

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

Training Lutheran Pastors and Deaconesses for Africa

LTS NEWS

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WE'RE HALFWAY ...

One down, another one to go. The first academic Semester of 2015 is behind us and we're looking towards the second one. It's winter up here in Pretoria and our first examinations of the year are in full-swing.

Our students are looking forward to the winter break while we teachers are glad that we've got some more time to prepare for the 2nd round of classes starting off with the 3rd Quarter in the latter half of July. Thanks to God and to his enduring mercy, we can say once again: "So far, so good!" Hallelujah +

All students, that started off with us at the beginning of the year are now busy writing the examinations. Some fell ill along the line, some were even tempted to give up, but in the end all persevered and are now trying their best to pass the grade even if there is quite a stretch to go yet and even passing this exam is not the end of the road yet.

This year we are expecting no graduates, except that four of our deaconess students are aiming to complete their supplementary training in our Day-Care-Centre and their correspondence course in Pre-School-Teaching at the end of this year.

The good news of that is that we'll have most of the students with us some more next year. The challenge is to provide sufficient living and studying space for newcomers, who are applying already from near and far. Hopefully we can start a new deaconess course in 2016.

Our student Ashenafi Desta Gonemo has successfully enrolled in CTS Ft.Wayne for the coming fall Quarter. This is mainly due to the untiring support and great input by

Danielle & Michael Grosse (Gunnison, CO), who have gone way beyond the proverbial extra-mile to make this possible in co-operation with the excellent team of professors and administrators at CTS Ft.Wayne.

We are very grateful for this and even more so as Rev. John Nkambule (MTh) has also got his stuff packed and is going for an intensive course right there in CTS Ft.Wayne starting off with their PhD program in Missions with Prof. Dr. Detlev Schulz. I'm sure this will spell out great personal gains for the students, but also immeasurable benefits for our Lutheran Church and Seminary here in Southern Africa.

It's not just about great expectations and high hopes though. We are also celebrating the promotion of Rev. Karl Böhmer to Doctor of Theology in CTS Ft.Wayne this month. That is wonderful news and we pray, that this will not only be a great enrichment to him personally, but bear much fruit for the Lutheran Church and Seminary in Southern Africa and beyond.

Although the 2nd Quarter was fragmented due to multiple Church holidays +national vacations, we had the privilege of having 2 guest lecturers with us in this time for 2 weeks each: Prof. Dr. John Nordling (CTS Ft.Wayne, IN) taught the Pastoral Letters of St. Paul whilst Prof. Dr. Edward Kettner (previously CS Edmonton, Canada and now retired in Kansas City, MO) lectured on Christology. Hopefully we can have these excellent men and faithful teachers and pastors of the Lutheran Church with us again soon.

*Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,
"Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting,
Who will bear the sheaves away?" Loud and long the master calls you;
Rich reward he offers free. Who will answer,
gladly saying, "Here am I. Send me, send me"?*

*If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus;
You can say he died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked
With the judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior's waiting arms.*

*If you cannot be a watchman,
Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
Offering life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what God demands;
You can be life faithful
Aaron, Holding up the prophet's hands.*

*Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the multitudes are dying
And the master calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly;
Let his work your pleasure be.
Answer quickly when he calls you,
"Here am I. Send me, send me!"*

David March 1816-1909 (Lutheran Worship 318)

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GOING TO CTS FT WAYNE

My name is Mbongeni John Nkambule. I am a pastor in the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. I serve Mohlakeng Parish. I am also lecturing at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane and am a Fundraising Co-Ordinator of the Seminary since April 2014. It is my honor and privilege to inform you that I am invited by Fort Wayne Seminary to an Intensive Course in June and July 2015. I really appreciate those who made it possible that I can go there to further my studies. I thank those brothers and sisters who because of love have donated so much funds towards my studies. I wish I can meet with them so that I can thank them in person.



