

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

LTS News

www.lts.org.za

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3 LTS Students Ordained as Lutheran Pastors

The goal of LTS is to train Lutheran pastors and deaconesses for Africa; we rejoice when the Lord blesses this goal with reality!

During the pastor's convention on 22nd March at Good Shepherd Retreat Center (Hartebeespoort Dam) three students from LTS were ordained into the holy office of the ministry in the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA): Silas Mogale, Phenyo Mokgaimena and Bheki Ngobese.

The ordination was in the presence of the pastors from the LCSA as well as pastors from MLC, SELK and also the LCMS. Friends and relatives also attended, adding to the festivity with color, music, joy, praise and thanksgiving.

God bless you, Pastors Bheki Ngobese, Phenyo Mokgaimena, and Silas Mogale!

More photos available at www.lts.org.za



LTS Students and now newly ordained Lutheran pastors, Bheki Ngobese, Phenyo Mokgaimena, and Silas Mogale

Two University of Pretoria Grads



Lutheran Theological Seminary has a close working partnership with the University of Pretoria (UP). Some of our students qualify to study both at LTS and also at the university to earn accredited UP degrees. Most recently two LTS students, Eric Gbotoe and Pe-

ter Abia, graduated with Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) in the honors program. (The B.Th. honors degree is post-graduate degree, a year of study beyond the normal B.Th.)

LTS and UP are working closely to continue opportunities for LTS students to

earn accredited degrees from the University of Pretoria., including the B. Th., B.Th honors, and Masters of Theology

LTS offers these opportunities for Lutheran students from all over Africa. Eric is from Liberia and Peter is from South Sudan.

Lutheran pastoral students from African countries who are interested in preparing for work in the church as pastors, as well as earning an accredited degree from a major African university, are encouraged to work with their home churches to **contact LTS at ltsintshwane@gmail.com**

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Rector Weber Reports Good News



A photo of Daily Matins at LTS. Students regularly assist with leading the liturgy, while LTS staff and guest pastors of the LCSA and FELSISA give the daily message.

The 1st Academic Quarter of 2012 is history – just as the Easter celebrations are too. Thanks to God and the support of many friends the LTS started the 1st Quarter of 2012 punctually on the 7th February. More than 20 new students arrived from 9 different countries by that date yet. The candidate – Kabasele Mamba Thomas – from the Democratic Republic of the Congo would have

added the 10th country to our list, but he is struggling to get a visa even as I write this.

The first batch of nine full-time students in the deaconess program have gotten off to a good start. These women are very much at home in the Dube House.

The Bachelor of theology degree program has gotten off to a good start. This is a memorable milestone in the development of our Seminary and something new for both our students and also for the staff. We are looking forward to more and more students from Africa enrolling in this accredited course, which we offer in cooperation with the University of Pretoria.

Two more students have enrolled in the post-graduate program at the University of Pretoria: Enoch MacBen and Frank Kainerugaba are both from Uganda and are specializing in New Testament and

mission studies respectively. That brings the number of our enrolled post-graduates at the University to five plus Rev. Tswaedi DD at CS St. Louis and Rev. Sithole at CTS Ft. Wayne.

Three of our graduates were ordained in the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa on the 22nd of March after successfully completing their two years of internship, several advanced courses in theology and also a final ordination course ending with a pastoral examination: Silas Mogale, Pheny Mokgaimena and Bheki Ngobese.

Now we are looking forward to the 2nd half of this first Semester – and especially the strategic planning workshop hosted by the LCMS World Relief & Human Care (Rev. John Fale) and where the plans for the Seminary for the next years are to be worked out by the various members, directors, seminarians and friends of the Seminary. Faced with growing challenges we need to find means and ways to support this beloved institution of ours sustainably and more effectively in the coming years. Your ongoing support is highly valued and we are thankful to our Lord Jesus Christ, who encourages us so effectively through his apostle St. Paul: *“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”* (1Co 15:58 ESV)



LCMS District Presidents Timothy Scharr (Southern Illinois) and Brian Saunders (Iowa East) visited LTS in March. They gave presentations at the LCSA pastor's conference and visited LCSA Human Care Projects. Thank you Presidents Scharr and Saunders!

