

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

LTS NEWS

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SPRING IS HERE!

The 3rd Quarter is nearly history and so the academic year 2016 is just about over with only seven more weeks bringing us to Reformation festival and the final examinations in November.

We are grateful to the triune God for another event— and fruitful winter that has passed. The biggest highlight was the successful defence of their doctoral dissertations by the candidates Pastor Enoch Macben (Uganda LC) and Vicar Eric Gboto (Liberia LC). Their graduation is scheduled for this Friday, the 2nd September. Praise God from whom all blessings flow! I'm as proud of these hardworking brothers as I am happy and grateful for their successful achievement. Joyful celebrations are surely going to be very much part of our proceedings at Seminary Open Day on the next day, the 3rd September. We are grateful for all the support these brothers received with their growing families as they pursued this goal over nearly a decade!

Our Lord has encouraged us to pray: *"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 us in prayer even as we cry to Him for support of those students, who have heeded his call and are now preparing for the work in His church and on the African missionfield, which is ripe for harvest!

The student couple from Ethiopia Arifecho Chernet and his wife Medges Gebemariam have been blessed with the birth of their healthy daughter over the past weekend. They have returned from MediClinic and are recovering here in their living quarters in Schulz House. We are grateful to kind support from St. Pauls and also to the financial aid from LCMS Operation International Missions, who helped pay for the hospitalization fee, which had not been considered in our budget before.

Rev. Mbongeni J. Nkambule (LCSA) successfully completed another course at CTS Ft.Wayne during the winter break. Read more in this LTS News.

Rev. Dr. Arthur Eichhorn (LCMS SID) was here for the first time this winter. He was succeeded first by Professors John T. Pless (CTS Ft.Wayne) teaching on "Learning to pray with Luther" and then by Dr. Werner Klän (LTH Oberursel) on "Early Christian Creeds".

*May God bestow on us His
grace, With blessings rich
provide us, And may the
brightness of His face To
life eternal guide us That
we His saving health may
know, His gracious will
and pleasure, And also to
the heathen show Christ's
riches without measure
And unto God convert
them.*

*Thine over all shall be the
praise And thanks of every
nation, And all the world
with joy shall raise The
voice of exultation; For
Thou shalt judge the earth,
O Lord, Nor suffer sin to
flourish; Thy people's
pasture is Thy Word Their
souls to feed and nourish,
In righteous paths to keep
them.*

*Oh, let the people praise
Thy worth, In all good
works increasing; The land
shall plenteous fruit bring
forth, Thy Word is rich in
blessing. May God the
Father, God the Son, And
God the Spirit bless us! Let
all the world praise Him
alone, Let solemn awe
possess us. Now let our
hearts say, "Amen"!
(Martin Luther 1483-1546)*



**Students from Zambia at LTS with books donated by LCMS SID (President Timothy Scharr) .
From the left: they are Michael M'tonga, Hope Kochachu, Francis Mumba and Martha Mthembu.**

“LIFE & WORK OF A LUTHERAN PASTOR”



Some of the participants of Advanced Course offered at LTS during August 2016 by Professor John T. Pless (CTS Ft. Wayne, IN) on “Learning to pray with Luther”.

Report on my service at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane (Pretoria, SA) during the time 27 February- 13 March 2016. Professor John T. Pless wrote on his previous visit during our fall:

“I am grateful to God for another safe and productive trip to South Africa where I taught a two-week intensive course on “The Life and Work of the Lutheran Pastor” for a total of nineteen students. This was an advanced course (ordination level) which included several pastors as well as our residential students. This course also had two Congolese evangelists working in South Africa under the tutelage of a FELSISA pastor, Rev. Thomas Beneke. The key text for the course was Wilhelm Löhe’s *The Pastor* and the course followed the basic pattern of his outline with lectures on the pastor’s fitness for office based on the pastoral epistles, beginning the ministry, the marriage and family of the pastor, the pastor’s spiritual life, homiletics, catechesis, liturgics, confession/absolution, and pastoral care of the sick. The students engaged in lively class discussion on a wide range of topics which grew out of the assigned readings and lectures. The generosity of donors in the USA made it possible to provide each student with a copy of *The Pastor* as well as George Kraus’ *The Pastor at Prayer*.

