

SERVING THE LORD IN
KENYA

NEWS FROM MIKE AND KAREN SCHEMPF



April 2020

As COVID-19 continues to give global direction to our lives, we seek God's guidance as the future unfolds. Neema Lutheran College closed on Monday, March 16th in compliance with the Kenya government mandate. Students had just returned from a break and were informed the next morning after chapel, that they would need to vacate the campus. This imposed challenges for many students as transport is expensive for them. Some students travel 3-5 days with many transfers and very little food and water. We took our vehicle full of students about 3 hours toward their homes. We gave each student water, fruit, peanuts and lollipops (a favorite treat). We were able to care for students in practical ways through your generous support. Your boots have walked alongside ours as we addressed the needs of body and soul. The LCMS Office of International Missions (OIM) and our area director have been in close contact with us. Zoom meeting devotions and worship services have been provided by missionaries in the field. OIM Zoom meetings continue to keep us connected and informed. We praise God that the LCMS, our nation, churches, communities and families are pulling together during this crisis.

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Students appreciated transport home after COVID-19 closed Neema. Due to complications connected with the virus, the cost of transport, and the lack of technology available to students, the close of this term will be determined later. Many students have a basic cell phone but do not have a computer or internet available. We treasure the brief time we had with these young Christians.



Rev. Schempf makes a connection



Sunday dinner enjoyed by all



Please pray for:

- *God's mercy on Neema students and faculty
- *God's provision for the continent of Africa as they struggle with COVID-19.
- *Protection and mercy for medical workers and all exposed to COVID-19
- *An outpouring of the Holy Spirit so that people in the U.S. and throughout the world will be drawn to Jesus as their Lord and Savior

Give thanks for:

- *Our safe return to the U.S.
- *Our family who provided a house and good food
- *Action taken by governments to curb the spread of COVID
- *The health of our aging parents during this pandemic
- *You our ongoing supporters
- *Jesus suffering, death for us
- * **THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS!**



To support the LCMS through the work of Pastor Michael and Karen Schempf, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod -OR- Mission Central
P.O. Box 66861 40718 Highway E-16
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 Mapleton, IA 61034



Closing chapel service at Neema

We have returned to the U.S. and are staying in IN. We secured tickets and packed our bags in 12 hours in order to leave Kenya before the airport closed on Wednesday, March 25th. We flew from Kisumu, Kenya to Nairobi, to Doha, Qatar to JFK and then drove to IN. We passed through a very quiet JFK and New York. It was over a 48 hour journey. We are thankful that our nephew is allowing us to use his home while he is away at National Guard training in GA. His family filled the cupboards and frig with good food. Thus far we are COVID free. Like everyone else, we wait on the Lord to see how the future unfolds.



Matongo Boys High School



Please pray with us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, through this pandemic, draw many people around the world to yourself. Be with us as we are humbled by this tiny but tough virus. This experience teaches us anew that you are Almighty God and that you alone give us life and breath. Please sustain and protect all those who are putting their life on the line for their neighbor. Through this time of trial draw many people to Jesus. His death and resurrection give us a secure future. In His powerful name we pray. **He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Thank you for reading this newsletter and for your partnership in this work. Rev. Mike & Karen Schempf
"Look to the Lord and His strength, seek His face always." Psalm 105:4

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Schempf-Uganda." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/Schempf.