

The Evangel in Ethiopia

Opportunities for Both Partners: the LCMS & EECMY

Covington, LA—A few days ago as we were coming home from our last mission presentation, my ten year old daughter Rachael said, “The more times I attend these presentations, the more excited I get about going to Ethiopia!” I agree with her. Every time we present, I am reminded again of the incredible opportunity our Lord has placed before the LCMS.



The Ethiopian Lutheran Church (EECMY) is now the largest Lutheran church body in the world and they are continuing to grow at an astounding rate (almost 1 million new members/year). As their growth suggests, they have a very strong commitment to evangelism, outreach and international mission work. Add to that the fact that Ethiopia is a leader among the African nations and we can see that the EECMY is poised to be a leading voice and influential example among not only the African Lutheran churches, but worldwide Lutheranism.

We are now partnered with them in their efforts at pastoral education and formation. We have been and will continue to send professors on short-term teaching assignments to their seminaries. Now, with calls to Rev. Rabe and myself, we are placing long-term professors in Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa. God willing, we will continue to expand that team. In addition to our teaching in Ethiopia, we are also bringing many EECMY professors and church leaders here to do graduate studies at our seminaries.

In this way, we, the LCMS, have been blessed with the opportunity to contribute to the theological training and doctrine of the Lutheran church that is poised to drive the shape of Lutheranism in all of Africa and from there, into the world...even as we have the chance to learn from them about evangelism and outreach, something they obviously excel at. Rachael is right—we do have a lot to be excited about.



Addis Ababa

Did you know . . .

Addis Ababa means, “New Flower” in Amharic. It is the capital city of Ethiopia. Mekane Yesus Seminary, where we will work and live, is located in Addis Ababa. Population: 3.4 million—wow!

We are on Facebook!

Note: you do not have to belong to facebook to see this page.

Just follow the link:

[Facebook.com/stinnettsinethiopia](https://www.facebook.com/stinnettsinethiopia)

What’s Been Happening Lately . . . ?

In the middle of June we started travelling for a six week presentation tour and just returned home on July 28th. We presented in:

- Trinity Lutheran Church in Jefferson City, MO
- St. Paul Lutheran Church—California, MO
- St. Paul Lutheran Church—Independence, MO
- Immanuel Lutheran Church—Honeycreek, MO
- Zion Lutheran Church—Lone Elm, MO
- Prince of Peace—Valparaiso, IN
- Presentation to Individuals—Bagdad, KY
- Trinity Lutheran—Vallonia, IN
- St. Paul Lutheran—Wegan, IN
- Presentation — Windsor, ON Canada
- St. Paul Lutheran—Albion, MI

Thanks be to God for all of these churches who received us so graciously and also for the safe travels. We drove over 4,200 miles. There’s nothing like car travel for family bonding time!





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Mekane Yesus Seminary faculty and students
- that the Lord will meet the need to train thousands of pastors in the EECMY
- a smooth transition to Ethiopia
- Eric's work permits/and our family's official paperwork
- our children as they prepare to leave all that they are familiar with
- needed catechisms and bibles

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- the workers at the International Center who support missionaries in the field
- pastors who are faithful to God's Word
- the Rabe family
- safe travels during network and support building

PRAISE GOD FOR:

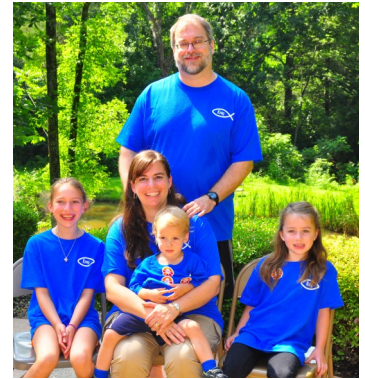
- the many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us

Amharic—this is the language we will be learning. To say, “How are you?”, you would say, “Tndemin alleh?” if you were talking to a male. Written in Amharic it would look like this : እንደምን አለህ: As in most languages, this phrase is used more as a greeting or part of a greeting rather than as an enquiry about your health.

Attending VBS . . . Travels . . .

Jefferson City, Missouri—Rachael and Naomi were able to attend a VBS focusing on the Gospel in Africa. Trinity Lutheran also decided to collect an offering to donate toward the Lord's work in Ethiopia. Thanks!

The VBS offering is presented at the closing program



Family picture: Eric, Rachael, Johanna holding Luke, Naomi in Kentucky



On our way to a presentation—stopped and snapped a picture by a fountain in Kansas City, Kansas

Closing Thoughts . . .

Our Lord is always working through His people. We remember the Ethiopian eunuch: “So Philip ran to him (the eunuch) and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” (*Acts 8:30ff*) Thank you in Jesus' Name for your support of the work which God has laid before us.

In Service to Christ— Eric, Johanna, Rachael, Naomi & Luke

Missions Anyone?

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on “Service Opportunities.”

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Include “Stinnett-Ethiopia” in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/stinnett.