



Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

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Wide Awake and Active

Greetings Dear Friend!



The campus of the Lutheran School of Theology has been awakened to buzzing energy after quieter summer months. We had a lively group of bishops and other church leaders here participating in Lutherans in Africa annual general meeting as well as leaders' meetings. The students arrived in time for the dedication of the LST's new chapel's and began their classes with a visiting professor, Rev. Ted Giese, from Canada.

Lutherans in Africa is for Africans

We rejoiced for the keen participation of so many church leaders from Kenya and surrounding countries at the LST for the leaders' meetings and for LIA annual general meeting. What could be more wonderful than bishops showing interest in their candidates' pastoral formation and expressing their wishes on the contents of the curriculum? The bishops are the ones who select the students and

ordain them as pastors. They have the first hand understanding of challenges and needs in their respective churches and communities. It would be foolish to not work together aiming towards more and more African ownership in the formation of African pastors for African people.



New Arrangements in Student Affairs

The accreditation process for the LST is nearly complete. In accordance with the requirements for accredited certificates and diplomas, the students are now divided into two study groups based on their previously achieved academic level. The certificate students can proceed to diploma studies after they have successfully completed the certificate course requirements. Likewise, the diploma students can pursue degrees at the university level after they have successfully completed their course requirements.

For the first three weeks of fall semester, the LIA site manager, Dan Makokha, taught the certificate students advanced agriculture technology. This includes techniques that are not common to village practices but ways to be more efficient and



productive, such as drip irrigation or making fertile compost.

As before, all students contribute to their tuition by working in the fields and on other campus tasks daily. This way they can also get hands on practice from things they learned in the classroom. While bishops were visiting the LST, several of them wished that their pastoral candidates would also be taught tent making skills because many congregations struggle providing a full salary for their pastor. The bishops shared testimonies how their returning students have already been helping the congregations and communities by spreading the agricultural knowhow they are learning at the LST. The school is pleased to be able to answer to the bishops' wishes by including agriculture and business classes in the curriculum. These practical skills help the future pastors earn additional income in a more efficient manner.



Pastor Giese Opens Theological Studies

Lutheran Church Canada Pastor Rev. Ted Giese of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Regina, Saskatchewan served as this semester's first guest professor. His background in fine art and media reviews and his love for the liturgy and hymns of the Church was well received by the students who also had time after evening chapel to practice parts of the liturgy together with their professor.



The LST was richly blessed having Pastor Giese here. Not only the students, but also the staff got to benefit from his preaching and teaching in daily chapel services as well as in Sunday service. Here,

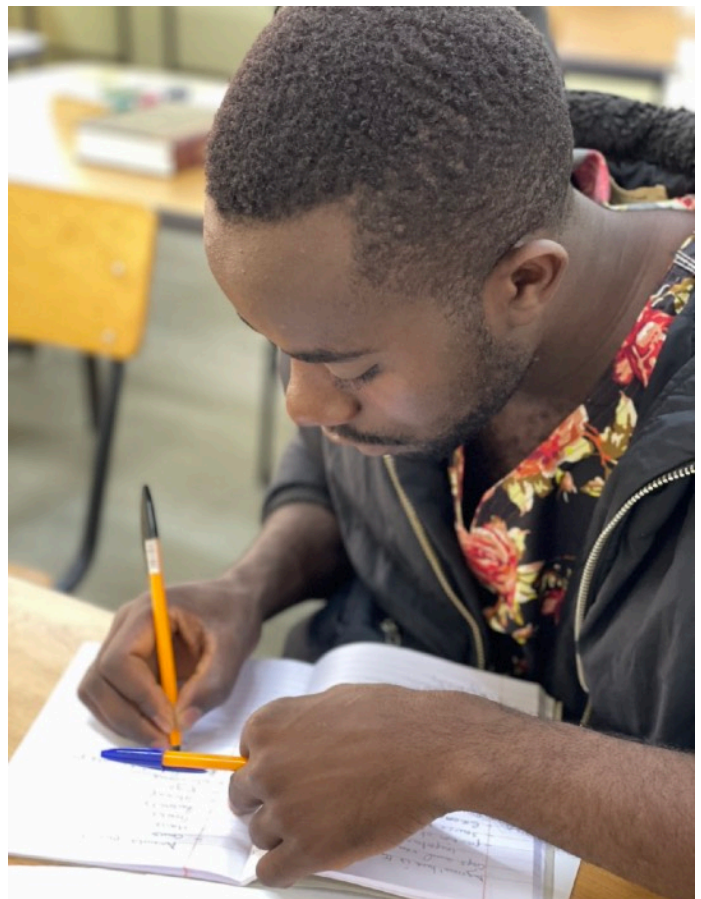
Pastor Giese shares what the students received in his class.



