



“Arise, shine; for your light has come” (Isaiah 60:1).

My heart nearly burst with pride as I stood in a classroom at the Evanjelické Lýceum in Bratislava, Slovakia, watching Ivana Šabanošová teach. I was transported back to 1995 when I stood in that same classroom as a missionary pastor and Ivana was my student.

“The American missionary teachers shined a light on our church for us back then,” reflected Ivana. “Today I am happy to serve our church as you once did.”

Her words were humbling and a source of pride for both of us, as we both knew that the light of which she spoke is Christ’s light.

Epiphany, the season of light, is traditionally the season to celebrate Christ’s manifestation to the world. This Epiphany, I invite you to remember and celebrate the ELCA missionaries who, hand in hand with global companions, shine Christ’s light around the world through preaching, teaching, healing, building, developing and peace making.



Ivana Šabanošová

This season, I invite you to help shine the light! Join hands with our missionaries and neighbors around the world. Light candles as you highlight our church’s missionaries and hold them in prayer. Lift up a different continent each Sunday in worship: Sing hymns and try communion bread from other lands. Turn up the lights on missionaries and global mission in Sunday school classes and Bible study. Offer thanks for those who support missionaries with prayer, encouraging communication and financial gifts. These gifts make a lasting world of difference.

*The Rev. Twila Schock is director for
Global Mission Support.*



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