

LTS NEWS

**Lutheran Theological
Seminary in Tshwane**
[Pretoria, South Africa]



From left to right: Mrs. Esther Mathulwe [NW Province], Deaconess Deborah Rockrohr [LCMS World Mission], national chairperson of the LCSA Women's league Mrs. Nancy Sephai and Deaconess Grace Rao from LCMS World Relief & Human Care.

Prospective deaconesses in USA

Deaconess Grace Rao [LCMS World Relief & Human Care] has over the past years given regular courses to prospective deaconesses at the LTS. Consistent participants were the leaders of the LCSA Women's league national executive, others were attending as the opportunity availed itself. In June/July two delegates were invited by Deaconess Rao to attend various meetings and gatherings in the USA. She took care of them most hospitably and made their trip unforgettable.

Here they are seen together with Deaconess Deborah Rockrohr [LCMS World Mission], who together with her husband Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr is scheduled to join the LTS staff at the beginning of next year. Deborah Rockrohr is to set-up and manage the full-time deaconess school from then.

At the end of October and after the completion of the 4th intensive course, the successful candidates are to be commissioned as deaconesses.

Staff meeting at UP



University of Pretoria

On Friday, the 2nd September the staff members teaching theological subjects had the first introductory session with the various heads of departments in the theological faculty at the University of Pretoria [UP] to establish the Joint Supervisory Board to regulate the academic program to be offered in cooperation and partnership between UP and LTS starting 2012.

From the LTS Rev. David Tswaedi DD [Biblical Studies], Rev. Nathan Mntambo [Practical Studies] and Bishop Dr. Wilhelm Weber [Dogmatic Studies] were accompanied by Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr [Mission and Ethics] and Prof. Dr. Timothy Quill [LCMS Theological Education worldwide].

On the side of UP it was Prof. Dr. Johan Buitendag and his team consisting of the following professors Julian Müller DD [Adjunct dean]; Yolande Dreyer DD; Danie Veldsman DD [Dogmatics/Ethics]; Ernest van Eck DD [New Testament] and Pieter Venter DD [Old Testament]. Prof. Henk

Potgieter [Head of ancient languages Greek and Hebrew] was attended by Dr. Jo-Mari Schröder.

Professor Julian Müller DD was elected chairman of the Supervisory Board and Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr as the secretary.

Together we discussed the implications of the agreement between UP/LTS and planned the best way forward. It was decided that those teaching the same subjects would work together to familiarize us from the LTS with the subjects offered at the theological faculty of UP so that we too would be in the position to offer the required options for the BTh, BA [Theology] and diploma in theology. We are hopeful that this will significantly improve the options open to Lutherans from Africa to study academic theology and that prospective pastors of the Lutheran Church will benefit from attaining such an accredited degree too.

After the next meeting in the beginning of November was decided on, Bishop Dr. Weber handed over the complete volume of Lutheran Dogmatics in Zulu written by his father Rev. E.A.W. Weber DD and published with the help of the Lutheran Heritage foundation to Dean Buitendag in appreciation for his astute leadership and his success in realizing this academic partnership between UP and LTS.

Good progress



Clockwise from the top left: Bheki Ngobese, Silas Mogale, Boitumelo Magosinyana, Eric Ghebote, Prof. John Pless [CTS Ft.Wayne], Moses Mokopanele, Siza Lugojobo, Matthews Tokpah, Frank Kainerugaba, Enoch McBen and Abia Anibati.

This year 2011 we have five post-graduate students enrolled at UP and further three vicars posted in various congregations.

At Masters level we have both **Rev. Mbongeni John Nkambule** [Deputy dean of the LCSA in Gauteng and pastor in Naledi/Mothlakeng] busy with Mission studies and also **Rev. Orapeleng Godfrey Shuping** [Pastor in the LCSA serving in the Tsetse congregation in the North-West province] busy with Systematic studies on ecclesiology. At the Honours level we have vicar **Abia Peter Anibati** from Sudan in New Testament, vicar Eric Ghebotoe from Liberia in Mission studies and finally vicar Bheki Ngobese from the LCSA in Mpumalanga doing Systematics. All five are progressing very encouragingly and all are confident that they will complete their respective courses at the end of this year.

