

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

Training Lutheran Pastors and Deaconesses for Africa

LTS NEWS

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1 QTR IS HISTORY



We're already into the first week of the 2nd Quarter. That's because the Easter Holiday only starts off this weekend. Seven weeks of intensive work have now been completed and all Seminarians are ready for a break and breather. The visiting lecturers and professors gave our students additional food for thought and lots of extra work mainly reading, but also written assignments too. Still our students will not just rest, but have some revision to do still and also preparations for the rest of the 2nd Quarter and upcoming examinations in June.

We have had an intake of 10 new students from South Africa alone. That is why we could not accommodate applications from Benin, Ivory Coast, Uganda, Malawi amongst others. Hopefully we will soon find room to accept and train all those, who want to study theology in the hope to become Lutheran pastors in Africa.

Most of the renovations on the existing facility have been successfully carried out thanks to the excellent work of Mr Hennie

Myburg and his team of builders and painters and made possible by the donations and ongoing support of Seminary's good friends near and far. Now we can look at the next stage of necessary expansion and renewal of our Seminary, that have been on the back-burner for some time. The need for more living space for all our students, becomes obvious when we offer advanced courses and then struggle to accommodate the visiting teachers and students on campus, because all space has already been utilized and there is no room left for the visitors.

Renate Straeuli's plans for renewing and expanding the kitchen are receiving good support even as she is still trying to raise further awareness and necessary funding for this project to be implemented later on in this year.

We urgently need to find more library and office space for books and the growing number of teachers. We are grateful that we have so many books and even able teachers, yet we need to house them too.

Support to LTS benefits the spread of the Gospel in Africa. LTS trains pastoral and deaconess students from across Africa to faithfully serve the Church and its people according to all the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ (Mt 28,18ff) and his faithful servant Dr. Martin Luther.

In the U.S.A it is especially the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS President Matthew Harrison DD) and its World Mission (Dr. Albert Colver III) and district of South Illinois (SID: President Timothy Scharr) that support the LTS diligently and most helpfully. The St. Philip Lutheran Mission Society has joined this effort as have single congregations here and there. The Lutheran Church in Canada (President Dr. Robert Bugbee) also helps to fund a student at UP.

In Germany the "Lutherische Kirchenmission" (LKM—SELK) has promoted the LTS from inception and over decades through its local subsidiary Mission of Lutheran Churches (MLC). It still does so today and significantly too.

Locally LTS is maintained by its 3 founding members: The Free Evangelical Synod in South Africa (FELSISA), the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA) and the Mission of Lutheran Churches (MLC). We Seminarians are very grateful for all support and praise the Lord thankfully for all of you and his never ending mercy +

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Good to be back at LTS & UP

From 2008 to 2012, I was commissioned to teach classes in church history, and/or systematics at LTS in Tshwane. After an interruption of two years' time, I was now able to resume this task from February 14 to 28 this year. Although those former students in the meanwhile all have graduated from the seminary - some of them were even granted a master's degree by the University, many things seemed very familiar to me. This holds true for the campus itself, the daily devotions, contacts with the rector, Dr. Wilhelm Weber, jun. and pastor Nathan Mntambo. Meeting Deaconess Grace Rao, director of the LCMS deaconess Ministry, was again a special pleasure.

It was a challenge, of course, in the first days to get to know the new students – and for them to get to know me. But then it turned out a pleasure to discuss with them the theology of the church, the congregation, and the office of the ministry along the lines of confessional Lutheran standards. Some of the teachers at LTS, like Dr. Kalr Böhmer and pastor Jacob Corzine, used to be my students for a while at Lutherische Theologische Hochschule (Lutheran Theological Seminary), Oberursel, Germany. It is really a delight to see the upcoming generation engage in instructing future pastors and deaconesses for the great work that lies



Prof. Dr. Werner Klän seen here together with those Seminarians taking part in the Confession & Absolution service on Ash Wednesday led by local Pastor M.N. Mntambo . The children from the Day-Care-Centre under the leadership of Mrs. Thuli Bhengu—seated on the right—were also present.

ahead of our churches.

In the course of two weeks that I was staying in Pretoria, a meeting of the Trilateral Research Commission on Apartheid, established by LCSA, FELSISA and MLC/SELK in 2012 was held; the work is making progress, and may be linked to studies done by senior students of LTS in the future. The University of Pretoria, where I am appointed as extraordinary professor in the department of church history and church polity, invited me for a guest lecture. Contacts with the new head of department were made, and a reappointment envisioned.

With regard to the nearby congregations, on request of pastor Mar-

tin Paul I took the opportunity to preach on Sunday Invocavit in St. Paul's church down the road, and in addition gave a short presentation in both their youth group and the students' group led by pastor Jacob Corzine.

I am looking forward to coming back to south Africa again, God willing by the end of July/beginning of August, and then a third time this year in September. May God continue to bless the formation of confessional Lutheran pastors and the scholarly education of our post graduate students out of His abundant mercy.

Prof. Dr. Werner Klän: LTH Oberursel i.T. (SELK)

March 6th, 2015

First visit to LTS by Dr. Zieroth

Along with colleague, Prof. John Pless I was able to teach a 2 week intensive course on marriage and the family with an emphasis on the Biblical roles of men and women. I was able to use some of the background work from my doctoral dissertation on Christian parenting and my own manual on pre-marriage counseling. I met with some pastors, vicars, and senior students in the morning session and in the afternoon sessions we were able to add some deaconesses and first year students as well.