I thank Dr. Weber junior who always believed in me that I can move forward and progress further in life. He always encourages me to grow and continue with my studies. I remember that an invitation to study at Fort Wayne came to me in 2012 already, but I was not sure if I could accept that invitation or not, until Dr. Weber made me understand that it was an opportunity of a life-time to study in Fort Wayne. My challenge was that it to leave my family without income and accommodation as I am the only bread winner.

I thank Professor Dr. Detlev Schulz for inviting me to study "Lutheran Missions" under your supervision. You were so patient with me even if I was not sure if I should go there or study here at the University of Pretoria. Your secretary Mrs Cindy Johnson did not tire to show me the benefit of studying in Fort Wayne.

I would like to thank the LTS for all its hard work that it could train me to be who I am today. I thank its Board of Directors for giving me ample opportunities and supporting me time and

again. I thank the lecturers for making me who I am today. They were amazing and well experienced. I thank the LTS supporters for providing funds that I could be taught and trained. I wish that they can continue with all types of support so that even more students from across the continent can benefit and so help and promote the Lutheran Church across the region and all its many and diverse people.

My family is so excited about such a precious opportunity. I thank God for blessing me with such a support-

ive family. My family has been supportive to me since I was busy with Masters in Theology, doing Church work and Seminary work. They are still happy and supportive to my trip even if I will be far and away from them for a long period of time. They strengthened me saying God will provide for their needs of income, accommodation and protection.

Hopefully by God's grace I aim to start the Ph.D Course in Missions with Dr. Schultz in CTS Ft Wayne September.

Glory be to God who gives us strength at all times. (Rev. M.J. Nkambule)

The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane prepares dedicated servants for service in Africa. LTS trains students from across African.

In the past these have come from South Africa, Botswana, Swaziland, Zambia, Madagascar, Tanzania, Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Ruanda, S. Sudan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia. Pastoral students of the LTS, who qualify may pursue a Bachelor of Theology (BTh) and even proceed with post-graduate studies with our accredited partner University of Pretoria (UP).

Prospective students need the recommendation and support of their home church for successful enrolment.

For more information contact LTS directly using the details on the last page of this LTS NEWS.

UPDATE ON ASHENAFI



Michael Grosse from Gunnison, Colorado writes: "I thought you might want a bit of an update on Ashenafi... This was the Sunday that we kept him at our church here in Gunnison, Colorado. Ashenafi not only presented the Power-Point presentation we have put together for the Seminary during Bible Class, but he also preached the sermon today with our Pastor Stevens on vacation.

Last week, we were in Minnesota at Pastor Zieroth's congregation outside of Minneapolis, where Ashenafi was introduced at all three church services and presented to their Bible Class and other interested people which numbered over 150. Ashenafi has been in 10 different states so far, and by the time he starts classes in September, I believe he will have been in over half of the states in the United States.

As you know, our first stop was the Southern Illinois District Convention. At the conclusion of their convention, Pastor Scharr sent the attached letter for us to use in approaching other districts and congregations. Early this morning we confirmed another opportunity for Ashenafi where he has been asked to preach at this congregation as well.

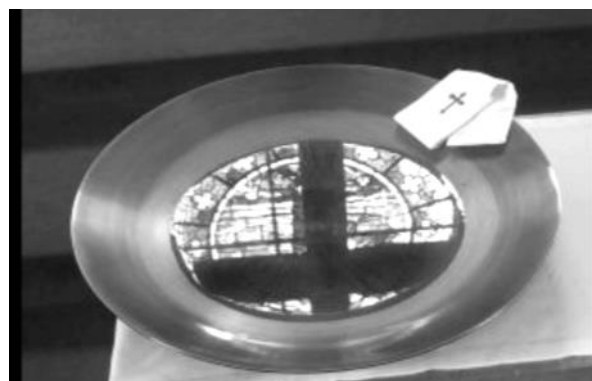
After church when we picked up the email, Ashenafi truly earned his stripes in my opinion. Many young pastors would be hesitant to preach, especially in a foreign country only knowing their language for four years. When I told him of this offer, I said he could use his Good Shepherd sermon he prepared for our church today as it was extremely well done. With a great deal of excitement in his

voice, hearing of the opportunity he said, "No, I would not want to do that, I will write another sermon for the Seventh Sunday of Easter to preach at Pastor Murphy's congregation!" I can assure you he is making you, the LTS, as well as the Board of Directors very proud.

