



# Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

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## New Missionaries! Youth Learn Catechism at LST!



Blessed Easter Season, Friends!

We have a special family to introduce to you: The Ristau Family from Canada. God willing, they will join the Lutherans in Africa mission in Kenya later this year. Doctor Ristau is familiar with the LST site as he taught a course here back in 2019. The Mays got to know the whole family when they lived in Canada while Pastor May taught a term at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, Ontario. We are extremely excited to have the family come and bring much needed support to the work as it has expanded year after year by God's grace. The school will be blessed by another permanent professor who can also take on some administrative duties. The whole LST team will be blessed to share life with these new neighbors. We asked the Ristaus tell about themselves, and here you may enjoy a closer insight into the family:

Rev. Dr. Maj (ret) Harold Ristau is an Associate professor and Officer of Accreditation at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary which has agreed to deploy him to LIA for the next 3 to 5 years. He is married to Elise, together they have five children that will all accompany them to Kenya: Katelyn, Simon, Marcus, Luke and Matthias. Most of the

family is bilingual in the French language which they hope to make use of in Africa.

Elise graduated in English Literature and is an eager reader. She enjoys gardening and art. Katelyn, 19, just finished her first year in French Linguistics at York University in Toronto. She is taking a year off to figure things out while experiencing life in a mission field in Kenya. Simon, 17, finished his Junior year of high school. He is working on getting his driver's license and loves music. Simon plays piano and guitar. Marcus, 15 plays trumpet and loves to read. Luke, 12, is interested in animals and gardening, so he is very excited about the agricultural side of LST. He plays piano. Matthias, 10, plays violin and piano. His favourite thing is building Legos though he is also an enthusiastic reader.



Pastor Ristau has been a faithful servant in overseeing theological teaching in the overseas missions of Lutheran Church Canada in Nicaragua and Thailand, as well as serving as pastoral advisor to the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society. After teaching a course several years ago at LIA, he was impressed by the high quality education and standards at LST,

something that had surpassed any other contexts that he had witnessed in the Southern Hemisphere.

Pastor Ristau holds earned degrees: a PhD in Religious Studies from McGill University, an MDiv from CLTS, and an MA and BA in Political Science, Economics and Administrative Studies from University of Waterloo. He is an author of several books including a new one on Spiritual Warfare, releasing in September with Lexham Press's "Care for Souls" series intended to assist pastors in the day to day challenges of Pastoral Ministry. He formerly served as a military chaplain and deployed several times to the Middle East, working closely with the Canadian military and periodically with US Marines.



You may have recently seen him in the news boldly proclaiming his support for the Trucker Convoy in Ottawa that attempted to hold the government accountable for their blatant violations of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. You can see recent interviews and articles on his participation in defending the Gospel and Christian freedom on Fox news, the Federalist, Issues etc,

Gottesdienst, to name a few. He now serves as a voluntary chaplain for "Veterans4Freedom" and "Action4Canada" which seek to preserve democratic institutions in Canada.

The Ristaus have a reputation for standing up for the voiceless and downtrodden, especially the unborn, aged and mentally challenged. Because none of the Ristaus have received the COVID "vaccines" they are presently, for all practical purposes, prisoners in the country of Canada, while the USA also forbids the travels of any "unvaccinated" person across the northern border. The Ristaus are all very excited to move to Kenya, and look forward to continuing to build their friendships with the Mays. All their ducks are in order for their move, except the fact that they are not permitted to leave Canada or enter the USA. So please pray that the Lord opens a door so that they can arrive in Kenya.

### Youth Seminar



Another wonderful topic we can tell you about is the youth seminar that was held at LST during the week of Easter. We were delighted to receive many youth from the local Maasai school where Pastor May has been teaching religion on Fridays. These kids are not Lutheran and are hearing about the Catechism for the first time. In attendance were also our neighbors' teens and our staff members' children or their little siblings. In class, Pastor May taught the meaning of the Lord's Prayer. The youth also participated in daily chapel services. Every afternoon a quiz was administered to test what the

participants had learned that day. High level knowledge in the final exam brought forth rewards that were assigned towards school tuition. Many parents struggle to cover the cost of their children's education. In addition to theological teaching, our dear neighbor, Elisabeth, taught the youth Maasai bead crafts with the help of our office assistant, Lucy.



