



# Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

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

## Return to Kimuka

Greetings Dear Friend!



It was a pleasure and a wonderful blessing to have Rev. Dr. Edward Naumann from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL teaching at the Lutheran School of Theology for his second time. In this letter, he shares his thoughts of the time here in Kimuka. In addition to teaching the classes, Dr. Naumann preached in the Luther Chapel at the LST and also in a Lutheran church in a nearby Maasai town of Ewaso. There, he delivered the message of Jesus Christ as the only sacrifice accepted by God for our

salvation. Pastor Konana translated the sermon into Maasai language and, afterwards, invited all visitors to his house for fellowship and lunch. We thank Dr. Naumann for sharing his talents and time with LIA, enclose him into God's good care in our prayers, and welcome him back any time!

### Return to Kimuka

On Monday morning after chapel, I stood at the podium in the new classroom at the Lutheran School of Theology in Kimuka, and surveyed the students. They looked up at me bright-eyed and eager to learn. Some of the faces were familiar, and some were new to me. I had visited two years earlier to teach another course on early church history. This time I was back to teach about Lutheran biblical hermeneutics.

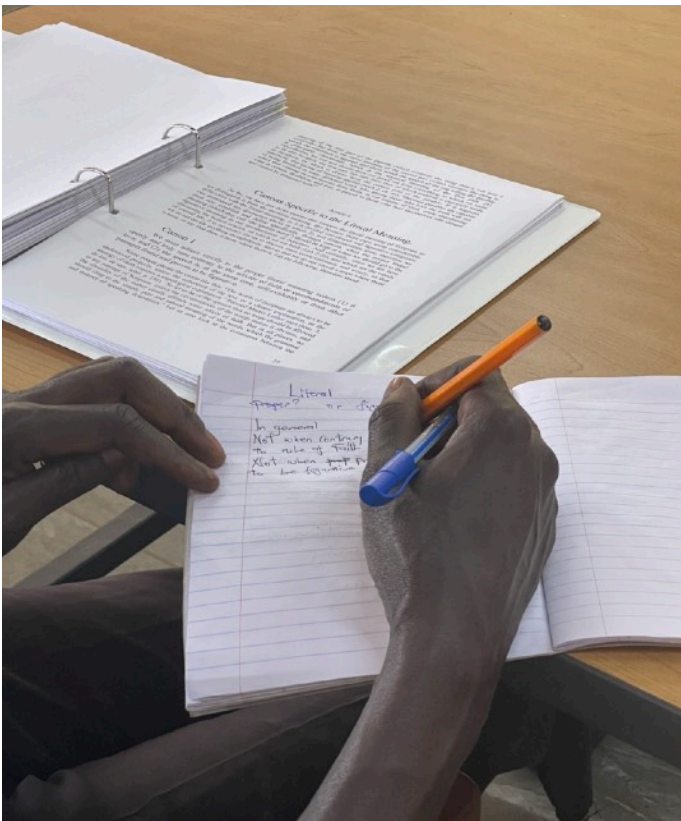




After introducing myself, I asked the students about themselves. They came from at least five different countries, with as many first languages, but all wanted to become Lutheran pastors, and all were there for one reason: to study the Word of God. So we did exactly that.



The study regimen was as intensive as you would expect, when a full course is crammed into two weeks. By the end of our time together, the students had completed forty hours of class time, six quizzes and two exams. They had read through and digested a folder full of material, including portions from the works of Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, Flacius, and Solomon Glassius, as well as a great many examples from Scripture.



For me, it was impressive to witness the students' development, as they came to understand the materials, and started using new vocabulary and technical terminology, to express themselves, as we practiced applying the Lutheran principles of interpreting Scripture.

This course on hermeneutics was not required at seminary when I was a student, but nevertheless provides an immensely helpful framework for understanding how we should read and use the Bible on a regular basis. We learned about the divine inspiration, perfection, and perspicuity of Scripture; how to define the literal and spiritual meanings; where we should understand the literal meaning properly or figuratively; and where we should and should not look for a spiritual meaning in Scripture. We learned about the internal consistency of Scripture and how to go about interpreting more obscure passages with the clearer passages; and about the divine and human causes of obscurity and the ways of overcoming those obscurities. We learned about direct and indirect forms of prophecy concerning Christ, the Church





and the sacraments; and what rules we should follow, to ensure that allegorical, typological, and parabolic interpretations are accurate and in harmony with the rule of faith. By contrast we also looked at how Scripture is interpreted differently by Roman Catholic and higher-critical theories, and how the Lutheran principles of interpretation are supported and required by Scripture itself.

After two busy weeks, I returned to parish life in the USA, but knowing and remembering the work that continues in Kenya, for the training of men who will - when they are ready - go out to proclaim the power of God for the salvation of all who will believe. Those bright-eyed men will remain in our prayers at St. Paul's, Brookfield. May God grant them His Holy Spirit, to proclaim with boldness and faithfulness the saving Gospel with which they have been entrusted!

~Pastor Edward Naumann~

## Reformation Sunday

Dr. Naumann flew back to America only barely missing the Reformation Sunday at the LST. On that day, the people heard the Word of God read and preached, sang the greatest Reformation hymns, and received the forgiveness of sins in the Absolution and in the Lord's Holy Supper. Things could not get any better than that! However, fellowship after the service, German sausages, sauerkraut, sodas, and Kenyan dishes were a happy addition.



*With might of ours can naught be done,  
Soon were our loss effected;  
But for us fights the valiant One,  
Whom God Himself elected.  
Ask ye, Who is this?  
Jesus Christ it is,  
Of Sabaoth Lord,  
And there's none other God;  
He holds the field forever.  
~Martin Luther. LSB 656:2*





## 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.

### 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](https://www.lutheransinafrica.com)

### 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/>

