



Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

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What Is Happening with the Missionary Kids?

Greetings Dear Supporter!



The May family was blessed to have some opportunities to spend time together during summer. As always, Pastor May preached and made mission presentations every Sunday and even during weekdays, so half of the family traveled with him from state to state. We wish to express our appreciation to all who hosted us, invited us for meals, cared for us, and provided many memorable moments together! The older May kids worked to finance their schooling, but were able to meet up with the church touring family members when the paths crossed. Delightfully, the summer began with everybody attending Sarai's high school graduation

-even Tiina's mom and niece from Finland flew over. Everyone treasured those days together.

In this newsletter, you will hear the May children's voices as they tell about their summer and their current and future plans. Enjoy!

Maggie, Senior in Concordia Chicago



After Sarai's graduation, everyone except Tristan started the church visit tour together. This gave me a few weeks together with the family, and then they took off for more fundraising in other states. I spent most of the summer in Ohio living in our grandparents' lake house with Sarai. I worked at Panera Bread in Sandusky. I enjoyed my time there

and made some new friends. Sarai and I barely saw each other because I worked the morning shifts and she did the evenings coming home after I was already in bed. We both made sure to have our work schedules blocked for Sundays for church, so that is when we got to be together. I took on a chef's role in the house, because I had more time for cooking. I definitely benefited from that as I learned to prepare different meals.

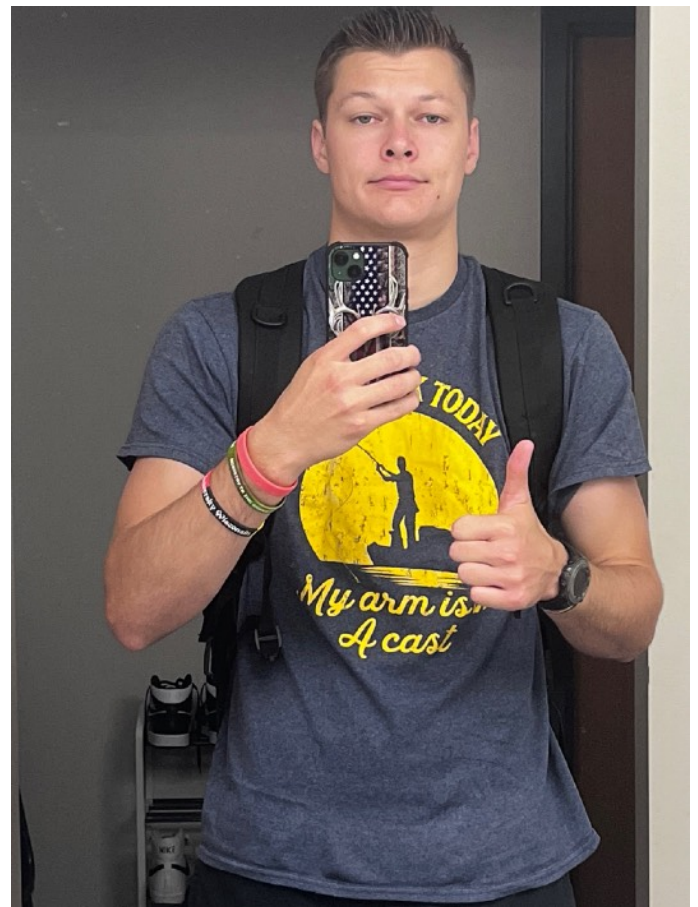
The highlight of the summer was a roadtrip Sarai and I took down to St. Louis. I got to spend some days with my boyfriend, Christian, who lived with his family during summer working in St. Louis. We also were able to see our family, who was visiting in Missouri churches at that time. Christian's parents invited my family over for dinner, and I was happy that everyone got to meet each other! These added moments, before their return to Kenya, meant a lot. Face to face conversations with Mom are rare and much needed.



In the end of last year, I adjusted my study route. I finally gained certainty that I do want to work solely as a Lutheran counselor. To gain that goal, it was better for me to drop the Deaconess program and double major in Psychology and Theology. I need a solid Lutheran doctrinal foundation so that I can give people sound spiritual and psychological counsel. This change in my studies adds some length to my college time, so now I am looking at graduating in the end of the year 2024. From there, I might continue straightaway towards a master's degree in counseling so that I can become a licensed therapist.



Tristan, Sophomore in Concordia Wisconsin



Early on this summer, my family flew over to the United States to spend their summer here visiting churches in different states and doing some sightseeing. Right after they arrived, I took my little brothers to Northern Minnesota to our family friends' cabin. Thankfully it was still a turkey hunting season, and I had an unfilled turkey tag from earlier in the spring. We shot a turkey the very



first morning there, which was a blessing, because we were then left with a plenty of time for fishing. Other than hunting and fishing we participated in various other outdoor activities like throwing frisbees around, playing baseball, and learning about deer signs and habits. I taught the boys to shoot hunting bows. We cooked and enjoyed many meals due to our plentiful catch.

This summer, I decided to try door dashing to help pay for my tuition and all other expenses. Over all, with today's gas prices, I don't think door dashing is the most effective way to reach my financial goals. However, it was a good learning experience and a decent backup plan in the future because I can door dash wherever I am while looking for other jobs to fill in gaps. Another source of income for me is the National Guard. I have a contract for five more years. This far, I have mostly enjoyed the exercise part of it. I most definitely did not enjoy being tased and pepper sprayed. Both Sofi and I worked in Mayer, so sometimes I agreed to give her rides to church and her work. She paid for my taxi service with meals she cooked for me.

