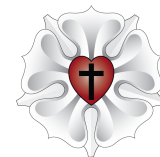
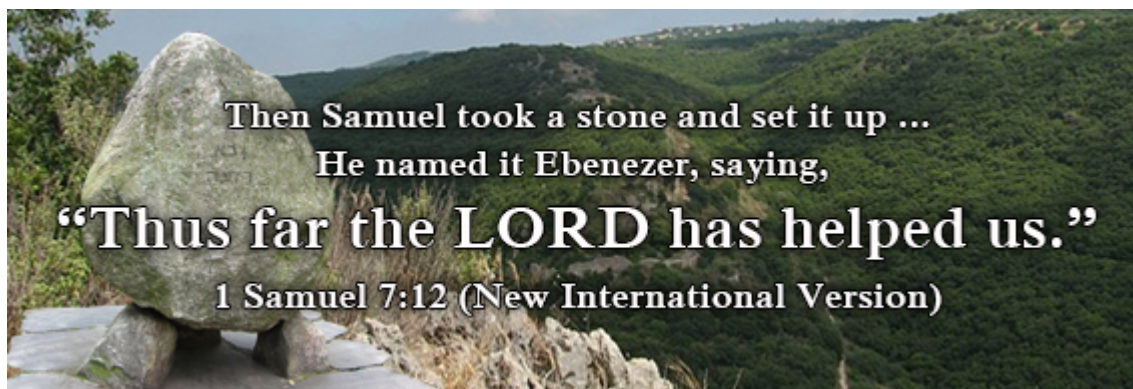


LTS NEWS

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LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

EBENEZER - A Time of Transition

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us." (1 Sam. 7:12)

by Rector Dr. C. Walter Winterle

The Prophet Samuel lived in a time of transition. Before him, the judges had judged the people of Israel. After him, kings ruled over the people. So Samuel's time of office marked a transition from one form of government to the other.

During this time of transition, a war broke out. God's people won the victory! Samuel acknowledged that it was by God's power and grace that the people won the war. He said, "Thus far the Lord has helped us..." (as we read in 1 Sam. 7:12).

The Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) is also experiencing a time of transition. New leadership, new challenges, old dreams coming true, financial challenges to survive, the accreditation process...

What can we say in this second quarter of 2018? "Thus far the Lord has helped us..."

EBENEZER.

Thanks to the Lord God, thanks to the support of the shareholders and the board of directors, thanks to synods, churches, and individuals from South Africa and from abroad, the LTS is carrying on, day by day, month by month.

We don't know how long this time of transition will take. But we are sure that "Thus far the Lord has helped us..." and that He will not abandon us in the future.

The LTS is committed to teach everything Jesus has taught us. Students from different backgrounds are being prepared to share the Good News all over Africa, and, God willing, maybe in other continents as well. God's work cannot stop! Each of us is a member of God Kingdom and a "shareholder" of His task of "teaching all things". You are also invited to join our team!

Professors from abroad and from South Africa are willing to come and help our small staff by teaching what needs to be taught. Four intensive courses with guest professors have been planned for this year, improving the quality of LTS theological education. Several other professors are offering to come next year. This is a great blessing!

We thank all supporters who are sending donations of money and food to meet our budget. God bless you! I encourage you to continue your efforts. I invite more people and churches to join the LTS in its task "to teach everything" Jesus had taught us. The students cannot be frustrated in their goal to become pastors due to lack of resources. Consider making the LTS your personal mission project and pledging to the Lord to support the LTS.

EBENEZER: Thus far the Lord has helped us, and we are confident that He will help us in the days to come as well.

Ebenezer

Origin: Hebrew

Meaning: Rock of help



The LTS

We have entered the season of autumn (or fall). The days are growing shorter, the temperatures have begun to fall, and soon, winter will be upon us. Even so, flowers are blooming at the LTS - a reminder of the Lord's steadfast love, which is new every morning.

Theological Education in Mozambique

In addition to his many duties at the seminary, LTS rector Dr. C. Walter Winterle has also been responsible for the Theological Education Program in Mozambique ever since 2010. Rector Winterle traveled there again in mid-April 2018 and sent us the following report.

"Every year I travel to this neighbouring country to South Africa to offer intensive classes.

