



Newsletter of Rev. Vance and Linda Becker at Matongo, Kenya September 2020

School Reopens

The long-awaited day has arrived. Kenya is allowing colleges to reopen with certain precautions and Matongo Lutheran Theological College will resume classes on Oct. 26 for six weeks of classes to finish the semester that was suspended last spring because of Covid 19.

Because one teacher who started the semester will not be back, Vance will teach the General Epistles and New Testament Introduction classes.

Evans, a student who happened to be on campus recently, is eager to be back in class. So are others, especially those who are almost ready for vicarage and graduation.



Please pray for us, praising God for His powerful word, thanking Him for preserving us and for the reopening of the school, and asking Him to help Vance and the other teachers to do their work well.

Linda Joins the Dance

Linda would like to join a local church choir and recently got a chance to try it out.

The choir from a nearby church was on campus for a few days, filming a music video for a DVD they intend to sell. Singing here

always includes moving to the music. The director (in blue next to Linda) insisted that Linda join them for a couple of songs. (For the video they were just lip-synching.)

One of the choir members (with the white bow) was also named Linda, a fairly common name here.



Please pray for us, praising God for the joyful Gospel, thanking Him for richly providing for us, and asking that He help us use all our abilities and resources effectively.

We have Wheels

We have purchased a vehicle that will be needed for getting to and from churches with students. It is a Toyota Landcruiser station wagon which seats 9.

The local shop is preparing it for the conditions and uses we need to be ready for. It will have a winch on the front, shields underneath to protect the oil pan, transmission, etc., a second spare tire and other features.

Partly because of import taxes, such vehicles cost quite a bit. Our thanks to generous donors who enable us to have the tools we need.



Lutheran Women Are Everywhere

Vance attended the funeral of a Lutheran neighbor woman, held



outdoors because of Covid, and noticed a group of women all dressed alike. Several were in the choir, but all had a scarf with Luther's Seal on it

and the words, "Evangelical Lutheran Church Kenya Women."

One also had the words, "Mama Kilutheri" (Lutheran Mama). These women carried in the casket as they sang and were also holding up a matching dress - that of their departed sister?

People wonder...

What kind of fruit do you have there?

There is fresh fruit here all year. Banana trees are everywhere and there are several kinds, some like those commonly seen in the U.S. and “sweet bananas” which are similar but smaller. “Cooking bananas” are picked green and are fried or boiled and taste something like potatoes.

Avocados grow to a huge size. Papayas are also a large fruit. Both grow on campus.

Local oranges and lemons are more green. Dragon fruit, with spikes on the peeling, and passion fruit also have a tart citrus taste.



If you wonder about a question, email vance.becker@lcms.org

Please pray for us, praising God for His beautiful creation, thanking Him for richly providing for us, and asking Him to keep us strong and healthy.

Bible reflection

When Joseph’s brothers came to him after Jacob’s death, afraid that now he would get revenge for what they did to him, he replied, “Am I in

the place of God?” This rhetorical question expects the answer, “No.” He is not responsible for assuming God’s role in judging and punishing them.

And yet, Joseph did act in God’s place. Through him God provided for his brothers and he did what God himself would do. He graciously forgave them.

We also are in the place of God. Jesus tells us that we are given the authority to forgive so that sins are forgiven in heaven. We are to speak and act as God’s agents in sharing the Gospel and demonstrating His love.

The reason we can do this is only because God took our place. Jesus put himself in our role as one obeying the law and as one who needed to suffer for sin. As a result, we will also be in the place of God, the eternal place He has prepared for us at His side.

Please pray for us, praising God for His great mercy, thanking Him for the privilege of having and using His spiritual gifts, and asking Him to help us represent him in a way that glorifies him.

Swahili sample

One thing we use Swahili for is talking to various kinds of workers who do jobs for us. A skilled worker is a “fundi.” A day laborer is a “kibarua.” A carpenter is a “seremala” but other workers may be a “fundi ya bomba” (plumber) or “fundi ya gari” (auto mechanic)

For one project Vance bought a “choma” (piece of metal) from a worker with a shop on the roadside nearby. A man who dug up a gardening spot for us used a “jembe,” which is a large heavy hoe used like a pickax.

Contact us at the address below to let us know how we can be praying for you too.

If you get this newsletter in print but could get it by email instead, it could save funds for our ministry.

Email us with your name and the mailing address now receiving it.

If you don’t desire to receive this newsletter, email us or call or write Trinity Lutheran Church, 1010 Fleming, Garden City, KS 67846 (phone (620)276-3110)

Connect with us.

Email us at vance.becker@lcms.org & linda.becker@lcmsintl.org, or send us postal mail at the Mission Central address below.

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.

Financial support

All our funding comes through the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which is 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 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-66861

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• Give on-line at

www.lcms.org/givenow/becker

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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.