

# LTS NEWS

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



## After Matins - happy Seminarians!

Another two weeks of intensive work with Grace Rao [LCMS World Relief & Human Care—St.Louis in the centre] and Professor John T. Pless from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft.Wayne, IN left of G.Rao] were attended by a number of interested pastors, vicars and students.

It is a special blessing to the experience the continual support of the LCSA's women's league for the Deaconess Course at LTS. They have now visited two of these intensive courses with Grace Rao and the participants are looking forward to the next course planned for March 2011. These courses are truly intensive, because the ladies start at 8:00 and with only short breaks for lunch, they continue until 5:00 in the afternoon with enough home-work to keep them busy into the night. It was a special joy to have two volunteers from LCMS participate in this course:

Shara Cunningham and Julia Wehrenburg [both engaged at Ntshongweni, KZN] and even a visitor from the Democratic Republic of Congo, who is eager to further her training in theology and works of mercy. Three pastors of the Mission of Lutheran Churches participated in the Advanced Course under the tutelage of Prof. Pless - besides further eight pastors and vicars from the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa and the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa. Finally four foreign students also took part in this course. All are very keen to take advantage of some ongoing edification and pastoral formation with Prof. Pless, who taught on "Luther as pastoral theologian" and also "Lutheran Ethics" taking up mornings and afternoons at LTS. Hopefully these courses can be continued in 2011.

## KENYANS RETURN HOME



After the completion of the 4th intensive course in Lutheran Theology three pastoral students from Kenya, who studied at the LTS for the past two years, received their certificates. Here the rector is handing over a certificate to Rev. Jacob Msto.

These students have received bursaries to study at the LTS for two years. Thankfully the LTS was able to do that with the help of its worldwide friends.

The students have since returned home by air courtesy of special help by Rev. James May and Finnish supporters. Other successful participants of the course will receive their certificates at the regular graduation at the end of the year.

In the last weeks of July Prof. Dr. William Schumacher from Concordia Seminary St.Louis [USA] taught Reformation history at the LTS to the main course. Together with his wife Tamara he stayed in the Se-goe-House of the LTS and we are glad they survived the cold SA winter-nights.

theran Church in Southern Africa in Serowe, Botswana. Since then he has returned to the USA, but still has very special heart for Lutheran missions and works hard to promote the best quality Seminary education for future pastor!

Prof. Schumacher knows Southern Africa first-hand, because he was a long-term missionary serving in the Lu-

Thank you very much Will for your visit!



### Visit by Prof. Dr. William Schumacher

*“We don’t have time for self-pity and mournfulness. There is lots to do. Perhaps most of all we need serenity and pride in the task entrusted to us to combat the spirits of sorrow, which hold us captive and tend to paralyse us.”*

*[Fulbert Stefensky]*

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

### “Lutheran Missions Must Lead to Lutheran Churches”

I write these lines from the campus of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane, South Africa where I, like several of my colleagues, serve from time to time as a visiting professor. Serving here and also in Madagascar, India, Indonesia, Cambodia, Malaysia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Siberia has enriched my work in the classroom in Fort Wayne. It has also deepened my conviction that authentic Lutheran theology is vital for global missions. Our overseas partners recognize the necessity for clarity in the confession of Jesus Christ and fidelity to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

Our seminary is well known for these commitments. In contrast to the ecumenically-compromised but politically influential Lutheran World Federation, our seminary is engaged in theological education enlivened by the conviction that the Confessions are not relics or museum pieces, but truthful expositions of the one, saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. We know that “inter-faith dialogue” is no substitute for the preaching of the crucified Christ in whose name alone promises eternal salvation to all who believe.

