

NEWS FROM THE RABE FAMILY SERVING IN ETHIOPIA

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Fun facts about Ethiopia:

Ethiopia is mentioned about 40 times in the Bible



Come learn Amharic with me...

The Bible

መጽሐፍ ቅዱስ
Metsahof Kidus

Timket—Ethiopian Epiphany



January brought the annual celebration of Timket or Ethiopian Epiphany. While all the Christians celebrate the holiday in Ethiopia it is the Ethiopian Orthodox who have the biggest celebration. This elaborate celebration lasts two days, and closes down streets so that folks can “make way” for the priests that carry the Talbot (a model of the Ark of the Covenant). Large crowds of people of all ages walk alongside with the priests along with many choirs who process from church to local river where they will then spend the night. Why go to a local river? Because *this* Orthodox celebration focuses on Jesus’ baptism in the river Jordan!

The people along with the priests will spend the night next to the river where choirs will continue to sing and people will then gather for a worship service and the river. The following day the priests, with the Talbot, will process back to the church.

Each year when I watch the Ticket celebration I am reminded of a couple of things, first the celebration points us to Christ’s baptism, and second it is the start of a new academic semester! And, thanks be to God it is a new semester! I am excited that we are able to be in the classroom and teach our students about Christ and the free gift of life and salvation! Spring semester is under way!

*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*
- *The students as they begin a new semester*
- *Ethiopia the COVID-19 cases rise and how it affects those in poverty and need.*
- *Those overcome by fear and in need of Jesus' peace*
- *Peace and reconciliation in Ethiopia*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *God's care and provision*
- *Generous supporters*
- *Good health*

To support the LCMS through the work of Mark Rabe, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

-OR-

Mission Central
40718 Highway E-16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034

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.

The students are back for the spring 2021 semester. They are busy studying for their classes. Fourth year BTh and second year MA are busy doing their research for their final thesis.



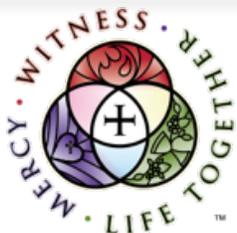
One of the many choirs that sang during the Timket celebration. During the procession there are often many youth choirs who stop along the way to sing.



We thank God for you!

Your partners in the Gospel,

Mark, Stefanie, Noah,
Gabriella, Julianna
and Matthias



Left: A view of Lalibela, Ethiopia

