

NEWS FROM THE RABE FAMILY SERVING IN ETHIOPIA

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Fun facts about Ethiopia...

In Ethiopia, it is considered impolite to refuse a cup of coffee.

Donkeys and camels were initially trained in Ethiopia.



Come learn Amharic with me...

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(me'elkam fasika)

Happy Easter!



The classrooms are empty at Mekane Yesus Seminary. A scene duplicated almost worldwide. The students have been sent home and fortunately we were able to send assignments with them. We had sent them on their way with the hope that they would only be away until after Easter (Fasika) break. But now, like so many in schools in the US, that hope has faded away.

So we wait for God to bring things back to a sense of *normal*. But we also know that God is not about being *normal*.

Every Easter we are reminded again and again that what we think is normal — birth, life, and death — was not God's original intention. While birth and life was part of His plan, death was not. But Jesus conquered *normal*. While our Lord went to the cross — The Innocent Man on God's Friday — and rested in the tomb on Saturday, he did not stay there. That is what *normally* happens — the dead stay dead in their grave. But not Jesus! The grave could not hold him. When Mary and Mary went to Jesus' tomb early on Easter morning, they went to see the body of Jesus. But they were shocked to have found God's angel sitting on the stone that was across the tomb! The tomb was now open for all to see that Jesus was not there; he had risen from the dead! He then appeared to the Marys and eventually to the disciples on the first Easter Day. Jesus is not about doing things *normal*.

But then you are not *normal* either! Your faith is in the One who has conquered sin, death, and has risen from the dead. You have hope, and that hope that will carry you through the storm of this virus and the uncertainties ahead. It is the same hope that we cling to here in Ethiopia — that we freely share—the sure and certain hope in Jesus Christ our Lord!

"But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head" (Psalm 3:3)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Stefanie's father's health
- The spread of the Gospel in Ethiopia to Muslims and other non-believers
- Peace and calm in the world rather than fear and anxiety
- Students to be able to complete and receive assignments in their homes
- That we can be light and hope to those in darkness especially during the virus

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- God's never failing care and provision
- How God is using this time during the virus to cause people to seek God

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Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
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Make checks payable to: *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*. Mark checks **"Support of Mark Rabe—Ethiopia."** Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page www.lcms.org/rabe.

<https://missioncentral.us/rabe/>



Left: A coffee field in Ethiopia



He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

We were blessed to worship with our colleagues from Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda as they joined us in Ethiopia via Zoom. My colleague Rev. Eric Stinnett conducted the liturgy, and I was humbled to preach the sermon. It was a blessing to be able to worship together through the use of technology as so many are doing around the world. As one we were able to say:

He is Risen! Alleluia!

Ethiopian Good Friday

Here in Ethiopia since we are following both the western and Julian calendars the EECMY and Orthodox Church's Good Friday and Easter observances will be April 17-19.

Like many in the US the church here will not be able to gather physically to remember Our Lord's passion, death, resurrection. For many weeks they have gathered in small groups in homes but now they cannot do so.

While folks will not be able to gather together we can still rejoice together in the victory of our Lord over sin, death and Satan. We can also look forward to That Day when our Lord returns and the New Heavens and New Earth where sin, sickness, and death are no more. Such is ours by faith now, and in all its fullness on the Last Day. Amen, Come Lord Jesus!

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