Our new Synod President, Rev. Matthew C. Harrison wisely writes: “Lutheran missions must lead to a Lutheran Church” (Matthew C. Harrison, “Lutheran Missions Must Lead to a Lutheran Church” in *Logia*, Holy Trinity 1998, pp. 29ff). There is no such thing as generic missions. Theological assumptions will shape missions. Universalism –the belief that all are saved apart from faith in Christ– deprives missionary outreach of its focus and energy. Synergistic theologies that fail to confess “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ or come to him” put missionaries in the position of attempting to persuade or convince pagans to trade off their old gods for a better one.

Theologies which do see the deep and abiding marks of the fall of humanity into sin in and on culture, will compromise the Gospel under the guise of contextu-

alization. Where justification by faith alone is made ecumenically expendable, new legalisms will emerge based on human merit or work. Divine justification will be replaced by peace and justice agendas. When the sacraments are seen as optional, broken sinners are left without the comfort of the forgiveness of sins and peace with God no matter where they live.

Challenges in Africa abound that require the best of our theological thinking. Traditional African religions seem to be fertile ground for Pentecostalism imported from the United States, resulting in a syncretistic, new religion that is sometimes confused with Christianity. Writing over sixty years ago, in an essay that has proved prophetic, “The Question of the Church’s Unity on the Mission Field” Hermann Sasse identified temptations to embrace a pragmatic unity which ultimately undermines mission endeavor.

Because our Lutheran confession is genuinely catholic, that is universal, we are a global church. We do not do theology by geography but under the Holy Scriptures as the Word of the Triune God. Concordia Theological Seminary is grateful to play its part in bringing the reconciling Word of Christ to the nations by going into the world to teach all the things that our Lord has entrusted to His church.

It is a delight to work here these days in South Africa with a sister seminary uniquely positioned to be vital center for the training of pastors and deaconesses for the whole continent. There are students here not only from South Africa but from other African nations including Botswana, Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, Liberia, Nigeria and Ethiopia.

Doors are being opened for us to play a part in a vigorous partnership with Lutheran churches here and elsewhere in delivering quality, confessional theological education that will enable pastors throughout the world to proclaim Jesus Christ.

-Prof. John T. Pless

## Teachers at LTS in the 3rd Quarter



At the first staff meeting of the 2nd Semester, which took place on the 28th July in the LHF-Hall, the following teachers were present from left to right:

Rev. Glenn Fluegge [LCMS];  
 Musawenkosi Mntambo [LCSA],  
 Prof. Dr. William Schumacher [CS St.Louis];  
 Mr. Peter Abia Anibati [Student Representative from Sudan];  
 Prof. Dr. Werner Klaen [LTH Oberursel i.T.];  
 Salomé van Niekerk [Secretary];  
 Bishop em. David Tswaedi DD [LCSA];  
 Bishop Dr. Wilhelm Weber [Rector]

Prof. Dr. Charles Gieschen [Concordia Theological Seminary Ft.Wayne, IN] taught New Testament Exegesis at the LTS in August 2010. He concentrated on the gospel of St. John. Prof. Gieschen is one of a number of professors from CTS Ft.Wayne to teach at the LTS helping us to raise our academic standard and proving invaluable to our students from across the continent. Such expert teachers widen the perspective of our students, who taste the fruits of international academic scholarship from a very Lutheran perspective. We are hopeful that these best practices can be sustained in the years to come.



Prof. Dr. Werner Klaen [Oberursel i.T on the left] talking with Prof. Dr. Graham Duncan at the University of Pretoria, where he is teaching “Post-Reformation History” regularly in this Quarter.

It is our fervent hope that Prof. Klaen will be able to occupy the Lutheran Chair at the University starting in 2011. The deliberations on this matter with the authorities at the University are in their final stages.

We are looking to the International Lutheran Conference [ILC] to support this project in the hope that it will benefit the world-wide Lutheran Church.

## THANKS MINKA - YOU DID A GREAT JOB HERE

My name is Minka Schulz, I'm 20 years old and come from Westerau, a small village between Hamburg and Luebeck in Schleswig-Holstein. After I graduated in the summer of 2009 I did some vocational



internship and earned money for a stay abroad. My dream was always to go to school abroad, but through Bleckmar [SELK, Germany] I now had an opportunity to get three months experience in South Africa (Tshwane). So on June 2, 2010 I set off.

