



Did you know . . . ?

The Marabou Stork stands about 5 feet tall, weighs about 20 lbs. and has a wingspan of about 11 feet! It will eat literally almost anything, dead or alive, and is found in wetland areas. This one is near Lake Ziway, Ethiopia. It also may be the ugliest bird we have seen and smells badly when close.



The Evangel in Ethiopia

Thesis Proposal Defense and New Amharic Hymnal

Addis Ababa—It is thesis time again! In addition to my regular teaching responsibilities, we had MA thesis proposal defenses, which meant I was quite busy with my advisees as they prepared their proposals, and then with assessing the proposals from the entire second year class. Additionally, October marked the midpoint of the semester with mid-term exams. Writing and grading exams can be time consuming, but I enjoy seeing how much my students have learned and retained.



Kes Yonas dedicates the hymnal

However, the most exciting thing to happen in October was the completion of the EECMY Amharic hymnal project – *Sebhat LeAmlak* (ሰብሃት ለአምላክ). The LCMS has been working with the EECMY for about 5 years to update and improve their Amharic hymnal. It has finally been finished with many classic Lutheran hymns added in, along with a few minor adjustments to the liturgy. A test run of 500 hymnals has been printed and things are moving along. To kick off this new hymnal, we held a two day conference/workshop taught by Sandra Rhein and myself. We discussed the theology of worship, leading worship, liturgy, and teaching hymnody and introducing some “new” hymns, such as *Salvation Unto Us Has Come*. The President of the EECMY (Kes Yonas) was present to dedicate the new hymnals for use in the EECMY. I truly enjoyed hearing some of the classic Lutheran hymns sung with Ethiopian embellishments and style as the group made these hymns their own. The hymnal was well received by all in attendance and I expect that it will be a tremendous blessing for the church for many years to come. Once again, I find myself looking back in excitement and thanksgiving at the many things our Lord is accomplishing here. And again, I need to thank you for choosing to be an important part of this work by your support.

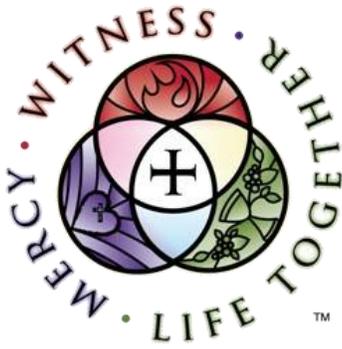
Printing the New Hymnals



The new ሰብሃት ለአምላክ or *Sebhat LeAmlak* hymnal was printed this past month. We were so thankful for the company who did it—they printed it in just a few weeks after some initial delays in the project. In order to finish it in time for the conference, they actually hired an extra shift to work at night. The hymnal will now go into a 6 month field testing time after which hopefully corrections will be made and a larger print will be done. It was so great to be a part of this and help it come together.

Amharic— to say “Devotion to God” *Sebhat LeAmlak* you would say ሰብሃት ለአምላክ:: (Seb-hot Le-Ahm-lock)





What Have We Been Doing & Seeing Lately?

From top left: Last minute directions at the hymnal conference; Johanna & Sandra Rhein with a studio recording technician & Tsegahun at the completion of the audio recordings; Julianna, Rachael & Gabriella (all LCMS missionary kids here in Ethiopia) participate in a track meet; a packed hall for the dedication of the hymnal; Sandra & Naomi on Lake Ziway to see hippos



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- the Masters students who are struggling to work on their theses and research work and balance all of their studies and work and for their advisors
- finding a new language teacher and time to study

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- the new Amharic hymnal being completed and printed
- the audio recordings for the hymnal were finished
- a successful completion of the hymnal conference that was well attended

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- our fellow missionaries, the Rabe family and Kaisers
- all of our supporters in prayer and finances
- the new hymnal being dedicated by President Yonas
- Sandra Rhein (hymnal consultant LCMS) and for all the people who worked so hard to help complete this project



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:

<p>Mission Central c/o Gary W. Thies 40718 Highway E 16 Mapleton, IA 51034-7105 Checks payable to: Mission Central Memo line: Stinnetts-Ethiopia</p>	<p>OR</p>	<p>The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 Checks payable to: LCMS Mark Memo line: Stinnetts-Ethiopia Give securely online: lcms.org/stinnett</p>
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