

LTS NEWS

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GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

Galatians 4:4-7

by Rector Dr. C. Walter Winterle

Once again, Christmas is around the corner. Do you remember what you received as a gift last year?... 2018 is drawing to an end, and the new year is almost upon us. We are looking forward to 2019 at LTS. What will the new year bring? The greatest gift Christmas gives us will come with us into the new year we are facing. Galatians 4:4-7 tells us about three specific gifts sent by God, which are shared with our students day by day in class and in the devotions.

*"When the fullness of time had come, **God sent forth His Son**, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."*

The first Christmas did not happen by chance. God had been planning it for a long, long time. *"When the fullness of time had come, **God sent forth His Son**."* The Africa Bible Commentary says: "The time was fully prepared in God's program and also in His governance of the world. He had prepared the world for the spread of the Gospel in many ways: arousing an expectation of the Messiah among the Jews; using the Romans to provide peace, security and excellent road network; and establishing a common language, Greek, through the conquest of Alexander the Great" (ABC, 1422).

This is one of the reasons why the LTS has a strong program of **Biblical Languages** and

of **Church History**, so as better to understand God's plan to save humankind.

"God sent forth His Son, born of woman." This is, in short, the story of Christmas: God became a man and was born of the Virgin Mary. We were under the wrath of the Law, because we could not obey the Law. Jesus put Himself under the Law, just as we are, but He obeyed the Law in all its points. Even though He was obedient, He suffered the penalty of the transgressors of the Law: the penalty of death! All He did was on our behalf, to redeem us from the Law and from its wrath, and to give us the full rights of sons of God. **Law and Gospel** is an essential part of the LTS Curriculum, helping us to understand our situation as sinners and the work of Jesus on our behalf.

Jesus in the manger, Jesus on the cross, Jesus resurrected – that is the first grand gift of God to us at Christmas.

The second gift is, *'because you are sons, **God sent the Spirit of His Son** into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."*' God sent us not only His Son, but also His Holy Spirit, who lives in us as in His temple. Jesus had promised: *"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth... the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will*

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LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

Deaconess Graduation 2018



On November 22, 2018, the LTS celebrated the graduation of its five deaconess students. After three years of study, by the Lord's rich blessing, Deaconess students Patience Gbotoe from Liberia, Gugulethu Gladys Jiane and Portia Kabini from the outlying areas of Pretoria (South Africa), and Hope Kachochu and Martha Tembo from Zambia graduated as deaconess candidates, having successfully completed the requirements for the deaconess course.

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teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:15, 25). This happens when we are baptized and come to faith in Jesus. In Baptism, God declares us to be His beloved children; and through His Word and the Sacrament, He preserves us in His grace. Through the Gospel, the Holy Spirit enables us to acknowledge God as our Father (Series A 32).

Therefore, the **Catechism** with its emphasis on the means of grace is repeated over and over at LTS classes. **Systematics** goes deeper and reinforces the main teachings of the catechism.

I like this text: *the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”* The first prayer I learned as a little child was: “Abba, lieber Vater. Amen.” This means: “Abba, dear Father. Amen.” “Abba” is the Hebrew word for “dad” or “daddy.” God is not a God from afar; He came near to us in His Son Jesus, who gives us the right to address God in a very intimate way: “Our Father, who art in heaven.”

Exegesis – how to interpret the biblical text based on the original languages – helps us to understand better the biblical truths and to apply them to our daily life. **Practical Theology** and **Missiology** proceed from a right understanding of the Bible to apply rightly what it teaches and

to follow where the Spirit leads.

Paul wrote to the Romans in Chapter 8:26, 27: *“The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express... and the Spirit intercedes for us in accordance with God’s will.”* – We have a strong partner in our prayers. When we become tired of praying, or when it seems that God is not listening to our prayers, the Holy Spirit still intercedes for us. The Spirit of God knows what is best for us, and we rely on Him, always remembering that God’s plans are better than our plans. Our hope is not only for this life, but our eyes are fixed on the life eternal,

The third gift is **to receive adoption as sons**, to receive the full rights of sons. What do you think the full rights of a son are? ...The text explains: *“So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir!”* God’s heir! Many people long for an inheritance from a rich relative to solve their financial problems or to up their status. God makes us heirs of His properties and of His blessings. His house

will be ours! Can we desire any more than this? No matter how many things we inherit in this life, we are not able to take any of them with us when our departure time comes. But God’s inheritance is guaranteed and secure. Our oldest brother, Jesus, the Son of God, opened the way for us and went ahead of us to prepare room for us in the house of the Father. This is our faith, this is our hope.

