



LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN TSHWANE



Approval of Academic Programme!!!



After applying for accreditation in 2020, LTS has finally received the following update from the Council of Higher Education:

“The Diploma in Theology (HEQSF Aligned, NQF Level 6, 360 Credits, Contact Mode) is approved for the site at the Main Campus Arcadia Street 790 Arcadia 0083.” This is good news!

To complete the accreditation process, the Diploma in Theology must be registered with the South African Qualifications Agency (SAQA) and LTS must complete its registration with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).

If everyone sticks to the given timeframe, LTS should be a fully accredited and registered institution by the end of this year.

We thank everyone who has contributed to this process!

In this newsletter you will find:



Trip report of LTS rector in Argentina and the USA, Trip Report of Intensive course, and other LTS happenings...

Rector's Trip to Argentina and the USA

From June 9 – July 8, 2024, I traveled abroad on a trip that had three stations:

1. The ILC World Seminaries Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina (June 10-14).

Attending the ILC seminaries conference for the first time was a great privilege. The conference's topic was "Church and State" with several papers being delivered on the main topic. There were opportunities for regional meetings too, where I could get to know the leaders of other ILC seminaries in Africa, and discuss ways of working together more closely. Especially ways of sharing resources were discussed, as it is a shared challenge for African seminaries.

The accreditation of seminaries and the challenges and opportunities of online learning were also discussed in detail.

It was wonderful seeing the amazing work that is done by dedicated confessional Lutheran teachers and administrators worldwide. I learned many new things!



2. Presentations on LTS (June 15-23)



In the second part of my trip, I spent time visiting LCMS congregations and doing presentations on LTS. This part of the trip had been organized by the board of the Saint Philip Lutheran Mission Society (SPLMS).

In total, I held presentations in six congregations and preached on two Sundays. The presentations aimed to thank the donors for their continued support and update them on what is happening at LTS.

I met some of the SPLMS board members for the first time. They took great care of me and took time from their busy schedules to drive me from congregation to congregation.

I had a great time meeting the congregations and people who have been supporting LTS for many years. May God continue to bless the cooperation between the SPLMS and LTS.

Most of the congregations were in the corn belt of Iowa which made me feel right at home, as I grew up on a corn farm. The size of the corn fields in Iowa is something else though!

In Illinois, I heard about cicadas for the first time. The noise they made is still ringing in my ears...

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

Vision: "To provide quality confessional Lutheran formation."

Rector Trip Report Continued...

The Saint Philip Lutheran Mission Society is a great supporter of LTS. I thank the board for having me, and for the work they are doing supporting LTS. You can read more about their work here.

3. The Lutheran Leadership Development Programme June 24 – July 5.

I spent the last two weeks of my travels at the Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, where I attended a unit of the Lutheran Leadership Development Program as a guest.

The Lutheran Leadership Development Program (LLDP) is a program which aims to provide Lutheran church bodies around the world an opportunity to develop leaders who are competent in both solid confessional Lutheran theology as well as practical skills in leadership and resource management, such as organizational dynamics, task management, budgeting, strategic planning, and accountability. The LLDP is led by Prof. N. Maskaki of CTSFW.

The first week was taught by regular LTS visiting lecturer Prof. John T. Pless on Contemporary Issues in African Theology. The course helped me to reflect on what we are teaching at LTS and its suitability for the African context.

Another highlight for me during my time at CTSFW was to preach in the Kramer Chapel!

It also reminded me of the value of continued education, something LTS will in future attempt to be more involved in. The second week was taught by Rev. Teshome Amenu, the general secretary of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. The topic was “Ecclesial Leadership”. As can be seen from the picture below, the course was done in a workshop style, where participants had to present often, and practical examples of challenges in church leadership were discussed in group discussions. Attending this course was very helpful, as I am teaching Church Administration and Leadership at LTS. With what I have learned, I will be able to improve the content of my course. I thank Dr. Masaki for allowing me to attend this course. It was a great blessing to learn many new things, as well as to connect to fellow African church and seminary leaders.



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

I taught a two-week intensive on Christian Dogmatics at the end of May and beginning of June 2024. This course was structured around *The Saving Truth* by Kurt Marquart. Through the generosity of Luther Academy, we procured copies of the book for each of the 25 students (1st-3rd years) participating. Each morning we began class with Responsive Prayer, and three hours were given for instruction, with a break for Matins. I enjoyed worshiping with the students, and the opportunity to preach twice for Matins. We read and discussed the following topics in my lectures: Holy Scripture



Trip Report - Rev. Samuel Wirgau

(including the nature and characteristics of Scripture and its relationship to tradition and reason), the doctrine of God (including who God has revealed Himself to be, and the relationship of the Holy Trinity); Christology (including the Incarnation and Two Natures of Christ, and His work); Justification and Sanctification (including the relationship of faith and good works); Law and Gospel and the Means of Grace; Holy Baptism; and the Sacrament of the Altar. Though the scope of the lecture was broad, we were able to have deep and lively discussion over important truths of the Christian faith and apply them to the life of the Church in local congregations.

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”.**

Trip Report continued...



Rev. Wirgau feeding an elephant

I enjoyed wonderful hospitality from the faculty and staff of LTS of which I was very thankful. I enjoyed a braai both with Dr. Hiestermann and guests at his home, and with the students, faculty, and staff at LTS the night before returning home. I was also delighted to have lunch with the faculty and staff each day, and enjoyed wonderful conversations. It was an honor to teach alongside Dr. Schultz from CTSFW, to work with LTS's faculty, and to meet many wonderful people in the Church.

Overall I had a very positive experience. There was some challenge teaching students in three different years of study, but they all were receptive, engaged, and respectful. I was satisfied with the class and continue to be encouraged about LTS's work to train men for the pastoral office in southern Africa.



Left: Rev. Wirgau with Dr Detlev Schulz, who taught a course on "Anthropology and Sin", along with LTS lecturers Sithole (front), Hanfato and Hiesermann (back). Top: Rev. Wirgau and Dr Schulz receiving a small gift from the students at the closing braai.

International Work done by LTS lecturers

Dr Dieter Reinstorf, former bishop of the FELSISA, has joined the LTS fulltime faculty in July 2024. He was in Malawi from July 31 - August 3, where he assisted the Confessional Lutheran Church-Malawi Synod (CLCMS) in holding its synodical convention.



LTS lecturer and LCMS allegiance missionary **Rev. Fernando Huf** was assisting the church in Zambia from July 26-30.

LTS lecturer **Tobias Schütze** and Rev. Peter Weber (MLC) will travel to Malawi in September to provide continued education for pastors and evangelists.

Coming Up @ LTS

- August 19-30: Intensive Course III (Prof John Pless (Advanced Homiletics) and Prof John Nordling (Matthew))
- September 21-29: Spring Recess
- October 7-18: Intensive Course IV (Dr C. Neddens (Formula of Concord) and Dr S. Fuhrmann).

National Work done by LTS lecturers

Dr. S.E. Sithole is serving on the National Language Board of South Africa and promotes the new translation of the isiZulu Bible for the Bible Society. He often visits seminars and conferences, where also informs participants of the work of LTS. During our winter recess, both Rev. Mintesinot Hanfato and Rev. Fernando Huf were spending time in Durban. Both were holding church services there. **Rev. Hanfato** also spent four days teaching at Durban Hebron Evangelical Church.



Rev. Huf and his family also helped lead a children's bible camp at the Lutheran Church Durban (picture below).

