

LTS NEWS

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



UP and LTS sign agreement

After lots of preparation over the past years This agreement facilitates the exchange of the accreditation agreement was signed on staff and students between the two institutions the 8th June at the University of Pretoria by Vice-Chancellor and principal of the University of Pretoria Prof. Dr. Cheryl De la Rey and Bishop Wilhelm Weber as the rector of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane. This agreement facilitates the accreditation of the lecturers at LTS and the enrolment of LTS students at the university of Pretoria for diploma and/or degree purposes.

tions and will hopefully open the way to fill the Lutheran Chair at UP soon. Instrumental for this agreement was the input by Prof. Dr. Johan Buitendag [Dean of the theology faculty at UP] and also that by Prof. Dr. Chris de Beer [vice-rector of the UP]. Again we have all reason to rejoice and sing praises to the Lord our God, who has done great things for us.

Visitors from CU Austin, Texas



Michael and Daniel Grosse together with Pat Fick visited the LTS for nearly 2 weeks together with students from the CU Austin, Texas: Hopefully they come again soon!

God's creation is incredible. While in South Africa, God showed us a side of His creation that we had never experienced. I loved the chance to step into and absorb the culture. Our first day in South Africa we learned a hymn in Zulu (one of South Africa's eleven national languages) that God was able to use throughout the week, allowing us to connect with the people we were serving. The relationships made on this trip, within our group, and with all the people we met was truly the most beautiful part. We met people from all over the world and were able to glorify and serve one God alongside them. The people of Africa have seen more than I can even imagine, apart-

heid, genocide, HIV and Aids epidemics, yet they are still praising, seeking, and glorifying God. That is beautiful! **Katie Prince**

I gazed into the faces of REAL people dealing with REAL abandonment, REAL abuse, and REAL poverty, and discovered that God is just as REAL! **Brittany Scheel**

The mission trip to South Africa was absolutely amazing. We were able to do a lot of things, see a lot of places, and spend time with a lot of beautiful people. I will never forget the lives that we changed and the lives that changed us! I can't wait to go back and see how God is continuing to work in South Africa. **Emerald Allen**

I learned that love transcends all language and cultural differences because people can sense love even if they can't understand your words. I also saw that poverty and injustice is a reality that the church must face, but prayer is where we must start because God is the only one who knows what is best for the world.

Poverty is a reality that the church (body of Christ) must learn to deal with in a better way.

It doesn't take a degree to serve God, it just takes the love of Christ in our hearts. We don't need to travel across the world to do mission work; we can start at home.

People have more in common than is evident at first. Prayer is something everyone can do to help fix the problems in the world. We are so rich in America and we have a responsibility to help our poorer brothers and sisters around the world.

Love transcends all language and cultural barriers, people can tell when you love them! I saw the need for the Body of Christ to come together to be the hands and feet of Christ.

I saw the need for the Gospel to reach the forgotten, poor and oppressed. **Latrisha Hill**

My highlight of the trip was when we were at Abba House, where one of the babies came over to me and placed her hands on my thighs. She was my buddy for the rest of the day. The reason it was so special was because it reminded me of our relationship with God. He chooses us for no real or tangible reason and then we are brought into this new world of love and connection. **Sharon Whightsil**

I learned that no prayer is too small or insignificant for God's ears to hear. I wanted to see elephants so badly and we had not seen any all day. We prayed that God would bring us a miracle of elephants and we didn't just find one, but a whole herd! Prayer is powerful! God can use the smallest kids to show you his grace.

In the midst of poverty and strife, God's message stands strong and keeps us hopeful for our reunion with Him. Our lives are to be lived as an example of Christ's love, no matter the circumstance or situation. **Kellye Koyn**

My favorite part of the trip, really the most meaningful to my life, was the night we spent at Themba. Our environment was so beautiful, but instead of glorifying ourselves, we glorified God. That night I realized what a wonderful group of girls I was surrounded by. I am glad to have had this experience with them. I also believe my relationship with God became closer! I don't know what I want to do after graduation, but that night at Themba led me to the next step. It will take a lot of prayer, but I know the next two years of my life will be in Africa. **Fayelon Davis**

Words cannot describe our time in South Africa, all I can say is GO! Go to South Africa and let the people, culture, and creation consume you. Allow God to rock your world by serving in South Africa; it will steal your heart. That is a guarantee. **Amanda White**



Mission fest in Salem



At the end of our stay in South Africa we attended a mission festival called Rogate. Over 1200 people came from near and far to sing, dance, listen to the Word, and praise God together in multiple languages. People filled the church, the staircase, the balcony, and even stood outside the doors and windows. The service lasted four hours, but I think they could have praised God all day long! What a privilege it was to sing with our brothers and sisters in Christ, praising the One who died so we might live! The warm reception by everyone at the seminary and all the places we visited made our trip so memorable and blessed. **Pat Fick**



Visitor from Tanzania



Rev. Emmanuel Makala from the Bishop's office in the Eastern diocese of the Tanzanian Evangelical Lutheran Church visited the Seminary just after Easter. He came as the representative of Bishop Andrew Gule, who was unable to come himself.

