

# THE MISSIONARY'S VOICE

SERVING THE LORD IN

## GHANA

NEWS FROM THE SCHUMACHERS



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## Theological Formation Has Many Aspects



### LENT

*"But we see Him . . . namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone."*  
Hebrew 2:9 ESV

"Lent is a time for the discipline of learning and growing in faith, for repentance and for prayer, even fasting to practice self-control and to heighten one's awareness of Christ. It is intended that the special consideration of Christ's suffering and death, . . . will be concentrated in the week of Palm Sunday to Easter."

*Lutheran Worship: History and Practice, p. 166*

In these days of Covid-19 quarantines, border closures, canceled worship services, suspended school terms, and social distancing; we have such a time as this to ponder on our Savior's suffering passion for us. A time to reflect upon our baptism, a time for rebirth, and renewal in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

Let us take this time of Lent and remind ourselves about something special—spiritual cleansing and the deepening of devotional life.



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to [Cynthia.schumacher@lcms.org](mailto:Cynthia.schumacher@lcms.org) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.



Photo by: Cynthia Schumacher

### Rev. Dr. Schumacher and The Lutheran Theological Seminary, Ghana Students

Christian church bodies, through time and around the world, have depended upon theological formation for the development of educated theological leaders. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (ELCG) established her own seminary in 1998 to equip men for the office of pastor. The program had become wanting so my purpose, for being here, is to teach and mentor the seminary administration leadership.

One student demonstrated his lack of understanding the purpose for theological education. In class one day he said, "*Why do I need to come and spend years at the seminary when I could be back home, taking care of my family and church?*" His point was that Jesus' disciples sat at His feet listening, watched His miracles and went out as Jesus sent them. They did not have to read, write papers, or take test.

The answer to his question is found in the story of Moses. God, Himself, established Moses' theological education as he stood

before the burning bush. God promised Moses that He would be with him and teach him what to say and do.

During my six years of teaching here, I have gained an understanding of three different educational methods used by Ghanaian instructors. The students describe these methods as watching, copying, and explaining. These methods were observed while watching some of the ELCG's instructors. One stood behind a podium and lectured in a loud voice; another briefly verbalized content and spent the majority of class time writing notes on the white board. The explanation notes method was used more to give directions to accomplish a task rather than clarification to perform the task.

Working together, with the Ghanaian pastors, we are growing in our understanding and teaching methods to provide a confessional and thorough theological education for God's mission here in Ghana.



Photo by: S. Schumacher

**The New Sign with our New Name and the students who set it up (l to r: Moses, Mark and Joseph)**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

*Everyone around the world that God would watch over them, protect them, and heal them from the Covid-19 pandemic according to His mercy.*

*Our students, that may not lose hope of completing their theological education and serving God's people here in Ghana with His Saving message.*

**GIVE THANKS FOR:**

*The faithful Christians around the world, who continue to lift up countless petitions to the Lord that His divine mercy may be known and triumph through this most difficult time.*

**PRAISE GOD FOR:**

*The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us.*

*This month we give praise for:*

*Bethany Lutheran Church  
Lake City, MN*

*Calvary Lutheran Church  
Indianapolis, IN*

*Lutheran Church of our Redeemer  
Kokomo, IN*

**Theological Formation Takes Place In and Out of the Classroom**



Photos by C. Schumacher

***ELCG seminary students. (above photo), Seminarian Samuel accompanying hymns during chapel. (top right photo)***

One aspect of Theological Formation takes place in the classroom. Students take a variety of courses during their time at the seminary.

Classes include Biblical surveys and exegetical classes on individual Biblical books. There are Historical Theology courses providing the rich history of the Christian church from the Early Church years to the present Modern Age. Pastoral Ministry and Mission courses present the practical characteristics of ministry in the areas of the proper understanding of Law and Gospel, Homiletics, Pastor as Teacher, and Confessing Christ in Ghana to name a few. The fourth area of study is in Systematic Theology. In this area, we concentrate on various courses around our Lutheran Confessions and Christian Dogmatics.



***Seminarian Paul leading chapel***

Outside the classroom, another aspect of Theological Formation takes place as our students have the opportunity to lead our daily devotions and Divine Services giving them practical experience with what they have learned in the classroom.

Our students also use their musical talents to enhance our daily worship and our Sunday worship with Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, that was organized and worships in the seminary.

*Cynthia and I thank you for your time in reading our monthly newsletter. We thank God, for you and pray that you would, prayerfully, consider praying for us and, if possible, support us through a financial gift.*

*May God bless you and your service to Him,  
- Rev. Dr. Steven & Cynthia Schumacher*



*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](http://lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."*

To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Steven Schumacher, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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