

The Evangel in Ethiopia



Addis Ababa—Greetings in Christ from Ethiopia! The Lord, He is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

We just celebrated Easter twice in the last two weeks. One, was the “foreigner Easter” that passed on April 21st. The second Easter came on the Ethiopian calendar (in the month of Meeyazeeya) and was this past Sunday, April 28th. We were able to attend the Easter vigil at the Mekanisa church in Addis Ababa, just down the road from us. It was a blessing to be reminded of our Lord’s resurrection two weeks in a row.



The Easter vigil is different than the traditions that we have in the United States. The service begins at 7:00 pm on Saturday night and goes through the night with the parishioners heading home in the small hours of Easter morning. The service has many “programs” so to speak which include different preachers, scripture readings, singing by the congregation and the choirs. Additionally, there is no service in the morning. Many foreigners have made this mistake, thinking that they will go to the Easter morning service and finding no one at the churches. Instead, the families then spend the day visiting and having their get-togethers for the remainder of the day, greeting one another with the familiar words of Christians around the world on Resurrection Sunday.

The students here at the seminary also have time off this week to see their families. Most have traveled home, and of course, the masters students will be trying to finish their thesis papers and final papers as graduation is now approaching in the middle of June. We keep them in prayer in this busy and stressful time. Thanks be to God for our risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

Did you know . . . ?

We have seen many goats and chickens this past week riding on top of buses or cars or being led or carried by people down the street. This is because a chicken will become “doro wet”, a traditional spicy chicken dish, and goat is considered the special meat for Easter (like a turkey to us on Thanksgiving).



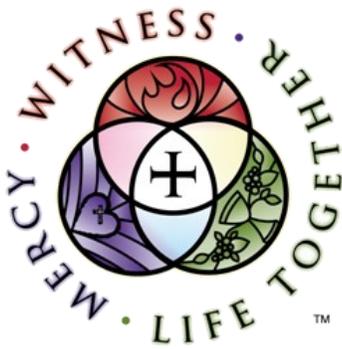
Bethel Pottery



Pottery making was a great field trip that we took this past month with our homeschool group. Located in the mountains just outside of Addis Ababa, the whole event took place outdoors with local women potters who helped even the youngest ones have success with their molding and shaping. We were thankful for their patience and kindness.

Amharic— the name for Good Friday is S’cklet or ስቅለት literally meaning the crucifixion day





What Have We Been Doing & Seeing Lately?

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- the MA students who are now working on their final papers and thesis papers
- continued forward progress in language training and understanding
- Eric's travels, while he is in Tanzania, teaching an intensive course on the Easter break
- peace here in Ethiopia and safety
- that we can find and obtain immunizations for Levi

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- beautiful and uplifting Easter services
- the growth of the students

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- our fellow missionaries, the Rabe family
- all of our supporters in prayer and finances
- the faithful message being taught and lived out by the LCMS in mission here in Ethiopia
- good health lately



From top left: Rev. Mark Rabe & Eric conducting our "western" Easter services; Levi is growing; Luke at the pottery place in the Oromo region making a little bowl; traditional Ethiopian art—here depicting Jesus washing the disciples' feet on Maundy Thursday; Rev. Yonas Yigezu (President of the EECMY) giving an Easter vigil talk



Closing Thoughts . . . Our Lord is always working through His people. We remember the Ethiopian eunuch: "So Philip ran to him (the eunuch) and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" (*Acts 8:30ff*) Thank you in Jesus' Name for your support of the work which God has laid before us.

In Service to Christ— Eric, Johanna, Rachael, Naomi, Luke & Levi

Missions Anyone?

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

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to either:

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