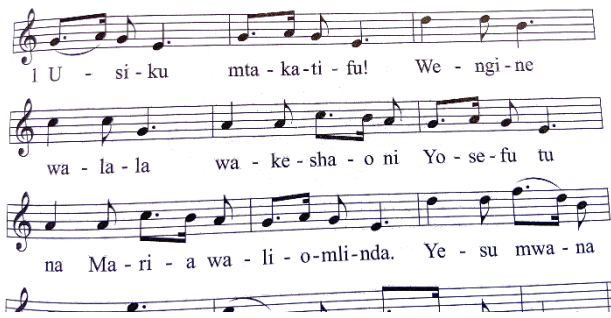




Newsletter of Rev. Vance and Linda Becker at Matongo, Kenya December 2020



If you can read the music above, it is a reminder of the fact that this year's Christmas will be very different for us, as it will likely be for you as well, but some things will still be the same. The important thing is that there is good news of great joy for all people, for to us is born a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

God's blessings to all of you in this Advent and Christmas season!

months before installation in their professional positions.

The 7 Vicars and 6 Deaconess interns are going to places in Kenya except for one

who will be across the border in Tanzania.

Please pray for us, praising God for the joyful Gospel, thanking Him for the growth of the church here, and asking Him to help us and all the students to have the resources, wisdom, etc. to be good servants.



Deaconess students and dropping in on their treadle machine sewing class. Then she was appointed "Matron of the Deaconesses," which is basically like being a dorm

mother. The Principal is very glad to finally have someone to do this.

Using Tom Aadland's battery-powered keyboard, she is now chapel



accompanist. They sing a Capella most of the time, but it helps to be able to teach new songs and introduce hymns.

Please pray for us, praising God for His students eager to learn,

thanking Him for all His gifts to them and asking that Linda may be issued her dependent's pass soon.



Students Sent Out

The interrupted and abbreviated semester has now been completed. During chapel on Wednesday of finals week, Deaconess interns and Vicars were commissioned by Archbishop Joseph Ochola Omolo. They have completed their classroom training and will serve for several



Linda is Put to Work

When we crossed the border from Tanzania, there were limited options on the entry form. Linda was not a tourist so she had to promise the officer that she would get a job, although we told him that she currently had a job taking care of an old man. She is keeping her promise.

First, she started leading a weekly Bible study for the

Growing into the Job

In a recent faculty meeting, Vance was made head of the Department of Practical Theology. Along with this goes being Director of the Internship program. The

school is very glad to have Vance and Walter here but the staff shortage is still a big problem, especially since the Hebrew and Old Testament professor has been elected to be a regional Bishop. Walter Steele will replace him as head of the Department of Exegetical Theology and also be Dean of Chapel.

Vance is learning a lot about being a teacher here in Kenya, much of it by discovering what it was he should have done. One thing he has learned is how to be an “invigilator.” That is a British term for someone who monitors the giving of an exam. There are some very specific rules about how exams and other things are done here. The students are not the only ones with a lot to learn!

Please pray for us, praising God for knowing just what we need to have and do, thanking Him for providing for and protecting us, and asking Him to give us opportunities and guidance to do our work well.

People wonder...

How many adult baptisms happen there as a result of this mission?

Thank you to the supporter who asked this question. We want to respond to each one, but the answer to this question is, “We don’t know.” After asking around, what we have found is that, while each pastor may have records of this, they are not collected in a centralized way. We have learned that here there are some things that are just unknown.

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

Please pray for us, praising God for knowing all His children, thanking Him for His precious and powerful word and sacraments and asking Him to draw more and more people to faith and into the ministry, both here and around the world.

Bible reflection

If you are at a restaurant with someone and after the meal they take out a checkbook and ask to use your pen, I suggest you give it to them. They may want something from you so they can give you something better. I think Jesus is doing the same thing when he borrows a donkey for his triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

God does some of his greatest work with borrowed things, the womb of Joseph’s bride, stone water jars, a boy’s lunch, a new tomb, etc. But really, all of these things, and everything in our lives as well, are actually His, on loan to us.

Although it had never been ridden before, the donkey willingly lets Jesus ride. This is a good example for us. God wants to use us also to carry Jesus into all the world. He who wants us to let Him use our time, money, abilities, etc., is the one who first wanted our sin, guilt, death, etc. When He asks for something from us it is because He wants to give us something greater.

Please pray for us, praising God for His great mercy, thanking Him for leading and guiding us in mysterious ways and asking Him to help us know, believe and follow His word more closely.

Swahili sample

In case you didn’t recognize it, the song at the top of the first page is “Silent Night.” The Swahili translation is:

Usiku mtakatifu! Wengine walala
Night holy! Some (they) sleep
wakeshaoni Yosefu tu
They have seen Joseph only
na Maria Waliomlinda.
and Mary they guarded him
Yesu mwana...
Jesus son...

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

If you get this newsletter in print but could get it by email instead, it could save funds for our ministry.

Email us with your name and the mailing address now receiving it.

If you don’t desire to receive this newsletter, email us or call or write
Trinity Lutheran Church, 1010
Fleming, Garden City, KS 67846
(phone (620)276-3110)

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.