Prof. Pless Teaches Again in South Africa

Prof. John Pless is from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN. Edited for length.

At the invitation of Dr. Wilhelm Weber I was at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pretoria, South Africa to a teach a two week ordination course on Practical Theology for ten students from February 27-March 9, 2012.

Team teaching the course with me was Candidate Jacob Corzine (CTS '08; now a PhD candidate in systematic theology at Humboldt University in Berlin). Jacob did a superlative job with his lectures, engaged in discussion, and earned the respect of the students.

Functioning as a capstone course in the LTS curriculum, the ordination course is directed at senior students who are nearing the completion of their academic program and it serves to recapitulate and expand material covered in previous courses (pastoral theology, homiletics, liturgics, and catechetics). The class met for four hours each day and covered a variety of topics including the authority of the ministerial

office, pastoral ethics and accountability, confessional subscription, Holy Baptism, confession/absolution, church discipline, liturgical preaching, and spiritual care of the sick and dying.

The required texts for the class were **Johann Gerhard's Handbook of Consolations** translated by Carl Beckwith (Wipf & Stock Press) and **A Hammer for God: Bo Giertz** edited by Eric Andrae (Lutheran Legacy Press). Copies of these books were provided for each student with funding from donors in the United States. The students were engaged with the material and participated in lively classroom discussion.

In addition to teaching this class, I also gave a lecture on **Luther's teaching of the two governments** for Deaconess **Deborah Rockrohr's** deaconess class and preached for two confessional services at the seminary chapel. On the weekend of March 2-4, I accompanied Bishop Weber on a visitation of St. Thomas Lutheran Parish near Durban (congregations in Phoenix and Chatsworth) where we were graciously hosted Pastor and Mrs. Rainald Meyer.



Instructors Pless & Corzine with Ordination Course Students

On Saturday, March 3 Deaconess Grace Rao and I gave presentations at the Phoenix congregation on the female diaconate and global Lutheran theological education respectively...

LTS is strategically located to serve Lutheran churches all over Africa. With 41 residential students in ministerial and diaconal training from South Africa, Botswana, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Liberia, Nigeria, and other countries already present, LTS is at a pivotal position to leave a deep and lasting confessional Lutheran imprint in Africa. The Lutheran Chair (to be occupied by Dr. Werner Klän) will enhance and extend LTS capacity for this task. *See www.lts.org.za for Prof. Pless's entire report.*

"LTS is strategically located to serve Lutheran churches all over Africa."

Questions for LTS News? Contact Us!

We know that many of our readers of LTS News pray for us regularly as well as give generous support. Thank you so much!

As LTS students and staff are involved in the day-to-day

operations at the seminary, LTS News reports these activities. But perhaps there are issues or questions about the seminary that LTS News has not addressed recently.

If you would like to see a re-

port in LTS News on a particular topic, please let us know!

Please email dr.c.rockrohr@yahoo.com with your "special LTS News topic request."

Advanced Deaconess Course Meets



On 6th March, the advanced deaconess class of Deaconess Grace Rao met with the new residential deaconess students of Deaconess Deborah Rockrohr for the first time to share insights and ideas about their deaconess training. This joint meeting gives evidence of the quick growth of deaconess training at LTS since its inception in February 2010!

Deaconess Grace Rao of LCMS World Relief and Human Care submitted this article for LTS NEWS. Edited for length.

It is an honor to write these lines, where I serve from time to time as instructor teaching advanced deaconess inten-

sives. 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. In October 2011 was the most memorable event as **we celebrated one of God's** gifts - blessing of the first deaconesses in the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. It is one of my greatest joys and I thank the Lord for all His blessings! ...

