



Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

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Student and Volunteer Spotlight

Spring time greetings to you, dear reader! Life at the Lutheran School of Theology goes on as we eagerly await for the rainy season. The ground is quite parched, but thankfully still some water remains in the dam. In this letter you will meet our student, Fanuel, as well as read and see photos of our dear volunteers and their work.

Fanuel



Fanuel, our first year student, comes from Homa Bay. It is a town on the shore of Lake Victoria in Western Kenya. Fanuel's family consists of his parents and six siblings. After he graduated from high school, he has been working in his family's farm. He has a Lutheran background and he used to

sing in his church's youth choir. That remains a pleasant memory, as the choir traveled a lot, singing in many places and churches.

Fanuel tells, "My Bishop Amayo recommended me for the studies here at the LST. This far the studies have been good and helpful to me. They have encouraged me to gain more biblical knowledge. I have an aspiration to become a pastor. The LST studies are preparing me towards that goal. I started to consider the pastoral ministry already in high school when I participated in Christian Education classes. They got me interested to know the Word of God better and to pursue theological training. I feel that those classes prepared me well for the pastoral studies."



"Right now, since the classes could not open for this term, I am working at the LST participating in farming and construction work. I also help with morning and evening devotions and I have started to memorize the Catechism. The fall term will begin in September and I am eagerly anticipating especially the Catechism class. I really want to know

it thoroughly, because I know how important it is for myself and also for teaching others."



Blessing of Volunteers

Lyle and Duane from Zion Lutheran Church Mayer, MN got to know Fanuel as they worked with him and other staff members during their one-month stay at LST. Before the volunteers arrived, as new buildings' foundations were made, a lot of soil got removed. This soil was sifted and rocks were separated from sand. Biggest rocks are being used as building material for the walls. Smaller rocks form a sturdy foundation for roads within the campus and all around the area to better the roads of the surrounding community. Rough sand is used as a top layer to make the road surface smooth and to hold everything together.

LST's outlook improved greatly when Duane and Lyle cleared out a lot of LST's extra construction fill and used that to upgrade local roads. Those of you who have driven on the roads around here, would certainly be impressed by the new feel of couple of rocky downhill near by! We were happy to have some of the neighbors join this community effort. Among other tasks, the men also carried hundreds of rocks for the continuing construction of the perimeter wall, cleared out dead trees and brush, and designed and begun the construction of the new cow shed and goat pen. Thank you Lyle and Duane!

Christ Our True Provider

Do you become anxious when you can't solve the problems in your life? Where are you going to find the answers?

At times when the disciples thought it was impossible, Jesus told them, *"With man, it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."* (Mark 10:27)

This should have been the disciples' answer, rather than, "It is impossible," as people often say. And when Jesus provides, it is always **more** than enough. Remember Phillip said, *"Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little."* (John 6:7) But *"Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, **as much as they wanted.**"* (John 6:11)

Again, this is just like in the comforting 23rd Psalm:

*"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; **my cup overflows.** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me **all** the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever."* (Ps 23:5-6)

*"The LORD is my shepherd; **I shall not want.**"* (Ps 23:1)

Think of the contrast: When Jesus is providing, we are never wanting. When we are striving to provide, we are always lacking.

What does the catechism teach us about this?

"The Fourth Petition: Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

God gives daily bread, even without our prayer, to all wicked men; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to **know it**, and to **receive** our daily bread **with thanksgiving.**"

Not only does He provide for us, but He also provides in abundance so that we even have more for others! Look again at the text: *"Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, **as much as they wanted.** And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten."* (John 6:11-13)

What does this teach us?

"The master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.'" (Luke 14:23)

There is always more than enough. It indicates that there is more room. Go to the highways and byways that the Lord's house may be filled.

*Excerpt from Pastor May's sermon
John 6:1-12
Laetare Sunday*

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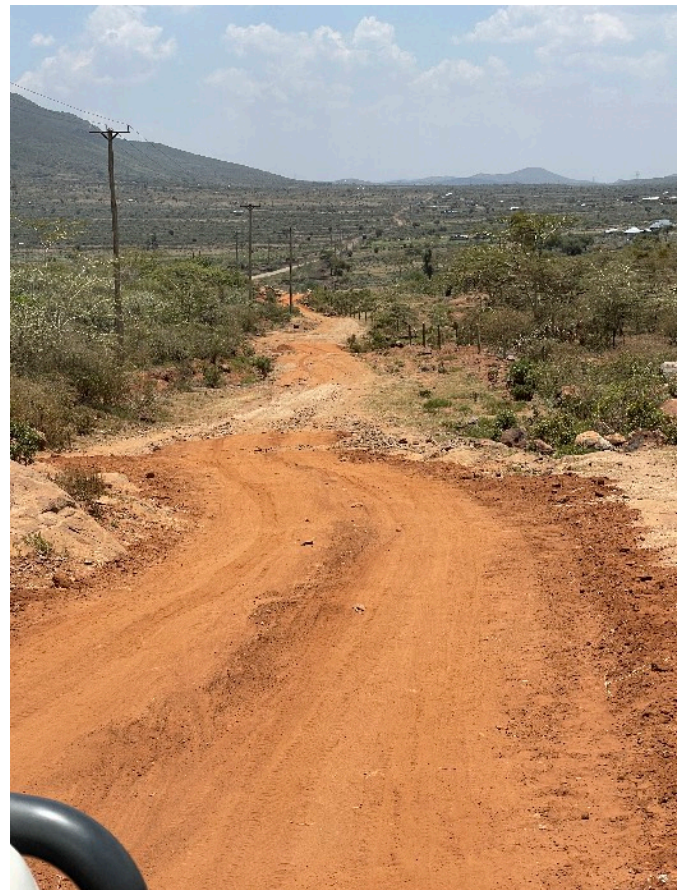
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*“...for you are dust, and to dust
you shall return.”
Gen 3:19b*