The Son of God enters this human family so that we might belong to the heavenly family... What shall we then say to these things as we face the year ahead? If God be for us – and for us in such an unexpected and indescribable manner, sending His Son, sending His Holy Spirit, and making us His heirs, - who or what can be against us? (Romans 8:35, 37-39) (Series A 31, 32).

By God’s grace and with the help of our sponsors we will face the New Year, in the assurance of His presence and His blessings, as we experienced it in 2018.

Have all a Blessed Christmas and New Year in the promises of our God.

Rector Dr. C. Walter Winterle



Rev. Peter Lange
appointed to LTS
BOD

The LCMS has appointed Rev. Peter Lange, District President of the Kansas District, to represent the LCMS in the Board of Directors (BOD) of the Lutheran Seminary in Tshwane (LTS). President Lange has a great interest in the Lutheran Church of South Africa and is looking forward to making a positive contribution to the LTS. His appointment is a very welcome development and comes at a time when the LTS looks to work more closely together with the LCMS and with ILC churches in Africa. Welcome, President Lange! The Lord’s blessings to you.





Trip Report

by Deaconess Grace Rao

Deaconess Intensive at LTS,
September 10-21, 2018

Greetings in the name of the Lord.

It is an honor to write these lines. I serve the LTS from time to time, teaching deaconess courses. As I recall, February 2010 was the dawn of introducing and implementing advanced intensive deaconess studies at Lutheran Theological Seminary for six LCSA women. Since then, the two-week intensives were taught on a regular basis to uplift the seminary's educational (deaconess) and diaconal needs. October 2011 was the most memorable event as

we celebrated one of God's gifts - the blessing of the first deaconess in the Lutheran church in Southern Africa. In 2012, LTS introduced full time deaconess program and teaching is continued. In 2015 five more deaconess students completed the studies and were blessed as deaconesses. The goal of LTS is to train Lutheran pastors and deaconesses in Africa; and we rejoice when the Lord blesses with this reality. I thank and praise the Lord for all His blessings!

As a deaconess, the word **Diakonia** always rings in the mind, specially the role of a woman in the church, and more significantly the role of **Diakonia** which means love, care, and concern for those in need are actions motivated by the gospel, when faith apprehends the righteousness of Christ and his merits (Augsburg Confession IV & VI), unto eternal life. The gospel thus laid hold of, produces love. Love seeks and serves the neighbor (1 John 4:7) - the **Diakonic** love has its source in the Holy Trinity. **Diakonia** revolves around service and mercy. One cannot exist without the other.

For me in many and various ways "Mercy is the way that God Works." By His mercy our vocations are intricately designed

to be His channels of compassion and charity. God has chosen to work through human beings, who in their different capacities and according to their talents serve each other. My vocation as a deaconess is to help and uplift the educational and diaconal needs of the partner churches. And one of them is the LCSA's deaconess ministry. The LCMS and the LCSA have a long bond of fellowship, and I am humbled to assist both churches.

The highlights of my recent visit to LTS in September was teaching deaconess spirituality based on the book "Grace upon Grace," authored by Rev. Dr. John Kleinig to the full-time students. Most fascinating is to have students from countries like Zambia, Ethiopia, Liberia, and of course the natives of South Africa.

Prayers are uplifted for the continuation of full-time deaconess studies, the seminary students, and the faculty. May our Lord continue to guide, bless and lead LTS.

Deaconess Grace Rao

Director,

LCMS Deaconess Ministry



Thank You!

