



A TIME TO GROW:



Did you know that Uganda has two growing seasons per year? In this part of the world, there are rainy seasons and dry seasons. So planting crops coincides with the rainy seasons.

Right now in Uganda, we are in the middle of a rainy season. This means people are active in their gardens.

There are large gardens at the seminary. We also have a garden at our house! In the picture above, you can see the items that were planted:

- Maize (corn)
- Dodo (greens)
- Ground nuts (peanuts)
- Cucumbers

We praise God for his continued provision!



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Life Together - Holy Baptism



Bishop Charles Bameka baptizing a child in Bubago, Uganda

As Christians, life together in Christ allows us to focus on the mission that He sets before us. Even though barriers often persist, our God is ever faithful in providing for our needs, and giving opportunities for us to share the love of Christ with the people He puts before us. This past month, life together for the Lutheran Church of Uganda (LCU) included two instances where they continue to walk together, share the love of Christ and proclaim His name.

The LCU continues to grow, as they evangelize and share the love of God in communities throughout Uganda. Recently, one of the areas where the LCU has been preaching and teaching is Bubago, Uganda, which is about 1 hour away from Jinja. As they spent time with the community, they learned many people in the community were not baptized. The LCU saw the need to continue to minister to the people of

Bubago, encourage them, and continue to teach them the Word of the Lord.

On one Sunday morning, the congregation gathered under tents for a worship service. Bishop Bameka and Rev. Peter Maganda (Dean of the Eastern Deanery) led worship. After reading Acts 2: 42-47 in worship, parents gathered with their children around the altar for Holy Baptism.

210 people were baptized that day! We celebrated alongside as the family of God multiplied! We praise God for these moments. The faithful believers at Bubago continue to gather together for worship, and the church continues to minister to their spiritual needs. Please pray for the community in Bubago, and for the LCU as they remain faithful in teaching and preaching God's Word.

Life Together - Team Ministry

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The newly baptized people, and their families in Bubago, as they continue to grow in the faith
- The LCU as they continue to share the Word of the Lord in their communities
- Rev. Erifazi Buluba and his family, especially as he begins his service as an ordained minister within the LCU

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Our upcoming anniversary on May 26th
- The opportunity for us to get together with our missionary colleagues in East Africa for our annual retreat in Kenya
- Opportunities to connect with congregations and schools in the US via Skype, most recently St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Glen Burnie, MD and St. Paul's Lutheran School in Ann Arbor, MI

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The wonderful individuals, congregations and groups who continue to support us through prayer, encouragement, and financial partnerships. We're very grateful for your servant hearts!



LCU pastors gather around Erifazi Buluba to encourage him with Scripture and prayers in their native language

The second area of life together for the Lutheran Church of Uganda was at the wedding and ordination of Rev. Erifazi Buluba.

As you may have heard us share before, the LCU works daily to expand the kingdom of God in Uganda. Even though there are now over 135 congregations, there are few pastors to do His work.

Recently, there have been men from the Lutheran Church of Uganda that graduated from the neighboring Lutheran seminary in Matongo, Kenya, including Erifazi Buluba.

For Erifazi's wedding and ordination, it was very much a church and community event. In other church denominations throughout Uganda, not all ordinations are done where the local community can witness and participate. Yet, the LCU finds value in actively inviting the congregation and community to be a part of these ministry events. It is one of the ways they use to teach about the church.

The most meaningful part of the ordination for us was witnessing and hearing the pastors gather around Erifazi and pray for him in their native language. It further showed the unity in Christ these men have, even though they come from different backgrounds, languages and experiences. They all belong to the body of Christ. The deans and pastors from other regions were able to assist in the ordination and encourage Erifazi in this way.

Another aspect to this day was witnessing the excitement and joy of the community. They worked together to prepare the church and to put on the reception. They also openly displayed the joy of the Lord for their new pastor, Rev. Erifazi Buluba. We are thankful for these moments of celebration in ministry. We praise God for the twentieth pastor who joyfully serves in the LCU.

"Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the field be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy."

~ Psalm 96:11-12

In Joyful Service,

Mark & Megan Mantey



To support the LCMS through the work of Mark and Megan Mantey, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
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OR THROUGH:

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Please include "Mantey - Uganda Support" on the memo line of your check.

Gifts can also be given securely online at www.lcms.org/mantey.