Vicar Moses Mokopanele was first posted at the LTS, then for some time un-

der the tutelage of Rev. Tswaedi DD in Mofolo-N. [Soweto] and from this month he has been granted the opportunity to continue his studies at Westfield House, Cambridge [UK]. For this opportunity we are very grateful and as he already has obtained his visa successfully we foresee no further obstacles. **Vicar Phenyo Mokgaimena**, who is enrolled with the Mission of Lutheran Churches [MLC] is serving under the guidance of Rev. Paul Mosenogi in the Lutheran Church in Gaborone, Botswana.

Vicar Silas Mogale finally is the only vicar serving in the diocese from which he originated—namely North-West Province. He is being mentored by Rev. Mathulwe in Ramathlabama and like the rest of the vicars is looking forward to the final stages of his vicarage, which is to be topped up by a final examination and then a ordination course—hopefully and God willing around Easter in 2012.

Visitors this past Quarter



Prof. John Pless [CTS Ft.Wayne, IN] together with student Ashenafi Desta from Ethiopia in the LTS chapel of St.Timothy after Matins. Prof. Pless preached and Ashenafi led the liturgy in the daily morning devotion. During his two weeks here Prof. Pless taught our advanced and post-graduate students plus vicars a basic introduction to Lutheran Ethics.

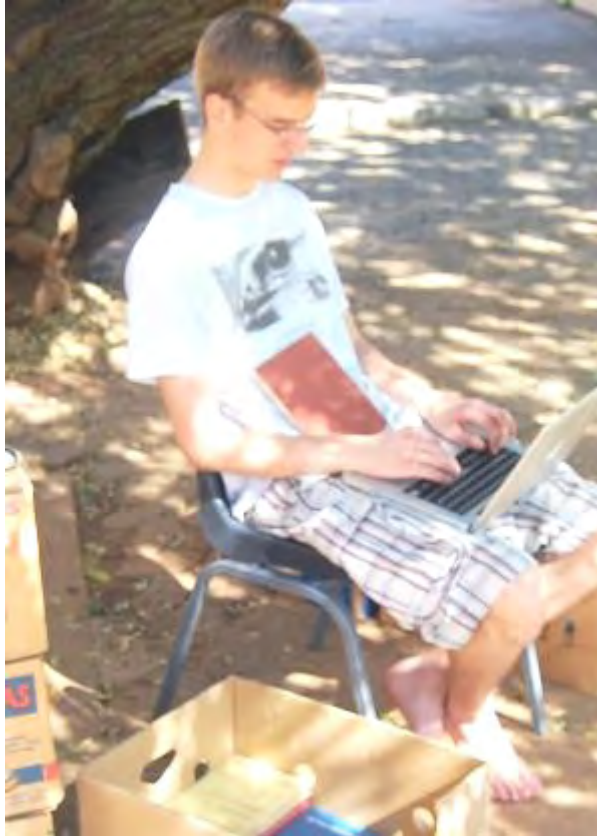
As always he also carried a considerable number of precious theological literature for the students and also for the Seminary library. We are grateful for the generous support given by Prof. Pless and those supporting him. This time around we are especially grateful to those from Wisconsin and Minnesota, who sponsored his flight. This support by good friends makes this ongoing mission in Lutheran theology and practice possible at the Seminary.

Rev. Dr. Anssi Simojoki, who has worked for the Lutheran Heritage Foundation [LHF] for many years and has accumulated loads of experience as a missionary in Africa, retired last year. However he has again answered our call to teach History of the Church in Africa.

Thanks to gracious support from his friends in Finland, he was able to spend four weeks at the Seminary teaching our main course on this vital topic. As usual the students were very appreciative of his efforts and also encouraged by his detailed knowledge and love of their respective home churches and countries.

Here he is seen together with the student of theology Boitumelo Magosinyana after Matins in St.Timothy.





Hi! Dear Reader of the LTS newsletter,

My name is Christoph, I am the new volunteer at the LTS. I am going to stay here for three months and do all kinds of work that Salome has got for me. At the moment, I am putting all the books that we've got from the Voges Library into our online catalogue, so that we know which books we have. Also, I have organized all the zulu books in the garage, that were a little bit chaotic. I am going to give computer lessons to some of the students soon, and I'm excited for any new tasks that I get!

My home country is germany, and as I have seen, many students like germany, which makes me very happy. Especially german cars seem to be really hot among

the students! It's very interesting that all the students come from different countries in Africa, so I can get an idea of the people on the whole continent.

So far I have met some very nice students and I've also been taken around the city. The first weekend in Pretoria has been very cool, and I like the city so far!

