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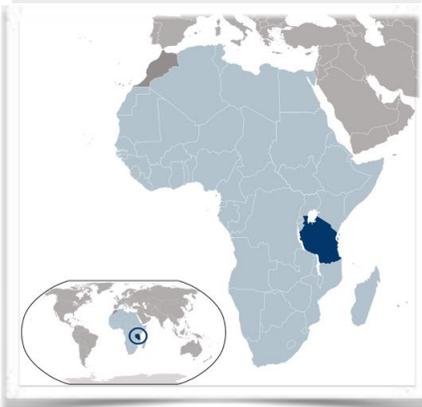
To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Jonathan Clausing, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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Parishioners exit the newly dedicated church building at Ugweno.

A New LCEA Congregation

Last Sunday I had to stop our van three times on the way to church in order to walk ahead and scope out the road to determine if it was passable. Our destination was a place I'd never been before - the newest congregation of the Lutheran Church in East Africa in a place called Ugweno - and Archbishop Angowi, several local pastors, and I were going there for its formal dedication. The church building itself sits high on a steep ridge of the Pare Mountains, which rise like a fertile island in the sky above the relatively drier Tanzanian plains below.

Despite the slightly precarious drive to our destination, the day was a joyful one. The church grounds and building had been spruced up to immaculate condition, members of the community eagerly welcomed us, and during the three-hour dedication service a baby was baptized (Her name is *Upendo*, the Swahili word for *love*.) A brass trio, two trumpets and trombone,



Our Family

Anita and I were married on August 16, 1997 and have been blessed with nine children.

Back Row, Left to Right:

- Emil (10.29.99), currently studying at Concordia University, Chicago
- Eleanor (1.10.02)
- Jonathan (8.20.75)
- Anita (12.9.74)
- Ernest (7.16.04)
- Eunice (6.1.06)
- Ethan (5.8.08)

Front Row, Left to Right

- Eric (12.16.09)
- Eileen (8.21.11)
- Elijah (7.3.13)
- Emmanuel (3.6.15)

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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. Click on "Service Opportunities."

accompanied many of the hymns during the service and played on during the congregational meal that followed.

Only one thing was missing that day: a pastor who will continue to preach weekly at Ugweno in Sundays to come. Like so many congregations, the congregation will receive visits when possible from neighboring pastors, but there are simply not enough pastors to preside at every congregation every Sunday. Bishop Angowi dedicated the new parish in a single day, but it will take years to train a man to shepherd that flock.

A new semester at St. Peter Theological Seminary will begin later this month, and, for me, the visit to the Ugweno parish was a fitting prelude to the prayer, study, and formation that will go on at the seminary. The need for well-trained pastors is real, and you in America who have sent me here are instruments of God in contributing toward that need. Thank you, and please pray for the students, teachers, pastors, and congregations of the LCEA as we begin the new year working together. A merry Christmas and blessed Epiphany to everyone from the Clausing!



The First Baptism in the Newly Dedicated Congregation