Now I'm here and am really enjoying it: Although it is winter, it is predominantly sunny and warm during the days, but the nights are very cold. With three blankets and a heater I am not doing too bad.

The LTS in Pretoria is a place to meet many different people, cultures and languages. The students are mainly from across African, the teachers however are from here, Germany and America. For me it is incredibly exciting to experience the different languages, accents, attitudes and cultures. And

I was glad to have been received so warmly. It is interesting to draw comparisons with Germany, because of both advantages and disadvantages in the different ways of life. My daily work consists of supporting the LTS secretary Salomé. During the academic quarter teachers and students need printing to be done, want to send faxes, make phone calls, records needing filing and quite a lot more of the same.

The seminary with 23 regular students plus double that during advanced and deaconess courses has more than enough work and a lot remains to be done. So you just don't get bored here! Now the time is almost over, because on 24 August I will begin my journey home.

It is nice to see that people are grateful for the voluntary service I was able to offer and I enjoyed working in this very friendly environment. Therefore I can only encourage everyone to venture on such a journey: "You do not only a good service, but will learn many new things for yourself for your life! This experience is priceless!" I am infinitely grateful to God that I could spend my time here in South Africa! And a big thanks to the SELK and to the LTS in Tshwane giving me this great opportunity! [Minka Schulz]

### Daily lunch at St. Pauls, what an improvement!

Starting this Quarter Renate Straeuli and her crew have daily prepared meals for Seminarians at St. Pauls. That does not only save a whole lot of time, but also ensures that the students receive at least one wholesome meal per day. The meal is balanced and with an astonishing variety! Students, teachers and even visitors are very impressed. It really is a great improvement for the Seminary and its people.

Here in the picture you can see Minka Schulz [Volunteer from Germany] and also Ashenafi Desta [First year student from Ethiopia]





Rev. John T. Pless is assistant professor of pastoral ministry and missions at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne where he also serves as director of field education and editor of *For the Life of the World*. Prior to joining the faculty, he served for seventeen years as campus pastor at University Lutheran Chapel at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. From 1979 to 1983, he served on the staff at the Chapel of the Resurrection at Valparaiso University. He is a graduate of Texas Lutheran College, Sequin, Texas (BA) and Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio (M.Div). He entered The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod by colloquy at Concordia Theological Seminary in 1983. Prof. Pless is the author of *Handling the Word of Truth: Law and Gospel in the Church Today*, *A Small Catechism on Human Life*, *Word: God Speaks to Us*, *Confession: God Gives Us Truth*, *Luther on the Care for the Sick and the Dying* and two chapters in *Lutheran Worship History and Practice*. With Matthew Harrison he is editor of *Women Pastors? The Ordination of Women in Biblical Lutheran Perspective*. He served on the Agenda Committee for the *Lutheran Service Book*. He is book review editor for *Logia: A Journal of Lutheran Theology* and a member of the editorial council of *Lutheran Quarterly*. A regular lecturer at various conferences both in the United States and overseas, Prof. Pless coordinates the seminary's annual "Mercy Mission Expedition to Madagascar" in partnership with the LCMS Board for World Relief and Human Care. He serves as co-president of the International Loehe Society and he is a member of the LCMS Committee on the Sanctity of Human Life.

Lize Kriel was appointed in the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies at the University of Pretoria in 1998. She teaches courses in African and European Cultural History. She obtained her MA and DPhil Degrees in History from the University of Pretoria. In 2006 she was an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Fellow under Professor Adam Jones of the Centre for African Studies at the University of Leipzig. A reworked version of her doctoral study, on historical method, was published in 2009. While spatially her initial work was focused on the Blouberg area in Limpopo Province, the nature of the textual sources led her to the research field of missionaries as makers of historical knowledge. Her current project is on transcontinental reading networks facilitated by women missionaries. She is married to Niel Roux, a demographer, and they have a daughter, Maia.



