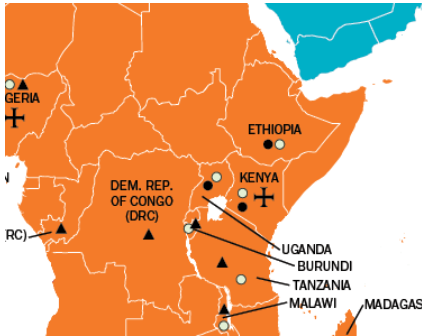




Newsletter of Rev. Vance and Linda Becker at Matongo, Kenya

August 2019

Why we are going to Kenya



LCMS work in East Africa

The fast-growing church in East Africa needs more pastors and other church workers. What is needed is not just any pastors, but pastors well trained to focus on God's work for us through Jesus and keep the cross of Christ at the center. Among the fastest growing churches in Africa are those that proclaim a "prosperity gospel" and those with a legalistic emphasis. One perverts the right use of the law and the other perverts the pure Gospel. Either way, the ship of the church tips over and sinks, robbing people of the assurance and comfort of salvation. This is why churches all over the world are asking the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for help in developing programs and training workers.

One of the places this is being done is Nema Lutheran College, Matongo, where the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya trains pastors and deaconesses. Vance has accepted a call from LCMS

International Mission to serve there as a theological educator and Linda has been appointed to serve there as well.

We believe God has been preparing us throughout our lives and ministries as a pastor and teacher to serve in a variety of ways at Matongo where the theological college shares a compound with other schools. God has made it clear to us that this is where He wants us to be at this time and continues to guide and prepare our way.

Pray for us, praising God for the openness to the Gospel in East Africa, thanking Him for the pastors, deaconesses, teachers and church leaders there, and asking that He provide for and protect all the work in Kenya and throughout East Africa.

Orientation Week

Orientation week, Aug. 5-10 in St. Louis was an intense experience. There was a lot to learn about doing many new things. We are glad there are two of us! We enjoyed meeting the support staff at the international center and other new missionaries, especially, Rev. Dr. Walter and Robyn Steele (to the right of us in the picture), who are going to the Theological College at Matongo also. We continue to learn new things every day!

Pray for us, praising God for the privilege of being His tools, thanking Him for all those who work together in growing His church, and asking Him to keep our brains from going into overload and meltdown.

Bible reflection

In Numbers 13 & 14, the twelve spies reported what they saw in the promised land, both huge fruit and huge people. Many feared that the challenge was too great. Joshua and Caleb did not deny the difficulties but reminded them that God was with them and would surely take care of them.

We realize that as we prepare to go to a new place, we too will find big blessings along with big challenges. We are confident that God be with us and He will take care of everything.

Pray for us, praising God for his wonderful plans and promises for us, thanking Him for the power with which He works for us and through us, and asking Him to give us confidence not in ourselves but in Him.



Meeting New People

In recent weeks we have enjoyed meeting people that God leads us to cross paths with as He prepares us for our work.

On Aug. 2 we spent the day at Mission Central, a branch office of LCMS International Mission, located in a corn field in western Iowa. There we met “Old Missionary” Gary Thies. He is a ball of fire, on fire for Jesus, who does an amazing job of raising support for missionaries. We toured the facility, including a barn chapel crammed with mission field artifacts. He whipped up an “Official Adoption Agreement” for us on the spot.

On the way home from St. Louis, we worshiped at Messiah Lutheran Church, Lakeville. Right as we walked in, we ran into pastor Kurt Klaus who made sure we were warmly welcomed and prayed for.

On Friday, noticing a garage sale across the street, we quickly stuck a “free” sign by our driveway and started hauling out piles of stuff that we knew we could neither store nor take with us. Up came a couple of nice women who took things right out of our hands - including our prayer cards when they learned we were getting ready to go to Kenya.

Pray for us, praising God for leading (and sometimes pushing) us every step of the way, thanking Him for the wonderful people we have met, and asking Him to keep connecting us to all the right people according to his plan.



Swahili sample

We have started learning Swahili, a common language in Kenya. “Jambo” is a common greeting. Literally, it means “thing” or “matter.” So, it’s like “How is it going?”

Scheduled visits

Come and met us at...

- Aug. 25 Good Shepherd, North Mankato, MN
- Sept. 1 Redeemer, New Ulm, MN
- Sept 8 Trinity, Ellettsville, IN
- Sept. 15 Peace in Christ, Frederick, MD
- Sept. 21 Emmanuel, Percy, IL
- Sept. 22 St. Paul’s, West Frankfort, IL
- Sept. 29 Our Redeemer, Iowa City, IA

Pray for us, praising God for giving so many people an eagerness to support Gospel outreach around the world, thanking Him for the opportunities we have to share about it, and asking Him to open doors for us to do this near us and near the places where we are scheduled to be going.

Connect with us.

Our email addresses are vance.becker@lcms.org and linda.becker@lcmsintl.org.

Vance now has a Facebook page that will focus on our ministry. Help us expand our network by liking it and sharing it and this newsletter with your friends. Let us know about yourself and prayer requests and we will keep you in our prayers as well.

People wonder...

How long will you be there?

This is a long-term call. We expect to be there until retirement, three to five years.



Financial support

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

There are several ways to do it.

- One is through Mission Central (missioncentral.us), a branch office of LCMS International Mission. Mail in an “adoption agreement” with a check written to “Mission Central” and “Becker/Kenya” in the memo.
- Checks can be mailed to *LCMS, P.O. Box 6861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861*, written to LCMS with Becker/Kenya in the memo.
- Give on-line at www.lcms.org/givenow/becker
- Give by phone at 888-843-5267.

Please pray for us, praising God for daily providing all we need and have through Fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, thanking Him for those who have received generously so that they can give generously, and asking that He would allow us to be fully supported soon so that we can begin work in Kenya.