

LTS NEWS

Volume 16, Issue 2

June 2016

WINTER REFLECTIONS

As our 24 full-time students are now settling down to write examinations in 6 subjects and the 20+ Ethiopians, who are enrolled in the distance education program of our Seminary reflect on Saturday's intensive course on Divine Worship and Lutheran Liturgy, it is time once again to reflect on the past Semester of 2 Quarters and 4 months especially on the progress made by our 50 odd students, who are so eager to prepare for the calling into the office of the ministry in the Lutheran Church.

Some students arrived rather late due to the visa requirements and organizational challenges back home. However with hard work and some extra determination most have managed to catch up on the work, they missed out on and are on top of the ball right now. We pray that they won't drop it during the evaluations this fortnight.

English remains a great hurdle for most of our students. We could do with some more volunteers and even full-time teachers to face up to this challenge more successfully. Ms Maseko from the University of Pretoria (UP) is following the university's program in her classes so that our students attain the required academic skills. She also follows their testing program, so that we're assured of the approved standards in this too. Hopefully we can get more teachers to help with this task even as our PhD students (Rev. M.J. Nkambule and vicar E. Gbotoe) are already heavily involved in this training program.

The kitchen renovation, which was

started and supervised by Renate & Hans Straeuli is to be brought to a finish this Thursday: 26th May 2016. The official opening is to follow the order of blessing of a church facility and the constructor Harmut Albers of Albers & Almeida as well as the electrician Otto Johannes are expected as guests of honour. They have gone more than the extra mile on this one and have helped the Seminary to put a functional kitchen into place, which can cater for the number of students we have at the LTS on a daily basis with breakfast and lunch. We are very grateful for the help received for this project and want to commend the Straeulis, Albers & Johannes for their gracious and wonderful support given. Without their input, we would still be at square 1.

We also want to thank all those, who have continued to pray for our many students with their varied joys and burdens. Thank you to those, who helped with blankets and warm clothing for students once again. Mr Lucky Thabethe (Benoni, GP) and Mr. Hans Beier (Westville, KZN) deserve a special mention for their tremendous response to our plea for help in this regard. Please don't tire to do good—especially to those, who need it most and in the fellowship of the faith.

"The harvest is plentiful but workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:37f) Please join in these prayers as we cry in support of those students, who have heeded his call and are preparing for this work.

God the Father—Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit—be Thou our Stay, Oh, let us perish never.

Cleanse us from our sins, we pray, And grant us life forever.

Keep us from the Evil One; Uphold our faith most holy, Grant us to trust Thee solely With humble hearts and lowly.

Let us put God's armor on: With all true Christians running Our heavenly race and shunning The devil's wiles and cunning.

Amen, Amen, this be done, So sing we, Hallelujah!

Hymn #247 The Lutheran Hymnal Text: Ps. 18:18
Author: unknown, c. 1400
Translated by Richard Massie, 1854, alt.

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TEACHING CORINTHIANS AT LTS

Report: For service at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Pretoria, SA: 4 – 15 April 2016

I have had the privilege of teaching 1 Corinthians (selections) for two weeks (4-15 April 2016) at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Pretoria, South Africa. This is my eighth teaching trip to South Africa and funding this venture has always been a challenge. In addition to my summer preaching engagements, where I show slides and attempt to solicit funds, two years ago I secured a generous travel and expenses grant from the Elm Grove Lutheran Foundation (Elm Grove Lutheran Church, Elm Grove, WI; Rev. Eric Skovgaard) which covered my plane ticket and most additional expenses for two years (2015-2016). A lesser gift was received from Faith Lutheran Church, Merrill, WI (Rev. Kevin Hoogland) to cover the books I needed to teach the course to 22 students. It is very gratifying to establish contacts with Lutherans in America who are willing to finance my teaching ministry at Pretoria. The largest expense is of course the round-trip air ticket to Johannesburg. However, once that has been paid I have rejoiced to see that most of my expenses in South Africa (meals, etc) are largely covered, due to the generosity and kindness of my host, Dr. Wilhelm Weber and his family with whom I have been living during my time in South Africa.