On Tuesday, Ashenafi and I will fly to Ft. Wayne to begin a two week visit there for him. I will stay through a meeting on Wednesday with Professors Timothy Quill, Detlev Schulz, Leah Hanson, John Pless, John Nordling and Peter Scaer. (See picture) He will then present at two churches in the Ft. Wayne area, John Pless' personal congregation, Zion Lutheran Church, as well as St. John's in Columbia City on the following Sunday.

... Then on Saturday, I must fly to Scotland. I am still hopeful that I can fly in for the Board meeting, but it is getting pretty tight. At this point, I am going to ask to be excused just in case, but if things would go smoothly, I might surprise you!

Hopefully all of this work that Ashenafi is doing, and my follow up will ultimately translate into substantial additional support for the LTS."



Nordling: "Pastoral Letters"

I have had the privilege of teaching 1 Timothy for two weeks (13-24 April 2015) at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Pretoria, South Africa. This is my seventh teaching trip to South Africa and funding this venture has always been a challenge. In addition to my summer preaching engagements, where I show slides and attempt to solicit funds, this past year I secured a generous travel and expenses grant from the Elm Grove Lutheran Foundation (Elm Grove Lutheran Church, Elm Grove, WI; Rev. Eric Skovgaard) which covered my plane ticket and most additional expenses (Food; some books). A lesser gift was received from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Frankentrost, MI (Rev. Mark Loest). Of course, I am required to establish contacts with generous congregations and individuals in the US who support—willingly and generously—the many expenses involved in this ministry; but I have found Lutherans at home who are eager to learn more about the growth of the church in Africa and feel an especial bond with those students whom I feature in my

presentations. Hence, I am coming to think of my African teaching ventures as a kind of "two-way street," rather like St. Paul himself who wrote of the Gentiles that they were "pleased" to contribute to the impoverished saints at Jerusalem, and that they even "owed" the Jews (Rom 15:27). So I am finding that State-side Lutherans likewise are "pleased" to fund my travel, and that they feel some "obligation" towards helping the Lutheran church in Africa by funding my ministry.

Instruction for the Pastoral epistles class consisted of 3 hours of instruction per day. I projected the Greek text of 1 Timothy onto a screen and worked through selections of the material exegetically and theologically. I am pleased to report that we worked through the entire text of 1 Timothy in Greek, as well as selections of 2 Timothy and Titus, reinforced by daily quizzes. Obviously, 1 Timothy should be required reading for any pastor worthy of the name; that little epistle contains many warnings against false teaching, a description of the early church at prayer/worship (2:1-14), the statement that women should not teach nor "lord it over a man" in the