We had some one-on-one talks with few of the youth, who volunteered to share bit of their background and thoughts with you.

Kezia, 13



Kezia lives in Nairobi. She was invited to attend the seminar by her cousin, our next door neighbor, Jemima. She is the oldest of three children of a Pentecostal pastor. Kezia just began in high school. She tells, "I know the Lord's Prayer, because it is prayed at home, church, and school

even though it is a public school and not a private Christian school. I never knew the meanings of each petition. I didn't even know there are some written meanings and I have enjoyed so much learning about them. I am very happy that my cousin told me about this seminar. She attended the last time too

and was now able to recommend the seminar to me."

Eunuke, 18

Eunuke just finished high school in Kisii area, western Kenya. Her aunt, and now also her mother after her own mother's death, worked with us for several years in the past. Eunuke used to attend in Lutheran Chapel services before she began in a boarding school farther away. We asked



what she had learned on the first day of the seminar, and she responded, "Today, we went through the six chief parts of the Catechism. I already had learned those when I attended the Lutheran church with you earlier. Before I left for boarding school, I had completely learned the Ten Commandments and their meanings. That's how far I got. My boarding school was affiliated with the Seventh Day Adventist church and they had nothing to do with Catechism, so I haven't gotten any farther. But now here we started with the introduction part of the Lord's Prayer. Pastor May told us the story of the Prodigal Son from Luke 15. The son insulted his father, took his money and went away to enjoy his wasteful life. When his money and friends were gone he ended up feeding pigs and eating their food. He decided he wanted to return home and be his father's servant. But what happened was that the father ran to him, kissed his feet, forgave everything, and organized a celebration! This is how God loves us. He is our Father in Heaven."

Eunuke earned the third place in the seminar's final exam.

Yvonne, 17

We have known Yvonne since she was a little girl. She is the second eldest daughter of our staff member, Paul. She finished her Junior year before Easter and has now begun her final year of high



school. She scored the very top marks in the youth seminar's final exam. Yvonne tells, "I was confirmed by Pastor May in 2017. I had a privilege to learn the Catechism and attend the Lutheran church. But when I began at a boarding school for my high school, I had to attend the Presbyterian church,

because the school is run by them. It is sad, because, as a matter of fact, I don't like their services. There's always a lot of noise, clapping, speakers are blasting, and people praying loudly. It's a chaos. I really love Lutheran services, because everything proceeds in an orderly manner and I can truly be at peace. I can follow the liturgy, hymns are nice, prayers are calm, and there is a clear sermon [smiles] and also, the services don't last forever."

"Today in class we were taught from Mark 10. The rich young man asked Jesus what he must do to inherit the eternal life. Jesus pointed out to him that his focus was all wrong. The young man was gathering earthly treasures. He put his faith and trust in his wealth and his own works. He could not let go of his riches. We do not inherit heaven by our works. Works, even good works, don't open the way to heaven. What matters is our faith. Faith in Jesus and that we are united with him in baptism."



Please pray for all our darling youth! That God would continue to draw them ever nearer to him. Pray that they would get opportunity to attend Lutheran Churches and be fed with the true Word of God and his sacraments. Sadly, it is hard to find churches that have faithful pastors to watch over their flock. That is why the work of training more Lutheran pastors to serve in Africa is of uttermost importance. Please pray that Lutherans in Africa could continue to answer to that need and God would send those men to the Lutheran School of Theology who earnestly seek to learn and teach others. We are thankful that, in addition to providing pastoral studies, we can offer at least some opportunities for youth and other groups to come and receive sound teaching.



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