Instruction for the 1 Corinthians class consisted of roughly 4 hours of instruction per day. This time I taught 17 male first and second year students, and 5 deaconess students, from the following countries: Ethiopia, Congo, Liberia, South Africa, Zambia, and Ghana. It was a real thrill to be teaching so many students again. The downside was that these students were only just beginning their Greek instruction so I had to vary my instruction and quizzes accordingly (I did in fact teach them various Greek terms, like σοφία, μυστήριον, and λαλέω, to stimulate interest). Nevertheless, I teach from the Greek text itself and don't "talk down" to them. It works quite well to project the text from an LED projector onto a wall and work through a passage, same as I do with any class at CTS Fort Wayne. Due to the large number of first year students we had to split the first hour of instruction into two: I met half the students (10 or so) in the LHF room from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m., then repeated the same lecture with the second class from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.; then from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., and again from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. I taught the entire group in the larger room.

As in former years, I projected the Greek text of 1 Corinthians onto the wall and worked through selections of the ma-



terial exegetically and theologically. I certainly could not cover everything, but I am pleased to report that those portions of 1 Corinthians most pertinent to an African context were covered: the Salutation and Thanksgiving, Christ the Wisdom of God, the brother caught in sin (1 Cor 5:1ff), sexual immorality, marriage, food sacrificed to idols, speaking in tongues, orderly worship, the role of women at the congregational assembly (1 Cor 14), and the resurrection of the body (1 Cor 15). I quizzed the students 5 times on this material, had a two-page Corinthians hand-out for them to complete during the first weekend I was there, and final exam for the last day. These quizzes and projects helped reinforce the material, and also helped me more quickly to learn the students' challenging African names. The students drank it all in and had many questions regarding the practical matters involved. I was also able to incorporate into my teaching relevant portions of Carleton A. Toppe's 1 Corinthians (Concordia, 2005) which provides more a fresh translation and folksy paraphrase of the text than a scholarly treat-

ment. Also in my luggage were 15 Lutheran Service Books (which had been dedicated by Elm Grove Lutheran Church last year) and several new volumes of the Concordia Commentary Series (Ephesians, Mark) for the library.

Here are the assignments I expected from each student in the 1 Corinthians class:

- 5 quizzes (approx. 1 per day) 50%
- Assignment (due over weekend) 20%
- Participation (attendance etc) 10%
- Final Exam 20%
- Total 100 pts possible

I might have had 7 daily quizzes (like last year) and pushed the students perhaps a bit harder except for a complicating factor: while driving home from the airport I complained to Dr. Weber about how expensive dental care is becoming in the USA. He thereupon got me in to see a dentist (Dr. Maurice Bouckaert, Wilgers Hospital) on Tuesday, who gave me a quote, and by the first Thursday I had the major drilling done and impressions made. A magnificent bridge was fitted to my lower left jaw on the second Thursday, and on my final day in South Africa (Monday 18 April) a high point was sanded down. All in all it was excellent dental surgery performed which saved me thousands of dollars. Provided I keep it cleaned, flossed, etc., the bridge should last me the rest of my life. But due to the frenetic pace of the surgery and fitting I did miss teaching the students one day, which is my prime reason for travelling to South Africa in the first place. Nevertheless, I feel my students did derive tremendous benefit from my lectures on 1 Corinthians I was able to deliver this year.