8 pastors graduated from our program in 2015. 60 new candidates are currently being prepared in the program. This program is offered by Concordia Seminary of Brazil. The mission to teach it is sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB), by the Mission of Lutheran Churches (MLC/LKM), by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Office of International Mission (LCMS OIM), and also by the Mission Societies of Hungary and Austria via the MLC/LKM. Supporters from Canada and some other

places are helping as well. Go to www.pastorwinterle.blogspot.com to find out more about this work.

I again presented an intensive course from the 16th to the 24th of April. "Principles of Bible Interpretation" and "Interpretation of the Old Testament" were the two courses offered.

Mozambique is a Portuguese speaking country like Brazil, where I come from. But 50% of the Mozambican students speak no Portuguese; they speak only the local language, Chisena. What a blessing then that one of the students is a good translator. This enables the students to have good interaction with the lecturer,

raising several questions related to their culture, reality, and experiences.

Most of them are already leading divine services in their villages, while the pastors visit the churches only once a month when possible. There are only 7 ordained pastors serving almost 80 congregations, and so they depend on lay helpers. Thanks be to God, the candidates are not afraid to help out. They lead divine services with songs, bible readings, prayers, and a short sermon message when the pastors are absent.

Please pray for this young and fast-growing church in Mozambique."

Pictured below:
Rector Dr. C. Walter Winterle teaching an Intensive Course to 60 Mozambican pastors and theology students in the village of Sena in northern Mozambique.



Meeting the new Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria

On 17. April 2018, a delegation from the LTS consisting of FELSISA representatives Dr. Manfred Johannes and Mr. Hugo Meyer, along with LTS registrar Dr. Karl Böhmer, met with the new dean, Dr. Jerry Pillay. Pillay has taken over from former Dean Johan Buitendag, who retired in February after many years of service. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the LTS to Dean Pillay and to investigate possibilities for future cooperation between the two institutes in pursuit of theological education. We pray the Lord's blessings upon Dean Pillay and his work.





Trip Report

by

Dr. Sibongiseni Sithole

It was an undeserved opportunity to spend two weeks teaching at the LTS in Tshwane (26. February to 9. March 2018). I enjoyed each and every minute teaching Introduction to Old Testament Theology. The central objective of the course was to share and pin down the importance of Old Testament theology in regard to

the faith of Israel and of Christians as well. The work of Kaiser Walter C., Jr. *Toward an Old Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991, played a significant role, serving as it did as the primary source for the course, with special emphasis on "blessings and promises" in OT. It is hoped that my brothers and sisters in Christ who attended the intensive course have now come to a broader picture and a better understanding of different and diverse approaches to OT Theology. I appreciate the attendance and participation of all who were part of the class, and I for my part learned a lot from them also. Although it was an afternoon class, the students contributed to making it a lively class by God's blessing. It was an honor for me to meet Professor John Pless and share the two weeks with him teaching. How could I forget the braai he prepared and the textbooks he brought along from USA for our students. His invaluable input is much appreciated. Thank you to all

friends of LTS – your donations carry much weight in the eyes of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Allow me to thank the LTS staff: the Rector Prof. C. W. Winterle, Dr. K. Böhmer, and Rev. M. J. Nkambule for the invitation and hospitality. Dr. Böhmer's suggestion to use Kaiser as our textbook is noted with thanks. I am also grateful for the work of the secretary Mrs. R. Jacobs for printing and preparing handouts. Mrs Ngubeni and her team in the kitchen were always willing to help and made sure that there is something to eat. Thank you so much! It was a blessing to meet Mr. C. Diseko, a layman from the LCSA attending the course, and I learnt a lot from his amazing ideas and insights. LCSA is blessed to have such a brilliant servant of the Lord. May God bless the LTS and open doors for seminary support in this time of need. Since I too am a human being, it is possible that I made some mistakes here and there – if so, please forgive me.

Thank you all!