The first three weeks of classes this September focused on Art and Media in the life of the Church and the Christian; the history and meaning of the Liturgy of the Divine Service; and a Lutheran approach to Evangelism that asked the diploma and certificate students to think about the different kinds of people they share the Gospel with and how best to engage them.

In week one, regarding Art in the life of the Church, questions of whether Art is even permitted for the Christian were addressed. Basic guidelines drawn from Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions and the writings of Martin Luther were provided: 1) Ecclesiastical Art must respect and uphold Scriptural inerrancy, 2) must be useful for teaching the truth of Scripture and the Christian Faith, and 3) must be appropriate to the context of their use. (For Example, Artwork around a Baptismal font should be about Baptism and not something else to avoid confusion and aid with Christian instruction and

devotion.) The students learned that the best Ecclesiastical Art in the Church, like the crucifix, act as memorial and witness to the history and doctrines of the Church. When thinking more broadly, the Liturgy of the Church itself becomes a kind of Artwork that pastor and people share in together as they receive the good gifts of the LORD. As to other media, like movies and the various things available online, the emphases were on Christian freedom and how best to deal with it in their own lives and in the lives of the people in their congregations.



Regarding the liturgical life of the Church, the second week of teaching, it was emphasized just how much of the Divine Service is drawn directly from Scripture, and how much God loves hearing His words sung back to Him by His children in worship. One detail the students were particularly interested in was how the Agnus Dei came into the Liturgy of the West from the East as Christians fleeing from the initial Muslim invasion brought this beloved song with them as refugees escaping war and persecution. Students were also given

opportunity to grow in their knowledge and understanding of the hymnal and how best to use it to plan Services Sunday to Sunday throughout the Church year.



In week three, the diploma students studied Article II on Free Will in the Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord from the Book of Concord. The Reformers make it clear from Scripture that the will of the person before conversion is spiritually dead regarding Divine things and the only person who should get the credit for Christian faith is the Holy Spirit (not the individual or the pastor or the evangelist). The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps the Christian in Christ Jesus. Both sets of students grew in their understanding that witnessing to people in need of the Gospel revolves around truth, hope, and purpose. The Holy Spirit points people to Jesus. Jesus draws people to the

Father. People often favor either their head, heart or hands as faith is given to them, and that faith grows in Christ.

Pastor Giese enjoyed the ugali, Kenyan maize and other local foods served from the cafeteria. He along with his wife Michelle were both very grateful for the warm hospitality of the May and Ristau families, the staff and students, and everyone at the Lutheran School of Theology as they all work together to form Confessional Lutheran Pastors for the people of Africa.

We now have a real library!

Thanks to the generous donations of books, and many hours of cataloguing from volunteers, the LST now has a real library! Katelyn Ristau did a wonderful job of getting the system set up, and along with other volunteers the first 7,000 books have now been catalogued.



Rev. Ted Giese was joined for two weeks by his wife, Michelle, who happens to be a librarian. God does provide! She arrived prepared to work with sticky notes, masking tape, and a Sharpie, and was able to organize the books and the shelving. She gave directions to the students who worked very hard on



two different days moving first the shelving, and then the books downstairs into the first room of the library's main floor. The books are now shelved in the proper sections and classified by subject, with space left for more books to be added. It is a great blessing to see quality sets like the Concordia Commentaries and Luther's Works on the shelves of the beautiful library space. Everyone was excited to see the huge progress that Michelle's efforts brought forth. Of course, there is still much work to be done to sort the books more carefully, and to catalogue the rest of the donations. If you are someone with library cataloguing or data entry experience who might be interested in coming to Kenya, please contact Pastor May.



*...for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
 "Awake, O sleeper,
 and arise from the dead,
 and Christ will shine on you."
 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,
 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.
 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the
 Lord is.
 Ephesians 5:14-17*

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