

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

Training Lutheran Pastors and Deaconesses for Africa

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**Jesus Christ was delivered up to death;
He was delivered for the sins of the people.**



The first academic Quarter at LTS in 2014 is history and once again we have a lot of reason to thank the triune God for many blessings shown to the Seminary in this time. Mr Magara has brought along his five children to live with him and his wife at LTS as he prepares to become a Lutheran pastor. Four new students from Madagascar, Congo and Ethiopia were successfully integrated into the Seminary with the other 20+ students, three new teachers (Lugojolo, McBen and Bhengu) started teaching and three more guest professors were with us (Rao, Pless & Nordling) we have two new administrators—Mr Willem

Breedt and Mrs Thuli Bhengu— and we have a new fundraiser for the Seminary too: Rev. Mbongeni J. Nkambule. Lots of reason to rejoice and be grateful! However that's not all—the University of Pretoria has agreed to extend its partnership with the LTS for another 3 years. That is good news and not only for those students already enrolled fulltime at UP, but also for those, who want to join this academic program in the future. Now the Seminary is busy with the second Quarter—and commemorating the suffering of Jesus Christ until he died vicariously on the cross of Golgotha to be raised again on the 3rd day for us and our salvation +

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Prof Pless teaching "Didache"



Along with colleague, Dr. John Nordling I was pleased to be able to return to South Africa to teach at Lutheran Theological Seminary. I taught a two-week course on adult Christian education using my book, *Didache* as the text for the course. Fifteen students (ministerial and deaconess students along some non-traditional students were enrolled in the course which met for three hours each day for a ten day period. A variety of African countries in addition to South Africa were represented in the class: Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Botswana.

In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I preached three times while in South Africa. On Sunday, March 2 I preached and conducted a catechetical review for the English congregation, Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Arcadia, which meets on campus. I preached for the morning chapel service at LTS on March 7 and 14. I also attended Lenten services at St. Paul LC on March 5 and 12.

My deep thanks to Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Falls, Montana and their pastor, Pastor Gerald Paul for providing the funds to purchase the ticket for the trip. Without their assistance, these teaching trips to South Africa would not be possible. I am also

grateful to Bethany Lutheran Church, Naperville, Illinois and their pastors (Reverends Rossow, Fisk, and Schumacher) and the LWML at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Pagosa Springs, Colorado (Pastor Andrew Packer) for providing funds which enabled me to take approximately 100 pounds of books for distribution to students and for the seminary library.

The LTS library continues to grow. It is one of my goals to bring newly published Lutheran books to LTS on each on my trips. With this trip, the library now has a full set of the American Edition of Luther's Works, the English edition of Bonhoeffer's works, all of the Sasse volumes available in English, in addition to several other recently published volumes in the four theological disciplines. The library building (St. Augustine Library) is running out of adequate space and needs to be expanded and weatherized to housing our growing collection. Dr. Weber and I discussed this as a possible project for the Saint Philip Lutheran Mission Society.

Several LTS students have the capacity to benefit from further education at CTS. A short-term project in this regard would be bringing Enoch Macben to Ft Wayne to "shadow" Dr. Nordling for the fall quarter Greek class. Mr. Macben

has already completed a Master's degree in theology at the University of Pretoria and is currently teaching Greek at LTS. Time with Dr. Nordling would enhance and sharpen his teaching skills. I was an external examiner for Mr. Macben's thesis on "Paul, Luther, and the New Perspective" which he successfully defended at the University of Pretoria.

It is good to see LTS developing connections with the Malagasy Lutheran Church. With funding from the Malagasy Lutheran Mission Society (Pastor Jeff Kuddes) there are now two Malagasy pastors studying at LTS.

Spending time with Dr. Weber provided the opportunity to reflect on other projects for the future. With the 500th anniversary of the Reformation coming up in three years, we spoke of ways in which the seminary as well as the LCSA might commemorate this event. We are currently exploring the possibility of a lecture series with Dr. Oswald Bayer in conjunction with the University of Pretoria in 2017. We also spoke of the possibility for a CTS student to do a "summer vicarage" at LTS at some point in the future.

I will be making a short trip back to South Africa (April 24-28) for the ordination of Jacob Corzine and the inauguration of the Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Pretoria. My next teaching trip to LTS is scheduled for August 15-29, 2014 when I will teach pastoral theology. (J.T. Pless, CTS Ft.Wayne)

Prof Nordling teaching St. Matthews

He writes: “I have had the privilege of teaching selections of the Gospel according to St. Matthew for two weeks (3-14 March 2014) at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Pretoria, South Africa. This is my 6th trip to South Africa (2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014) and funding this venture has always been a challenge. This summer I preached at several congregations that in the past have supported my teaching. Most of the support this year came from the generous gift of \$1,000 from St. Mark Lutheran Church, Waco, TX (Rev. James Price), which is the congregation Sara and I belonged to during our Baylor years. Other substantial gifts were received from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Frankentrost, MI (Rev. M.Loest; \$794.05) and the St. Philip Lutheran Mission Society (President Rev. C.Maronde; \$500). Faith Lutheran Church, Merrill, WI (Rev. K.Hoogland) again contributed \$332 for books.

