

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane
Training Lutheran Pastors and Deaconesses for Africa

LTS News

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LTS Completes Fall Semester

We thank the Lord for His many blessings on LTS this last part of the fall semester. The regular classes concluded on 24 May and final exams concluded on 7 June. Besides the normal preparation for end of term, LTS students had many other activities to keep them occupied right up to the end.

Dr. John Nordling of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana and Dr. E.A. Wilhelm Weber, Sr. gave special lectures. These lecturers taught intensive courses on Philippians and Psalms.

LTS students and staff were able to join in the celebrations held at the University of Pretoria (UP) of a new translation of the Book of Concord on Friday, 26 April.

Two days later UP was the venue for another celebration, a Mission Festival hosted by the Mission of Lutheran Church, a mission society supported by the Selbständige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche (SELK) in Germany.

Meals for LTS students changed venue this semester making it convenient for all. Mrs. Renate Straueli

continued preparing lunches but her work schedule hindered her from working at the St. Paul church kitchen any more. She now prepares lunch in advance and it is delivered to the LTS campus in time to be served at 13h00. LTS staff member Emily Ngubeni is assisted by students in serving the lunches.

Prepared breakfasts have also become part of the LTS routine this semester. Emily also oversees the preparation of breakfast.

Thanks to German volunteer Tobias Schmidt-Dahl, who kept many items and tasks in order during the semester. He left South Africa on 3 June.

Coral Rose, a missionary of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, began assisting at LTS this semester. Her main tasks are keeping the LTS library in order and tutoring students with written assignments as well as helping their computer literacy.

LCMS missionaries Carl and Deborah Rockrohr



Prof. Dr. John Nordling of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana taught intensive classes on Philippians for LTS advanced and graduate students. He bore gifts of commentaries for the students.

concluded their service at LTS this semester, and are moving on to a new assignment in Ethiopia.

LTS resumes the next semester on 16 July. God's blessings over the winter break to all LTS students, staff and supporters!

Inside this issue:

Deaconess Courses	2
SeTswana Book of Concord	3
Mission Festival	4
Weber Sr. & Nordling Lecture	5
Photos	6-7
Contact Information	8

Deaconess Courses: Growing in Ministry Skills



The deaconess class took a field trip in May to the Lutheran Hour Ministries South Africa Office in Johannesburg. Rev. Siza Lugojobo took the ladies to see the prison ministry of Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Submitted by Deaconess Deborah Rockrohr

This semester has included a lot of learning in 'hand knowledge' – combining head knowledge and heart knowledge (faith) in the practical service that is deaconess ministry.

Teaching in the Sunday school setting was one area of particular focus in the Deaconess Skills course. Aided by Mrs. Karin Niebuhr, a lifelong South African Lutheran and trained teacher, the students learned how children of different ages learn, how to plan a lesson, and how teaching in Sunday school differs from teaching other subjects. Using Concordia Publishing House Sunday School materials provided by Concordia Gospel Outreach, the deaconess students took turns teaching

Sunday School with about 10-16 elementary school children each week.

For some, this was a first-time experience. When the deaconess students first learned that they would be teaching, they said, "Deaconess, how will we teach them? They can teach us!" Nevertheless, they each approached their task with careful preparation and a measure of bravery. Each week the assigned teacher was aided by an assigned helper, and I was also able to be in the classroom with them as a 'safety net.' And, yes, it does get easier with practice!

In the Contemporary Issues in Ministry to Women and Children course, each student completed a major project in an area of interest: orphans, child abuse, abor-

tion, HIV/AIDS, widows. We learned how to study the demographic information that informs us of the scope of need, what resources may already be available in the social sector, and how the church might respond in meaningful ways with mercy – practical help combined with the gospel message.

The class also studied grief using Granger Westberg's *Good Grief*, and discussed the work of the deaconess in bringing God's comfort to those who are grieving. We considered miscarriage, cancer and aged care. The work of the deaconess is important in these and other areas, because women in most African cultures do not easily share such intimate concerns with men, including the pastor.

A highlight of the term was a field trip to prison. Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) has a weekly prison outreach, and we were able to join Rev. Siza Lugojobo on one of his regular Wednesday visits. Again, this was a 'first' for our students, and helped them to see the spiritual needs of this often-forgotten segment of society. We also visited the LHM office, learned about other outreach efforts of LHM, and received a number of booklets on various topics that will be good resources in future ministry.