We need your help

Dear friends and supporters of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane, thank you for all the support you have given us over the past and especially during the last few months. We could not have kept our doors open if the Lord had not cared for our needs through you. We may ask for your help again? We are in need of textbooks and would appreciate your gifts to help us purchase them. We are also looking for used laptops, cupboards, tables, sideboards and beds for our growing student numbers in Arcadia and Farenden Streets. Perhaps you've also got blankets, a fridge to donate, a microwave, or a hot plate. Please consider giving to the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane. Our seminarians are a very grateful group of students, who are dependent on appropriate accommodation and facilities here. These things they only use while studying theology here. It's not for personal enrichment, but to enable our Seminarians a suitable place and the means to study, learn and live during their years at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane.

Visiting with the LCMS OIM West Africa Team

by

Rev. Dr. Karl Böhmer

Each year, the missionary team of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) serving throughout West Africa gathers for a regional retreat. This year, they decided to meet in Cape Town, South Africa from the 17th to the 21st of April. Several of these missionaries, who work under the auspices of the LCMS Office of International Mission (OIM), serve as lecturers in various West African seminaries, mainly in Francophone countries, and so there is a good deal of overlap in the work of these missionaries and the LTS when it comes to the Lutheran churches in West Africa who send students to study to become pastors or deaconesses.

There has been good communication between the LTS and the West Africa missionaries in the past, mainly facilitated by Rev. Jacob Gaugert, an LCMS missionary currently teaching at the seminary in Dapaong, Togo. Rev.

Gaugert is a personal friend of a number of FELSISA pastors and has preached at mission festivals in South Africa before. In an effort to improve communication and to arrive at better cooperation between the sister synods, the LCMS OIM team invited a delegate from the LTS to attend their retreat and to engage in open and frank discussion with them. I was more than happy to be asked to go.

On the right: Rev. J. Gaugert, Rev. J. Ries, Rev. G. Schulte



On the left: The LCMS OIM West Africa missionaries at breakfast.

Introducing our students and their home churches

Over the next few issues of our newsletter, we plan to present portraits by our students of themselves and their home contexts and churches.

Younan Chady

from

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sudan

Christianity has existed in Sudan for a long time – ever since the days of the kingdom of Nubia or Kush, in fact. Christianity came to Sudan by way of the Coptic Church in ancient times. By the seventh century, Christianity had become widespread in Nubia, but it also faced a serious challenge: Arab Muslims conquered Egypt in 641 and drew a boundary separating Egypt and Nubia. After focusing on Egypt, Muslim attention shifted to Nubia. One consequence of Muslim policy was that Nubian Christians were separated from fellow believers, a problem which still exists today. Most Nubians were Christian at the time, but since the Arabs introduced the religion of Islam to North Africa, it has become the dominant religion in the area, even leading to the extinction of Christianity in some places.

I am Sudanese by nationality and Nuba by tribe, having descended from the ancient people of Nubia who still live in northern Sudan. I was born in a Christian family and raised by good Christian parents. My brothers and sisters are all Christians too. When I was born, the country was at war, and there is still war in Sudan because the Islamic government persecutes Christians and denies justice to its own citizens.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church was established in Sudan in 1993 by the late Rev. Andrew Mbugo Elisa. He had been an Anglican before, but when he met the director of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation and was given Luther's Small Catechism to read, he became a Lutheran and founded the Lutheran church in Sudan in 1993 (before South Sudan became independent), later serving as its first bishop. Some members of this church came from other dominations, while others were formerly pagan before being baptised and receiving Christ. Today, there are more than thirteen congregations around the country, but the church only has three ordained pastors. They were not trained in a Lutheran seminary but served as evangelists for a long time until the church council decided to ordain them as pastors in order to allow the work of God to continue in good order.

Due to the shortage of pastors, a number of Sudanese congregations are served by evangelists. We hope that the church will continue to grow and expand. Even Muslims are coming to faith in Christ, and that is why the government has now begun to demolish the churches. In 2016, the government issued a decree to demolish 25 churches of different dominations in Sudan. Anyone opposing this plan will be subject to persecution. The government does not allow Christian missionaries to come and support the church either, nor are foreign donations permitted. At the same time, the government welcomes Muslims from Arab countries.

There is no freedom of religion in my country. Being a Christian there is always a dangerous

prospect, because you are not allowed to preach in public areas and you are not supposed to convert Muslims to the Christian faith. The Christian religion is not permitted in any public school either. Most Christian children are forced to study the Islamic religion in their school. Those who refuse to do so are forbidden to study at any school in the country. The national policy is to get rid of Christianity and spread the Islamic religion.