My recent visit in Feb-March 2012 was another significant

achievement. LCMS Office of International Mission sponsored the deaconesses to undergo a one week course on **"spiritual care and counseling for the sick and hospital ministry," organized by a** local faith-based institution. Besides the clinical education experience, I taught a course on the Lutheran Confessions.

By the generous invitation of Bishop Weber, I accompanied him, Rev. Pless, and Jacob Corzine, as we visited two Indian congregations in Durban. I had the unique opportunity to make a **presentation on the "Role of Woman in the Church,"** with

(Continued on page 5)

Give Thanks to the Lord

Peter Anibati Abia, LTS Student Representative Council Chairman, contributed this article.

Indeed, there is a lot to thank God for. Earlier this year the LTS received a great number of students, both men and women from different African countries who are being prepared to become future pastors and deaconesses of the Lutheran Church in Africa.

It was not easy though for the new ones who just got here. Some became sick and home sick because their loved ones were far away from them! Some students also lost their family members, Benjamin Kaumba (Zambia), Nokuthu-

la Dlamini (South Africa), and Annie Toe (Liberia). For the senior students, returning to the Seminary was not a problem because they are used to it!

It did not take long for the new ones to get used; in just few days, they were all happy, learning, studying and eating **together at St Paul's church** where Renate, sister of Bishop Weber, cooks lunch for **the students. "We are grateful** that she cooks for us, in this way, we do not have to worry about cooking and going to class at the same **time,"** says one of the students, Jefferson F. McGill – a first year student from Liberia.

LTS has both undergraduate and postgraduate students. I am very happy to be one of the candidates pursuing a **master's degree in New Testament Studies** at the University of Pretoria. I am doing a missiological study of John 4. This is an attempt to develop a missional perspective of the Johannine Gospel. There are also others like Rev. John Nkambule (South Africa), Eric Gbotoe (Liberia) doing Science of Religion and Missiology. Enoch Macben and Frank Kainerugaba (Uganda) are currently busy with their Honors degree. All these would be impossible without the support LTS receives to support us!

Prof. Klän to Join LTS and UP Full-time

Prof. Rev. Dr. Werner Klän, professor of systematics at Lutherische Theologische Hochschule (Lutheran Theological Seminary) Oberursel, Germany, contributed this article.

In 2011, the University of Pretoria and Lutheran Theological Seminary signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" that includes a clause according to which LTS may second lecturers or professors to UP who would be appointed to the university according to their qualification. The contract period is three years, ending in December 2014, with the option to be renewed afterwards.

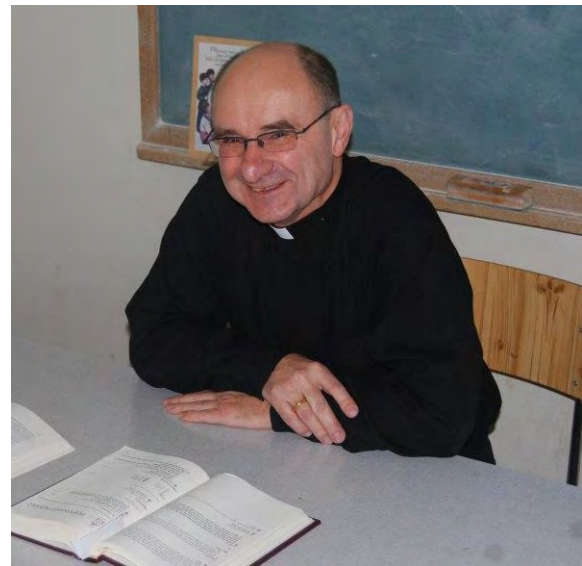
Last year, the board of Lutherische Kirchenmission / Mission of Lutheran Churches in Bleckmar / Germany, managed to find the funds that would enable them to send Dr. habil. Werner Klän, professor of systematics at Lutherische Theologische Hochschule (Lutheran Theological Seminary) Oberursel to Pretoria for up to five years.

