

NEWS FROM THE CLAUSING FAMILY

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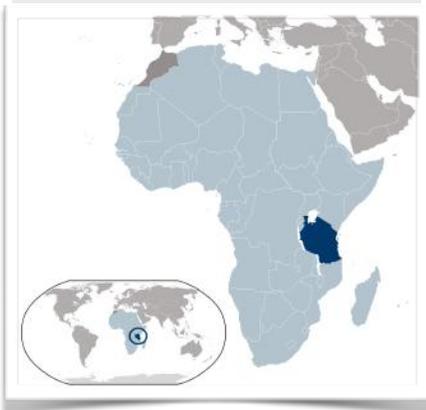
To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Jonathan Clausing, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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Just after landing in the U.S., the Clausing kids got to play in the snow with their cousins. Though he saw it daily on Mt. Kilimanjaro, it was Emmanuel’s first time ever to play in it. (He’s second from the left.)

If the Lord Wills

Last September I opened my newsletter by quoting James 4:15: “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” I’m increasingly inclined just to make that verse the permanent theme for this newsletter. Regular readers know that things have rarely gone as I planned in Tanzania, and the same is now true in the U.S. All of us around the world made our plans for these spring months, but God in His wisdom has seen fit to humble our planning with COVID-19. During uncertain times like these we are forced to acknowledge what is actually always the case: we have precious little knowledge of or control over the future. Regarding many things, we do not know God’s will, and these things we commend into God’s hands, praying, “Your will be done.” Regarding other things, however, we *do* know God’s will because He has plainly revealed them in Scripture, and these promises of God are our



Our Family

Anita and I were married on August 16, 1997 and have been blessed with nine children.

Back Row, Left to Right:

- Anita (12.9.74)
- Eunice (6.1.06)
- Ernest (7.16.04)
- Eleanor (1.10.02)
- Emil (10.29.99), currently studying at Concordia University, Chicago
- Jonathan (8.20.75)

Front Row, Left to Right

- Emmanuel (3.6.15)
- Elijah (7.3.13)
- Eileen (8.21.11)
- Eric (12.16.09)
- Ethan (5.8.08)

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

solid rock in the midst of uncertainty. For these things we also pray, "Your will be done." Jesus said, "[I]t is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish" (Mt 18:14) Forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are God's revealed will for us, and to these promises we cling.

By God's grace our family landed in Chicago as scheduled and without incident, and we enjoyed a week of relative peace visiting family in Belvidere, IL. Tensions regarding the pandemic rose during that first week, leading to the cancelation of my first preaching engagement the following weekend. Since then, it goes without saying that all my scheduled visits have been canceled and upcoming visits are on hold for the foreseeable future. As the best possible alternative at present, I'll be sending out a video update to those congregations I can't visit in person.

Nevertheless, through all this we've been blessed by God. After spending time with family in Illinois we traveled to Anita's parents' house in rural Kansas. They own an enormous RV (the one we used in the summer of 2018), and they've set it up in the yard next to their house. While they stay in the RV, our family stays in their house, so we each have our own personal space while also having the benefit of family next door.

I can't say much about our future plans other than that, God-willing, we still hope to be able to make a few church visits before returning to Africa. God alone knows if and when that will be possible, and we are content to leave it in His hands.



The extended Clausing family poses in front of the old altar at Immanuel in Belvidere, Illinois.