



Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

www.lutheransinafrica.com | January 2022

Teaching and a Joyous Ordination Celebration

Happy New Year Everyone!

Here we are, taking our first steps in the year of our Lord 2022. Hopefully you received *A Year of Psalms in Africa* wall calendar which includes photos, prayers, parts of Scripture, and information about the work being done in Africa. If you did not receive the calendar and would like to be added in the LIA mailing list to receive mail from us, please email your name and address to info@lutheransinafrica.com.

Before we tell you the news of 2022, we wish to jump back in time and recount some events from December. In our next month's newsletter, you can read about the May Family's travel to the USA during Christmas season, reuniting with their oldest children, various church visits that Pastor May was able to cover, and how far the LST's construction work has proceeded. In this letter, let us first introduce you to our dear second year student, Anjelo.

Anjelo



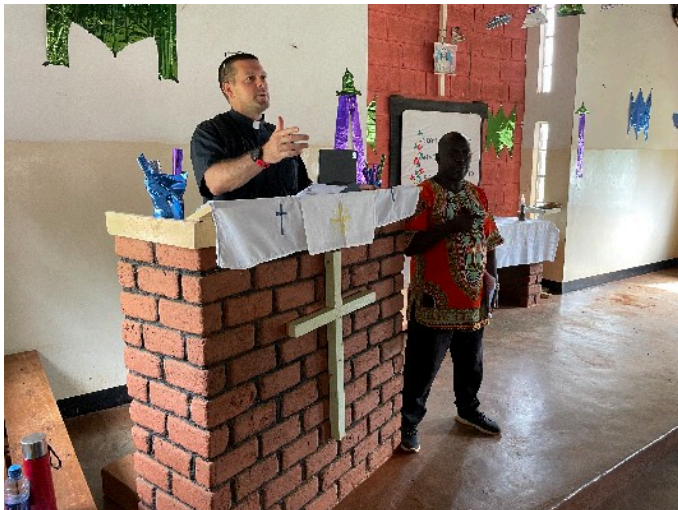
We asked Anjelo to share a little about his background. He tells, "I fled to Kenya's Kakuma refugee camp from South Sudan in 2002 due to war in my home country. The circumstances were tough. We faced torture by Arabs. Our kids did not have school to go to. I am married and have five children. In Kakuma, the children have a privilege to attend free primary school and the secondary school cost is low. Our church is far, so sometimes I cannot attend, but I am now starting a Bible study in my home teaching what I have learned at the LST. When I am able to get to church, I help by teaching Catechism and Bible verses to both adults and children."



"At the Lutheran School of Theology, we began studying Biblical Greek before the Christmas break. Reverend May offered it as a part of our learning. I consider this knowledge to be important to us as it gives us tools to understand the original New Testament language and helps us not to be cheated by different Bible translations that may contain errors. I like the idea of being able to find out more exactly what Jesus's words and teachings are! This far we have studied the Greek alphabet, classification of consonants, accentuation, vowels' length, present active indicative verbs, contract verbs, and second declension nouns."

"In general, I find the studies at LST nice and very educative. If the opportunity to continue theological studies until graduation is given to me, that would fulfill my dreams. I am ready to serve in the ministry of God."

Teaching Seminars in Kadongo and Kisii



Before flying to the USA, Pastor May was invited to teach at two different locations in Kenya. During the weekend of the first Advent, he traveled to Kadongo. Our first year student, Fanuel, lives there and therefore wanted to accompany his professor on the visit. Also our other student, Pacifique, participated in the seminar.



Pastor May gave lectures about the meaning of Advent. He walked the participants through Isaiah and Jeremiah's prophecies of the coming Messiah: "The virgin shall conceive and bear a son." "The government shall be upon his shoulder." "I will raise up for David a righteous Branch..." Through the prophecies about John the Baptist, and his life as a forerunner of the promised Messiah, Pastor May focused on Christ. On his first coming and purpose: to live and die for you. Our eyes are now fixed on the second coming. "The world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:17). The will of God is that we live in daily repentance and forgiveness waiting for the second coming when Christ will judge this world and bring us to our new home in heaven. What we sometimes forget is that there are not only two advents, but three. The third advent is when Christ comes to us daily through Word and Sacrament. In Lord's supper, God is breaking into our world to give us life. No wonder our repeated cry is "Hosanna in the highest," for what is more needed in this dying world than the Lord's salvation? Just as the crowds cried out to Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, so do we declare, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" (Mt. 21:9; Ps. 118:26).

The first challenge of the trip to the other location, Kisii, materialized before the arrival in the destination: a matatu [public transport vehicle] rushed onto the main road without stopping and crashed at the driver's side of our car. It caused a proper dent on the door and shook Jonas, who was traveling with his dad, enough to afflict him with a mild pain in his jaw for a few days. Since our vehicle's traffic camera provided a proof of matatu's fault, the police could not blame the accident on Pastor May. The matatu driver coughed up \$40 and went on his way. Unfair, but a regular event for a foreigner in Kenya. At least there was no bigger physical harm caused to anyone.



Thankfully, the time in Kisii did not bring on more unpleasant surprises. During this weekend, Pastor May had two commitments: first, he taught about baptism at a synodical conference that was organized by our wonderful former graduate, Rev Zebedeo Masenge, who is working as the pastor of www.lutheransinafrica.com

Bogitaa parish, ELCK. Second commitment was a joyous one as well: Pastor May and Jonas got to participate in the celebration of the ordinations of three LST graduates!

Ordination Celebration in Nyamira



James Ongondo, Peter Obiero, and John Mokoronto were ordained by the bishop of Nyamira Diocese of ELCK, Bishop Sospeter Okongo. Pastor May preached in the service and happily gifted the pastors with sets of communion ware, Good News magazines, theological books, and stoles for each season of the church year. These stoles were made and given by our friend Laura Vandercook, Pastor Vandercook's wife from Little Rock, AR. The communion sets are gifts from Zion Mayer congregants. God has given us the greatest supporters! Your gifts do bless many people all over Africa.



All Creatures Great and Small

In our November's newsletter, we shared some photos of the LST's gardens and what crops we grow for human and animal consumption. Here, we want to give a spotlight to LST's livestock. We have two cows, a bull, and several goats, rabbits, and poultry. These animals provide a steady supply of milk, eggs, and meat. When the classes are not in session, we can sell part of the produce to cover some of the cost of animal feed. As a bonus, the May children love to be involved in incubating the chicks and taking care of the young animals.



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More Photos from Nyamira



*"I will set shepherds over them
who will care for them,
and they shall fear no more,
nor be dismayed,
neither shall any be missing,
declares the LORD." Jer. 23:4*



*Sanctify them in the truth:
Your word is truth.*

*As you sent me into the world, so I have
sent them into the world. John 17:17-18*

