



# Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

[www.lutheransinafrica.com](http://www.lutheransinafrica.com) | March 2023

## Blessing of Visitors

This spring, the LST community has seen many visiting professors and volunteers. They have blessed us with a variety of perspectives. They have shared their wisdom in theological, cultural, and practical areas of life. We highly value their input and of course the friendships that were formed.

### Revered Obare Covers History of Lutheranism in Africa



One of our esteemed professors, Reverend Isaiah Obare from the Evangelical Lutheran Church Kenya, taught the students a history course from the time of the Reformation to the Prussian Union. He additionally discussed the history of Lutheran church in Africa.

Our first year student, Egede Sindayigaya, shared his thoughts about Rev. Obare's class. "I gained so many things from Rev. Obare. I found it very interesting to learn how Lutheranism started and progressed in Kenya and around East Africa. In his introduction, Rev. Obare told us the reason for studying history. We have to know what happened in the past so that we are not surprised by what is happening today. We can better understand how to

solve situations of today, when we learn from the past. I learned how our first missionaries, pastors, and evangelists carried out the work of God in Africa; the work of spreading the Gospel. Rev. Obare discussed what kind of challenges they met in their ministry. Now, we can apply that knowledge to our time when we still deal with similar challenges."

"The early preachers faced troubles with peoples' cultural beliefs that were against the truth of God. People heard the word of God but they mixed it with their traditional religions. This caused hinderances for the Church to grow. I discovered that even when the culture stands against Christianity, we need to hold on to the teaching of



the Bible. We cannot accept practices like sacrifices or polygamy but in a loving way teach our people what the Bible says about these issues. With God everything will be well. When you are a preacher, you have to trust in God when facing bad situations. Even if people backslide to their traditional practices and beliefs, God can bring them back through his word, the faith, and prayer. God can revive those who have turned away from him and bring them back to himself."

### **Egide, from Catholic to Pentecostal to Lutheran**

When asked about his background, Egide continues, "I am a Burundian born to Roman Catholic parents. I was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic church. When I was about fifteen years old, I received the message from Pentecostal believers. I decided to join them. They don't believe in infant baptism so I was re-baptized. I worked with their pastors and I was trained on how to preach and serve God. But then, five years ago, I heard about Lutheran Church. I got interested in their teaching and soon became Lutheran along with my wife and our three children. I had gotten married when I was in Pentecostal church, but my family followed me to Lutheran Church and now we all belong to Kitega parish in Burundi. We thank God that He brought us to the Lutheran church that teaches the full truth of the Bible! As I was helping and serving in Kitega parish, the church leaders asked me if I would go and study at the Bible school in Kenya. I was interested in going and asked my family about it. I knew that I would come when also my wife was glad that I would study Theology! That is how I ended up in LST."

### **Big Step in Becoming More Organized**

Dr. Sheri and JP Fluellen, a couple from Cheyenne, Wyoming, volunteered at LST with their four children. While the teens enriched the lives of May and Ristau children, the parents shared their business and administration expertise for the betterment of LST. They worked with the LST's managers, Dan and Abigael, developing protocols that improve the effectiveness of security, planting, harvesting, care of animals, meal preparation, and sales. The managers' sentiments lay out some other things that Fluellens were involved in:



"JP Fluellen was very insightful in coming up with protocols for the site. These included various affairs such as handling garden and composting as well as taking care of LST's cows, rabbits, goats, and chickens. Together we were able to come up with a daily maintenance tracker for the site operations. Implementing these will be helpful for attaining self-sustainability of the institution." ~Dan, the Site Manager

"I want to appreciate especially Dr. Sheri Fluellen. She is a wonderful mother, counsellor, confidant,





and a friend who can be counted on. Sheri and I worked closely together through her volunteering period. I can attest to the fact that, through her guidance, I am now at a higher pedestal as a professional and a worker at LST. Her input in making all protocols required as well as improving management operations and accountability practices will bring LST to a higher standard in all operations and lead to future growth. Creation of digitalized systems for our records and operation reports will aid tracking the information. From my management position point of view, I look forward to seeing a great LST that impacts the society while forming church leaders who will transform lives now and in the future. It was a terrific opportunity to interact with Fluellens. May God bless them.” ~Abigael, the Business Manager

### Canadian Professor and His Wife Come to Serve



After Rev. Isaiah Obare's Lutheran History course, another talented, visiting professor arrived. Reverend Dan Abraham, who serves in Ontario in St. Peter's Lutheran Church and is on the board of regents of the Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, taught a Dogmatics class. Using *Called to Believe* as his textbook, he covered the two natures of Christ and modes of his presence among other topics. Having grown up on a farm, Pastor

enthusiastically joined the students in the fields for their afternoon agricultural chores.



LST student, Peter Kezelee, reflects, “The Dogmatics course was interactive and comprehensive. Our lecturer, Rev. Dan Abraham, used simple teaching methods for us to understand the content. He covered a lot, starting from creation through to the attributes of Christ. This course provided me with deep understanding how to distinguish the true teaching of the Bible from heresy.”

LST community was also happy to receive Pastor Abraham's wife, Aleta, who works with Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada (and in her suitcases carried LLC / Lutheran Hour Ministries Canada devotional booklets to benefit many). She got really busy at LST. She tackled sorting and labeling a vast number of donated paraments and spare linens as well as other items, so that they can be more easily distributed.



A graphic artist by trade, she then went on to do the drawings for permanent built-in cabinetry for the storage room as well as two supply rooms in the newly finished classroom building. She also helped to design a new altar according the measurements of the new bigger sanctuary. She also continued from where the Fluellens had left off, typing out and systemizing the protocol guides and working with Dan and Abigael.

### **Peter: Dream Coming True at the Age of Sixty**



Peter was also happy to share about himself. "I grew up in a family with nine children living in a small village in Liberia. My grandmother was the one who took me to Lutheran church, but she died when I was fourteen and then I had nobody to take me to the church. During the Civil Wars in Liberia, I fled to Guinea. There, in 1999, I finally found my way back to Lutheran church and was baptized. I helped teaching Sunday school, and I also served as a lay preacher. After the wars, I returned to Liberia. I have a wife and eight children. I am a former principal of a Lutheran Mission School and now I work as a

district superintendent and also as a senior pastor for ELCL."

"I am grateful to study here at the LST. I wish to extend my thanks to Rev. James May and all the donors for establishing such an institution to educate Lutheran pastors for the Great Commission of Christ. I was ordained five years ago without any formal pastoral training other than some short courses that visiting pastors from America came to teach. I would have had opportunities to study in other denominations' schools, but I could not, because I need to study the true doctrine. My dream is to serve in the Lutheran church until I die. At the age of sixty I am seeing it come true! By the grace of God, I promise to teach other Christians in Liberia. So help me God Almighty."

Thank you Heavenly Father for sending all these visiting professors and volunteers to LST to carry out your mission! Thank you for all people who supported their visits with prayers and monetary gifts as well as donated books and other supplies. And thank you for making it possible for LST to function and continue forming teachers of the Lutheran faith.

## **Support the work of Lutherans in Africa**

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