I will be moving back to Concordia Wisconsin the last weekend of August. This begins my second half of the sophomore year of college and I will continue my studies in Justice and Public Policy (Criminal Justice), as well as in other classes that are required at CUW. Honestly, I am not very enthusiastic about the study part. However, I am looking forward to some salmon fishing off the shores of Lake Michigan with my fishing buddy Zach, spending time with roommates from my freshman year, hunting deer with my new bow that I have been practicing a lot with, and playing frisbee.



During their travels, my parents met a military chaplain, and they told me about their discussions. I started to consider chaplaincy as a possible career choice. I don't know much about it yet but I wish to find out. I don't know if going to the seminary will be in my future, yet it is a thought in my mind. I will go where the Lord leads me. A fitting Bible verse that I live by is Matthew 6:34, "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Sarai, Freshman in Concordia Nebraska

I was relieved to finally graduate from high school! Now I feel that I am more free to make my own choices. One of those choices was to begin as a freshman in Concordia University Nebraska. During my first year, I will be taking mostly art classes. My wish is to become an industrial designer. I feel a little nervous, because I don't have a lot of art studies in my past, but I pray that God will help me through! I am excited about the whole college



experience. I am looking forward to learning and of course finding new friends. On the other side I worry: What if I made a wrong decision? College is a huge financial undertaking. Will I be able to pay

for it all? What if I find out that this is not what I want or am able to pull through? How much money will I lose if I switch gears?

For my summer job, I worked as a ride operator at The Cedar Point amusement park. Negative aspects of the job were having to deal with some unkind people (but that likely happens in every job). Occasionally the weather was too cold and rainy or then extremely hot. My coworkers and spending time with them were on the positive side. The Cedar Point pushes hard for gender confusion. They demand that workers cannot refer to anyone by their biological gender. So honestly, they did manage to get me confused a couple of times as this kind of culture is still new and strange to me. But despite of that, as my job description laid out, I was there to provide a fun time for people. According to the feedback I got from the guests, I succeeded in that. For a few times, I heard guests refer to me as the kindest ride operator, and that felt nice.



I loved seeing part of my family again in St. Louis when Maggie and I took off work for almost a week to travel there. I mostly spent time with Mom, but also took my brothers fishing. I even called Sofi for a

couple of times to feel closer to her as well. Dr. Schulz, in whose home we stayed, asked me to work on some drawings for the Good News magazine. I didn't quite manage to grasp his vision and deliver what he had in mind, but I had a good time trying.

Sofi, Senior in Mayer Lutheran High School



I moved to Mayer Minnesota a year ago, the summer of 2022. That summer was interesting as I was getting used to my new life and trying to find a job. This summer, things were not as hard because I now know so many more people. I babysat a lot, worked at a gas station / pizza shop, and volunteered to work if anyone else needed help. Of all the jobs babysitting is my favorite. When the kids aren't all cranky and throwing tantrums I love watching them. I've had a lot of good conversations with mothers and gotten really close with some of them. God has truly blessed me with such a wonderful community of people that cares for me.

Talking about blessings, I also got a privilege to travel with my parents and my little brothers for a month. It was great to be able to get away from



Mayer for a little while and have quality family time again. It wasn't the easiest thing to move to another country without my family but I've already made it a whole year so here's to this next year! I am now beginning my senior year of high school, about which I am very excited and, at the same time, nervous. After my senior year, I am looking at going into the medical field and being an OB-nurse. (If you know anything about it and what schools are good for that, let me know, because as of right now I don't know much). I am not too worried about my future plans because I know everything is in God's hands



and I will end up going where he wants me to go. One of my favorite Bible verses is Jeremiah 29: 11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." That's a great comfort!

Jonas, Sophomore Year



This summer, I had a fun time fishing but I didn't really get to do that too often because we were traveling so much. Another good thing about being



in America was that I got to talk with my girlfriend more. Over the phone, that is. We weren't in the same state, but at least the time zones were closer together than now when I'm in Kenya.

When I got back home, Dad taught me to drive a tractor. I have been able to help inside the compound by transporting soil from the river to the garden. I also started school, my sophomore year, which is good because it gives me something to fill up my day. Now I'm waiting for the pastoral students to arrive for their fall semester.



Matthew, Freshman Year

During summer, I enjoyed seeing my oldest brother and sisters. I enjoyed fishing with Tristan and practicing shooting the bow with him. I also liked playing fetch with Freedom (dog) and helping Tristan with yard work moving stones. Another one of my favorite times in America was when we were at my Grandpa and Grandma's lake house. I went fishing from 9PM until 11PM and caught six decent sized catfish. I also liked it when we were at the Schulz's house and did evening Bible studies. I



enjoyed it because Dr. Schulz made funny remarks and chose good passages from the Bible to study.

Here in Kenya, I have started my high school and have kept up with my assignments (unlike my siblings before me). Something that made me happy here was seeing my dogs again. I have been doing chores such as helping in the kitchen, cleaning the house, burning the trash, emptying the compost bucket, and taking out and retrieving the cow and

chicken feed buckets. I'm in charge of setting up incubators and monitoring them. I also operate a chopper to chop corn stalks for the cow food.



"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

3 John 1:4

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