Some special grants were made by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) to the LTS this quarter. One came in the form of a very generous book donation. A key pillar of the LCMS is solid confessional Lutheran theological education, and many pastors from around the world have benefited from the LCMS seminaries by way of education. The LCMS leadership has pledged to promote confessional Lutheran theological education around the world, and though funds are limited, the LCMS does whatever it can to help seminaries around the world provide solid theological education and to train men for the office of the Holy Ministry. Then the LTS also received sizeable financial grants from the LCMS. We at LTS are most grateful for these generous gifts and will use them in the academic year 2019 in training Lutheran pastors for Africa. Thanks be to God! And a sincere and heartfelt thank you to our brothers and sisters in the LCMS. May the Lord bless you richly.

Staff Changes

Ms. Thandeka Maseko

After teaching academic skills and literacy at LTS since 2016, Ms. Maseko has announced her impending departure. We have come to appreciate Ms. Maseko very highly for her dedicated contribution to the seminary. She specializes in academic literacy, language teaching, applied linguistics, and discourse studies. In 2017, while tutoring at the seminary and teaching at the University of Pretoria, she earned her master's degree. Since she has now enrolled in a doctorate program, she will need to focus her time and attention on her studies. Thank you for your dedicated work at LTS, Thandeka! We pray the Lord's blessings on your ongoing professional development.

Below right:
Ms. Thandeka Maseko



Mrs. Rosemarie Rynners

When Mrs. Ruth Jacobs left the LTS in order to devote more time to her family, the LTS began looking for a successor. Mrs. Erika Böhmer, wife of P. Kurt Böhmer, kindly filled in until a suitable replacement could be found. The LTS is pleased to welcome Mrs. Rosemarie Rynners (née Hohls). She brings a wealth of experience to the position, and we are very grateful for her services. We pray the Lord's blessings upon her and her service, that she might be a blessing to the LTS and the LTS a blessing to her. Mrs. Rynners also answers to the name "Rose" (or "Rosi" in German).

Welcome, Rose! Wonderful to have you. The Lord's blessings.

Above left:
Mrs. Rosemarie Rynners

Introducing our students and their home churches

As in the previous issue, we present here portraits by our students of themselves and their home contexts and churches.

Congolese Students

at the LTS

My name is Pierre Shukuru. I am originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), but currently I live in South Africa as an immigrant. I am married to Florence, who is also from the DRC. We have one baby girl, Naomi. Our home church is in the town of Harrismith. Most of our church members there are foreigners too. My family and I were confirmed as Lutherans last year, although I have attended Lutheran churches for quite some time now. My daughter was baptized this year in the Evangelical Lutheran Church (FELSISA) by Pastor Mntambo. We are very glad to be part of this Christian family.

Another LTS student, Peter Kizungu, and I both come from a Pentecostal background. In 2011, Missionary Christoph Weber came to Peter's church in Durban, where he was invited to teach us about the Lutheran faith. In 2015, Pastor Thomas Beneke from the MLC/FELSISA was invited to Harrismith to our Congolese immigrant church there, which is my home church. Pastor Beneke began teaching us about the Lutheran faith and worship. In 2016, he sent me to the seminary for a two-week intensive course with Professor John T Pless, where I learned from him the ten commandments in Luther's small catechism.

Since we have no Lutheran pastors, and since our churches want to become Lutheran, Peter was recommended in 2015 by Missionary Weber to attend the seminary, and in 2017, I was recommended by Pastor Beneke to go to the seminary as well, in order for us to learn more about the Lutheran faith and doctrine. The plan is that by God's grace, when we go back home,

we will be able to teach others about what we have learned at the seminary and what the bible teaches about God's wonderful gift of justification by faith through Christ Jesus. We are very happy to be among the seminarians at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane Pretoria.

To God be the glory. Thank you!

Allow us to introduce our church in DRC/Congo. Our Church is called the Evangelical Lutheran Church in East Congo (CELCE), led by Bishop Herman Kashaba. The CELCE was started in the south-Kivu province Bukavu in 1991 through contact with the Evangelical Lutheran church in Tanzania. In 1999, the CELCE was recognized by LUCCEA (The Lutheran Communion in Central and East Africa), a branch of the LWF. In 2008, the CELCE was visited by LCMS missionaries Rodewald, Houge, and Reinhardt, which led to the CELCE joining the *Union of Confessional Lutheran Churches in Francophone Africa for the Promotion of Theological Education* (UELCAFPET). We have 14 congregations in the DRC, with 18 ordained pastors and 22 evangelists.