Instruction for the Gospel of Matthew class took place 8:00 – 9:55 a.m. and 11:00 – 11:55 a.m. Monday through Friday (3 hours of instruction per day). I projected the Greek text of Matthew onto a screen and worked through selections of the gospel exegetically and theologically. I think we covered the most important points and that the students got a good “feel” for Matthew overall which in so many ways is foundational to the other three gospels and to the NT as a whole. I was also able to incorporate into my teaching relevant portions of David P. Scaer’s *Discourses in Matthew: Jesus Teaches the Church* (Concordia, 2004) which focusses upon the five teaching blocks in the gospel of Matthew—namely, Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7), Office of the Ministry (chapters 9-10), Parables (13), Life in the Community (18), and the Last Judgment (23-25). I brought 20 copies of *Discourses* with me in my luggage and gave one copy of the book to

each of my students.

Most days there were 16 students in class, most of whom were seniors (who had had some Greek) but also 5 deaconess students who, although they didn’t know Greek, were very “engaged” in the class, taking notes and really setting a good example for the male pre-pastoral students. The remarkable performance of these deaconess students, I believe, was at least partly attributable to the quality of Deaconess Deborah Rockrohr’s teaching of these students last year. I hope that the fine foundation Deaconess Rockrohr established last year can be continued at LTS in the future. Thus, the composition of my Matthew class was “mixed.” I did not quiz as much on Greek this time, though I projected the Greek text and referred to that exclusively during my instruction. The quizzes were based for the most part on fill-in-the-blank and multiple choice questions drawn from the text selections. The students came from South Sudan, Botswana, Uganda, South Africa, Zambia, Swaziland, and west Africa. All in all, I believe the students worked very hard and derived the full benefit of my coming to them from America. It was a joy to see that the number of students I taught this year was back to nearly full capacity after a very small class last year. I shared teaching duties with CTS colleague, Professor John Pless, who taught from his recent book *Didache* (on the six chief parts of the Catechism) in the afternoons. Hence, it was a very “full” two weeks for Pless, myself, the students (who had to attend class 6 hours per day, every day), and for Bishop Weber. But it was obvious that Bishop Weber and the students had been anticipating our coming for a long time and were “ready” for us while there.



There were no “glitches” that I could see nor inefficiencies. The “team teaching” with Pless seemed to work very well on this trip and may be the best way to conduct this ministry in the future.

Last May (2013) I mentored three masters candidates at the University of Pretoria Peter Abia, Enoch Macben, and Frank Kainerugaba. All 3 successfully completed their MTh. Macben has continued to stay on at LTS to teach Greek to the beginning students there, with his wife Prossy, and their young child Shalom. Enoch shows a real aptitude for Greek, and Bishop Weber has asked that we secure the funding to send him to my 2014 Fall Greek class in Fort Wayne—which is a very fast moving and intensive class, with passive as well as active exercises. These plans are still pending, though I have been in touch with Dr. Timothy Quill who has written favorably of providing some funding for Enoch from either LCMS World Missions or CTS.

In addition to the intensive teaching Bishop Weber requested that I preach twice in Chapel. Chapel services were well-attended and the daily offices at LTS provide a focus and center for the spiritual life and formation of the students. (These sermons are available on the LTS website and also on FB)

Also, over the weekend (7-9 March), Prof. Pless and I accompanied Bishop Weber and his wife Angelika to Lesotho where we spent two nights at the Katse Dam and Lodge in the very heart of that land-locked African nation. It was a seven hour trip from Pretoria to the Katse Dam, through record rains and high mountain passes (3090 meters), but a wonderful opportunity to see more of Africa. There are no Lutheran congregations in Lesotho to speak of but we were “scouting” the place and learned about the Roman Catholic church there. During Saturday 8 March we toured the Katse Dam (a tour all to ourselves), visited an authentic African village under the guidance of two young locals, and enjoyed a two-hour boat trip on the Katse Dam reservoir—again, all to ourselves. We were impressed by the beautiful serenity of the place and the fact that it is as yet unspoiled by overdevelopment and pollution.

On Tuesday 4 March I presented the Lutheran view of the Sacraments to a group of 15 M.Div. students (6 men and 9 women) at the NG Kerk Hartebeesspruit (Dutch Reformed Church) under the direction of my friend Dr. Kobus Kok, a NT professor at the University of Pretoria. I received a fair hearing there and many questions which I attempted to field on the basis of Luther’s Small Catechism and the Greek NT. In prior years I have presented academic papers to Dr. Kok’s classes but he desired me this time to present “the Lutheran view” of Sacraments to students who had never before been exposed to Lutheranism. I made no coverts there but



feel it went reasonably well; to show his appreciation Dr. Kok took me to lunch afterwards and we discussed further collaborative efforts: there are more masters students he would like to find outside readers for, etc.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Bishop Wilhelm Weber, Jr., his wonderful wife Angelika, and three of their 4 children (Frederika, Detlev, and Matthias) who so kindly hosted us in their home throughout the entire two-and-a-half week period. Every day we’d wake at 6 a.m., breakfast, and accompany Angelika in rush-hour traffic to our respective places at the University of Pretoria or the Seminary. Then when the day was over we’d retire to the Weber home where we’d relax: smoke cigars, drink beers, drink scotch, check our e-mails, etc. I should also mention in this connection that we received a free and nutritious lunch every day with the students at LTS prepared by Bishop Weber’s sister, Mrs. Renate Strauli. We worshipped twice Sunday mornings at the English-speaking congregation that convenes on the semi-

nary premises, and twice for Lenten services at nearby St. Paul’s Lutheran Church (German-speaking with P. Martin Paul).