The Sunday after I arrived I was able to participate with the local pastors in the installation of the newly elected Bishop of the Lutheran church of Southern Africa, Bishop Maragelo. It was an experience of a lifetime! The following Sunday I was able to attend a German service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church down the road from the seminary.

Many thanks to my congregation back home, St. John's Lutheran, Chaska, MN for allowing me to come to Africa and teach, and for providing my way. My congregation also supplied several paperback copies of the Reader's edition of the Book of Concord to the first year students. These were presented to them after the chapel service I was able to preach at on Wednesday, March 11.

It was a great pleasure to interact with many of the students and their families during this time, along with the deaconesses and helpers working in the newly formed preschool on campus. They are 7 children who have now enrolled. It was also a delight to visit with these children, some who are children of the seminarians. Upon leaving I left a few books for the LTS library, with hope that more room will be made available for a "Family Ministry" section in the library.

Upon some free time I was able to sightsee and take in the beautiful city of Pretoria – the Union buildings, the downtown markets and Church Square, and the many embassies that I was able to see. Going out with the students on the last Wednesday and the braai on the following Thursday was an appropriate to end the weeks of teaching.

Many thanks to Dr. Wilhelm Weber for his hospitality and kindnesses shown to me, a true colleague and friend in the Lord. May God bless you all as continually preach the Gospel of Christ to a lost world. God willing, I will look forward to returning someday.

Dr. Gary Zieroth,
Chaska, MN (USA)



Dogmatics & Church Year



Professor John T. Pless (CTS Ft.Wayne) together after the Confession & Absolution service led by Pastor Musawenkosi N. Mntambo (LTS in Tshwane) and assisted by the student representative of LTS Chifunilo Thembo (Zambia). Besides teaching at the Seminary, Professor Pless also preaches regularly and making those sermons available on line too.

I was pleased to return to South Africa to teach a two –week senior course on “Dogmatics Through the Church Year” for eight students (and a few occasionally auditors) at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane (Pretoria), South Africa. The course worked through each of the major seasons and days of the Christian calendar looking at the historical development and the doctrinal themes of each season and festival day. Hymnody and liturgical practices were also examined but the major focus was on doctrinal preaching growing out of the lectionary. Each student received

and used a copy of Preaching from the Whole Bible by Bo Giertz. In addition to the Giertz book, I brought along twenty copies of Henry Hamann’s book, On Being a Christian for the students and nine copies of the Voelz Greek grammar for use by Enoch Macben’s Greek class. A number of new volumes were brought along for the LTS Library as well. I want to record my thanks to individuals and congregations for their generous donations. These gifts enabled me to furnish students and seminary with these books.

While in South Africa, I also brought greetings from LCMS

President Matthew Harrison at the installation of the new bishop of the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA), Bishop M.A. Maragelo on Sunday, March 1 at Salem. Approximately 600 people attended this festive, five-hour long service.

I preached at the LTS morning chapel service on March 3 and taught two Bible classes on apologetics for the Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Pretoria. I was also attended a braai hosted by Pastor Jacob Corzine for the campus ministry. Under Pastor Corzine’s leadership the campus ministry continues to grow and develop. It was good

to have the opportunity to consult with two of our students who are going graduate work in theology at the University of Pretoria. It was a pleasure to have Dr. Gary Zieroth (St. John Lutheran Church, Chaska, MN USA) as a teaching colleague on this trip. The two of us hosted a braai for the seminary students and their families on March 12.

The seminary faces ongoing challenges but is moving ahead in the confidence that God will provide. This year the seminary is filled to capacity with eleven new students (juniors) all from South Africa. Ties between the seminary and the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (FELSISA) are being strengthened. Dr. Karl Böhmer and Pastor Jacob Corzine are serving as adjunct instructors and providing valuable assistance to Dr. Weber. As I have said many times, LTS is strategically located to serve the cause of confessional Lutheranism in Africa. It deserves generous support from those of us in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

I am grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Weber for their hospitality for the first few days of my stay in Pretoria and to Pastor Corzine for opening his home to me for the remainder of the time. This trip would not have been possible without the donation of an airline ticket from Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Falls, Montana. I am deeply grateful to Trinity congregation and their pastor, Rev. Gerald Paul for their bountiful support.

God willing it, I will return to LTS in August for another two-week course and a retreat with pastors from the FELSISA on "Preaching the Law Today." Prof. John T. Pless (CTS Ft Wayne, IN USA): 18 March 2015



Professor John T. Pless (CTS Ft.Wayne) with the previous Dean of the North-West Revered Tebelo J. Mafereka (Potchefstroom LC) before the induction of Rev. Modise A. Maragelo (Kagiso, GP) into his office as Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa in Salem on the 1st March 2015: Sunday Reminiscere +



Some of the precious books Professor John T.Pless (CTS Ft.Wayne) brought for the St. Augustine library of the LTS in Tshwane) We are very grateful for his unrelenting support and also that of those, who support him to get here and provide those books—especially Pastor Gerald Paul and Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Falls, Montana. Thank you very much!

