

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

Training Lutheran Pastors and Deaconesses for Africa

LTS NEWS

www.lts.org.za

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Summer holidays after another good year

After 4 x 7 weeks of lectures, 2 x 2 weeks of examinations and nearly 2 month's holidays the latest academic year (2 x 2 Semesters) lies behind us and the long summer break of over 2 months is upon us. Thank God with us for this.

Thanks to the support of faithful friends of the LTS all of our more than 20 full-time students completed their studies for this year successfully and are now back home with their families and recuperating for the coming re-start of LTS on the 4.2.2014 dv. As none of them graduated this year, we expect them all to return again next year.

Most of them will now join the three seniors—Ishaya, Kaumba and Hadebe—in the main course of Lutheran theology as they have successfully completed the introductory and bridging course consisting of Introduction to the Bible (Old and New Testament: 2 years), Luther's Catechisms and Augsburg Confession, 2 years of Greek and Hebrew Grammar plus Academic skills of English reading/writing/comprehension.

Those, who only joined us in the past year like Tariku or missed out too much due to illness or other calamities

like Lonyatso will continue with the bridging course next year.

Like every year we have a long list of applications in the coming year. There are new applications from the North-West and Mpumalanga dioceses, but also from Ethiopia. For the first time we also have applications from the Congo, Malawi and even Madagascar. Due to financial and accommodation constraints we can't accept everybody despite even the best intentions.

The various courses at our Seminary stretch over several years. Even the Beginners Course takes two full years - just as the post-graduate course, while our main course takes three. If we want to accept 10 new students every year, we have to at least plan that they will stay here for the full-course. This means that at capacity we should consider having over 50 students—and that is not counting the post-graduates.

You will understand that this is quite a long-term commitment and requires enough space and money to see this program through. Therefore please continue with your prayers for the



Seminary—and also with your helpful and gracious support—as you have been doing for more than a decade already.

This Lutheran Seminary has now been in Pretoria for 14 years. We are very grateful for all the support and help that we have received and we are confident that the Lord of the Church, who has helped in the past, will also provide in days to come.

Would you not consider to “adopt a student” - for a month, a semester or a year? Your financial support can enable willing students to study Lutheran theology and prepare to serve the Church and Africa's people. Read more about the exiting possibilities or contact us directly for more details and options to do something worthwhile.

Thanks to the **Lutherische Buchhandlung** (Zahrenholz) in Germany, the Seminary was gifted with 20 Biblia Hebraica (Hebrew Bibles).

Here Katlego Monyepao collects some of the weighty volumes to distribute amongst the learners in Rev. Mntambo's class.

All our students of theology learn Hebrew so that they eventually read God's word in the original language as they work to study God's will and promises from the very beginning.

In the coming year we want to introduce a Hebrew intensive course - so that the students will only do that in that Quarter. Let's see!

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Post-Graduates continue their training on the mission field



Five post-graduate students have successfully graduated with Master of Theology degrees. We are very grateful for this and look forward to having the majority of them serve the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa in its expanding mission amongst migrants and inner city communities.

Pastor Mbongeni Nkambule (left in the picture) has successfully graduated with an MTh in Mission Theology. He has now taught a class on Lutheran mission theology (See his report on Pg.) and will continue with the history of mission and related courses at LTS next year.

Vicar Erik Gboto wrote his MTh dissertation on so-called "prosperity Christianity" in the Southern hemisphere. He is now placed in Umlazi (KZN) under the supervision of Rev. Christoph Weber and is tasked to help with the new and exiting work amongst French speaking migrants from Congo. Together with his wife Laura and their 2 children, they are moving to Durban next month.

Vicar Abia Anibati has returned home to S.Sudan after graduating successfully with an MTh in the New Testament. He is to be ordained this very last Sunday of the Church year and to serve amongst his people back home.