worship setting (2:11-14), qualifications of bishops (3:1-7), deacons (3:8-13), widows (5:3-16), elders/pastors (5:17-23), encouragement to "fight the good fight of faith" (6:11-16), exhortations for the rich (6:17-19), and much more. The students drank it all in and had many questions regarding the practical matters involved. As stated earlier, the course attracted the attentions of the Rev. Richard Munzhelele (ELCSA = Ev. Lutheran Church of South Africa, and not in fellowship with the two confessional Lutheran churches in South Africa) and our amicable exchanges before the students greatly enhanced the learning environment. I taught only the Seniors this time (5 students who know Greek at this level) but many Junior and Diaconess students came to hear my lecture on women not having authority over a man (1 Tim 2:11-15), and there were always one to three additional "hangers-on" whom I did not discourage from the lectures. I was also able to incorporate into my teaching relevant portions of Armin W. Schuetze's 1 & 2 Timothy/Titus (Concordia, 2005) which provides more a fresh translation and folksy paraphrase of the text than a scholarly treatment. This was provided by the LTS to the students as complimentary reading. I brought along two boxes of Lutheran Service Books (which had been dedicated by a disbanding congregation in Wisconsin) which I presented to Dr. Weber who will assign one hymnal per student to be used during the morning office (10:00 a.m.) as well as the Morning Suffrages and Evening Vespers. Thus, many of the students go to Chapel three times per day. Attendance was good, especially for the 10:00 a.m. service.

Here are the assignments I expected from each student in the 1 Timothy class: 7 quizzes 50%. An Assignment on



Schuetze (due over the weekend) 20% Class participation (attendance, questions) 10% Final Exam 20% Total 100 pts possible.

It was a relatively small class (5-7 students), as opposed to last year when I taught as many as 18 students per day. However, this was because I taught the Seniors this time—that is, those students who possess the Greek competency to benefit from an exegetical course on 1 Timothy at this level. I should point out that there is a full contingent of students at the Junior level who are learning beginning Greek from Mr. Enoch MacBen who, due to the generosity of the Southern Illinois District of the LCMS (Pres. Timothy Schaar), was able to complete the Fall Greek class with me at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne during the fall 2014 quarter (September-November). I think that Enoch is doing a creditable job of teaching Greek to these up-and-coming students, so hopefully I will have more Seniors to teach next year if I come about the same time. I was quite favorably impressed by the quality of the Junior students (with whom I ate lunch each day); most of the Juniors are from South Africa.

In addition to teaching the two week intensive Rector Weber requested my preaching at Chapel during the 10:00 a.m. services on 15 and 22 April, and the Rev. Nathan Mntambo asked me to preach Sunday 19 April at the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arcadia, which meets in the seminary Chapel. The Sunday service was packed to hear my sermon on 1 Pet 5:1-4 (Good Shepherd Sunday); following the service Rector Weber delivered an hour-long lecture on what it means to be a confessional Lutheran Church. Among several good



ideas presented afterwards was the suggestion of going to two services (early and late) because there is not room for everyone as it is. This would allow at least one hour of Bible class/Sunday School per week so that congregants can study the Word of God in greater depth, as well as an adult class for outsiders to study the Catechism in order to join the Lutheran church as full communicant members. I believe this would be a splendid plan and thereby eliminate some of the tensions generated by the fellowship issue. Also, there are plenty of confessional Lutheran pastors in the community who could teach these Sunday morning courses well and faithfully as happened in the time when Pastor Daniel Preus served the congregation back in the years 2006-2007.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Wilhelm Weber, Jr., his wonderful wife Angelika, and two

of their four children (Friederike, Detlev) who so kindly hosted me in their home throughout the entire two-and-a-half week period. Every day I'd wake at 6 a.m., breakfast, and accompany Angelika and kids in rush-hour traffic to the seminary—doing Latin on the way.

I received a free and nutritious lunch every day with the students at LTS prepared by Mrs. Renate Straeuli. Also, during my two weeks there.

It is vital that the LCMS continue to support LTS with our offerings and prayers, even as we respond to dramatic requests for assistance elsewhere. I welcome this opportunity to have served the Lord and his church by teaching at LTS in April 2015 and hope, by God's grace, to return to teach at LTS next year in April or May, then to teach selections from the Corinthian correspondence.

Dr. J. G. Nordling CTS Fort Wayne, IN

Training Christ's followers as pastors, teachers, evangelists, missionaries, bishops and deaconesses for faithful service in the Lutheran Church of Africa.

