

Central Europe: Hungary, Slovakia and Poland

Nov. 6-16, 2026



Central Europe is home to a large mix of people: different nationalities, languages, ethnicities and cultures. While the Lutheran denominations in Central Europe are the minority churches in their contexts, there exists a rich history of religious practice and societal engagement.

The ELCA's partnership with churches in Central Europe, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia, and the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland, spans decades. These relationships allow us to quickly and effectively respond to crises, such as the war in Ukraine, while continuing to support long-standing mutual ministries in areas of leadership development, evangelism, education and addressing the societal injustices that contribute to the root causes of hunger.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Lutherans have opened their hearts, homes, churches and communities to people fleeing the war. In the immediate aftermath of the Russian invasion, and in the years since, the ELCA has accompanied its partners as they address the holistic needs of their new neighbors, including providing food, shelter and hygiene supplies; assisting with community integration; and beginning the long process of emotional, psychological and spiritual healing. This accompaniment will continue long after the war ends.

Your Invitation

Join us on a trip to Central Europe to see God's work firsthand in Hungary, Slovakia and Poland. You will witness ministries with refugees; meet with teachers of the Central Europe Teachers program and the communities who welcome them; visit development projects in underserved, rural populations and in city centers where there is great need; and learn about the context and culture of Lutherans in Central Europe. You will find community in our siblings in Christ, rejuvenate your vision for the church and witness the powerful impact of companion relationships at work in the world.

Cost per person: \$4,600

This cost includes nine days of travel once in Europe—airfare, lodging, transportation and food, as well as airfare to Europe and an allowance for estimated domestic travel costs. The cost does not include personal extended stays, personal purchases or alcohol. Additional costs may apply based on the final cost of domestic airfare for individual departure airports.

Registration

To register or for more information, please contact Jennifer Kenyeri, manager of development events, at Jennifer.Kenyeri@elca.org or **773-380-2872**. The trip will involve long road trips, long periods of walking and limited access for those with mobility challenges.

The deadline for registration is July 15.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



Tentative Trip Itinerary: Nov. 6-16, 2026

Nov. 6

Depart U.S.

Nov. 7

Arrival in Budapest, Hungary. Settle into accommodations, followed by a learning experience on the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary and the Hungarian context.

Nov. 8

Worship with a local congregation followed by lunch. Optional excursions, including a visit to the Budapest Baths.

Nov. 9

Train to Bratislava, Slovakia. Take part in a guided tour focusing on Protestantism in Slovakia, followed by lunch with the bishop of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia. In the afternoon, visit a Lutheran museum and learn more about the impact of ELCA-funded ministries.

Nov. 10

Visit a school that has partnered with the ELCA for 35-plus years through Central Europe Teachers, an ELCA-supported program pairing native English speakers with Lutheran high schools across Slovakia. Enjoy coffee and conversation with church leadership who are engaged in the response to the refugee crisis. Train to Český Těšín, Czech Republic. Visit with local church partners.

Nov. 11

Participate in an ecumenical day celebration recognizing Polish Independence Day. After lunch, learn about ELCA-funded work with refugees in Miechowice. Travel to Warsaw, Poland.

Nov. 12

Conversations with leaders of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland and a private, guided tour ending at Holy Trinity Church. Evening flight to Budapest.

Nov. 13

Visit the Devai House to experience ministries with refugees, primarily those from Ukraine, funded by Lutheran Disaster Response, and the church's Integration Services Center.

Nov. 14

Day trip to Kötcse to visit the Lutheran Community and Creative House, an ELCA World Hunger grant recipient, which addresses the needs of disadvantaged Roma families through opportunities for employment, education and more. Witness the center's impact as it celebrates traditional crafts and music, creating both marketable skills and bolstering community pride.

Nov. 15

Worship with a local congregation, followed by a fellowship lunch. Free time for exploring Budapest in the evening.

Nov. 16

Depart to the U.S.

