

July 3, 2025

*Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time,
if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work
for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.*

—Galatians 6:9-10

Dear friends,

Since 2013, Stephen and Jodi Swanson have faithfully served as ELCA missionaries to Tanzania. Their commitment to expanding pediatric care in the country's hospitals helped to drastically reduce childhood deaths from malnutrition, train hundreds of medical professionals from across Africa in neonatology and inspire a generation of local pediatricians in a diocese that had none when they arrived. We give thanks for their good work for the last 12 years. We also give thanks for your support of Stephen and Jodi. Your prayers, encouragement and support — above and beyond the generosity of your missionary sponsorship — made the Swansons' good work possible and reminded them that they never walked alone. Together you impacted the lives of children and families in ways that will ripple through Tanzania and surrounding countries for generations to come. Thanks be to God!



The Swansons have made the difficult decision to end their missionary service this year. Though Jodi and Stephen are moving on from this role, our commitment to accompanying our neighbors in eastern Africa will continue. Medical missions remain a key priority for the ELCA, as in Juba, South Sudan, where Reconciliation Lutheran Community Center and Primary Health Care Clinic delivered more than 1,500 babies, provided care for almost 2,400 pregnancies and performed 81 fistula surgeries last year alone. ELCA missionaries Daudi and Kellen Msseemmaa

partner closely with this clinic, which focuses on the needs of women and children who lack access to proper care and provides free services for pregnant women. The clinic's infant mortality rate is less than one-tenth of the national average — so you see why the Swansons hope you will support the ongoing work of Daudi, Kellen and the Reconciliation Lutheran clinic!

We too hope that you will join us in continuing our work in eastern Africa by supporting Daudi and Kellen Msseemmaa. Stephen and Jodi remember the importance of our church's support from the very beginning. Thanks to the ELCA churchwide organization, the Swansons started their work immediately without needing to spend time raising funds. In doing so, Stephen followed in the footsteps of two Lutheran missionaries close to him, his father and aunt. With your continued support, together we will ensure that the next generation of missionaries has the support needed to work for the good of all, wherever and however they are called.

Let us give thanks together for Jodi, Stephen and their inspiring work, which lives on in Tanzania's medical community and the patients whose lives they forever changed. Will you take a moment in the coming days to join me in praying for the Swansons as they transition in their ministry?

Eternal God, we thank you for Stephen and Jodi and for the ministries we've shared through them. As they have been a blessing to us, and to so many in their community, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Khader El-Yateem". The script is fluid and cursive.

The Rev. Khader El-Yateem

Executive Director for Service and Justice

P.S.: We will be in touch with you soon about finding another missionary to support. With 100 other missionary families serving our neighbors in 35 countries, I am confident that we can connect you with another missionary whose work is close to your heart. In the meantime, please contact us at GlobalChurch@elca.org if you have questions or already know how you would like to change your support.