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FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

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Dean of Students in the Spotlight



Alfred Kaburu, a Humble Servant of Christ and His Fellow Students

Let us pick up our student introductions again! This month, meet our Dean of Students, Alfred Kaburu, who comes from Meru, central Kenya. He is on his third year of studies at the LST. Alfred was brought up in Methodist Church and even became a Methodist pastor. Here he compares his previous theological studies with his present studies.

“Having a background in Methodist church I have seen a very great change in myself after attending the classes in the LST. I have been transformed to a different person, especially through the teaching of

the Catechism. I have gained a deep understanding of the Sacrament of the Altar and of Baptism. Before, I thought that the baptism means just getting a new name. Now, I know it is a seal. You have been washed and born again, cleansed of your sins, made part of God’s ministry, sealed for heaven. In His Baptism, righteous and holy Jesus took our sins on him and carried them to the cross. Therefore, we are sanctified, made holy, and our sins are forgiven.”

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:5–7.

Alfred continues, “Lutheran teaching about the Bible is very deep. Especially about how to understand the Law and the Gospel. In Methodist studies I had never heard teaching about these, but now I have a whole different perspective how to



teach and preach. There is also a very big difference how the Old Testament is taught. Before, I read the Old Testament as a history book. I only knew very few stories and did not like to teach it. Now, I have learned that the Old Testament is talking about Jesus, our Lord and Savior. I am able to connect the Old and the New Testament. I see that Jesus is everywhere! I have come to find many passages about him, especially in the book of Genesis, Jeremiah and Isaiah."

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Lk 24:44.

You can find Alfred's interview in these links:

<https://youtu.be/8POjyx7R294>

<https://youtu.be/poDTW9ZjPdI>

Seminar in Meru



Alfred and his work as Dean of students at the Lutheran School of Theology have been a wonderful blessing. He helps with most of student affairs such as receiving the students when they arrive, organizing rooms, listening to their needs and concerns, and dealing with visas and health issues. In addition to Alfred's work at the LST he organized a three day teaching seminar to church workers in his home town last summer. Tiina and our young boys accompanied Pastor May on this teaching trip. Before the seminar began, we were delighted to visit the home of our site manager, Alexander, who also lives in Meru, as well as the homes of Alfred and Cuthbert Riungu. Cuthbert, who also is a student at the LST, had spent his Covid lockdown months wisely translating Pastor Laurence White's book *Life with God* into Swahili. What a blessing it was to meet

the families of all these men as we were warmly received to share meals and fellowship at each home!



The seminar consisted of Pastor May's lectures about Lord's Supper and Sabbath day. He also included teaching of Psalms into the three full days that we spent together from morning to late evening. Participants were eager to learn and asked many questions. Deep conversations continued during meal times. Several people wished for another teaching seminar to be organized and some men expressed their interest in theological studies at the LST. May the Lord open ways for more people to study and become teachers of faith in Africa!

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