



# Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

[www.lutheransinafrica.com](http://www.lutheransinafrica.com) | November 2022

## Celebrating Reformation among Maasai Tribe



On October 30, here in the remote region of Kimuka "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" was sung in Swahili, German sausages and cabbage were consumed on Chapati bread, Luther's Small Catechisms, in English and African languages were distributed, and people of all walks of life came to find out what the Lutheran Reformation was all about.

Approximately 200 people attended the Sunday afternoon Reformation event at the Lutheran School of Theology (LST). About half of the guests were children, many of whom come from a poverty-stricken Olasiti primary school. The students pick up sticks on their way to school each day in order to fuel the fire for a communal lunch. The school is grateful for any help that they can receive. Pastors May and Ristau as well as LST's students teach a weekly religion class at Olasiti Primary. Also two of the Ristau children, Katelyn and Simon, volunteer at the school teaching English writing, spelling, grammar, as well as mathematics. Although none of the children are Lutheran, many have memorized the Small Catechism, and the school board encourages the teaching of Lutheran doctrine.

Lively groups of children started to trickle in to LST well before the Reformation event began. Matthias and Marcus entertained the waiting crowd by playing violin and trumpet pieces, and Pastor Ristau led a few games with the help of his older children. Once the gates were opened, more outside games for the kids followed while the mamas relaxed in the shade of acacia trees and other grownups mingled together catching up with their neighbors' news and getting to know new people.



The hymn-sing in the LST's Luther Chapel filled up every available seat, and several children plopped themselves on the floor. Pastor May welcomed



everyone to the event and to the Lutheran School of Theology. Several hymns were sung both in English and Swahili, and in each between one of the three pastors preached a short sermon. Some of these mini sermons were directed to the adults and some to the children. In addition to Pastors May and Ristau, a visiting pastor, Rev. Randy Bell, served in the Reformation Celebration. He was on site teaching the pastoral students a course titled "Preaching Law and Gospel".



A community meal followed the hymn-sing. Tables and chairs were set outside, and people enjoyed a hint of German flavor added to their traditional foods. It was a wonderful time spent socializing and getting to know LST's neighboring people better. Many expressed their thanks for the event and hoped for other get-togethers in the future extending invitations to their own homes. While adults took their time eating and talking, the children slipped back into the joyous activities of soccer and tag.



As the goodbyes were said, all the guests received various Lutheran materials, such as the Small Catechisms, CPH tracts, and New Testaments in their native languages: Swahili and Maasai. Rev. May, fluent in Swahili, previously participated in the translation of Christian and Lutheran confessional materials for the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF). Now, LHF in return, provided LIA with these free materials for the event.



The pastoral students oversaw the whole servant event. It did not only act as an outreach to the neighbors and surrounding tribal communities, but also as a hands on experience for them to learn how

to organize and lead such programs and festivals in their own contexts.

### Construction Update

Swift building progress continues at the LST. The seminary classroom building looks beautiful and is nearly completed. A lot of landscaping is taking place. Mazera stone is being laid down on the rain reservoir to give a neat look to the area surrounded by the seminary building, library, and cafeteria. The cafeteria and library have new entry steps and ramps. The new missionary house proceeds speedily, and the Ristaus are involved in building decisions. LST's seasonal river's dam improvement with new walls and more volume is completed, and everyone is eagerly waiting for rain to fill it. Please pray for rain with us! We have received a very scarce amount even though we are in rainy season.

*"As for me, I would seek God, and to God would I commit my cause, who does great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number: he gives rain on the earth and sends waters on the fields." Job 5:8-10*



## Support the work of Lutherans in Africa

### USA

- By mail: Checks may be sent to  
Lutherans in Africa  
PO Box 121, Ocean Shores, WA 98569
- Online: Go to [www.lutheransinafrica.com](http://www.lutheransinafrica.com) and select either the Paypal button or the Donor Perfect button.

- Selecting Lutherans in Africa as your charity of choice:

#### Thrivent

Direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Lutherans In Africa. Follow the link [here](#) for instructions.

#### Amazon Smile

Use LIA's unique charity link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3814856>

A portion of all eligible purchases will be donated to Lutherans In Africa.

### Australia

- By mail: Checks may be sent to  
Lutherans in Africa - Australia Inc  
C/O PO Box 6094  
Shepparton, Victoria, 3630
- Online: [LIA-Australia Paypal](#)

### Canada

- By mail: Send a cheque, payable to "Concordia Lutheran Mission Society" and with the memo line "2118 Lutherans in Africa", to  
Concordia Lutheran Mission Society, P.O. Box 455,  
Water Valley, AB T0M 2E0
- Online: through Canada Helps: visit the link below and apply your donation to project "2118 Lutherans in Africa" – <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/concordia-lutheran-mission-society/>



## PHOTO GALLERY

Seminary classroom building and Plaza



## New Missionary House & Reformation