One of the main reasons Rev. Makala came was to explain why the five beginners from Tanzania, who had started with their theological studies at the LTS in February and had started to get acquainted with English and the foreign ways at our South African venue. Initially it had been said, that they had just gone home for the Easter holiday. However after this short break they did not

return and Rev. Makala was adamant that this was without the prior consent of the Church Council and against the will of the Tanzanian Lutheran Churches leadership in the Eastern diocese.

He was very keen to establish that they would gladly send more students in the coming academic year and that they would be very careful to choose suitable men, who were interested in studying Lutheran theology at the LTS for a suitable time.

We are very happy to have this cordial relationship with the Tanzanian Lutheran Church and look forward very much to visit with Bishop Andrew Gule in the near future.

President Timothy Scharr's visit strengthens SID and LTS & LCSA ties



President Timothy Scharr from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod South Illinois District came for the Mission festival celebrations in Salem on Rogate Sunday, the 29th May.

Here he is seen together with student Madara Eboro from Nigeria after Matins. President Scharr preached the sermon and Mr. Eboro lead the liturgy.

As new president of his district President Scharr is keen to confirm and strengthen the existing ties between SID and LCSA. Over the years SID has built a strong relationship with its partner church the LCSA. Areas of special

concern were the training of Lutheran pastors, mission outreach, HIV/Aids support, poverty alleviation and improved church governance.

President Scharr is eager to build on this strong cooperation by establishing further connections, bridges and ties between the partners like involving people from their intensive prison ministry, utilizing administrative expertise from their side and also encouraging more volunteer visits.

We are thankful for President Scharr's visit and pray that his endeavours will be blessed with success and thus benefit the Lutheran Church on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

Please continue supporting LTS



Windows shatter, geysers leak, ceilings fall down, connections break and power fails—and at LTS this is no exception. Therefore we need your continual support so that teachers can carry on teaching, students can continue to study, eat, wash, rest and recuperate, visitors can pop in, church meetings can be held and the Seminary can go on with its business! Please help as we continue to face the challenges of running a Seminary for students from around Africa. God bless you +



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia invited to a theological conference just before Easter. Missionaries, theologians, bishops, evangelists, translators and pastors gathered in Lusaka to work on topics of common interest like the Lutheran Church Africa Synod or how to better serve Lutherans in the Caprivi strip and N.Botswana.

Not only was it good for to get to know the work of Scandinavian Lutherans in Zambia, Congo and Zaire, but it was also very enriching to get to know the Zambians themselves like Bishop Samson M. Kipaila, but also pastor Robert Kaumba—the father of Benjamin Kaumba, who is a student at the LTS in Tshwane studying Lutheran theology in the 2nd year.

Library donated to LTS



For many years Reverend Heinrich Voges supported the Lutheran Theological Seminary. During the time the previous rector Rev. Radikobo Ntsimane had a sabbatical and was on study leave in Germany, he stepped in and taught Reformation History at the LTS.

For many more years he regularly preached during the LTS Matins services and was always a grateful participant in theological conferences and workshops at the LTS.

Rev. Heinrich Voges also actively shared the theological literature in seTswana, which was edited by Rev. E.A.W. Weber DD and published with the help of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, with his brothers serving in the Hermannsburg mission [ELM] and beyond.

A few months ago Reverend Voges lost his

wife of over 55 years. The burial service was held in Mabopane and was conducted in both seTswana and German by Bishop Ramashapa. Now Reverend Voges has sold his house in La Montagne and is about to move to a retirement village in Wapadrand.

That is the right time for him to hand over his theological library to the LTS. He had stipulated it as the receiver years ago and now has deemed the time right for this move. We are very thankful for this significant donation and are very happy that the LTS library is receiving these precious books to supplement its German collection of Lutheran and ecumenical theology.

May these books serve the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa well - and all those, who are serious about Lutheran theology in this part of the African continent.

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane [Pretoria, South Africa]

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SWIFT:	ABSAZAJCPT

3.Quarter

- 26.7: Start
- 8.8: Prof. Pless—CTS Ft.Wayne
- 15.8: Dr. Simojoki
- 24.9: St.Michael's break
- 26.9: Intensive with Rev. J. May



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.