Vicar Frank Kainerugaba (on the right of the picture) is expected to continue with an internship under the tutelage and guidance of experienced pastors in the Botswana diocese. He is to learn seTswana over the coming months and also help with English services in the Botswana capital of Gaborone. We think that this will also free up pastor Mosenogi to help with the ongoing vacancy in Jwaneng, Molepolole and Serowe.

Finally vicar Enoch McBen (in the middle of the picture) wrote his MTh dissertation on New Testament theology concentrating on St. Paul and the controversy between Lutheran exegetes and the so-called "new perspective". He is still waiting for the final report on this. However he is to follow up Rev. Steve Oxton, who has been teaching Greek Grammar at the LTS for the past 2 years and has now been called to serve a congregation in Kempton Park.

Vicar McBen has been helping Rev. Oxton over the past year as tutor and will take over with the full responsibility early next year together with continuing to teach New Testament Introduction (Bibel Kunde). The idea is that he will continue to learn how to serve in a Lutheran Congregation under the guidance of Pastor Mntambo. His wife Prossy will continue with her training in the deaconess studies and their son Shalom will continue at the Kindergarten as he has been doing all along.

Want to support LTS financially?

Support to LTS directly benefits the spread of the Gospel in Africa. LTS trains pastoral and deaconess students to faithfully serve according to all the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and his faithful servant Dr. Martin Luther.

In the U.S., the LCMS districts of South Illinois (SID: President Timothy Scharr) and the Rocky Mountains

(RMD: President Allan Anderson) continue to support the LTS significantly and most helpfully. The Logo of RMD is depicted on the right. Please read more about the efforts of mission & outreach of RMD on page 4 of this newsletter.

The St. Philip Lutheran Mission Society has joined this supportive mission recently.

Financial support can be directly deposited into the LTS bank account. The banking details are on the back of this newsletter.

South African supporters are reminded that Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane is a registered Public Benefits Organization.

Donations to LTS can be deducted according to the rules of Section 18(a) in the South African tax laws.

Please contact us for further information.



Prayer for the Seminary



This Prayer was prayed at the opening devotion led by Pastor M.N. Mntambo on the Thanks— and Pricegiving function at Seminary closing off the 4th Quarter, the 2nd Semester and academic year 2014 on the 7th November.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

For an increased appreciation of the communion of saints to which Christ has called us; for strength in our daily life of faith, that we may ever live with the sure and certain hope of everlasting life; and for a blessed end, that we may join those who have gone before us in the faith, rejoicing with them in the salvation Christ has won and given to His holy people; let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

For the holy Christian Church throughout this continent and the world, that she be preserved from false teaching, deceptive doctrines and every temptation that would destroy body or soul; that she be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, so that Christ's name would be reverently honored and His people and creation lovingly served; and that her life and witness would ever testify to the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit; let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

For those who are persecuted for their confession of Christ, that they may gracefully endure their afflictions, faithfully testify to the Lord who bore the cross for us all and trustingly remain in Christ Jesus; let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

For those in administration of this seminary: Board of Directors, our Rector, and all members and friends of the Seminary. For us teachers who teach, and the students who are and who have been learning in it. That they may be encouraged and given wisdom by God in all they do. That the needed support of the seminary will not be lacking from congregations here in Southern Africa, and across this continent and beyond - let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

For the joy of good work and outcomes by teachers and students this ending year. For the Lord's pardon on neglect, under-performance, and other vices. For dependence in the strength of God, and the ability to do work responsibly as we continue in this field, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

For students, graduates, and teachers of the seminary, that with confidence and a determined attitude they will venture into next year's challenges. That those who travel from this place will do so safely, and joyfully be reunited with their loved ones, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, heavenly Father, grant us for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself into death for our trespasses and rose again for our justification that we might live together with all Your saints in Him, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns one God, now and forever. Amen.