Dr. Werner Klän from our sister seminary (LTH in Oberursel, Germany) also taught a two-week course. In the morning, Dr. Klän lectured on the office of the ministry in the Lutheran Confessions and in the afternoon I taught pastoral theology. The two courses nicely complimented each other as students could clearly see the connection between confessional doctrine and confessional practice.

In addition to teaching, I preached three times. Two of sermons were for the confessional services held at the seminary chapel each Wednesday. The third sermon was preached for the Evangelical Lutheran Church (the English congregation) on the Fourth Sunday in Lent (March 6). I also spoke to the Lutheran Campus Ministry Bible Study at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church on March 2. Fifteen students attended this presentation on a Lutheran approach to bioethics. I also had the opportunity to worship with the German congregation at St. Paul’s for their midweek Lenten services.

Once again I am thankful to Pastor Gerald Paul and Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Falls, Montana for providing funds to cover the cost of the ticket and several donors for purchasing the books for students as well as books for the LTS library. I am grateful for the housing, hospitality, and local transportation provided by Pastor Jacob Corzine. As always, Dr. Wilhelm Weber graciously received me as a colleague for these two weeks.

While faced with financial challenges, the seminary continues to grow and demonstrate a commitment to provide confessional Lutheran theological education in southern Africa and beyond.

I am delighted to contribute in this small way to the work of the seminary. God willing it, I will return to LTS for a two-week course on “Learning to Pray with Luther” on August 15-27, 2016.”

“LEARNING TO PRAY WITH LUTHER”

And the latest trip report: 12-28 August

Another teaching trip to Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane, South Africa is now complete. The purpose of this trip was to teach a course on “Learning to Pray with Luther.” The focus of the course was to examine Luther’s theology and practice of prayer as it is reflected in the Small Catechism and selected psalms lectures (Psalms 6, 51, 90, and 118). We used as texts my *Praying Luther’s Small Catechism and Fruit for the Soul: Luther on the Lament Psalms* by Dennis Ngien. Lectures examined Luther’s structuring of the parts of the catechism in light of his assertion that true prayer is anchored in God’s command and promise. Luther often referred to “praying the catechism” so we examined how the texts of the first three parts of the catechism can be prayed in light of the Reformer’s instructions to Master Peter, the Wittenberg barber that each commandment, article of the creed, and petition of the Lord’s Prayer can be used in a fourfold way: school book, hymn book, penitential book, and prayer book. We then investigated the appendices to the Small Catechism: daily prayers and table of duties noting how Luther provided forms for prayer as well as setting its practice in the context of vocation. Tracing elements from the Psalms in Luther’s morning, evening, mealtime prayers was a good transition into the second part of the course.

The second week of the class turned to Luther’s work on the psalms. We started with an overview of Luther’s oratio, meditatio, tentatio drawn from Psalm 119. After that we used the Ngien book as a guide to Luther’s understanding of Psalms 6, 51, 90, and 118. We also spent time on the “theology of lament” (Oswald Bayer) and made applications for pastoral work in Africa.

The course went very well with a high level of interest on the part of the students. In my seven years of teaching at LTS this was the largest class I have taught. We scheduled the class from 2:00 to 5:00 pm each day, enabling the regular seminary students to audit this advanced course. Counting the “auditors” we had 33 students enrolled in the course. A number of the students were vicars and pastors, including pastors from at least two other Lutheran bodies in southern Africa in addition to the LCSA. We had a variety of students including several Congolese students who are being mentored by FELSISA pastor Thomas Beneke in Newcastle and students from Ethiopia living in South Africa. Students taking the

course for credit are writing a seven-page paper on some aspect of prayer in Luther’s theology.

Individuals and congregations in the USA donated money for me to bring nearly 100 pounds of books for the students and the library. Each student received a copy of *Praying Luther’s Small Catechism and Fruit for the Soul*. We also distributed 20 copies of the field test edition of the small catechism.

