




— **GUSTAVO DRIAU** —
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Introduction Letter



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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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Allow me to introduce myself

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”; this is how Paul shared a formal loving greeting to the Church in Corinth (1st Cor 1:3); and it also is how I like to greet you.

My name is Gustavo Driau. I am writing this page to introduce myself to you as your serving missionary in the ELCA Global Mission, as the Regional Representative for South America.

My family and I live in Córdoba city, Argentina. I'm married to Liliana and have been blessed with three daughters, one son and five grandsons; the youngest is Franco, born on last September 3rd.

I knew the Lutheran church in Argentina while attending the Lutheran Elementary School in Buenos Aires, in the 1960 decade. Later I was confirmed in the Lutheran Church in Argentina, and over the years I became an active lay leader serving closely with pastors and congregations in diakonia and mission ministries. Twenty years ago, I was blessed with a call to serve as director for diakonia and mission development in my Church at national level. In 2010 I received a call from the LWF to serve as coordinator of the “LAC Churches Sustainability Program”. Since December of 2016 I am serving as the ELCA/Global Mission Regional Representative in South America.

My service

As Regional Representative for South America I serve accompanying churches and organizations in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru. I also make myself available as a resource person for diakonia and mission projects, and church development and sustainability for other countries in the region. I enjoy my current call, the churches and communities I visit and the leaders and members I meet on my mission visits.

As you know, the ELCA has historic relationships in many parts of the world, some of these relationships we inherited from the ELCA predecessor bodies as well as new churches in relationship in Latin America and other parts of the world.

You might also know that the ELCA predecessor bodies used to send missionaries all over the world who founded churches, schools, seminaries, and social services organizations. Those organizations and the new ones established by local churches are now under local leadership and ownership.

The ELCA, through the Global Mission Unit, provides accompaniment and sometimes grants to assist local churches and institutions to strengthen and develop their sustainability in the amazing services they provide with very modest resources.

The executive director of the ELCA Global Mission Unit is The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla and the Director for Latin America and Caribbean is The Rev. Jaime Dubon. I also work very close to my three-other colleague of the LAC Team. Accompaniment to the churches in South America has several expressions: World Hunger, Mission, and Ministry Projects, Disaster Response, Leadership Development (international scholarships) and the unique ELCA Companion Synods Program. I work narrowly with all these expressions.

Our relationship

I look forward to connecting with you more, writing the regular newsletters and sharing news about life and ministry of the churches in the region.

I am excited about the opportunities we face together and look forward to serving in the global mission ministry. I encourage you to share your voice, experience, questions, and opinions through anyone of these channels so that we can continue to accompany each other to grow in the call we received to serve. Peace in Christ.