

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

Training Lutheran Pastors and Deaconesses for Africa

LTS NEWS

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New Academic Year



After a long summer break over Christmas Seminary is open again and the students are back at work in Arcadia, Pretoria. Most students were able to arrive in good time for the start on Tuesday, the 3rd February. Eleven new students from South Africa arrived and joined the 2 already in the bridging course. Some from Swaziland and the Kalahari Added did not make it, although their respective deans are still working on it.

Added to 5 students in the theological main course, 5 enrolled in the graduate & post-graduate courses at the University of Pretoria (UP) plus 5 deaconess students, we are 28 full-time students at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane (LTS) this Quarter. God hears our prayers for workers in the harvest. We now invite you to also pray with us to the triune God for the necessary means to support and train these students and future pastors of the Lutheran Church in Africa appropriately.

Even before we got started with the new academic program our Board of Directors met in LHF Hall for its first meeting of the

year too. Mr Michael Grosse (Gunnison, CO) was present as usual, but this time around did not return empty handed.

The student of theology Ashenafi Desta Gonemo, who had last year graduated from UP accompanied him back to the USA, where he is enrolled at CTS Ft.Wayne (IN) for a MA Theology starting September. Until then he is promoting the LTS together with Mr Grosse. If you want to hear more about this, you can contact them via email: intadvun@gunnison.com or telephone: +1-970-641-5369. We wish them God's guidance and good success at they travel and promote the LTS in USA.



Support to LTS benefits the spread of the Gospel in Africa. LTS trains pastoral and deaconess students from across Africa to faithfully serve the Church and its people according to all the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ (Mt 28,18ff) and his faithful servant Dr. Martin Luther.

In the U.S.A it is especially the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS President Matthew Harrison DD) and its World Mission (Dr. Albert Colver III) and district of South Illinois (SID: President Timothy Scharr) that support the LTS diligently and most helpfully. The St. Philip Lutheran Mission Society has joined this effort as have single congregations here and there. The Lutheran Church in Canada (President Dr. Robert Bugbee) also helps to fund a student at UP.

In Germany the "Lutherische Kirchenmission" (LKM—SELK) has promoted the LTS from inception and over decades through its local subsidiary Mission of Lutheran Churches (MLC). It still does so today and significantly too.

Locally LTS is maintained by its 3 founding members: The Free Evangelical Synod in South Africa (FELSISA), the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA) and the Mission of Lutheran Churches (MLC). We Seminarians are very grateful for all support and praise the Lord thankfully for all of you and his never ending mercy +

Inside this issue:

Greek in Ft.Wayne	2-3
Past & Future	4-5
Preview & Plans	6

Macben visits Ft.Wayne

MY FALL QUARTER AT FORT WAYNE

At the beginning of September 2014, I travelled to the United States to be part of the Fall Greek Class at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne which runs for ten weeks. The importance of this class was to shadow Dr. Nordling so that I may learn from him how to effectively teach Greek. Although I had done Greek during my theological training at the LTS, it was unfortunate that I never learnt how accents work in the Greek grammar. Being in the Fall Greek at Fort Wayne enabled me to learn this. Accents were never taught during my seminary training because it was thought that they weren't that important. But this has been proven wrong with my experience from Fort Wayne. For example, how would one tell the difference between a definite article and a relative pronoun? These two can only be differentiated by the accent. Otherwise one would mistake one to be the other. This is one of the many reasons why accents must be learned and emphasized when learning Greek.

Another important lesson I learned was how important Greek language is to other languages. Because Greek emphasizes the grammatical constructions, it is very important that the learner understands the first language into which Greek is to be translated. And since we use English at our seminary, it is important that students go through English grammatical constructions before they

start learning Greek. This was the experience at Fort Wayne. Even though all the students in Greek class had English as their first language, it was still not easy because Greek carries so much emphasis on its grammatical constructions. Greek taught them more of their English language. You can imagine how important it is for our African students to master their English grammar since it was not easy for first English speakers! African students, therefore need to work hard to learn English if they are to better understand Greek.

Also one cannot know a language very well, one can always learn better. It was therefore a valuable experience for me to be part of the class. Having gone through the language just once is not enough for one to learn it. Using the learnt language makes it stick with you. And since the New Testament Greek cannot be spoken now, the only way to use it is to do composition, that is, to translate English into Greek, and not only Greek into English. This was one of the daily activities of the Fall Greek at Fort Wayne. Being able to write an English sentence into correct Greek is not that simple but it is worth it as it improves one's knowledge of the language.