In addition to teaching the two week intensive Rector Weber requested my preaching at Chapel during the 10:00 a.m. services on 6 and 13 April. During the first weekend of my stay (8-10 April) I accompanied the Webers to a wedding, which I did not actually attend. Instead I stayed with a South African farm family (Harry and Heidrun Johannes) who proudly showed me their farm (pine and gum trees) and talked to me long into the night about America. They were most hospitable and gracious hosts. Then Sunday I attended Evangelical Lutheran Church in Panbult, South Africa (Rev. Matthias Albers), followed by a funeral for a long-time member, Mr. Reginald August Paul. It was German-speaking, and most interesting. Two things stand out: they interred the body immediately before the funeral service: young German guys lowered the body into the grave, then filled up the hole energetically with dirt as the congregation sang

verse after verse of a very long hymn, accompanied by a brass band; second, they allowed me to sing in the German choir (3 selections, plus many more hymns during the service). I must say, those German-speaking Lutherans really do things right! The service was stunningly beautiful, very Christ-affirming. Then a wonderful luncheon buffet at the end. It was a most interesting trip and opportunity to see how a traditional, German-speaking Lutheran church worships the Lord Jesus Christ in a part of the world very far removed from Fort Wayne, IN.

During my final weekend (15-17 April) I had the distinct pleasure of accompanying Wilhelm and Angelika to the Hlane Royal National Park in Swaziland, several hundred kilometers east of Pretoria. This is a 22,000 hectare park where the king of Swaziland hunts. We saw many dozens of impala, bush buck, wart hog, wildebeest, a giant boa constrictor, hippopotami, a rhino and her cub, and three elephants right at the end. The accommodations were first-rate and we had a marvelous time. This part of my trip I finance myself, but find it well worth treating myself to an authentic African vacation after working so hard for two weeks before boarding the plane for home. Also, this is a perfect time to be traveling and spending money in South Africa: the exchange rate was 14.57 Rands per 1 U.S. dollar (sometimes the rate is 7 to 1). So I bought much wine and gifts for my return home. During our weekend at Hlane we celebrated Jubilate Sunday by ourselves (John 15: "I am the Vine, Ye are the Branches"). The Webers are a very devout family and observe family devotions together daily. It was a joy to join their family worship, sometimes in German.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Wilhelm Weber, Jr., his wonderful wife Angelika, and two of their four children (Frederika, Detlev) who so kindly hosted me in their home throughout the entire two-and-a-half week period. Every day I'd wake at 6 a.m., breakfast, and accompany Angelika and kids 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 in Murrayfield, where I'd relax: check my e-mails, drink Windhoek Beer, decompress, and generally enjoy myself.

I should also mention in this connection that I received a free and nutritious lunch every day with the students at LTS prepared by Emily Ngubeni, a local African. Also, during my two weeks there, I went out to dinner with Rev. Jacob Corzine (a CTS grad whose primary ministry is to students at the University of

INTERVIEW: STUDENT L.A.KWAW



My name is Lawrence Akorli Kwaw born on the 4th of January 1958 in Accra, Ghana to the late Isaac Kowu - Kpedza and the Martha Aryee. I am married to Juliana with five children. My parents were both educated and also Christians, they brought me up in the Christian fashion. My mother used to call me a gentleman and a pastor because of traits she saw in me. I had wanted to become a medical doctor but I lost focus and took up my father's poultry farm as a manager, after my secondary education. During the "Rawlings Revolution" in 1979, I left Ghana to Germany and there I received my "call". It was accompanied with emotionally unrest; therefore I went back to Ghana in 1982 and joined a charismatic church which was the order of the day.

My Call And Training: 1983 I was trained and commissioned as an Evangelist by Morris Cerulo, a renowned charismatic Evangelist. In 1992 the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana sent me for Pastoral training at the Lutheran Seminary in Nigeria but I ended up trained as an Evangelist because the pastoral class was full. After graduation from the seminary I joined a splinter group in the church who sought to have a Lutheran Church which supports women ordination. After a year I came back to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana

Further Training: In order to be trained and ordained as a pastor I needed a university degree, as advised by the bishop, so I went to the university in the years 2000-2003 and obtained a diploma in general music. Again in 2005-2006 I obtained a post diploma certificate in education. Furthermore, I was advised to take a three-year first degree at the university but unfortunately during my last year I was faced with a court case over

the Will of my late father and as I was a part-time student, coupled with teaching and family issues I was weighed down with high blood pressure and I deferred the course. I lost the case over my father's properties and I was internally displaced not knowing what to do, to save my life I came to South Africa and found a Lutheran Church and became a communicant member at the St. John's congregation at Shelley Beach. I also taught English language at Woods School, Port Edward for a year until I decided to go to the **Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane** (LTS Pretoria, South Africa) to fulfil God's perfect will in me. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana was established by missionaries from Nigeria in 1958. The church has not seen much progress. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Paul Kofi Fynn has been the only President for the church since its establishment.

