



## NEWS FROM YAGM SENEGAL

Pastor Kristin Engstrom, YAGM Country Coordinator

September, 2018

### Are they here yet?

#### The 2018—2019 Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)

“Have the YAGM arrived yet?” asked my Senegalese colleagues and friends several times starting in mid-August. Apparently I had made another language mistake when sharing the arrival date of the new YAGMs, leaving most everyone anticipating their arrival one week early. But finally, the third YAGM Senegal cohort arrived on Thursday, August 23rd!

For their first three weeks in Senegal, we were based in Dakar, where the YAGM studied wolof or serer, met our Senegalese partners, figured out daily tasks (visiting the store, greeting local guards, handwashing laundry), had Senegalese outfits made, and ventured out for three days at the Lutheran Church of Senegal youth adult camp. At the end of most days, they were both exhausted and exhilarated.

On Saturday, September 16th, the YAGM host families came to Dakar to meet their new family members and share expectations for their year together.

The next day, everyone packed up their suitcases, hugged one another tight, and then travelled to their new host communities.

As I write this, all six YAGM have safely arrived in Yeumbeul, Fatick, Foundjioune, and Linguere. Thanks be to God!

### Accompanying YAGM Senegal

My work as an ELCA Global Missionary is possible thanks to the generosity of many congregations and individuals in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thank you! Jerejef! Merci! Jokonjol! Jahram! You can contact me via e-mail at [kristin.engstrom@elca.org](mailto:kristin.engstrom@elca.org). [You are also invited to support me as an ELCA Global Missionary here.](#)

If you would like to more closely follow YAGM Senegal, please check out our blog at <http://yagmsenegal.wixsite.com/blog>. You will find pictures and stories of daily life from me and the YAGMs as well as links to individual YAGM blogs.

*On est ensemble! (We are in this together.)*



The 2018-2019 Senegal YAGM arrive in Senegal with Pastor Kristin third from the right.



Pastor Kristin Engstrom

As an ELCA missionary, I serve as the Country Coordinator for the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program in Senegal.

I'm originally from the mid-western United States, and served as a parish pastor in northern New Jersey for six years prior to moving to Senegal in 2016.

#### Inside Senegal

There are an estimated 36 different local languages spoken in Senegal. 80% of people speak wolof as their first or second language. French is the colonial language, spoken in schools and the government. Most Senegalese speak at least two - three languages.

The Senegal YAGM learn wolof or serer, and a little puhlar and french.



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### Meet the 2018-2019 Senegal YAGM

The 2018—2019 Senegal Young Adults in Global Mission come from all over the US and are serving in four different communities in Senegal. The YAGM in Yeumbeul and Linguère are serving with Senegalese Lutheran Development Services (SLDS) and the YAGM in Fatick and Foundjioune are serving with the Lutheran Church of Senegal (ELS).

Please keep the YAGM, their supervisors, their host families, their communities, and myself in your prayers as they adjust to life in Senegal.

**Hannah**, from Texas, is serving in Yeumbeul with the SLDS Preschool & Elementary School, the Family Life Planning & Education Program, and Sports & Leisure Program.

**Rachel H.**, from Washington, is serving in Fatick with the ELS Women's Advancement & Job Training Program and the Department of Faith Formation.

**Zeb**, from Texas, is serving in Fatick with the ELS Youth & Young Adult Movement, the Finance & Accounting Department, and the Parish of Fatick.

**Rachel O.**, from Washington, is serving in Foundiougne with the ELS Department of Community Development.

**Andrew**, from North Carolina, is serving in Linguere with the SLDS Primary Health Care & HIV/AIDS Program and teaching English at the Linguere Roman Catholic Elementary School.

**Maddie**, from Minnesota, is serving in Linguere with the SLDS Dairy Farm & Creamery and the Family Life Planning & Education Program.



YAGM Senegal and their new host families.

*From left: Backrow—Koundoul, Andrew, Robert, Zeb, Rachel O, Pastor Kristin; Frontrow— Rose, Maddie, Rachel H, Cheikh, Hannah, Membasse, Oumy, Mahmoudou*



Learning to wash laundry the Senegalese way, accompanied by Mado and Albert of the Lutheran Church of Senegal.