

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

SEPTEMBER 2017

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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



A NEW TEACHING ASSIGNMENT

Dear Friends in Christ,

This fall I have a big change in my schedule. Each Wednesday I'm teaching a full day of classes in the school of theology at Neema Lutheran College at Matongo in western Kenya (<http://neemalutherancollege.ac.ke>). The school offers a bachelor's degree and certificate programs to prepare pastors and deaconesses for service in the church, both in Kenya and a variety of other east African countries. The word *Neema* in the school's name is the Swahili word for *grace*.

Matongo offers its classes in three-hour blocks that meet once per week, and I am responsible for two of them. For bachelor of theology students I teach a course on the Catholic Epistles (James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, and Jude), and for

diploma students I teach Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). All the students have studied New Testament Greek, so we are able to study the words of scripture in great depth in order that these men will be equipped to proclaim the saving good news of Jesus Christ to their people carefully and faithfully.

This new teaching assignment developed only this past summer when the theology faculty at Matongo found themselves a little short-handed as the new semester approached, and my assistance there helps reduce the already-heavy teaching load of the full-time faculty. It's certainly a less-than-ideal situation, because my family and I still live in Nairobi. I commute out to the school every Tuesday and return on

Thursday; but after three weeks of teaching we're finding it to be a workable short-term solution.

I'm not the only LCMS missionary serving at Matongo. Rev. Dr. Tom Aadland serves as dean of the theological faculty, Rev. Charles Froh and his wife Jan are members of the faculty, and our dear friend Georgia Witt serves as the school's head librarian. I've also been grateful for the opportunity finally to meet and work under Rev. Dr. Tom Omolo, principal of the school. Dr. Omolo is a Kenyan who studied at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis at the same time as I was teaching locally at Lutheran High. Though we lived only a few miles apart for several years in the United States and have many mutual friends, we've

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never met until this year.

At the Clausing house, the fall semester is also fully underway. In addition to their regular homeschool lessons, Emil's, Ellie's, and Ernie's online classes have all begun, and the local homeschool coop also resumed its weekly meetings this week.

One fun new tradition that has developed for our family over the past month is singing together as a choir. For a long time we've sung hymns at home in four-part harmony, but this summer we received a few books of *a cappella* sacred motets. The interweaving melodies of these pieces are much more challenging to sing than hymns, but very rewarding once the kids master them. Practicing them has been good family time at home,

and we've also been able to contribute a few of them to the divine service on Sundays.

Finally, we look forward to celebrating with Ernie and Eunice as they are confirmed on October 29, Reformation Sunday. They'll be part of the confirmation class at our home congregation, Chapel of the Cross, *in absentia*, and Pastor Kuddes (who has been catechizing them) will lead the rite of confirmation here in Nairobi.

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 for my new students and the whole school community at Matongo, that God would equip faithful preachers and teachers of His Word through the training that takes place there.

Thank God that Anita has fully recovered from most of her health problems over the past month. Her eye infection, the only remaining issue, is also getting much better under treatment.

Pray for peace in Kenya and for good government. The supreme court has nullified the results of the presidential election held in August, and there will be a new election in October. Tensions remain high in the country.



My Synoptic Gospels Class at Matongo

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
 40718 Highway E-16
 Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Include "Clausing-Kenya" in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/clausing.