Open Day with Sithole & Rao as special guests

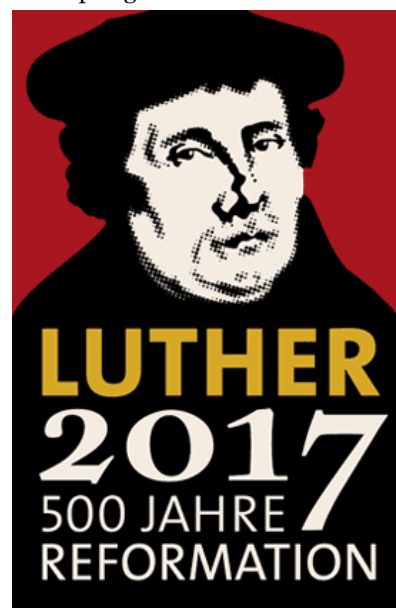
The annual Seminary Open Day on the first weekend in September was a highlight on our Calendar.

Rev. Eliot Sithole (PhD) gave the key-note address on African Independent Churches, while deaconess Grace Rao (LCMS World Relief & Human Care) introduced global deaconess ministries.

As usual the rector's report was accompanied by the student's choir, while Nkeng Masetlhe was introduced to the friends of the Seminary as its new fundraiser. The diocesan council of the LCSA North-West diocese presented welcome gifts and donations to the Seminary.

The lunch at St. Pauls was prepared by Renate Straeuli and we were grateful for the loads of meat donated by Mr. H. Meyer for this occasion—just as he did for the LTS Price-giving function at the end of the year too.

We are grateful for the great support and hope to see even more next spring in Pretoria!



Perspectives of the 4th Quarter



Deaconess Grace Rao (LCMS World Relief & Human Care) together with the advanced and regular deaconess course members in the beginning of Spring in Pretoria and below she's giving an introduction to global deaconess services.



Rev. Eliot Sithole (PhD) giving the key note address on the Seminary Open Day on the first weekend of September.



Dean J.T. Mafereka (NW) together with the Seminary fundraiser Nkeng Masetlhe.



Rev. Mbongeni Nkambule (MTh) is seen here below as the Master of ceremonies at the same yearly Seminary function.



Rev. John Christensen from Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Cheyenne, WY donated these many wonderful books to Seminary.

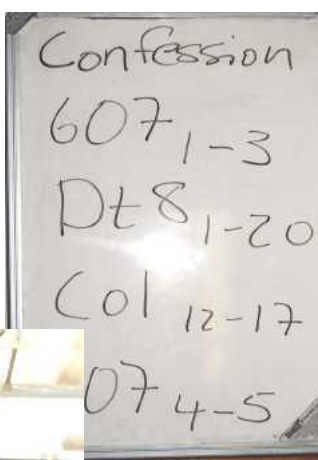


It's Spring!

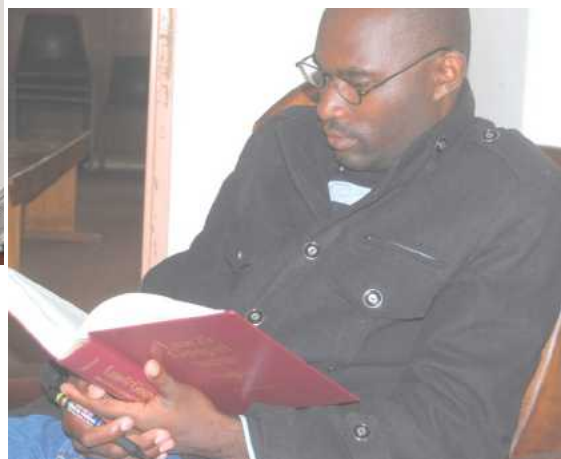
More than 100 volumes of the "Magazin fuer die neueste Geschichte der evangelischen Missions- und Bibelgesellschaften". Starting way back in the 19th century. Thanks to Louise Kornteuer for these precious books.



Shalom is ready to go home to his grandparents in the West of Uganda.



