

# NEWS FROM THE CLAUSING FAMILY, SERVING THE LORD IN KENYA.

JULY 2017

888-THE-LCMS  
www.lcms.org  
infocenter@lcms.org



*Back row, left to right:*  
Rev. Jonathan Clausing 8.20.75  
Mrs. Anita Clausing 12.9.74  
Emmanuel 3.6.15  
Emil 10.29.99  
Ellie 1.10.02

*Middle row, left to right:*  
Ethan 5.8.08  
Eunice 6.1.06  
Ernie 7.16.04

*Front row, left to right:* Eileen 8.21.11, Eric 12.16.09, Elijah 7.3.13



## BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SEMINARY

Dear Friends in Christ,

We all know that the Nile River goes through Egypt and was an important part of the story of Exodus when God miraculously turned its waters to blood just before the Israelites departed from slavery. Maybe a little less well known is the fact that the Nile originates far to the south in the country of Uganda, just west of Kenya, where it emerges from Lake Victoria at a city named Jinja.

It was to Jinja that I was invited earlier this month to meet with pastors and lay leaders of the Lutheran Church of Uganda (LCU) to discuss the restarting of their mission training center (MTC) program. As I've written in a previous newsletter, the LCU is a small but growing church challenged by the common problem of a small number of

pastors called to serve a large number of congregations.

During the past two years the educational focus of the LCU has been the founding of its seminary in Jinja, and by God's grace that seminary is now about to begin its second academic year. With the seminary program underway, Rev. Charles Bameka, Bishop of the LCU, views the time as ripe also to begin an MTC program.

MTC education differs from seminary education in that, while the seminary's is a four-year residential program, the MTC program is two-year and non-residential. MTC students travel to attend local weekend seminars, but they return to their homes and parishes during the week.

In Uganda, the MTCs will serve two main purposes. First, they will provide theological training to deacons who serve parishes under the supervision of ordained pastors. Second, they will provide a pre-seminary education, and candidates for the seminary will be chosen from among the most capable MTC graduates. It was this second purpose that was especially emphasized by the Ugandan pastors during our meeting. As one put it, "The gap between Sunday school and seminary is too big, and young men cannot go directly from one to the other. We need something to bridge the gap to prepare men for seminary."

The LCU has had an MTC program in the past, but due to administrative and funding problems it was discontinued.

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at [www.lcms.org/service](http://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

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Most of the pastors at our meeting, however, are themselves products of the old MTC program and spoke highly of its value in spite of the challenges that led to its demise. Much of our discussion centered on wisdom gained from their past experiences with the program and how that wisdom can be applied as the church moves forward. As in all things, we make our plans, yet God determines our steps. May He bless this new endeavor of the LCU.

Back in Nairobi, the Clausing family is doing well. A few newsworthy items are that Emil will be taking some online dual-credit courses this next year through Concordia University Wisconsin, Ernie enjoyed his backpacking adventure up to the



*Ernie at the Foot of the Lewis Glacier*

glaciers of Mt. Kenya, just north of the city, and Eljiah turned 4.

As always, thanks for your support!

Yours in Christ,  
*Rev. & Mrs. Clausing*  
*Emil Ellie Ernie*  
*Eunice Ethan Eric*  
*Eileen Elijah Emmanuel*



## Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

Pray that many young men would be well-equipped to serve the church through the LCU's new mission training center program. Pray especially for the program's national coordinator, Rev. Paul Sserwaniko.

Pray for peaceful Kenyan national elections on August 8, that wise and faithful leaders would be elected, and that citizens would willingly submit to their authority.

Pray for Anita's mother and uncle, who both happen to be scheduled for two unrelated surgeries later today.

Pray for wisdom as my oldest son Emil enters his senior year of high school and begins searching and making plans for college.



*Pastors of the Lutheran Church in Uganda enjoyed their time together during our July planning meeting for the LCU's mission training center program in Jinja.*

To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Jonathan Clausing, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

-OR-

Mission Central  
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