While in South Africa, I preached at the seminary chapel twice. I spoke to the Lutheran Campus Ministry (University of Pretoria) Bible study group on the work of the Holy Spirit on August 18. I also attended two other campus ministry activities with my host, campus pastor Jacob Corzine. At Dr. Weber’s invitation I brought greetings at a meeting of the LTS Board of Regents. I attended the Divine Service at the English Lutheran Congregation in Arcadia on both Sundays of my stay.

I am grateful to Rev. John Fale, Executive Director for the Office of International Mission for his hearty support of this trip, including providing funds for my flight to South Africa. Former CTSFW student, Jacob Corzine, provided me with housing and transportation to and from LTS each day. Several families of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church had me to their homes for dinner. As always, Dr. Wilhelm Weber was gracious in his welcome and collegial in his support of my teaching.

I remained convinced that LTS plays a unique and pivotal role for confessional Lutheranism in Africa. While beset by many challenges, the seminary is providing a valuable service not only to the LCSA but to Lutherans from numerous African countries. I am especially pleased for the relationship that the seminary has with the St. Philip Lutheran Mission Society and their plans to fund the much-needed remodeling of the library.

God willing it, I will return to teach another course at LTS from February 27-March 10, 2017.

Professor John T. Pless

Concordia Theological Seminary

Fort Wayne, IN

VISITING CTS FT.WAYNE



Pastor Mbongeni J. Nkambule writes: “This time again I went to Fort Wayne and I got a warm welcome as usual from all the friends of the LTS there. This time I took four courses:

1. Paradigms in the New Testament: Professor Peter Scaer was lecturing on Mission and its origin from Genesis to St. Paul. It was a nice class indeed. It was an eye opener indeed. I was honoured to attend the class together with Pastor Gerald Paul, who is originally from Madola (Sandbank) in Piet Retief.

2. History of translation: Dr. Mike Rodewald was teaching history of Bible translation. He is a very hard working and a very patient man. He came with the notion that he was going to teach two weeks, only to learn that it was but one. So he compressed all into one week. He had much work. Students could hardly sleep as the work was double. By God’s grace, we managed. Cultural studies were included in the syllabus. So we learnt many things that we didn’t know about American culture and other African cultures as well.

3. Culture, Christianity and Scripture: Dr. Joshua Pagan led the class in a good way. He concentrated on our present cultures and students could look at them as a possible course of bad influence to the church. There were a lot of philosophical terms that were used in the class. The class was challenging as students were supposed to learn textbooks and notes which carry a lot of those terms. He could clarify each and every one of those terms. The course was so relevant in today’s life. He taught us on how to use Scripture in a way that it can bring people to

God rather than into worldly things.

3. Mission Communication: Dr. Gregory Schulz was lecturing on how one can use the Word and the Sacraments in mission work. The course was encouraging missionaries that they are supposed to preach the Gospel as it is to the people they want to reach with the Gospel. It was said that some scholars suggest that the Bible should be shaped in a way that it fits cultural ways of the people who are reached by the Gospel. The Sacraments too can be used to bring the Gospel to the new target people.

Some travelling in Fort Wayne down town: In Fort Wayne this time I met Pastor James Kollie from Liberia. We became friends quickly. With him I saw many other Lutheran Churches around the town. We could get some food in some restaurants in the town. We also visited Fort Wayne stadium to celebrate the 04th of July.

Lunch at the Schulz household: In the course of our Fort Wayne stay, Dr. Schulz invited all African students including Cindy Johnson for a goat. While he served us with dinner, we were busy listening to Zulu music from his small tape recorder. We enjoyed that meal together.

Rev. James Kollie Request: Rev. James Kollie sent me to the LTS rector to ask that he be allowed to send three students to the LTS next year, 2017.

Meeting with Dr. Gregory Schulz: I had a meeting with Dr. G. Schulz, he talked about his plan to assist the LTS to have long distance teaching and learning. He is now busy trying to raise funds so that each student can get a laptop so that they may be logged into network and go ahead with their work without having to wait for a computer station to be free.

Church service at Prince of Peace: Membership here is so loving and welcoming to strangers like me. Pastor Jim Elsner who is in charge of that congregation has been organizing transportation that I could attend regularly there. I could feel myself at home in that congregation. This time I was the only black person as many of the black students were on vacation. On the 24th July 2016, I was fortunate to get an opportunity to assist Pastor Jim with Gospel reading and assisting in the Holy Communion.