Student Benjamin Kauma is reading from C.F.W. Walther's "Law and Gospel" (Latest readers edition from CPH) - thanks to the help and support of LCMS World Relief & Human Care for such wonderful books!



Sun shines into the chapel St. Timothy



Friends from Mekane Yesous visiting in the bishop's office. Looking forward to seeing more of them as they plan to reach out from the LTS to their compatriots in South Africa.





Students & Staff in November 2014



Rocky Mountain District LCMS: Raising Up Workers

The Rocky Mountain District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in its 49th Convention, June 2012, passed a resolution to raise special appeal funds to support national and international missions.

Raising Up Workers, comes from Luke 10:2, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”*

A goal of \$400,000 has been set with distribution going to:

- New ministries
- Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute (LHMI)
- Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission (BOLM)
- Lutheran Theological Seminary, Pretoria, South Africa

New Ministries

The Rocky Mountain District officially adopted the “Gospel Gap Mission” in June, 2012. Circuits are encouraged to consider places where there are “gospel gaps” within their geographic area, and then move toward filling that gap. A “new ministries” fund is paramount in facilitating circuit mission efforts.

Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute (LHMI)

The largest “Gospel Gap” in our district – and in the LCMS as a whole – is without a doubt the Hispanic/Latino population. In order to better reach out with Christ’s love among Hispanics, the Rocky Mountain District launched the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute. Raising Up Workers will provide funds for outreach and Christian education and training.

Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission (BOLM)

Members of the RMD have graciously shared their gifts with Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission (BOLM) for the proclaiming of Christ’s love to Muslims and others, nationally and internationally. In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, BOLM vigorously endeavors to declare the love of Christ by word and deed.



Lutheran Theological Seminary – Tshwane, South Africa

The members of the Rocky Mountain District have, in the past, graciously shared their gifts with the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Pretoria, South Africa and The Lutheran Church of South Africa. As a result, over a hundred students, both pastors and deaconesses, have been trained and are now active in serving throughout the Lutheran Church in Africa.



Vicar Erik Gboto (MTh) with
his daughter Ophelia

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

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

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OUR WEBSITE IS

WWW.LTS.ORG.ZA

Prayer Requests

- **Faithful teachers**, who teach and preach God's word and Lutheran doctrine soundly, motivating and in exemplary fashion.
- **Diligent students**, who are willing and able to cope with the course material in learning, research and practice.
- Growing **financial support** for LTS that it may continue to prepare more faithful workers for the Lutheran Church in Africa with good teaching and excellent programs.
- **More faithful students** coming to LTS learn, study and practice Lutheran Theology—and the means to support them for a good time too.
- Enough **space and capacity** at LTS for Seminarians, guests & visitors



LTS Calendar:

- 20-24 January **Doxology** with Prof. Senkbeil & Dr. Yahnkee
- 28 January Board of Directors
- 4 February first Quarter of the new Academic year 2014 starts
- 4-14 February Advanced Course with deaconess Grace Rao
- 24 February—7 March: Advanced Course with Professors Dr. John Nordling and John Pless (CTS Ft. Wayne, IN)
- 21 March End of first Quarter
- 24 March Beginning of 2nd Qtr

Lutheran Theological Seminary offers confessional Lutheran education in preparation for service as Lutheran pastors and also deaconesses in Africa.

LTS has successfully trained students from across Africa from the following countries: Botswana, Swaziland, Zambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Kenya, Uganda, S. Sudan, Congo, Ethiopia and South Africa—and we are looking at more from Malawi, Madagascar and Zimbabwe.

Pastoral students who qualify may pursue a Bachelor of Theology from the University of Pretoria (UP) through taking courses at LTS as well as at UP before continuing with post-graduate studies at UP and LTS.

Prospective students need to have the recommendation and support of their local Lutheran church.

For more information contact LTS directly using the details at the top of this page.

STUDENT ENQUIRY MOST WELCOME !



Deaconess course 2013