These and many more made my fall quarter at Fort Wayne worth every effort that went into it. This experience will change the way Greek has been taught at LTS.

I am very grateful to all that made this trip happen. I'm grateful to Profs. Nordling and Pless who made

everything possible to make my stay at Fort Wayne enjoyable. I very much enjoyed every outing with you all. Special thanks to the Southern Illinois District for their financial support that made this trip possible.

Dr. Nordling has so big a shadow to fill but I learnt as much as I could from him. I will always treasure the time at Fort Wayne. The different churches visited on Sundays, the friendships made, and the 6-7 hour-trip to Marion, SID were all a great experience.

Vicar E.Macben: LTS in Tshwane



Professors Report

Mr. Enoch Macben at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, 8 September – 14 November 2014

Mr. Macben received funding from the Southern Illinois District (SID) of the LC-MS to attend and sit in on my Fall Greek class which I normally teach in the fall quarter at CTS, Ft Wayne. Enoch was one of 14 students, most of whom had not studied Greek before. The class covers as much material in ten weeks as is normally taught in two academic semesters elsewhere: there are 2-3 hrs of instruction every day (Monday-Friday), nearly daily quizzes, passive (translation) as well as active (composition) exercises, singing, cartoons, and stories—anything to keep the class moving and not get bogged down. We use James Voelz' Fundamental Greek Grammar (4th edn.; St. Louis: Concordia, 2014) which contains 42 chapters (so roughly one chapter per day, every day). It is a punishing regimen but, for most students, invigorating and extremely rewarding. Indeed, Beginning Greek serves nearly as the portal for subsequent study in Lutheran theology at the seminary.

I am pleased to say that Enoch fit right into the daily schedule and indeed excelled. He was in class each and every day, was never late, and was in fact among the highest scoring students in the class (final exam: 97%). Of course he had a distinct advantage in that he had already studied Greek at Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS), Pretoria, South Africa, and, indeed, had completed a Master's degree in Theology—writing on the New Perspective in Paul—at the University of Pretoria (UP). So, he was very well qualified to do well in my class. However, Enoch was not simply studying Greek again as though he were learning it for the first time; Bishop Weber has high hopes of Enoch teaching Greek and NT courses at LTS for years to come. Hence Enoch was not so much "learning Greek" as he was learning to teach the language well and confidently to others. His Greek did of course considerably improve during his time here, but I was constantly trying to get from him more and better—beyond that of the other students. For example, I often put poor Enoch "on the spot" in front of the other students and made him write more composition sentences (English into Greek). From these unwelcome attentions I hope he learned that the best teachers always must demand more and better from the students of highest potential, and I hope he teaches his students similarly at LTS in the future. Before he got on the plane I loaded him down with materials that he is

welcome to use on his own students. However, LTS should go back to using Voelz's "Fundamental Greek Grammar" for this to happen most optimally.

What's next for Enoch? Apparently Enoch has already begun a doctoral program in NT at UP, and I even know his doctoral adviser, Dr. Ernest van Eck. I ran into him at the meeting of Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) recently and expressed to him my opinion that Enoch should enroll in Greek readings courses in the Department of Classics at the UP as part of his doctoral coursework. This would help him to be better prepared and steeped in the ancient languages, rather than—as so often happens—read a lot of NT secondary scholarship, which can be so sterile. No, get him into the ancient texts and let his scholarship emerge from these texts themselves!

Finally, because the study trip of Enoch was so positive, the thought occurred to me that perhaps the same type of arrangement should be attempted again for other deserving students—from Africa and beyond. Not all of them need necessarily take advantage of my summer and fall Greek intensives; but perhaps an especially talented student could come to our seminary for a quarter or two simply to learn the Catechism better with Prof. Pless, or to read Luther with Drs. Naomichi Masaki and Roland Ziegler. These should be exceptionally well-prepared and highly motivated students who need but a brief time here (a quarter or two) so that they may be prepared to return to their home countries to teach in indigenous Lutheran seminaries. Just a thought. Again, I am extremely grateful to President Scharr of SID for funding Enoch's study trip here, and for the generous hospitality shown to both of us at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Marion, IL, on 2 November 2014, when we were hosted by Pastor Mark Surburg and the congregation during a preaching engagement there.

Enoch brought "a little bit of Africa" to Fort Wayne, and many of us here are missing him and wishing him and his growing family well. We pray that God will make good use of Enoch in his way, and that his having learned Greek in Fort Wayne for one quarter will pay great dividends in Christ's Kingdom in Africa for many years to come.