Life at Lutheran Theological Seminary: I enjoy being here because studying has become part of me. Life in LTS gives me reminiscences of life in the seminary in Nigeria when I was with youthful exuberance, I encourage my mates to call me Lawrence which makes me comfortable with them. My greatest challenge in the seminary is to have someone or a body touched by our Lord to support my wife and two of my children who depend on me because they are now entering high school.

My Future: After seminary training, by the mercy and grace of God, I will like to teach in a seminary because considering my age I will like to be in the seminary or if I excel in the biblical languages I will also like to be among a bible translation team-God's and willing I will encourage others to come here because I can say that with my short stay in the seminary from February 23 2016, barely two months I have gained a lot considering the caliber of our lectures and the visiting professors from renowned seminaries. I also encourage women to take advantage of the deaconess training program offered by the seminary

The Lord brought me to LTS because it is a Seminary He has established for Special works.
TO GOD BE GLORY.

Interview was held by Pastor Mbongeni J. Nkambule early in March 2016.

A CAPTIVATING HIKE ...

A Captivating Hike with Coworkers from the Mission, or The Miraculous Multiplication of Kilometers

The unique circumstances governing my appointment to the LTS mean that besides my regular fellowship with brothers from the LCSA, I am also privileged to spend time in the company of both the personnel of the MLC and the pastors of the FELSISA. On 18. and 19. April of this year, the MLC invited its coworkers to go on a 2 day hike from Dirkiesdorp to Lüneburg through mountainous terrain along the border between Mpumalanga and KZN. It was estimated that we would walk about 15 km per day, sleeping in a hut along the way. The invite promised “quite a lot of elevation.”

This proved to be somewhat of an understatement. Early on Monday morning, mission director Rev. Roger Zieger and MLC representative Rev. Christoph Weber joined missionaries Rev. Peter Weber and Rev. Thomas Beneke, the latter’s sister Michaela Beneke, and myself at the regular morning devotion of the Themba staff in Dirkiesdorp, MP. If you have been to Dirkiesdorp, you will know that it lies at the foot of a looming mountain known as Hlangampisi. After the devotion, we were graciously driven to the foot of the mountain by Mrs. Ruth Beneke, who helped organize the hike. Then the hike began. Of course, nobody wanted to lag behind as we made our way up the steep mountainside, and so we scrambled up as fast as we could, taking only short breaks, some huffing and puffing more than others. After a grueling two hours, we were at the top and could overlook the beautiful countryside through the hazy autumnal air. The young Beneke siblings, nimble as young mountain goats, naturally led the way.

At this point, the hike proper began. The group frequently accommodated the wishes of the organizer to take detours to scenic outlook points. In this fashion, we made our way across the undulating mountain landscape, our hiking being accompanied by friendly banter and the vibrant competition of the two Weber brothers, all under the supervision of super-fit Director Zieger. We finally reached our destination for the day, the mountain cabin of Johann and Senta Klingenberg, at around 4 PM. I would describe myself as being bone-weary. Ruth Beneke had been kind enough to bring our bedding and a veritable feast to the cabin for us, so all we had to do was to sit back and watch Rev. Beneke and his sister do all the hard work of preparing supper. We

even got to experience a brief thunderstorm with rain before the weather settled down to give us a quiet evening.

