Self-Reliance through

Micro-Finance: We are training and establishing internal savings and lending groups with loan capital for small business development.

4. Financial Management: I build capacity of clergy and lay church leaders in sound financial practices and fiscal responsibility.

5. Administration: I collaborate on church constitutional revision, conditions of service, large scale development projects, and grant applications.



Prayer Concerns: I invite you to remember the following when you pray:

1 Steady rains for farming, which many church members depend on to avoid seasonal hunger.

2 Love and unity within and between ELC-Zambia congregations and leaders.

3 Wisdom for the Zambian church leadership in decision making.

4 Gratefulness for the courage the church has shown in moving towards self-reliance.

5 Health and safety for Arden, Susan, Chloe, Alea