



Newsletter of Rev. Vance and Linda Becker at Matongo, Kenya December 2021

A Trip to Tanzania

In November we took a quick trip back to Tanzania where Vance visited two vicars from our school. We heard good reports from their supervising pastor, also a graduate from Matongo. Great reports have also been coming in about our other vicars and interns. Meanwhile, many graduates are being ordained and installed just in time for Christmas.

We were helped with these visits and hosted by the family of Rev. Jonathan Clausing who lived next door to us last semester while waiting to get back into Tanzania. They are now home again at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro. We also visited St. Peter Lutheran Seminary where Rev. Clausing is now teaching.

Please pray for us, praising God for growing His church, thanking Him for our students and graduates, and asking Him to help all of us to keep growing and learning.

Bible reflection

It is not beginning to look a lot like Christmas here in equatorial Africa. It looks pretty much the same as always.

This is also what it was like when Jesus was first born. In a land where people worked hard every day just to survive and government regulations weren't helping any, a baby born and laid in a manger didn't look like anything special. No one would have imagined that He was a king, the promised Messiah or God himself. People would not

expect that He would do miracles, rise again from the dead or even survive long enough to grow up.

The only way anyone knew about Him or recognized Him was that God's messengers told them. God's word alone caused and revealed the truth.

This is still true as Jesus comes to us today in His sacraments. We recognize Him and His work not by anything we can see but by hearing and believing what He tells us in His word.

Praise God for the angels (which means messengers) who are sent by God to share with us this word.

Please pray for us, praising God for His amazing ways, thanking Him for our Savior and all His gifts and asking Him to help us all to know His presence with us.

People wonder...

Do you celebrate Thanksgiving there?

Thanksgiving Day is not a holiday here, so we are teaching classes as usual.

However, for a second year in a row we have enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal together with the other LCMS missionaries here. This year the family of Rev. Eric Stinnett is living next door because of current issues in Ethiopia where he teaches and they hosted the get together. We didn't do turkey like last year but the ham and chicken were very good.

If you wonder about a question, email vance.becker@lcms.org

Please pray for us, praising God for giving us all we need, thanking Him for supportive friends and family and asking Him to bring peace and safety for all.

Contact us at the address below to let us know how we can be praying for you too.

Connect with us.

Email us at vance.becker@lcms.org & linda.becker@lcmsintl.org, or send us postal mail at the Mission Central address below.

Help expand our network by liking [vance.becker.lcms](https://www.facebook.com/vance.becker.lcms) on facebook and sharing it and this newsletter with friends. Let us know about yourself and prayer requests. We will pray for you too.

Financial support

All our funding comes through the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which is not just an office in St. Louis but the people and congregations. We are grateful for many generous people, for yearly & monthly gifts, and also single gifts.

A monthly or yearly gift is ideal, but a start-up gift is also very helpful.

- Checks written to LCMS with Becker/Kenya in the memo can be mailed to: *LCMS, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-66861* or *Mission Central, 40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, IA 51034-7105*,
- Give on-line at www.lcms.org/givenow/becker
- or missioncentral.us/becker
- Give by phone at 888-843-5267.

Please pray for us, praising God for daily providing out of Fatherly, goodness and mercy, thanking Him for those who are able to give generously, and asking Him to keep providing funds for this work.



And when they saw it,
they made known the
saying that had been
told them concerning
this child.

And all who heard wondered at
what the Shepherds told them.

Graduates, vicars and intern
evangelists and deaconesses from
Matongo Lutheran Theological
College are now preaching, teaching
and leading worship
in preparation for celebrating
Christmas.

May God prepare your hearts
to receive the Christ Child
with wonder and joy this
Christmas.

Thank You!

for your prayers and financial gifts
which helps us to make known the
Savior of the World.

Vance and Linda Becker in Kenya

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