Please remember the Christians of Sudan in your prayers. I am happy to be here at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane, South Africa. I came in order to be prepared and equipped with knowledge in the Scripture, so that I can go back and serve the church of God. I give thanks to all the faculty and staff of the seminary, and I really appreciate those who support this seminary. May God bless you.



Hope Kachochu, Francis Mumba, Michael Mutonga, and Martha Tembo

from

The Lutheran Evangelical Church in Africa - Zambia Diocese (LECA)

by

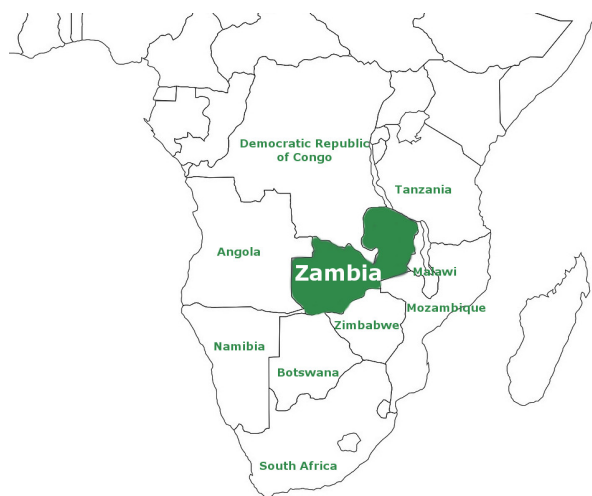
Michael Mutonga

Allow me to introduce myself and my fellow students from Zambia. My name is Michael Mutonga, and I come from the copper-belt province in Zambia. My fellow Zambians at the LTS are Francis Mumba from Lusaka, Hope Kachochu from North Western Province, and Martha Tembo from Southern Province. We all belong to the same church body, the Lutheran Evangelical Church in Africa-Zambia Diocese (LECA). LECA consists of five deaneries divided according to various Zambian provinces: Lusaka deanery, Copper-belt Deanery, North Western Deanery, Southern Deanery, and Eastern Deanery. The headquarters is in Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia, located at

Chazanga Lutheran Transit home. The church operates in various Zambian Languages: Bemba, Nyanja, Lunda, Luvale, Kaonde, and Tonga. These are just some of the 72 languages spoken in Zambia. The mission language is English, and some congregations are English-speaking. Sometimes Bemba is also used for mission, however, since it is the most commonly spoken language in the country. The current bishop is Rev. Robert Kaumba.

Our church body, LECA, was started in the early 1980s with the aim to preach and hold correctly the Word of God and correctly to administer the Sacraments. LECA was established by missionaries from Finland. It co-operates with the Lutheran Evangelical Association of Finland (LEAF). This church body stands in confession with other confessional Lutheran Churches around the world and bases its teaching on Scripture and the Book of Concord.

Like many others in Africa, our church body is challenged by a lack of pastors, deacons, deaconesses, evangelists, and effective teachers to teach Lutheran doctrine. It has more lay preachers than pastors and teachers. My colleagues and I came to South Africa to study at the LTS to become pastors and deaconesses, so that we may be called to serve in our home church after graduation.



Asiimwe Humphrey

from

The Lutheran Church of Uganda

Thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Evangelist Asiimwe Humphrey from Uganda. I am married, and my wife's name is Kyarisiima Irene. We have four children, two boys and two girls. I serve at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in the southwestern deanery of Uganda. The name of my church body is the Lutheran Church of Uganda (LCU). It is composed of six deaneries: The northeastern, central, midwest, southwestern, far east, and northern deaneries. The head office is in Kampala, which is the capital city of Uganda. The current bishop is Rt. Rev. Charles I. Bameka, who was consecrated on 29 October 2017 on the festival of the Reformation as our first bishop in Uganda. This Ugandan church was planted by missionaries from the Evangelical

Lutheran Church in Ghana sent by Bishop Dr. Kofi Fynn in the year 1996.