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

Arcadia Street 790

P.O. Box 12547; Hatfield 0028

Tel/Fax: 012 344 2302

Email: LTSinTshwane@gmail.com

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[LTS in Tshwane](mailto:LTSinTshwane@gmail.com)

Pastor Böhmer promoted:

Congratulations Doctor!

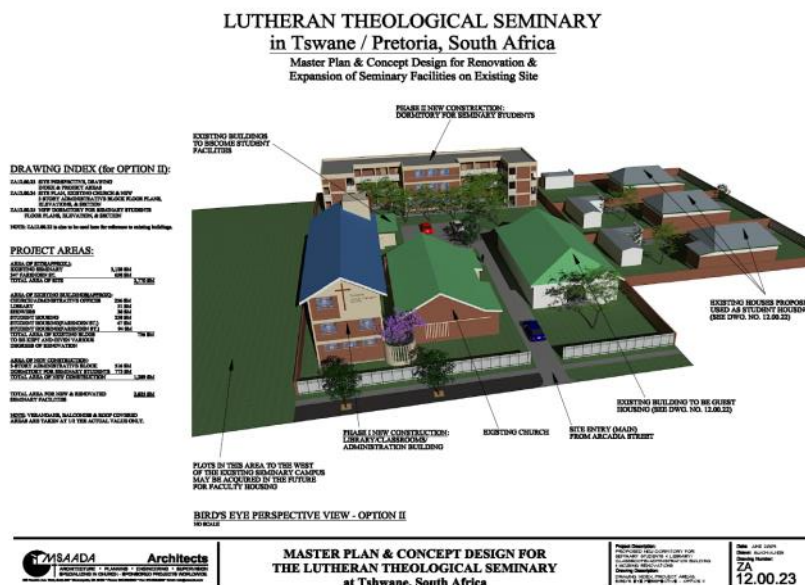
In December of 2009, my long-held hope of pursuing post-graduate studies finally became a reality: I was enrolled in the Ph.D. program at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS) in Ft Wayne, Indiana, USA. Much of this was due to the support of the congregation I served at the time, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Gunnison, Colorado. And thus it began. When it came time to write the dissertation, I relocated to my native South Africa with my family, focusing on completing my studies full time. On May 22, 2015, I graduated from the program.



The day was beautiful. In the morning, we attended the baccalaureate service. Then it was time for the commencement service, a festive occasion with processions and rousing hymns.

When it was my turn, my promotor Dr. Schulz read out the title of my dissertation and announced that I had fulfilled the requirements for the PhD degree.

Plans for further development



Hopefully we can soon build a bigger church & a sanctuary to accommodate the growing numbers of Lutherans gathering here for bible and theological studies, divine services, classes, meetings and consultations.

Coming up:

- 17-28 August: Prof. Pless: "Lord's Supper"
- Winter Break: 13-June—19 July
- 4 September: End of 1st Quarter
- 27 July—7 August: Prof. Dr. Klän "Orthodoxy & Pietism"
- 5 September: LTS Open Day
- 28 July: Board Meeting
- 7 September: Beginning of 2nd Quarter

Even though my dear wife could not be with me, and even though I was suffering from spring-time allergies, it was a moment of tremendous fulfilment, joy, exhilaration, relief, and gratitude to God in heaven. It was a moment many, many years in the making, and the crowning joy on a great deal of hard work.

As I sit in my office now, mulling over those events, it would seem as if all I have to show for all the sacrifices is a little golden tassel with the date "2015" on it. You see, this is really the only memento I got to keep. I had to return the rented cap, I had to return the gown, the degree certificate has yet to be issued...

But this is not so. What I got from my studies is a whole lot more than a tassel. It is intangible, but words like growth, blessing, developing one's gifts, learning, methodology, skills, rite of passage, benefit, privilege, and doing what you are passionate about go some ways toward describing it. Thanks be to God in Christ. And if I had to do it all over again, I would not hesitate, even for a second.

Rev. Dr. Karl Böhmer