Dr. John G. Nordling
CTS Ft. Wayne, IN

LTS Old Boy thinks back

Lately, I've been thinking about the things that brought me to the place in my life where I am today. Ten years ago, I was a freshman at Concordia University - Ann Arbor. During the spring semester I had a meeting with my academic adviser, Professor Charles R. Schulz who did the math and found out that I could graduate a semester early. I had never thought about what to do with an extra semester. Prof Schulz immediately gave me several ideas besides working; I could stay on and take some classes from the education or family life programs, try to get into the seminary a quarter early, or (and this one was furthest fetched) study at one of our partner seminaries in Germany, England, India or South Africa.

In panic, I called Dad but it just so happened that Dr. Wilhelm Weber Jr. (head of the South African Seminary) was visiting Southern Illinois and was staying at my house. Dad asked him if studying at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane (LTS in Pretoria) could be an option for me. He said it would be a good idea. My Uncle and godfather Herbert Mueller also encouraged me to go.

That's how the idea of going to Africa in the first place got planted in my mind. I lived and studied at LTS in Pretoria for 6 months in 2008 before starting at Concordia Seminary. Without that experience I wouldn't have wanted to go back (which is how I met Julia Wehren-

berg Mueller). I also wouldn't be planning another trip to the place where she served.

The point is this: I am thankful that someone suggested an outlandish idea to 19 year old me--and that I could actually do it. If you have the chance to study abroad take it! To the rest: don't be afraid to suggested extraordinary, awesome things to people (young or not so young) who might actually be able to do it--especially if you know it will help their faith in Christ.

Rev. Jacob Mueller

Holy Cross LC, Emma, MO

*Rejoice, my heart, by glad and sing,
A cheerful trust maintain;
For God, the source of everything,
Your portion shall remain.*

*He is your treasure, he your joy,
Your life and light and Lord,
Your counsellor when doubts annoy,
Your shield and great reward.*

*His wisdom never plans in vain
Nor falters nor mistakes
All that his counsels may ordain
A happy ending makes.*

Hymn # 424 Lutheran Worship

Author: Paul Gerhard (1607-76) tr John Kelly (1833-90) Tune:
Ich singe Dir mit Herz und Mund...



An end and a beginning

The 3rd of February was a momentous day for me. Having relocated to South Africa to write my dissertation, by the blessing of the Lord I completed and submitted it last year. My so-called "dissertation defense" took place on the 3rd of February, 2015. On the same day, I began my new assignment as a part-time lecturer at the LTS. To my great joy, both went very well. My degree is to be conferred later this month, and the graduation ceremony is to take place in May.

Having grown up and continuing to serve in a Lutheran church body with German roots, I asked myself: Why are we here in South Africa? After all, it is well-known that many of our ancestors came to South Africa in the service of the Hermannsburg Mission. It is also well-known that the founder of the mission, Pastor Louis Harms, in the mid-19th century sent out both missionaries and laypeople, sometimes even entire families. This made me wonder: If our ancestors came to South Africa in the service of the mission, when, and especially why was their organic connection to the mission disrupted? Had those who came out on the mission ship Candace not pledged their faithfulness to God and to L. Harms, and solemnly promised to remain faithful to the mission for life? How then did the separation take place?

The answer to this question lies in a series of intense conflicts that raged in the Hermannsburg Mission here in South Africa between 1859 and 1863, collectively known as "the Hardeland conflict." Diverging ideals between Louis Harms and August Hardeland, the first mission superintendent in South Africa, led to con-

flicts between Hardeland, L. Harms, and many missionaries and colonists. Hardeland's harsh ways and his brutality played a decisive role. Ultimately, the results included the loss of the most flourishing mission stations (in what is today Botswana) from the Hermannsburg Mission, a growing separation between blacks and whites, the termination of the community of property, the suspension of all laypeople, the introduction of salaries for the missionaries, and the founding of the Lüneburg congregation.

In my dissertation I examined Hardeland's development, L. Harms' conceptions and their implementation during the early years in South Africa, and then the development of the conflicts and their results, as described in the publications and correspondence



from the time. What I found was something I had never expected.

What also became clear to me again was the ongoing unity between church and mission. As the Lord has led it, this has become the nexus in which I now serve. In addition to working as a translator of academic literature, it is my joy to serve also as a lecturer at the LTS. Here I get to teach early church history and a class in mission and culture, which are both favorite subjects of mine. It has been a delight to meet the faculty and students, and I pray we may work together well for the kingdom of our Lord.

Serving Christ,
Pastor Karl Böhmer
LTS in Tshwane