In several meetings with the dean of the Theological Fac-

ulty at UP, Prof. Dr. Jan Buitendag it has been assured, that they are highly interested of having Dr. Klän attached to the department of church history of the School of Theology of the University of Pretoria. If this came into being, Dr. Klän has been told that he would be granted the right to supervise post-graduate studies (honors, masters, and doctoral studies).

Dr. Klän is convinced, after having taught at LTS for more than four years now, and having come to know the LTS students, that it would make sense to qualify those gifted enough among them, to continue in post graduate studies. It would be extraordinarily helpful to qualify African students at an institution on the continent of Africa.

Knowing that the confessional Lutheran churches in Southern Africa, and their partner churches in Europe; like the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany (SELK) and in Northern America, like the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) are interested in supporting students in



Prof. Dr. Werner Klän lectured at LTS in March.

their academic formation, ways ought to be sought to co-ordinate the efforts these churches make in order to support the theological education of African students on the post-graduate level.

Within the framework of the "Memorandum of Understanding" a first phase of secondment to the University of Pretoria would begin most probably in October 2012. It is hoped that the "Memorandum of Understanding" be renewed after 2014, and that in the course of this another three years' contract for Dr. Klän's employment might be achieved.



Volunteer Missionary Pat Hoffmeier working on campus landscape with LTS student

Deaconess Courses (cont. from page 4)

special significance to deaconess ministry. I am grateful to the leaders of LCMS and to Bishop Weber in encouraging, promoting, and training of deaconesses in South Africa. With Lord's guidance and blessings, I

will continue to teach the advanced intensive courses in the coming years.

Prayers are uplifted for the full-time deaconess studies under the guidance and leadership of Deaconess Deborah

Rockrohr at the LTS seminary. The seminary is uniquely positioned in training the deaconesses for the whole continent.

Study Group Begins on the History of Apartheid and Impact on Confessional Lutheran Churches Working in South Africa

LTS is an institution run by three partners: the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA), the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (FELSISA) and the Mission of Lutheran Churches (MLC—Bleckmar). Prof. Klän explains in this article the beginning of a very important process, of which LTS is also a supporter.

When did Apartheid end? In February 1990 President FW de Klerk announced Nelson Mandela's release and began the slow dismantling of the Apartheid system. In 1992 a whites-only referendum approved the reform process. In 1994 the first democratic elections were held in South Africa, with people of all races being able to vote. A Government of National Unity was formed, with Nelson Mandela as president and FW de Klerk and Thabo Mbeki as deputy presidents.
(From www.africanhistory.about.com/library/bl/blSAApartheidFAQ.htm)

For an overview of the history of South Africa see: www.info.gov.za/aboutsa/history.htm

On Monday, March 19, 2012, a first meeting of a joint study group on the history of apartheid and its impact on confessional Lutheran churches working in southern Africa took place on the premises of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane, Pretoria, RSA. Representatives of the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA), the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (FELSISA), the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany (SELK) and the Mission of Lutheran Churches (MLC/LKM) gathered to discuss the design of a joint study programme which is meant to provide a scholarly basis for describing the history of the confessional Lutheran churches in southern Africa during the last decades.

The establishment of this joint study group goes back to a suggestion brought forward by the bishop of the LCSA, Dr. Wilhelm Weber, jun. (Pretoria) and Prof. Dr.

Werner Klän (Lutheran Theological Seminary, Oberursel, Germany) on the occasion of the LCSA pastors' convention in September 2010. A few weeks before, a paper on racism was also read at the pastors' convention of the FELSISA with the intent to overcome strained relationships of the past. The subsequent symposium held at Lutheran Theological Seminary Oberursel in November 2011 on "Mission and Apartheid" might be seen as a prelude to the work of the Joint Study Group.