The CELCE has several theology students at LTS and one at CLET in Dapaong, Togo. Those at LTS are: Eddy Nakalala Kaonde, Sawasawa Safari, Luc Chance Pierre, and Gentil Magala. We came to the LTS after

John Magala, one of our evangelists, came to South Africa in 2010 as a refugee. In 2012, he met Missionary C. Weber. Magala began working with him in Mlazi Lutheran church near Durban. In 2014, Missionary Weber recommended Magala to study at the LTS. In 2016, John Magala asked former rector Wilhelm Weber to allow more students from the DRC to come to the LTS, because they need training. The rector agreed, and after contacting Bishop Kashaba, more of us were accepted as students at LTS. We appreciate the LTS very much, and we are happy for the support we are receiving from the seminary. Our prayer is for the work of God to expand in our country in future.

We want to finish our studies in LTS by God's will, so that we can go back to the DRC to proclaim the Word of God among the people and to teach them what we have acquired from the seminary. The people in Congo need the Word of God, and we hope more can be trained as Lutheran pastors to meet the great need in our country in terms of Gospel proclamation.

May God bless you.

Eddy Kajonde Nakalala

CELCE

Some of the Congolese at LTS 2018 (left to right): Matumaini Kashaba Espoir, Balezi Muhigi Migombano, Pierre Shukuru, Eddy Nakalala Kaonde, Sawasawa Safari, Gentil Magala, Lwamwe Muhigi Franco, Luc Chance Pierre



LWF South Africans *at the LTS*



The Lutheran Bapedi Church **LBC**

During the mid 1800s, the Berlin Mission Society (BMS) was founded to propagate the gospel to other parts of the world. The BMS became active in South Africa in what is today the Limpopo region among the Bapedi people. After some time, a strong desire manifested itself in parts of the young African church to become independent from the mission. A member called Martin Sebushane went to Germany to receive seminary training and returned to Bapedi to be ordained as a pastor. The Bapedi community pressured Sebushane to make the church independent from the mission society, due to perceived racism and selfishness on the part of the German missionaries. The Bapedi felt that the mission structure made it impossible for the church to become independent. Also, the Bapedi felt the need to found a church around the Pedi language. For these reasons, the independent Lutheran Bapedi Church (LBC) was founded in 1890 at a time when other African indigenous churches were being founded as well.

Today, the LBC is not limited to members of the Bapedi people. This name today emphasizes the historical location where the mission station was planted and where the independent indigenous church was founded. Yet the church is open to all people. In addition, the LBC seeks to maintain its ties to the international Lutheran church and the church universal.

Unfortunately, the Lutheran Bapedi Church has suffered a number of schisms over the years, leading to the founding of churches such as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, the African Lutheran Church, the Central Lutheran Church, etc. There have also been divisions within the LBC itself. Currently, the church is divided into five synods over issues of power, money, greed, theological disagreements, and so forth. Apart from division, the LBC faces other problems as well, such as uneducated pastors and mixed theology. The church is striving to educate its pastors, to preach the gospel in its purity, to administer the sacraments rightfully, and to preserve the unity of the body of Christ. The LBC is involved in community outreach as well, since Christ says we are the light of the world. Recently, the church donated clothing, toiletries, and food to orphanages around Pretoria and has granted bursaries to youth aspiring to study. The church strives by all means to preach Christ crucified and to point the people to the power of Christ that is on the cross.

We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Dumisani Mokobedi



Several South African LTS students from 2018. Pictured from left to right:

M. Modiane (ELCSA), P. Kabini (BLC), L. Miya (LCSA), N. Mauwane (ELCSA), C. Tsatsi (LCSA), B. Seakgoe (ELCSA), G. Jiane (ELCSA). On the right is LTS instructor Rev. Mbongeni John Nkambule.