I am 19 years old, and have finished school this year. Since I want to study mechanical engineering next year, I am using this year to have a break from all the learning, and do something entirely different for a few months. It is so cool to get to know the different cultures in Africa, and it's a good thing that I can combine this with helping the Lutheran Mission at their work. I am in the SELK in Germany, which is identical to the FELSiSA here in South Africa. That's why I have visited the german mess in St. Pauls Church last sunday, where I have met many nice people. But I am definitely going to check out the english lutheran church, too!

C. Schmidt-Dahl



Signs of God's Grace – Baptism & Confirmation

God's grace accompanies his church constantly and God always provides us with the signs of it. We are able to observe them even with our plain senses, especially as he graciously grants them with the divine service.

After successfully taking relevant lessons in Bishop Weber's Seminary class, Mrs. Sithembile Ngobese ne Ncwane was ready to receive two of God's blessings or signs of God's grace. The Lord reached out to her in order to "seat her with princes," indeed to usher her into his family. This past Sunday (the 11th Sunday of Trinity) we have rejoiced with her as she received Baptism and was confirmed in the Lutheran church. She was blessed with the words of the day's 113th Psalm vv. 6-8. She is a new recipient at the Table of our Lord. We pray that she will endlessly be united with the Lord God who has guided her into this unequalled fellowship with him. May she continually be washed clean of all dust and **dung** (from the "dunghill"), by the pure waters of Baptism, so that she may be kept lovingly and safe under the uplifting care of our Lord!

What an honor to administer these gifts to

the new daughter of God! Undoubtedly also, it should be an envy to those who are, like myself, without regular opportunities to guide, teach, baptize, and confirm in the church of God. God bless those in regular administration of these blessings!

The Daveyton congregation of the LCSA was the witnessing church for this blessed event. Quite a few seminarians regard it as a privilege to occasionally worship there, where I've been assisting on Holy Communion Sundays. Vicar Bheki Ngobese, Sithembile's husband, has also been reliably preaching sermons there especially on non-Communion Sundays. It is one of the pride congregations of our church which appreciates the Lutheran liturgy and hymns, singing and praying with much life and honor. Powerful spiritual songs sung by the congregation provide us with special experiences we always look forward to. The earnest prayer is that this congregation, together with many others, will remain at the view of the One "Who humbles himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth!" (Ps. 113:6).

Rev. Musawenkosi Mntambo

MD Zieger on “Visitation”



During the 2nd visit this year Mission director Rev. Roger Zieger from the LKM/SELK [Bleckmar] led a 2-day workshop on “Visitation” in the Lutheran Heritage Foundation-Hall at the LTS. From his rich experience as superintendent in Berlin, which is part of the eastern district of the SELK in Germany, he showed the potential of well structured and regular visitations. Presently he conducts regular visitations amongst the MLC missionaries both in South Africa and Botswana. We are hopeful that Rev. Zieger will continue to bless the LTS with lectures and workshops in years ahead.



Pastor Musawenkosi Mntambo baptized Mrs. Sithembile Ngobese, who is seen here with her husband Bheki. He is a vicar of the LCSA and presently doing post-graduate work at UP in Systematics.

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

[Pretoria, South Africa]

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4th Quarter

- 12.9: Start
- 14.9: Rev. Asburry [St.Louis]
- 19.9: Rev. Ntsimane [Uni KZN]
- 24.9: St.Michael's break
- 17.10: Deaconess Course with Grace Rao and Rev. John Fale [LCMS WR&HC]
- Rev. Stephen Rosebrook

[St.Louis]

- 20.10: Presentation of the Book of Concord in Swahili [Tanzania]
- 25.10: Board of Directors
- 25-28.10: Church Council
- 2.11: Joint Supervisory Board of UP/LTS meets at Tukkies
- 7-23.11: Examination
- 24.11: Graduation

Prayer Requests for the LTS

- > More able students to study Lutheran theology and be prepared as pastors and deaconesses in Africa
- > Means to support teachers so that they can concentrate on teaching, preaching and research.
- > More bursaries for students from Africa to study Lutheran theology full-time at LTS and UP.
- > Suitable opportunities for graduates to be called and installed, ordained and taken into service.
- > Volunteers to help with a growing work-load: administratively, with house-keeping & tutoring
- > Necessary means to sustain, renovate and expand the facility as required.
- > Good theological books for the library, for teachers and students.
- > Opportunities for Seminarians to tell their story and that of the Seminary in the Churches and beyond.
- > A good start for the Rockrohrs as they begin raising funds for their ministry in SA in July
- > Possibilities for international exchange to broaden the perspective of Seminarians globally.