



# Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

[www.lutheransinafrica.com](http://www.lutheransinafrica.com) | October 2019

## The Main Goal



### SEVERAL PASTORS ORDAINED

The Mission Statement of Lutherans in Africa is "Forming African Lutherans to be teachers of the faith." This is to fulfill what is commanded in Scripture:

*What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. (2 Ti 2:2)*

Seven men graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology this year and last month four of them were

ordained into the office of the Holy Ministry. The new pastors are: Revs. Josephat Makori, Charles Onchera, Isaac Onderi, and Zebedeo Masenge Ogongi. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their ministry to preach Law and Gospel for repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ alone.

While it may seem basic, this is not the message that is most often preached. As you drive down the streets you are more likely to see promises of miracles of health, wealth, and your best life now.



*Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles - 1 Co 1:22–23.*

I am so grateful to be able to work in the Lutheran Church with supporters who realize the importance of well trained pastors. Supporters who help equip those pastors with the tools that they need to do the job. In addition to all the good books like Lutheran Study Bible, Book of Concord, Law and Gospel, and Luther's Commentary on Galatians, the newly ordained pastors also received stoles, a chalice, patten, and white baptismal cloths made by faithful Lutheran women.

## A LUTHERAN KENYAN ORDINATION

What was it like to attend an ordination in Kenya? I would say the first difference is that it is a really big deal for the congregation, the family, and even the town. The festivities were not limited to the service but it was very important for all the students to have me over to their homes, to meet their families and to share a meal with them. This is how they honor and show respect in Kenya but for me and my family, we really felt that we were the ones being blessed. The Kenyan Lutherans love their pastors and the ones who trained them.

The ordination services began with a long procession into the church with choirs, pastors, and the bishops. One of the unique aspects is that when the candidate enters, he is brought in by the chairman of the congregation who presents the pastor to be ordained to the bishop. It is the chairman who reads the qualifications to the congregation and presents him as the pastor whom they want to serve them. After this the chairman hands the candidate over to the bishop who continues with the ordination liturgy.



All pastors are called forward to read portions of Scripture to announce what he is being called and ordained to do.





*Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Mt 28:18–20.*

*But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. - 1 Ti 6:11–12.*

*Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. - 1 Pe 5:2–4.*

*Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." - Jn 20:21–23.*



After reading of the passages, the pastors lay hands on the candidate (1 Tim. 5:22, 2 Tim 1:6) while the bishop prays for him. On behalf of all of you, the supporters of Lutherans in Africa, I was able to present to them the gifts I mentioned above: pastoral stoles, a patten and chalice, and baptismal cloths. Even though you may not have been here physically,





you did participate in the service through your gifts and prayers! Workers are being trained for the harvest and being sent out to do the work.

The work began immediately for them as they lead liturgy, preached their first sermons as ordained pastors, and used the communion ware to serve the Lord's Supper to the people.



After the service, the rest of the family is introduced to the congregation, announcements are made, and then the entire assembly gets in line to welcome and congratulate the new pastor and give him ordination gifts. This lasts about another hour. Finally, the entire congregation fellowships and shares a meal.



As you can imagine, these services last for all day, but no one complained, instead they rejoiced. The church and the Christian life is the most important thing for these people.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the newly ordained pastors. The Devil never likes when more workers are sent into the harvest to preach the Gospel and there are many spiritual attacks.
- Pray for the ongoing construction. The Mission Center is complete and the team is now finishing up the library and lecture hall for the upcoming school year.
- Pray for the new students who are preparing to come to the Lutheran School of Theology in the new year. There are many who would like to attend but there are also many logistical challenges when leaving families and homes to come and study to be a pastor.
- Pray for me. Sometimes missionaries do not ask but we do struggle with all sorts of problems and also sometimes fail. We are not perfect and need forgiveness and encouragement.
- Pray for the family. Homeschool continues and the kids are learning. They are blessed to be able to live in such a wild and interesting environment but there are also many dangers.



**SUPPORT THE WORK**

*Mission work is collective work. Some people send, some people are sent. Without your prayers, commitment, work and donations, the mission work is not possible. We are thankful for all the support you are giving us. And we ask that God may give us the strength and wisdom to be good stewards of His work here in Africa.*

**TO MAKE A DONATION****ONLINE**

Visit our website - [www.lutheransinafrica.com](http://www.lutheransinafrica.com)  
There are two options, you can either donate through PayPal or through the donor software we purchased (works only in North America). Donating directly through LIA is more cost effective because PayPal charges a higher service fee.

If you prefer sending a check, you can also do that.

**USA**

Send your check made payable to :  
Lutherans in Africa  
PO Box 121, Ocean Shores, WA, 98569

**AUSTRALIA****Electronic deposit**

Name: Lutherans in Africa - Australia Inc.  
BSB: 704942, Account Number: 100934633

**By cheque**

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The ordination for Revs. Zebedeo Masenge and Josephat Makori were held outside because there were more than 500 people in attendance.



Rev. Isaac Onderi's church building was a bit larger and was able to accommodate the large crowd.





The family of Charles Onchera were so happy to see the wife of the professor also visit their home.

We enjoyed a wonderful Kenyan meal and Christian fellowship.







Left:

This is the church building where Charles served when he was an evangelist for many years. It was made of mud and sticks and wasn't holding up well.

Below:

In celebration of his ordination, the congregation collected funds to build a new church building on land that was donated by Charles' family.

