



LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN TSHWANE

◆ 2024 New Students



After 17 students had graduated in 2023, the largest group in many years, we were slightly concerned about student numbers for 2024. But thanks be God, for again calling men to study theology at LTS. In total, 12 new students have enrolled.

This year, we have students from South Africa (17), Ethiopia (3), Malawi (2), the DRC Congo (1), and Nigeria (1).

↓ **In this newsletter you will find:**

Our new 2024 students, SRC, new fulltime lecturer, and other happenings

Return on investment?

I recently had a conversation with a businessperson about returns on investment (ROI). In the business world, return on investment is a frequently used concept. Before a company decides if they want to invest in a project, they ask themselves what the ROI will be. In other words, they consider if the investment will be profitable enough to make it worthwhile.

In the business world, return on investment is used to evaluate how well an investment has performed. But how is return of investment is measured at a seminary? If someone is considering donating to the seminary, how is return on investment measured? How can they know if their investment in a seminary or church has performed adequately or not?

Using the measurements of the business world, we will have difficulty calculating the return on investment in a church setup. Yes, we may say that a donation helps to support the theological education of a specific number of students and staff. We can roughly calculate how many members current students might be serving in five years' time. But these considerations don't really answer whether the ROI is good or not.

When deliberating such matters as whether a donation to a seminary of church has a good or a bad ROI, we should first consider God's "investment" in us. As always in church, we start with God.

He created heaven and earth and all things in it. He invested bounteously in humankind. He created Adam and Eve who lived in paradise. But it did not take too long before they disobeyed God and sinned. Would God have been satisfied with His ROI in humankind, since "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way" (Is 53:6)?

The time of Lent serves as a good reminder of how God calculates ROI. He sent his Son Jesus Christ into the world to save us from our sin. "Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men" (Phil 2:6-7)

God "invested" the life of his own Son for our salvation. Jesus suffered and died on the cross because of our sins. "He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed" (Is 53:5).

This is how ROI works in God's kingdom: "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor 5:21). God "invests" everything, we receive everything. God's "investment" in us is always greater than we realize. Always far greater than we deserve. Always immeasurably greater than what we can repay.

A confessional Lutheran seminary or church where this message of Jesus is proclaimed, will always be worth investing in. (Heinz Hiestermann)

Mission: "The LTS is a mission agency seeking to graduate multipliers for the Lutheran Church in Africa."

Vision: "To provide quality confessional Lutheran formation."

Lutheran Theological Education in Southern Africa

From October 30th - November 3rd, a symposium of LUCSA (Lutheran Communion of South Africa) took place in Boksburg, South Africa. The topic was "Pastoral Formation: Geared at mission/church growth".

LUCSA has 15 member churches with about 2 million members in total from 10 Southern African countries.

Theological educators from the LUCSA member churches were invited to the conference. Although the LTS is not affiliated to LUCSA, myself and registrar Rev. Hanfato attended the conference to learn more about the landscape of Lutheran theological education in Southern Africa.

The following key points were taken from the conference:

- There are only two Lutheran Seminaries in Southern Africa. One is Paulinum in Windhoek, Namibia, which is affiliated to the LWF.
- LTS is the only Confessional Lutheran (ILC) Seminary in Southern Africa.
- The ELCSA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa), is attempting to restart their own seminary in Umphumulo outside of Durban.



In the countries where Lutheran Churches do not have own seminaries, students study at public universities or "ecumenical" seminaries. At an ecumenical seminary, there will typically be one Lutheran instructor, and students are taught by instructors from various denominations, including Pentacostal churches.

Many of the attendees did not know about the existence of LTS. May God give that the LTS, as only confessional Lutheran Seminary in Southern Africa, may continue to play an important role in theological education in the area.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE LTS:

IF YOU LIVE IN EUROPE: Send it via Lutherische Kirchenmission (Bleckmarer Mission) e.V.: IBAN: DE09 2579 1635 0100 4239 00, BIC: GENODEF1HMN; (Spendenzweck „LTS“)

IF YOU LIVE IN SOUTH 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. Please see our website for details (www.lts.ac.za).