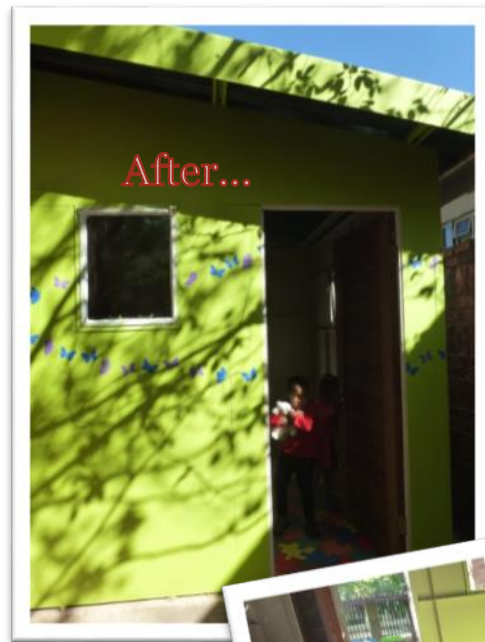
After a good night’s rest by all (except Rev. C. Weber, who spent the night looking for a thicker mattress) and a hearty breakfast, we set off again, a little stiff and sore and less agile than the day before. At the Klingenberg farm house, we were met by Rev. Hugo Gevers, missionary to Leipzig, who joined us for the day. Beautiful landscapes awaited us, highveld vistas with grazing sheep, horses, cattle, mountain lakes, streams, moors, verdant pastures, along with three (as far as we could tell) curious snakes. Having taken with us the remnant of the previous night’s repast, we were more than well catered for. Rev. Gevers even treated himself to a swim in a bracingly cold mountain lake, an opportunity of which the rest of us elected not to avail ourselves.

Our hike the second day turned out to be rather more strenuous than the first. At some point, Rev. P. Weber offhandedly informed us that this was actually a race and that there would be no honour for the last one home. Unfortunately, this dubious distinction was to be reserved for my humble self, as my joints protested at being manhandled down the steep side of Ncaga mountain. In contrast, the others seemed to frolic effortlessly all the way home, led by the tireless Rev. Beneke, who turned out to be the faster pastor. Strangely, we arrived at Lüneburg more than two hours later than planned. We discovered the reason when Rev. C. Weber’s pedometer informed us that we had actually hiked 19 km (12 miles) on the first day and 27 km (almost 17 miles) on the second. This gave me comfort that evening as I nursed my bruised corpus in a bathtub with Epsom salts, happy in the knowledge that the last shall be first, and that I had made it, despite the miraculous multiplication of the distance.

Factoring in the time spent in the company of cheerful brothers and a sister in the faith, the glorious landscapes, the devotions, the mealtimes, the efficient organization, and of course the physical exercise, all under the gracious protection of our Lord, these days were well spent. I am thrilled I got to go.

Dr. Karl Böhmer: The Willows, Pretoria

CARING FOR CHILDREN AT LTS WINTER UPDATE



We have so much to be thankful for!

We have had another busy term at the LTS Preschool and continue to receive God's richest blessings. Through the contributions of two gracious donors, we have been able to build a much-needed toilet facility for our Preschoolers. The structure houses 3 toilet stalls and a sink and was attached to the side of our main building. It was no easy task for the construction crew to work in amongst the children. They were constantly underfoot, whizzing between the legs of the men on their scooters and relentless with their questions. The men were kind and patient as they worked and managed (I don't know how) to keep the curious little fingers away from cement-filled wheelbarrows and fascinating tools! We are so grateful for this new facility. May God bless the donors and the use of their donations for the growth of His Kingdom.

Meet Mrs Nokulunga Mntambo

This term we would like to introduce to you our teaching assistant, Nokulunga Mntambo. **Please tell us about yourself Nokulunga?** I was born and raised in Katlehong, which is south of Johannesburg, not too far from Germiston. My family was Christian so I was baptized and confirmed in the Katlehong parish of the Lutheran Church. In my mid-twenties, I met my husband, Nathan, and we got married in 2000. Our first daughter, Benzile, was born in 2002 and our second daughter, Esethu, followed in 2009. The two girls are now 7 and 13.