It is vital that the LCMS continue to support LTS with our offerings and prayers, even as we respond to dramatic requests for assistance elsewhere. I welcome this opportunity to have served the Lord and his church by teaching at LTS in March 2014 and hope that this seminary can continue to influence confessional Lutheranism throughout Africa for many years to come, even as it has so faithfully in the past. I hope, by God’s grace, to return to teach at LTS next year.

Sincerely,

Dr. John G. Nordling

Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology
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Security at LTS

The safety issue at Seminary was again reason for concern. During the past Quarter Ethiopian guests of ours—a PhD candidate in the department of Education Mr. Melese—was attacked and robbed whilst staying in the flat adjacent to LHF Hall. Although he was quite shocked, he was not physically harmed by the attackers. The armed burglars lifted the electric gate out of its rails and thus broke into the premises at Segoe House by and then forcing their way into the flat by breaking down the door.

Basic repairs to the damaged doors were done over the weekend, police came to make a follow-up the next day and security professionals were again been invited to come and set up steel doors, where these are still missing. Locks and further security measures were put in place at all front doors and main gates so as to secure the place even more.

Although our students were put on high alert and very temporarily very much alarmed, they have now recovered so much as to go about their regular studies, devotions and past-times in good spirits. There is no question, that the principle of “neighbourhood watch” functions optimally. Still we have again gone through the basic emergency measures with our students. Mr Aaron Ngubeni is employed as daily security watch and we pray regularly that the Seminarians will remain safe and sound +



We pray every morning during Matins: *O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty poer and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Do you want to support LTS financially?

Support to LTS directly benefits the spread of the Gospel in Africa. LTS trains pastoral and deaconess students to faithfully serve according to all the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and his faithful servant Dr. Martin Luther.

In the U.S., the LCMS districts of South Illinois (**SID: President Timothy Scharr**) and the **Rocky Mountains (RMD: President Allan Anderson)** continue to support the LTS significantly and most helpfully.

The Logo of RMD is depicted on the right.

The St. Philip Lutheran Mission Society has joined this supportive mission recently.

Financial support can be directly deposited into the LTS bank account. The banking details are on the back of this newsletter.

South African supporters are reminded that Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane is a registered Public Benefits Organization.

Donations to LTS can be deducted according to the rules of Section 18(a) in the South African tax laws.

Please contact us for further information.







*Training Christ's disciples
as pastors, teachers,
evangelists, missionaries,
bishops and deaconesses
for faithful service in the
Lutheran Church of Africa*

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

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OUR WEBSITE IS

WWW.LTS.ORG.ZA

Lutheran Theological Seminary offers confessional Lutheran education in preparation for service as Lutheran pastors and also deaconesses in Africa.

LTS has trained students from across Africa: South Africa, Botswana, Swaziland, Zambia, Madagascar, Tanzania, Congo, Kenya, Uganda, S. Sudan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, — and we are hoping for prospective students from Malawi and Zimbabwe.

Pastoral students of the Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS), who qualify may pursue a Bachelor of Theology (BTh) and proceed with post-graduate studies with our partner institution—University of Pretoria.

Prospective students need to have the positive recommendation and support of their home church to be considered for enrolment.

For more information contact LTS directly using the details at the top of this page.

Prayer Requests

- **Faithful teachers**, who teach and preach God's living word and the Lutheran doctrine soundly, motivatingly and in exemplary fashion.
- **Diligent students**, who are willing and able to cope with the course material in learning, research and faithful practice of a god-pleasing life.
- **Financial support** that LTS may continue to prepare faithful workers for the Lutheran Church in Africa with good teaching and excellent programs, but also enable it to maintain the facility and premises suitably.
- **More faithful students** coming to LTS learn, study and practice Lutheran Theology—and the means to support them for a good time too.
- Enough **space and capacity** at LTS for Seminarians, guests & visitors and the ability to expand the facility as opportunity avails itself.



Coming up:

- 17-21 April Easter Holiday
- 28 April—6 May Recess
- 6 May: Board of Directors
- 18 May: Mission Festival at UP
- 24 May: End of 2nd Quarter
- 26 May: Start of Examinations
- 7 June: Winter Holiday
- 15 July start of 3 Qtr
- 1 September start of 4 Qtr
- 6 September: Open Day
- 26 September: St. Michaels

STUDENT ENQUIRY MOST WELCOME !