SeTswana Book of Concord Presentation

Why do Lutherans take so seriously their confessional statements of faith in the Book of Concord? Are such confessional statements particular only to Lutherans? The editors of *The Book of Concord* from Fortress Press (2000) explain it like this:

“From the second century on Christians have expressed the biblical faith in summaries that served to identify the church’s public message. The Greek word *symbol*—a technical word for creed—identified the function of such summaries of the church’s teaching as its identifying statement of belief, purpose, and mission. The Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds both offered believers guidance for public instruction and witness and also served to regulate and evaluate the public theology of the church’s teachers. They demarcated lines between errors that had attacked the faith and biblical truth.” (From page 1.)

Since students of LTS study



to be public ministers and servants in the Lutheran church, every new translation of the Book of Concord is a significant event. SeTswana is the mother tongue of some LTS students, so this translation is personally significant!

Thus it was a wonderful day when translators, editors, donors, churchmen and academics of South Africa and LTS students and staff could gather together to publicly

speak and reflect upon the significance of the new translation.

The presentation was hosted at the University of Pretoria. Guests included translators and editors, Dr. E. A. Wilhelm Weber, Sr. and Rev. David Tswaedi, D.D.; Dr. Ishmael Noko (Emeritus LWF General Secretary); Dr. Johan Buitendag (Dean of

(Continued on page 7)

Rev. Masibi (LCSA) hands a copy of the new Book of Concord to Rev. Fandrey of Lutheran Heritage Foundation which helped with the publishing costs. Dean Rev. Mafereka (LCSA) was the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

How to Support LTS

Support to LTS directly benefits the spread of the Gospel in Africa. LTS trains pastoral and deaconess students to faithfully carry out ministry according to the teachings of our Lord Jesus.

In the U.S., the St. Philip Lutheran Mission Society

supports the work of LTS. U.S. friends wanting to support the seminary might use that route.

Alternatively, 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.

Celebrating God's Mission



Mission Festival attendees gather for luncheon on the UP campus after the worship service.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

The Gospel of Jesus Christ brings people together from all languages, cultures and locations. This was the evident testimony of the Mission Festival hosted by the Mission of Lutheran Church (MLC) on 28 April. MLC is the South African arm of the mission work of the Selbständige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche (SELK), a confessional Lutheran church in Germany and strong supporter of LTS and Lutheranism in South Africa.

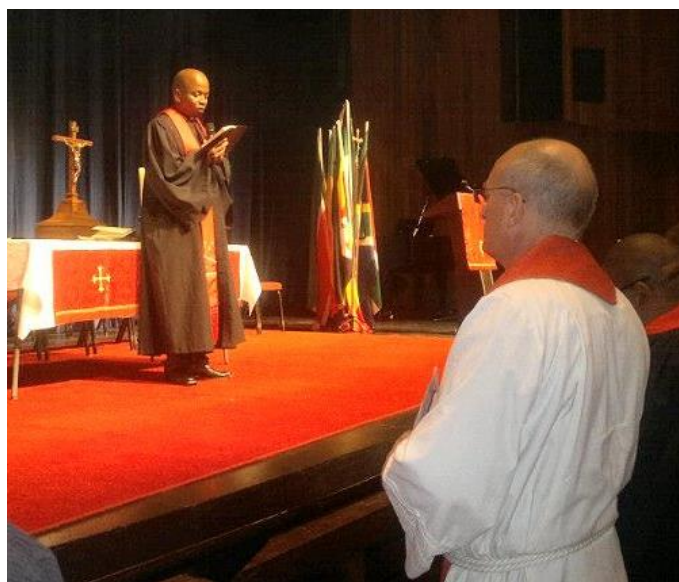
LTS students and staff were invited to join members of the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA), the Free Evangelical Church in South Africa (FELSISA) as well as MLC persons to celebrate God's grace in South Africa.

The worship service took place at the University of Pretoria in Aula Hall.

The brass bands of several congregations combined to offer music before, during and after the service.