Dr. Werner Klän received his doctorate in Theology in 1983, and his Habilitation in Church History in 1993, both from the University of Münster. He has lectured at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Oberursel since 1993, and has been Professor of Systematic Theology at this institution since 2003. His main areas of research are theology of the Lutheran Confessions, ecclesiology and ecumenical theology. He is the author of two publications on church history, and the editor of numerous other publications. Besides his lecturing at Oberursel, he is the Chairman of the Exams Committee at that seminary, a member of the German Ecumenical Study Committee, a member of the Commission on Theology of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany (SELK), a member of the Commission on the History of Pomerania, and he has been a guest lecturer at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane since 2008.

# Speakers at the Lutheran Pastor's convention Cyara

31st August - 2nd September 2010

Teresa Conradie grew up on a farm in the Waterval Boven district in Mpumalanga and matriculated from the High School Belfast in 1979. She read for the degrees B Juris LLB at the University of Pretoria.

Teresa currently chairs the Global Council of Advocates International. She is a former Chairperson of both Advocates Africa and of the Christian Lawyers Association of South Africa. (Advocates Africa and Advocates International is respectively a continental and global network of Christian lawyers)

Teresa was admitted as an attorney in 1988 and has since been in private practice. In 1997 she was a founder member of one of South Africa's first multi cultural law firms and is currently still the Managing Director of Motla Conradie Attorneys in Pretoria.

In recent years Teresa was appointed on a number of occasions as an acting judge to the South African High Court. Teresa is married to Deon Conradie and has a daughter and a son.

Teresa passionately loves Africa. Her dream is to influence the next generation of leaders in Africa to make a difference by establishing an institute which teaches biblical worldview to law graduates and other leaders.



Rev. Radikobo Ntsimane is a part-time pastor of the Ebenezer congregation in Sthembile in Ebaqulusini (Northern KZN) where his wife Kholisile is raising their daughters, ModimogaOpalelwe and ModlimoOneile. Ntsimane studied theology at Enhlanhleni Seminary from 1984 to 1988 and was ordained in the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa in 1990. He served the urban congregations in the East of Johannesburg for three years and rural congregations in the North East of Pretoria for two years before taking a lectureship at his *alma mater*. He completed an MTh at the University of Natal and headed the Lutheran Seminary for five years. He is concurrently teaching History of Christianity at the University of KZN and Church History at the Lutheran Theological Institute. His interest in the oral history methodology has led to participation in international conferences and scholarly publications on the subject.



# Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

## [Pretoria, South Africa]

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Account number:	860 5100 30
BIC:	33 55 45
SWIFT:	ABSAZAJCPT



## Visiting St. Peters, Middleburg



Grace Rao [LCMS World Relief and Human Care] is seen here with Betty Totoro Nanjuci [Democratic Republic of Congo], who celebrated her birthday with the deaconess course at the LTS in the 3rd Quarter.

Grace was working with ten women, who are very keen to continue with this program in the coming year 2010. Hopefully we can even win some full-time students for the deaconess course in that year too. The LCSA women's league is working on this, so that the challenge of gaining younger women into this league can also be addressed. However the main reason for this endeavour is, that there are so many opportunities and yet so few qualified helpers. We continue to pray as our Lord Jesus Christ taught us: *"Ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourer into his harvest, for the fields are white for harvest."*

### Prayer Requests for the LTS

- > More able students to study Lutheran theology and be prepared as pastors and deaconesses in Africa
- > Means to support LTS teachers so that they can concentrate on their calling to teach & preach
- > Suitable opportunities for LTS graduates to be called and installed, ordained and taken into service
- > Volunteers to help with a growing work-load at LTS—both administratively and with house-keeping
- > Means to sustain, renovate and expand the facility as required.
- > Possibilities for student- and staff exchange to broaden the perspective of Seminarians globally.