



Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

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Children, Church Visits, and Construction

USA Visit and the May Children's News



As promised in our last month's newsletter, we will share some May Family news in this letter. We were blessed to spend one month together in America during the Christmas break and visit congregations in Minnesota, Illinois, and Ohio. Right after the year change, Pastor May flew south to visit more congregations in Texas and New Mexico. So, it was a busy trip, but since we had all our children to ourselves for multiple days, it was just wonderful.

We spent Christmas with Pastor's parents in Ohio. Our boys went fishing numerous times and so we ate quite a bit of fish. Pastor May had several

opportunities to preach and tell about Lutherans in Africa in Christmas week's services. Otherwise, we enjoyed going for walks in the neighborhood, watching Christmas movies, playing games, eating well, and hearing all our children's news.



Our Maggie, who is a sophomore in Concordia University Chicago, excels in her deaconess and psychology studies. She works on campus at the IT department dealing with technology related issues. Since the beginning of the year, Maggie has been dating Christian, who attends CUC's pre-seminary program and participates in various extra curricular opportunities to play music. We got to see him for a little while when he came to a church where Pastor

May preached and presented on the fourth Sunday of Advent. We had met Christian already before, when a group of students from CUC and Concordia Wisconsin, inspired by Maggie and Tristan, came to listen to the LIA presentation that Pastor May gave in Milwaukee last summer. We are delighted to have this fine Lutheran gentleman court our daughter.



Tristan also does well in his studies at CUW. He was able to secure a job for some weeks in Mayer, MN after Christmas before the classes began again. Thankfully, he still had evening and weekend hours for ice fishing. His “African” little brothers were ecstatic to participate in such an exotic activity and often Tristan’s girlfriend, Abby, joined the crew on the ice. It has not been easy for Tristan and Abby to have such a distance between them this past year, but we all are excited that Abby applied and was accepted to study at CUW starting next fall!

Sarai works hard to earn A’s in Mayer Lutheran High School. After her swimming season ended, she switched to theater and got her first experience performing in a play on stage. She has begun to

increase her college fund by working at a gas station. At the moment, Sarai is searching for colleges that offer industrial design, but before college, she is looking forward to spend her final high school year together with her little sister.



Sofia will leave Kenya behind in the end of May. She has locked up a full time summer job as a nanny in Mayer and then she will begin her two final high school years in the same school all her older siblings have attended. We have a difficult time letting her go, but cannot quench the pull that all kids have had to study with peers instead of attending online school from home. We know that Sarai and Sofia will benefit from being together and that softens the ache in our hearts.

Thankfully, we still have couple of months with three kids. After that, Tiina will be the sole surviving female in the family that remains in Kenya. Jonas and Matthew will continue homeschool, although as Jonas begins high school, he is likely to attend mostly online classes. Life truly zooms by speedily. Every moment a wonderful gift from God.

How precious are your thoughts, O God! How vast the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you. Psalm 139: 17-18



Construction on Three Sites



The construction crew has come close to finishing the exteriors of the cafeteria and the student dormitories. Interior work is the next step in the process. Pastor May just measured and ordered commercial kitchen sinks, headed the negotiation for a centralized solar power plant that will provide electricity to every building on the west side of LST's seasonal river, makes plans for dorm room



beds, desks, and bookshelves and their placement. He also moves rocks, studies for PhD, preaches every Sunday, commits time for a daily workout with his sons, and devotes every evening he can for his family [author's sentiment: he is undeniably overall amazing].



We now have three building sites at LST: in addition to the cafeteria and the dorms, the foundation work for the seminary classroom building has begun. We



need the library space for books, so it is necessary to move the classes from the library to another building. God does abundantly bless the work of Lutherans in Africa through you, our dear supporters! Thank you for your continuous care, prayers, and gifts.



Spring Semester

Due to Kenya's recently implemented restrictions that limit travel and other rights of non-injected people, we could not yet have opened the regular classes to our pastoral students. We have some of the students here as day laborers and they participate in morning and evening services as well as occasionally practice preaching in Sunday services. Before the classes can restart, we will use this time to invite the local pastors to LST for a teaching seminar again. Plans also include a seminar for deaconesses. Yet another mission opportunity arose when Pastor May was requested to teach a religion class at a local Maasai school every Friday morning. If you would like to hear the children sing, you can do that [here](#).



You indeed have been named. That was a major part of your baptism, receiving God's name upon you as Holy Waters poured over your head doing God's work to cleanse and redeem you, His child. This is why the church is commanded by Jesus to: *"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 (Matthew 28:19)."*

The Devil uses names to kill. He calls you a sinner. He calls you worthless. He calls you a nothing. These are his lies to bring death. You don't belong to the Devil. You belong to Jesus who says: *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand (John 10:27-28)."*

Devil be gone! The triune name has been inscribed on your heart. You cannot see it but God sees it. The reason we make the sign of the cross is to remind ourselves that we have been marked by Jesus! We have been redeemed by the cross, and we have been named with the invocation, "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

In these last days when you see destruction and you feel depressed Jesus is calling out to you! *"Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, **everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made** (Isaiah 43:5-7)."*

Do not look to what you have done.
Instead look to what Jesus has done **for you!**

From Pastor May's sermon for Life Sunday -second Sunday after Epiphany- preached at Zion Mayer, MN before returning back to Kenya.

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Cafeteria



Dormitory