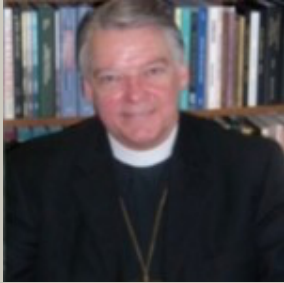
Our church body sorely needs pastors, deacons, deaconesses, and effective teachers of the Lutheran faith, especially in the southwestern deanery where I am from. I came to South Africa in the year 2016 to study here at the seminary so that I can be equipped in the Word of God and go back and serve effectively in Uganda.



Upcoming Visits by Guest Lecturers



Prof. John T. Pless



Rev. Dr. Thomas Aadland

Trip Report

by

Prof. John T. Pless

I was pleased to teach a two-week intensive course on "The Apostles' Creed" in Luther's Catechisms at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane from February 26-March 9, 2018. This course is the second in a sequence of five courses projected to cover the six chief parts and the appendices (daily prayer/table of duties." Each of the five courses will utilize volumes of Albrecht Peters' Commentary on Luther's Catechism. This course used the second volume, on the Creed. Copies of this book along with copies of the 2017 revision of Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation were provided for the students with funds from American donors. The same donors enabled me to bring several additional volumes for the library and for individual pastors and students.

The class met three hours each day. Thirty-five students, including several pastors and lay leaders from various South African Lutheran Churches were enrolled in the course. Examining theological themes from the Catechisms, in light of the totality of Luther's scriptural theology, we also engaged the practical aspects of using the Catechism in the teaching and preaching.

In addition to teaching the class, I also preached twice at the seminary chapel. On the week of March 3-4, I flew to Durban and traveled by car to Wartburg where I was the guest of Pastor and Mrs. Michael Ahlers. On Sunday, March 4, I preached for the mission festival of the two congregations in Wartburg and spoke after the service on the topic of "The Significance of Confessional Lutheran Theology for World Mission."

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On February 27, our new rector, Dr. Carlos Winterle and Bishop Maragelo (LCSA) treated me to a fine dinner. I was also the guest of Dr. and Mrs. Winterle for dinner in their home on March 1.

Once again, I enjoyed the hospitality of Dr. and Mrs. Karl Böhmer who provided room and board. I also want to thank, Dr. Winterle for his warm welcome. It was good to have this opportunity to get to know him better and learn of his hopes for the future of LTS.

On the final evening of the course, I hosted a braai for the students and staff. This has become a happy tradition over the last few years.

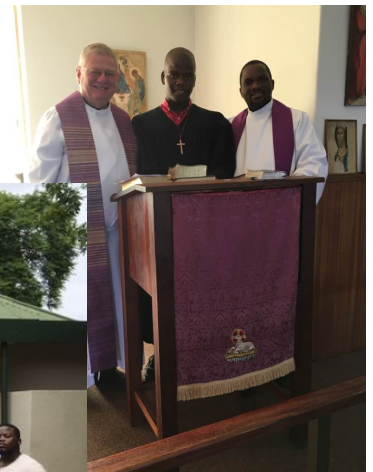
I look forward to returning to teach the third course on the Catechism on July 3-August 10, deo volente!

Although LTS faces many challenges, it remains a vibrant and vital component of confessional Lutheranism not only in southern Africa but also throughout the continent. My faculty colleagues at LTS are highly dedicated to teaching confessional Lutheran theology and strengthening this witness in South Africa and beyond. Our students are eager to learn and serve. I am grateful to our Lord for providing me the strength to continue these trips twice per year and for the donors in the USA whose generosity makes them possible.

Prof. John T. Pless

Concordia Theological Seminary

Fort Wayne, IN USA



Above: Prof. J. Pless, N. Mkhabela, Rev. Mbongeni Nkambule

Left: Participants of Prof. Pless' intensive course



Coming up@LTS

May

- 14-16 FELSISA Pastors' Convention

June

- 1 Lectures end for Quarter 2
- 4-14 June Examinations
- 15 Winter recess begins

July

- 18 Winter recess ends
- 19 Lectures Commence for Quarter 3
- 20 Intensive Classes with Guest Professors
Dr. John Pless (CTS Fort Wayne)
and Rev Dr. Thomas Aadland (LCMS)
begin, running until 10 August

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

The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane is a registered Public Benefits Organization. Donations to LTS can be deducted according to Section 18(a) in the South African tax laws.

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