



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

May 2022



Easter Confirmation

On Easter Sunday, Vance preached at Lwanda church where, along with four baptisms, Peter was confirmed, with our Principal as the officiant. Peter is a pastoral student, sponsored by LCMS, whom Vance instructed in the catechism. He was confirmed here because his home is 60 miles from the nearest Lutheran church. When he graduates, he will be expected to go back and start a mission congregation there.

Please pray for us, praising God for drawing all people to Himself, thanking Him for the gift of pastors, teachers and evangelists, and asking Him to keep growing His church.

Books for Students

The semester has just now finished, exams are done and students have left campus for home. Among them are 29 pastoral, evangelist and deaconess interns and also seven men finishing who are already ordained pastors.

Before they went, Vance was able to give them some books so that they will have a very small library of resources. Some are those he has written for classes. Some, like the Swahili Small Catechisms with explanation are provided by Lutheran Heritage Foundation, and a couple were purchased through the Matongo Education Project Fund with donations from supporters.

The most valuable of these is the Concordia Complete Bible Handbook. Since there were not enough of these for everyone, those who will be coming back for more classes after internship have to wait. The two challenges to providing these books are the significant cost and also

the logistics of getting them here from the U.S. Anyone interested in helping to provide these

books for church work students is encouraged to donate to LCMS International Mission Fund #11100-AA0012 for the Matongo Education Project. When there is enough money



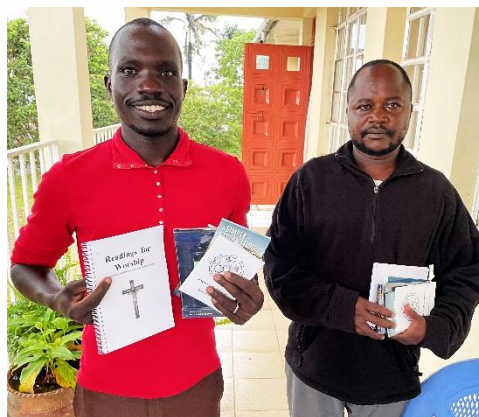
to buy a supply, they can be brought by missionaries traveling from the U.S. during the year (or other visitors, hint, hint.)

Please pray for us, praising God for His inspired word which equips the saints, thanking Him for the students who are finishing their studies, and asking Him to give them material and spiritual blessings for their work.



We Got "Engaged"

"Engage" is a free magazine sent out by the LCMS to churches and donors about the ministry being done in the U.S. and around the world. The latest issue featured international missions, including the work here at Matongo. The cover photo shows our new classroom building and that is Vance you can see through the open door, teaching one of his classes.



Coming to a Church Near You

In a just few weeks we will be traveling to the U.S. to visit and thank supporters and share about the work here. There will not be enough time to get to everywhere we would like but we will be at the following churches and events where you are invited to come and see us if you are able. Contact us if you want details or want us to come to your place during the week.

May 29, St. James Lutheran Church, Chicago IL

June 8, LCMS International Center, St. Louis, MO

June 9-11, Minnesota South District Convention, St. Paul, MN

June 12, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Owatonna, MN

June 13, First Ev. Lutheran Church, Glencoe, MN

June 14, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN

June 16-18, Minnesota South LWML Convention, Willmar, MN

June 19, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lewiston, MN

June 26, St. John Lutheran Church, Montevideo, MN

July 3, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Pequot Lakes, MN

July 10, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, North Mankato, MN (*That afternoon will be an open house for our 40th wedding anniversary and Vance's 40th ordination anniversary.*)

July 13, Hosanna Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN

July 17, St. John Lutheran Church, Alta, IA

July 23, Mission Central, Mapleton, IA

July 24, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Denison, IA

July 31, St. Johns Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS

August 7, Trinity Lutheran Church, Garden City, KS

August 14, Peace in Christ Lutheran Church, Walkersville MD

August 21, Christ Lutheran Church, Jackson MS

Please pray for us, praising God for providing for us in our two years here, thanking Him for all our supportive partners, and asking Him to be with us giving us safe travels.

Bible reflection

A week after Jesus' resurrection, the disciples were still hiding in fear behind closed doors. Jesus overcame those closed doors when he came and said, "Peace be with you." The fact that Jesus is alive and able to be with us no matter what gives us peace that can take away our fear.

But, just as for Thomas, and all of the other disciples before him, it is hard for us to believe this because of our closed minds that see the troubles around us but don't clearly see Jesus. Jesus said, "Peace be with you," again to Thomas when he showed him his hands but he also said we can believe without seeing. That is because he also gave his Holy Spirit.

When Jesus said, "Peace be with you," a third time he went on to tell them that they now had power to forgive the sins of others. This forgiveness is what opens a closed heaven for us and for others. Because of the peace given by the risen Jesus, we are freed from fear to come out from our closed doors and boldly go into all the world sharing the wonderful news of forgiveness that gives peace with God forever.

Please pray for us, Praising God for being with us in every time and place, thanking Him for his forgiveness and asking Him to open hearts to share it with everyone.

People wonder...

Is that Christmas garland I see?

Yes, if you look at the picture of Peter being congratulated after his confirmation, you can see that he has been draped with sparkly Christmas garland. That is a common thing to do to honor someone on special occasions like graduation, etc. It is also used to decorate churches, not

only at Christmas but for Easter. There was a string of twinkle lights behind the altar and colorful balloons hanging up as well. Anything fancy and affordable is not limited to just one kind of celebration.

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

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.