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA) was formed in 1975 in Tlhabane, Rustenburg, by four regional churches: The Tswana regional church, the Cape regional church, the South-Eastern regional church, and the Transvaal regional church. These churches became dioceses within the new overarching church body, which is headed by a presiding bishop, deputy bishops, and deans. The dioceses are led by the bishop and his deputies, as well as the diocesan council and the synod.

Today, the ELCSA also includes dioceses in the neighbouring countries of Botswana, Swaziland, and Lesotho. I come from the western diocese, which was originally served by the Hermannsburg mission society. The total membership of the ELCSA is somewhere between 500,000 and 600,000. Our congregations are found all over the country. We have various leagues in the church, men's leagues, women's leagues, etc. We also have different types of church servants; we have self-supporting pastors who have full-time jobs to earn a living. Then there are deacons & deaconesses who do diaconate work, as well as pastors who work for the church on a full-time basis. These pastors are responsible for congregations and parishes.

My fellow ELCSA students and I are fortunate to study at the LTS. Here we learn the doctrine of the church and are prepared to become servants in the church. We study at the LTS because the ELCSA seminary closed some time ago due to financial difficulties. It is an honour for us to study at LTS.

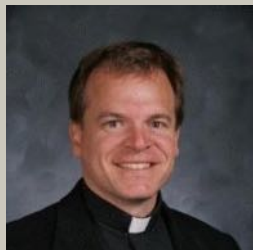
Christ is our Saviour; we are saved by grace alone.

Tebogo Mauwane

ELCSA



Dr. John T. Pless



Rev. Eric Skovgaard

Deaconess Graduation

(continued from front page)

The students were mentored and received thoroughgoing instruction throughout this time from Deaconess Grace Rao from the LCMS, who devoted a great deal of energy and resources to assisting these Lutheran ladies at LTS. The course of studies was augmented by courses presented by other visiting instructors from sister churches, especially the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the USA (LCMS) and the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany (SELK), as well as by full-time faculty members.

The graduation ceremony began with a festive procession from the deaconess residence to the chapel, attended by friends and family of the graduates cheering and praising the Lord in song and traditional dance for His goodness.

In his address, Rector Dr. C. Walter Winterle

pointed the graduates to the faithfulness of God, directing them to remember His promises and to carry out their duties faithfully under the guidance of the Word of God and the direction of His Holy Spirit.

Following the deaconess graduation, individual students from each course were recognized for academic achievements throughout the year.

At the conclusion of the divine service, Rector Winterle declared the Academic Year 2018 closed, giving thanks to the Lord God for granting the LTS the blessing of operating throughout the year and coming to a successful close, as well to as all supporters and benefactors of the LTS. The rector then thanked all instructors and prayed a restful vacation and traveling mercies upon the students as they return home for the Christmas recess.

The LTS is to open again for the new Academic Year on February 4, 2019, the Lord willing.



On the left:
Deaconess
Graduates of
the LTS 2018,
together with
LTS lecturers

Coming up@LTS

February

- 4 Welcome Day
- 5 Academic Year 2019 commences
- 25.02-08.03 Intensive Lectures 1

March

- 6 Ash Wednesday
- 21 Human Rights Day

April

- 8-17 Intensive Lectures 2
- 18-22 Easter recess
- 24 Lectures recommence

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. Donations are also possible via check or Paypal. Please see our website for details (www.lts.ac.za).

Bank: ABSA, current acc. no. 860510030

Branch Code: 632005

Swift Code: ABSA ZA JJ

Bank Address: ABSA Enterprise Business, Campus Building, 1102 Burnett Street, Hatfield, 0083 South Africa

New Entryway at LTS

The entryway to the LTS has long been in need of attention. After funds were raised to improve the main driveway and walkway leading into the seminary premises by two sister congregations, St. Paul's Lutheran Church up the street and the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Arcadia (ELC), a work day was held at the LTS on Saturday, 21 October. Students, staff, and volunteers from St. Paul's and the ELC worked together with local firm Kliprich Construction to improve the property. Take a look at the results!



Before



During



After