



Jambo

Jesus in Action with the Matongo Beckers & Others



Newsletter of Rev. Vance and Linda Becker at Matongo, Kenya December 2019

Much to Be Thankful for

For most of November we were on a trip through Kansas, where Vance grew up, and Nebraska. Kansas was very welcoming with sometimes several presentations in a day. We were in beautiful churches, experienced varieties of worship, met many people excited about LCMS mission and were quite well fed. There is not room to go into details, but thanks to all the pastors, people, and overnight hosts at Trinity, Garden City; Grace, Ulysses; Holy Cross, Dodge City; Messiah, Hays; Immanuel, Ellsworth, Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove, St. John, Ellinwood; St. John, Aliceville;

St. John, Topeka; St. Matthew, Lee's Summit (MO); Messiah, Independence (MO); Our Savior, Kansas City; and Trinity, Holton.



Since our return to Minnesota, we have been welcomed by old friends at St. John, Woodbury;



Retired missionary James Vehling, standing on left, at Woodbury



Greeting in Garden City – Vance's mother is in the LWML purple dress.



A highlight of our time in Nebraska was a mission fest dinner for Orphan Grain Train and Mission Central by the S.O.S. group at Christ, Norfolk, where we were invited to the school the next morning.

Our Savior, Mankato; Immanuel, Courtland; First, Waldorf; and Centennial, Henderson.



Pray for us, praising God for the privilege of being his tools, thanking Him for those who work together in God's kingdom, and asking Him to open doors, provide for us, and



keep us safe as we travel.

We were also privileged to visit Holy Savior, Lincoln (home of fellow missionary Chelsea Irwin); Zion, Shickley; Pacific Hills and King of Kings,



Brother Curtis making a video for King of Kings



Pastors' social at Mankato



At Sylvan Grove, people brought letters by Vance's great Uncle, missionary to Brazil.

Vance's father's grave at Aliceville



Omaha; Good Shepherd, Gretna; Redeemer, Staplehurst; and St. Paul, Council Bluffs (IA). St. Paul's Music Conservatory provides resources for the mission field.

Swahili sample

In Kenya, the way to say Merry Christmas is "Heri (blessed) ya Krismasi" or say "Nakutakia (I wish you) Krismisi njema (good)"; or say "Krismasi na kushangalia (rejoice)."

Room in the Inn and other places

Since pulling up roots and selling our house, we are now living out of suitcases and “couch surfing” with relatives, which makes us look



forward all the more to settling down in Kenya.

Linda's office on her sister's table

Our running joke is “Missionary or homeless person?” when we ask for money from strangers, hang out for hours in coffee shops and libraries, sleep in a different bed every day or two, show up at churches with a meal being served, change in public bathrooms, etc.



Pray for us, praising God for His full control of everything, thanking Him for providing all we need, and asking Him to give us health and strength as we prepare to leave soon for Africa.

Bible reflection

In my Bible reading schedule (see [vance.becker.lcms](https://www.facebook.com/vance.becker.lcms) on facebook) December begins with Micah. This is where the prophecy of the Messiah coming from Bethlehem is found.

But that verse is in the middle of a lot of condemnation and warning. It is not Christmas yet. Advent is time for sober reflection on why we need a Savior, a time for repentance.

In daily life also, God's love and promises are found in the midst of all kinds of troubles, many brought on by our own sinful weakness. They are more precious and beautiful to us

when, like a star in the night, we see more clearly how we need them.

Pray for us, praising God for His amazing plans and promises, thanking Him for his patient grace despite all we deserve, and asking Him to give us confident trust in Him even when (as we should know to expect) things to go wrong.

Scheduled visits

Come and meet us at...

- Dec. 10, noon and 6:30 pm talk, Our Savior, Hutchinson, MN
- Dec. 11, noon talk, Emmaus, St. Paul, MN
- Dec. 16, 10 am talk, St. James, Chicago, IL
- Dec. 18, 7 pm worship & talk, Hosanna, Buffalo, MN
- Dec. 19, noon talk, Trinity, Faribault, MN
- Dec. 28, 5:30 pm worship, Trinity, Garden City, KS
- Dec. 29, 9 am worship, Trinity, Garden City, KS
- Dec. 29, 5:30 pm, worship, Grace, Ulysses, KS
- Jan. 5, 9:30 am talk, Holy Trinity, Edmond, OK

Pray for us, praising God for giving so many people an eagerness to support Gospel outreach around the world, thanking Him for the opportunities we have to share about it, and asking Him to open doors to do this near the places are going.

Connect with us.

Email us at vance.becker@lcms.org & linda.becker@lcmsintl.org

Help expand our network by liking [vance.becker.lcms](https://www.facebook.com/vance.becker.lcms) on facebook and sharing it and this newsletter with friends. Let us know about yourself and prayer requests. We will pray for you too.

People wonder...

How old and how big is our partner Church in Kenya?

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya began in 1948 through the Swedish Lutheran Mission. It now has 100,000 members in 520 congregations, with 121 pastors and 200 evangelists.

Matongo Lutheran Theological College was started in 1977.

The LCMS has worked with the ELCK since 1998. Our work there includes theological training, “Christ Care for Children” child sponsor program, “Project 24” children’s outreach, agriculture consulting, and refugee camp ministry.

Financial support

All our funding comes through the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, not just an office in St. Louis but the people and congregations. We are grateful for many generous people, for yearly & monthly gifts, and also single gifts.

A monthly or yearly gift is ideal but a start-up gift is also very helpful.

• Checks written to LCMS with Becker/Kenya in the memo can be mailed to: *LCMS, P.O. Box 6861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861*

or *Mission Central, 40718 Highway E16, Mapleton, IA 51034-7105* (missioncentral.us),

• Give on-line at

www.lcms.org/givenow/becker

• Give by phone at 888-843-5267.

Please pray for us, praising God for daily providing out of Fatherly, goodness and mercy, thanking Him for those who are able to give generously, and asking Him to keep providing funds for this work.