Account Holder: "Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane NPC"

Bank: ABSA, current account no. 860510030 Branch Code: 632005 Swift Code: ABSA ZA JJ

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



2024 SRC

At the start of the academic year, the 2024 student representative council has been elected by the students.

They were installed in their offices during a Matins service. It is the purpose of the SRC to promote the common welfare of all students of the student body.

Daniel Wowa (Malawi) was elected as chairperson of the SRC, Obedia Choeu (Fairlands, Johannesburg) as secretary, and Lefika Tyolo (Mmabatho Parish), as treasurer. We wish them God's blessing for this task.

COMING UP

Coming Up @ LTS

- Feb 26 - March 8 Intensive Course I: Prof. John Pless (The Psalms as Pastoral Theology) and Dr Jacob Corzine (Apology of the Augsburg Confession)
- March 5: BoD Meeting
- May 27 - June 7 Intensive Course II: Dr Detlev Schulz (Anthropology and Sin) and Rev. Samuel Wirgau (Dogmatics)



Training for LTS Lecturers

From January 29th to February 2nd, six LTS lecturers changed roles, and became students again. They attended a training course on the "Design and Development of Learning Material". They are Dr Sithole, Rev K. Schnackenberg, Mr T. Schütze, Rev. Mntambo, Registrar Rev Hanfato and rector Hiestermann.

A week earlier, Dr Sithole and Mr. Schütze also attended as part of accreditation requirements a course on assessment.

New fulltime LTS lecturer

DR S.E. SITHOLE JOINS FACULTY

Please allow me share with you this brief biography. My name is Sibongiseni Elliot Sithole. I was born at the Church of Scotland Hospital located in Msinga area (Tugela Ferry). I grew up from a Christian family and my grandfather was an evangelist at Enhlanhleri serving the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. I'm married to Ntombenhle Priscilla Sithole and God has blessed us with Sipho, Ayanda and Zamajobe. I did my vicarage at Ntshongweni and Tembisa and was ordained in 2002 in Ventersdorp. I joined the Bible Society of South Africa (BSSA) as a translator of the new isiZulu Bible in August 2009. The Translation Project was completed on Friday, 31 May 2019 and the new isiZulu Bible was launched in Ulundi on Sunday, 18 October 2020.

I was appointed to serve as Organizing Secretary and later as Relationship Ambassador. I attended the following institutions:

Matric: Gordon Memorial High School, 1991 (Pomeroy, Msinga)

Certificate: Enhlanhleri Lutheran Seminary, 1998 (Pomeroy, Msinga)

Master's Degree: (Master of Sacred Theology, STM), Concordia Theological Seminary, 2005 (Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA)

PhD Degree: Concordia Theological Seminary, 2013 (Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA)

I highly appreciate the opportunity to teach Old Testament at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane. Scripture states, "O LORD, you will ordain peace for us, for you have indeed done for us all our works (Isaiah 26:12).

May God bless all those who contributed to my life in various way!



HOW TO SUPPORT THE LTS:

IF YOU LIVE IN NORTH AMERICA: Send your donation via St. Philip Lutheran Mission Society - SPLMS.

• Saint Philip Lutheran Mission Society

c/o Rev. Anthony Oliphant, Redeemer Lutheran Church

123 E. St. Charles Rd., Elmhurst, IL 60126

• PayPal via www.splms.org

• Thrivent Choice: SPLMS can be supported through Thrivent Choice dollars. You can direct Thrivent Choice dollars through www.thrivent.com or by calling 1-800-THRIVENT.

• LCMS's Mission Central

Gifts can be made online through the link <https://missioncentral.us/donation-form/?project=LTS%20Seminary%20Pretoria&reference=ZA0001-60604&id=IM0020ECXXXH000>

If writing a check, please make the gift to: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. In the memo line, write: ZA0001-60604: LTS Seminary South Africa. And send the gift to: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis MO, 63166-6861.

Or, to make a gift by phone, please call: 1-888-930-4438 and designate the gift to "ZA0001-60604: LTS Seminary South Africa".