The LCSA delegates to this commission are bishop em. David Tswaedi (Soweto), D.D., and Mr. Peter Ntshoe (Johannesburg); those of the FELSISA are Rev. Dieter Schnackenberg (Lüneburg, RSA) and Rev. Matthias Albers (Pretoria); Rev. Christoph Weber (Durban) represents the MLC, and Dr. Werner Klän SELK. The participants discussed the definition of the project commissioned to them and the timeframe. Dr. Klän was appointed as chairperson, and bishop Tswaedi as secretary.

The commission agreed that initially the historical sources ought to be secured and sorted. It is quite obvious that the separate development of the two confessional Lutheran churches began long before apartheid was developed

as an ideology and established as a political system in 1948. In addition to historical research that has to be done, a genuine theological evaluation of these developments is necessary. It is planned to set up a research library containing all relevant sources that originate from the various churches and institutions involved in this process. In this way, the official documents might be made available to research and scholars. In addition, it was decided to ask experts from outside the commission for scholarly support, and to embed the project into the current state of discussion on the prehistory and history of apartheid in South Africa.

It is hoped that by the end of the process the research done by the commission would work towards reconciliation and promote mutual respect and appreciation for one another in view of a hurtful past, and help create an amicable fellowship of confessional Lutheran churches, congregations, and church members.

*Training Lutheran Pastors and
Deaconess for Africa*

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

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WWW.LTS.ORG.ZA

***Look for more information on
the Geissler, Nordling and
Lessing lectures online at
www.lts.org.za***

Prayer Requests for LTS:

- * Thanksgiving for all the LTS
visiting lecturers
- * **Thanksgiving for the Lord's**
daily protection and care
for LTS students and staff
- * Faithfulness and insight for
LTS students in their stud-
ies
- * Blessings upon the LTS
Strategic Planning Work-
shop (May 14-18)



**Rev. Nathan Mntambo, full-time
Instructor and Chaplain at LTS**

LTS Calendar:

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| • 10 April Start LTS 2nd Quarter | • 14-18 May LTS Strategic Planning Meeting |
| • 12 April LTS Staff Meet 14h00 | • 15 May LTS Board of Directors Meet |
| • 17 April UP/LTS Supervisory Board Meet | • 25 May End of LTS Second Quarter |
| • 27 April—1 May LTS Break for South Africa National Holidays | • 28 May - 15 June LTS June Exam |
| • 10 May LTS Staff Meet 14h00 | • 18-29 June Dr. Lessing Winter Lectures |
| • 5-9 May Dr. Giessler Lectures | • 30 June - 22 July LTS Winter Break |
| • 9-25 May Dr. Nordling Lectures | • 23 July Start of LTS Third Quarter |

\$25,000 Matching Funds Grant Challenge

LTS has been awarded a matching fund grant of 25,000 U.S. dollars. For every U.S. dollar donated to LTS, the grant will contribute an additional dollar. The combined grant and donations could support LTS with up to a total of 50,000 U.S. dollars.

This challenge grant is a great blessing for LTS at a crucial time in its history. The seminary is owned and operated by three partners: the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA),

the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (FELSISA) and Lutheran Church Mission (LKM—Bleckmar). These partners have supported the seminary for many decades when it was in a more rural setting in Enhlanhleni.

Since the move to Pretoria in 2000, the seminary has been able to increase its ability to serve students from other African nations. The continued improvement of our program to meet the needs of students from all over

Africa has drawn LTS to seek partners to do the **Lord's work.**

Our partners include LCMS World Mission, LCMS World Relief and Human Care, Selbständige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche (our German partner church), both LCMS seminaries, LCMS Rocky Mountain and Southern Illinois Districts and countless individual volunteers and donors.

The assistance available from these partners varies

each year. This grant addresses current year (2012) budget shortfalls.

Would you consider a donation to LTS that could be doubled by this matching grant? Our banking details are given above. Email us with any questions, and thanks for your prayerful consideration!

Email:
LTSinTshwane@gmail.com