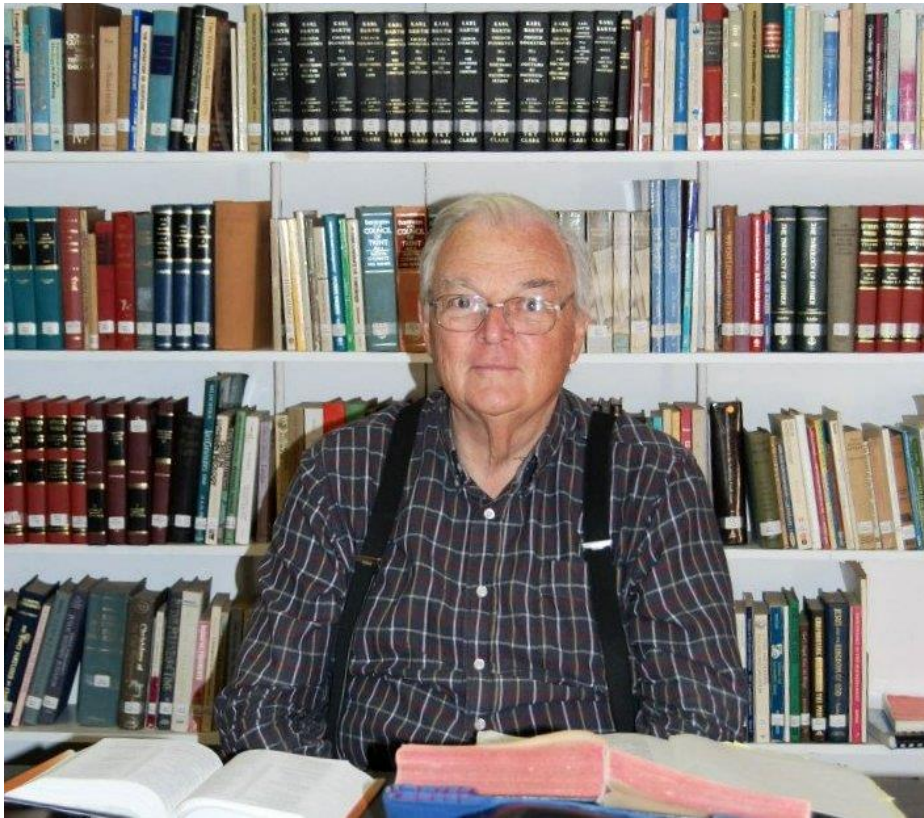
Rev. Christoph Weber, a missionary of MLC, was the preacher for the service. LCSA and FELSISA pastors led liturgy and readings for the worship.

Following the worship service a lunch was served by the ladies of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Arcadia. LTS students participated by serving as ushers and assisting with cleanup after the service and lunch.



Rev. Nathan Mntambo, FELSISA pastor and LTS instructor, led the liturgy for the mission festival.

Prof. Nordling and Dr. Weber, Sr. Lecture



Dr. E.A. Wilhelm Weber, Sr.
preparing for his lectures on Psalms in the LTS library.

Toward the end of the fall semester LTS advanced students received extra lectures from two long-time teachers of the faith, Dr. E.A. Wilhelm Weber, Sr. of South Africa and Dr. John Nordling of the U.S.

Dr. Weber taught on Luther's

reading of the Psalms for three weeks and Dr. Nordling presented portions of Philippians for two weeks of classes.

Dr. Nordling is currently writing a commentary on Philippians for Concordia Publishing House in

St. Louis. For his course, he brought commentaries on Philippians for the students to use for the course and to add to their personal libraries.