UP: FAITH & REALITIES IN SA

Dr. Karl Böhmer writes on the 3rd Joint Conference at the University of Pretoria (UP):

From the 11th to the 15th of July of this year, the Faculty of Theology at the University of Pretoria hosted the third joint conference of theological societies in Southern Africa. Fourteen different societies were represented there, ranging from the “Association for the Study of Religion in Southern Africa” to the “Spirituality Association of South Africa” and including also those societies representing the classical theological disciplines. Among these was also the society to which I belong, the “Church History Society of South Africa.” These societies specialize in one or the other field of theology or spirituality and are generally open to qualified academics concentrating on the same field at universities or seminaries across the country.



The concept of the Joint Conference is to have all the theological societies from across the spectrum come together every three years. Plenary sessions are offered at a central location every day, with renowned speakers from across the globe holding forth on a topic related to the central theme, followed by responses and an open discussion. Before and after the plenary sessions, each society offers presentations and papers on theme-related issues pertaining to its particular field. That being said, each conference attendee is free to attend any one of the many presentations being held at the same time.

The advantage of this framework is that it promotes a free interdisciplinary interchange, and it also allows people active in these fields to get to know one another, not only in a formal setting, but also at the joint break sessions and evening functions. It is of course impossi-

ble to attend more than a limited selection of all the presentations on offer! And being an academic exercise, one is of course free to agree or disagree with the presentations on offer. One of the apparent disadvantages of the format is that fewer people from each particular society tend to attend these joint conferences than they do in other years, where the regular society-specific conferences are held, for the reason that the joint conference does not exclusively focus on their particular field of interest or activity.

The theme this year was “Faith and South African Realities.” The recent discovery of the remains of the so-called “Homo Naledi” group naturally loomed large in the various offerings. Others concentrated on the relationship between faith and education, faith and cultural realities, faith and ecology, and religion as an identity marker in South Africa. The conference speakers included such well-known figures as Prof. Dr. Afe Adogame from Princeton in the USA and Prof. Tinyiko Maluleke from UP. Conference offerings ranged from the serious (Virginity testing, ancestral calling, and human rights) to the esoteric (“Fossils and tombs and how they haunt us”), to the dubious (“The significance of Psalm 121 on motor vehicles in Nigeria”). Most interesting to me personally was a presentation on challenges and struggles in the area of unity among the diverse ELCSA Lutherans from the perspective of Mafabo Andries Mashiane from UNISA.

All in all, it was a profitable experience, and my gratitude goes to the organizers and the hosts for a successful conference.



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)

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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)

September

- 2 Doctoral graduation for both Rev. Machen & vicar Gbotoe at UP
- 2: Post-Graduate Colloquy with Professor Dr. Klän
- 3: Seminary Open Day
- 5: Start of 4th Quarter
- 5-7: Dr. Sithole "OT Prophets"
- 30: St. Michael's Holiday

October

- 1-30 Dr Böhmer visits

Germany on invitation of LKM (SELK)

- 11-21 Dr Engelbrecht: "Biblical Introduction"
- 25 Board of Directors
- 28 End of 4th Quarter

November

- 1-9 Examination
- 10 Thanksgiving
- 11 Christmas Holidays

We have so much to be thankful for—not only at the LTS PRESCHOOL!

As spring approaches, we reflect on an abundance of growth at our little Preschool. Our winter may have been dry and chilly but the hearts of our Preschool donors have been warm and generous! We thank God for the continued support of the Kirchdorf congregation's Sunday school children. With their donation, we were able to treat our Preschoolers to a farm visit. They thoroughly enjoyed the animals and especially the tractors and had great fun making tractors at school the next day :)

The joy of reading: We also rejoice over the very generous donations of two members of the ELC Congregation! With these donations, we have been able to buy much-needed theme books and Bible story books. These books are a wonderful teaching tool and below you can see how the children enjoy re-telling the stories their teachers have read to them during their morning theme discussion

SPREADING THE JOY LTS PRESCHOOL: SPRING UPDATE

