



Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

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Academic Year in the Books



Spring Semester Closed with OT Survey

The spring term has closed at the Lutheran School of Theology and the students have returned to their homes. The final course of the semester was the Old Testament Survey taught by Dr. Ristau. The students learned the content, structure, and themes of each Old Testament book, as well as prepared sermon outlines on some of the most famous stories and passages.

Pastor Ristau comments, "The students were very glad to see all the "types" of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. After all, our Lord states that all Scriptures bear witness about Him (John 5:39). Sometimes it is hard to see Him therein, but we have pictures of Jesus and his redeeming work in the lives of the prophets, as well as their words. The students were particularly moved by stories of suffering, such as Job, Esther, and Ruth, that resonate with

their own impoverished lives. They found great comfort in the fact that our God is faithfully at work in our lives and world even when things appear bleak and desperate. This is a message they hope to share with their congregations both this summer and after ordination."



"To most of the students this was the first time to prepare a sermon and deliver it to the LIA community. As happens in confessional Lutheran seminaries around the world, our students need to have their sermons approved by their bishops, ecclesiastical supervisors or professors prior to preaching. We were very proud to see so many students deliver excellent and relevant sacramental sermons that properly distinguished Law from Gospel, thus preaching Jesus Christ and His forgiveness of sins clearly in an African context."

Nixon Oyik Lotipel, the LST student from South Sudan, appreciated the clear teaching by Dr. Ristau. He gained more knowledge of Christ in the Old Testament. "Jesus was present in the creation and the promise of His coming as the Savior of the humankind after the Fall is carried through the

words of the prophets. Seeing Christ in every book of the Old Testament and knowing the main content of each book will be a tremendous help when I write sermons. This course has prepared me to preach Law and Gospel and not confuse them."



"I am the third born of eight children. Now there are only two of us who remain. All others have died. My father and mother died when I was fourteen years old and from then I grew up as an orphan. I used to be a member of the Africa Inland Church until 1990 when I heard about the Lutheran Church in South Sudan. Before that, I had attended training in the Africa Inland Church, but later came to learn that they hold on to many false teachings. For example they do not teach that we receive the true body and blood of Jesus in the Lord's Supper, but that they are only symbolic. I have now worked as an evangelist in the Lutheran Church for twenty years. My bishop in South Sudan ordained me and I received a call to serve the church in Uganda. It is only now, however, that I am being taught in a Lutheran Bible school. I have eight children. My wife and six youngest children live in Uganda. Two of my oldest children live in South Sudan. They are married and have their own children. I am a grandfather!"

What is new at the LST compound?

The interior work of the new missionary house is in full swing. The Ristaus are busy choosing floorboards, paint colors, tiles, and countertops. Designs for shelving and cabinets have been made. Window glasses are in place.

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New church pews with kneelers were built. They will be in use soon as the chapel services will be conducted in the seminary classroom building instead of in the library. We need the library space for the upcoming book shipment. All classes will be held in the seminary building as well from the start of the fall semester.





Rabbits are multiplying and new houses for them are being constructed. These houses are designed so that rabbit urine can be collected and used as fertilizer and pesticide in the garden. Needless to say, everybody is also appreciating added rabbit in the cafeteria's menu!



One of the big garden blocks got a net covering. This has already proven to be a great defense against birds and locusts.

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A herb garden is flourishing in the front of the cafeteria for a quick easy access for the chefs when they wish to add a final touch to their delicious meals.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good!



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