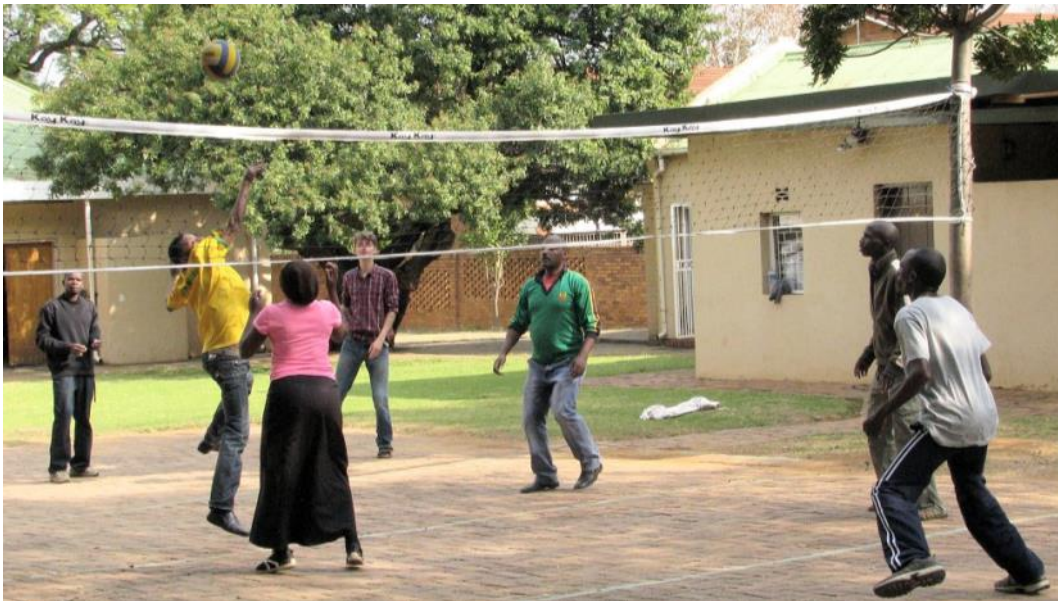
Dr. Nordling was given the opportunity to lecture for a University of Pretoria class. This opportunity was hosted by Prof Kobus Kok, a fellow New Testament scholar at UP. Dr. Nordling's LTS students were able to attend the lecture at UP.

LTS students are grateful for the opportunity to receive lectures from Lutheran instructors from around the world.

Dr. John Nordling
gave a lecture for a religion class at the University of Pretoria during his two week stay in South Africa.



Photos



LTS students (and volunteer Tobias Schmidt-Dahl) getting some exercise on the campus volleyball court on a May afternoon.



Rector of LTS and Bishop of the LCSA, Dr. Wilhelm Weber, expressed his gratitude for the work accomplished on the SeTswana Book of Concord.



Enjoying lunch on the patio in front of LHF Hall.



Mrs. Karin Niebuhr (back left), a lifelong Lutheran and South African trained teacher, shares teaching strategies with the deaconess students in the Deaconess Skills class. Sunday School curriculum was donated by Concordia Gospel Outreach, a mission arm of Concordia Publishing House in St. Louis.



Brass bands from several LCSA and FELSISA congregations gathered on the University of Pretoria campus for the Mission Festival on 28 April.

Dr. Carl Rockrohr with his Computer Skills class. The students had a wide range of experience and skills using computers. Some were already very proficient but a few students had never used email before.



Book of Concord cont.

(Continued from page 3)

the School of Theology, University of Pretoria); Rev. James Fandrey (Exec. Dir. Lutheran Heritage Foundation); and many South African Lutheran pastors and members.

Thanks be to God for all the faithful workers to accomplish His work!

LCMS missionaries, Carl Rockrohr and Deborah Rockrohr, will start a new assignment in Ethiopia in June. Their son Ted Rockrohr will continue his secondary school studies in the U.S.



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Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

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OUR WEBSITE IS

WWW.LTS.ORG.ZA

***Look for more information
about LTS online!***

Prayer Requests for LTS:

- Safety for all students and staff traveling over the winter break.
- For successful planning and preparation for the 2nd semester of academic studies.
- For continued financial support for LTS that it may continue to prepare workers for the Lord's Church.
- For the Lord's guidance to bring new students to LTS to serve in His harvest.



**LTS is located in Tshwane (Pretoria),
Gauteng Province, South Africa**

LTS Calendar:

- 8 June—15 July LTS Winter break.
- 16 July 3rd Quarter begins
- 25—26 July LCSA Church Council meeting
- 30 July LTS Board of Directors meeting
- 7—12 August ILC International Seminaries Conference
- 30 August 3rd Quarter ends
- 2 September 4th Quarter begins
- 7 September LTS Open Day
- 28 September—7 October St Michael Break
- 8 October LTS classes resume

Student Enquiries Welcome

Lutheran Theological Seminary offers confessional Lutheran education to prepare those who seek to serve as Lutheran pastors and deaconesses in Africa.

LTS has had students from a variety of African countries including Botswana, Zambia, Nigeria, Liberia, Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia as well as South Africa.

Pastoral students who qualify may pursue a Bachelor of Theology from the University of Pretoria (UP)

through taking courses at LTS as well as at UP.

Prospective students need to have the recommendation and support of their home Lutheran church.

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



**LTS lunch being prepared by Emily Ngubeni. Come and study
at LTS, there is room at the table for you!**