Tell us about your connection to the LTS – how and when did you first become acquainted with the Lutheran Theological Seminary? My husband first began teaching at the Seminary in 2001. He taught Hebrew. Through his connection with the seminary, I began to meet many new and interesting people from all over Africa and enjoyed the fellowship with the students, the other lecturers and their families.

Tell us about your involvement with the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation (ELC) and please share with us some of the joys and challenges of being a Pastor's wife: The seminary community led to the establishment of a Lutheran Congregation, now called the ELC. It has become our spiritual home as my husband is the Pastor of the congregation. Esethu was baptized there and Benzile was confirmed just a few weeks ago. I am in the Women's League and I've begun to teach Sunday School and I also sing in the choir. We feel privileged to be a part of such a vibrant congregation! Teaching Sunday School was initially very daunt-



ing for me as the children are quite lively and know a lot! But I was determined to assist in this Ministry and having my own daughter in the class certainly is interesting!

Tell us about your involvement with the LTS Preschool and can you reflect on some of your experiences teaching young children in a Lutheran environment: I am currently enrolled in an Early Childhood Education Course at UNISA and the LTS Preschool has given me the opportunity to do practical teaching three mornings a week which has been a great help in putting the theory to practice. I am enjoying learning about the growth, development and learning of young children. The knowledge has been a real eye-opener for me and I can't wait to begin teaching.

What role does a Preschool such as the LTS Preschool play in the Kingdom of God? It is clearly a Christian Preschool and the parents who bring their children to us are made aware of this. Therefore, the school is able to share the faith and values of Christianity through the staff and teachers who are all Lutherans. The teachers are able to exercise their Christian calling as they care for the children, communicate with the parents and make known their presence in the community.

Many thanks for your time Nokulunga and we wish you well with your studies and as you continue in the Children's Ministry.

(Imke Beier did the interview)

Teaching Corinthians (cont)

Pretoria), Dr. Karl Böhmer (teaches Church History at LTS), and Rev. Martin Paul (pastor of St. Paul's, the FELSISA Lutheran Church just down Arcadia Street from the seminary). Another couple that had me over to their place for wonderful German cuisine was Rev. and Mrs. Guenther Hohls, who was a pastor in the FELSISA until his retirement.

Rector Weber has been to me a great host over the years and a real brother in Christ. 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 April 2016 and hope, by God's grace, to return to teach next year in April or May.

Sincerely,

Dr. John G. Nordling

Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology at
Concordia Theological Seminary Ft Wayne

April 2016



Coming up at LTS God willing

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

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane (Pretoria, South Africa)

Arcadia Street 790
P.O. Box 12547; Hatfield 0028
Tel/Fax: (012) 344 2302

Email: LTSinTshwane@gmail.com

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 the Seminary office at telephone +12 344 2302 or using email: [LTS in Tshwane](mailto:LTSinTshwane@gmail.com)

July

- 19 Start of 3rd Quarter

August

- 15-27 Prof J.T. Pless: "Learning to pray with Martin Luther"
- 16 Board of Directors

September

- 2 Post-Graduate Colloquy with Professor Dr. Klän
- 3 Seminary Open Day
- 5-9 Dr. Sithole: OT Prophets

The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane continues to prepare dedicated servants for service in Africa. LTS successfully trains students from across African.

In the past 16 years students have come from South Africa, Botswana, Swaziland, Zambia, Madagascar, Tanzania, DRC/Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Ruanda, S. Sudan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and the USA.

Pastoral students of the LTS, who successfully pass the Bridging Course may pursue a Bachelor of Theology (BTh) and even proceed with post-graduate studies with our accredited partner the University of Pretoria (UP) at Honours, Masters and Doctoral levels.

Prospective students need the recommendation and support of their home church for successful enrolment.

For more information and the necessary application forms contact the office of the Lutheran Theological Seminary directly using the details on the left.

**Miraculous multiplication of kilometers
by Dr Karl Böhmer. Read more on Pg. 5**

