



Jambo
Jesus in Action with the Matongo Beckers & Others
Newsletter of Rev. Vance and Linda Becker at Matongo, Kenya July 2022

Seeing Lots of Friends

We started our month at Vance's 40th anniversary class reunion at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. They had Vance read a Bible reading in Swahili for one of the evening services of worship. We enjoyed visiting with others about overseas mission experiences.

While in St. Louis, we spent a day at the International Center and met with several of the people who help us do what we do from there. We also visited with a pastor friend now teaching at the seminary who literally went the extra mile when we left a suitcase behind. Thanks Mark and Phillip!



We saw lots of old friends and made some new ones at the Minnesota South District Convention in St. Paul. We had a display booth and were recognized along with chaplains and others serving the wider church.

We were warmly welcomed by pastor Griebel and the people at Redeemer, Owatonna, MN,

where Pastor Reit, from an area Sudanese congregation, also joined us for worship.

We saw more good friends when we shared presentations at the LWML meetings at First in Glencoe, MN, where Vance had served as a pastor and Our Savior in Hutchinson, MN, where Linda was an elementary teacher at that same time.



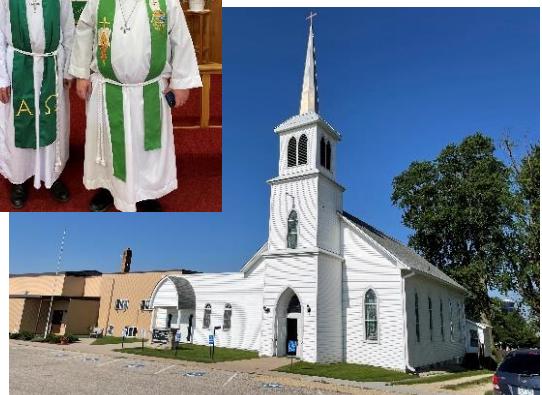
At the LWML District convention in Willmar, MN, we saw more friends and also met some other missionaries and women who came to Minnesota from Africa.

We felt at home when we were surrounded by farm fields at Immanuel "Silo Township" near



Lewiston, MN. We stayed over with Pastor Mueller and his family to participate in the Vacation Bible School the next morning.

Next, we were wonderfully hosted by the Andersons and shared at St. John, of rural Montevideo, MN.



Please pray for us, praising God for bringing people all over the world together into His church, thanking Him for raising up faithful helpers, and asking Him to continue giving material and spiritual blessings for this work.

"Thank You" Tour Continues

We have been enjoying visiting with old friends and meeting new friends at conventions, LWML groups and churches.

Our upcoming schedule includes:
July 3, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Pequot Lakes, MN; 8 am worship, presentation at 9 am.

July 10, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, North Mankato, MN; worship 9:00 a.m., presentation at 10:15 am. (*That afternoon will be an open house for our 40th wedding anniversary and Vance's 40th ordination anniversary.*)

July 13, Hosanna, Mankato, MN, 6:15 worship

July 14, Our Savior, Mankato, MN, 7 pm presentation

July 17, St. John, Alta, IA; 9 am worship.

July 23, Mission Central, Mapleton, IA, presentation at 10 am.

July 24, Our Savior, Denison, IA; 9 am worship, 10 am presentation

July 31, St. John's, Topeka, KS; 8 and 11 am worship, 9:45 a.m. presentation.

Aug. 6, 7, Trinity, Garden City, KS; worship at 5:30 pm Sat. and 9 am Sun., 10:30 presentation.

Please pray for us, praising God for leading us along the way, thanking Him for all our supportive partners, and asking Him to be with us giving us safe travels.

People wonder...

Does it feel strange to be back in the U.S. after living in Kenya?

Not that much has changed since we left, but we have noticed how on the wide roads in the U.S., the traffic is all flowing along without being jammed together in crazy ways. Also, there is so much grassy space beside the road and between lanes on the interstates--but there are no cows there eating the grass!

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

Culture Contrast

Americans love variety and having choices. They will eat many different kinds of food at one meal, meat, maybe some kind of potato, maybe more than one vegetable, especially at church pot-lucks! They may not eat the same dish more often than once a week.

In Eastern Africa, what is served if there is a dinner after worship is pretty much as what is eaten every day at more than one meal. In our area this is ugali (ground corn that has been boiled) "sukumu wiki," cooked greens, and maybe boiled cabbage too, and chicken because it is a special occasion. In other areas it may be fish instead. Tribes that are cattle herders eat mostly meat and milk. Variety may be the spice of life but food in our area of Africa, unlike western Africa, is not spicy.

In the cities, there are restaurants that serve many kinds of food, Indian, Chinese, Italian, and western menus. We have not seen McDonalds but Kentucky Fried Chicken and pizza places are fairly common.

Bible reflection

The Sunday Bible readings at this time of year are good ones for thinking about training church workers in other countries. On June 26, Elisha "passes the mantle" to Elijah to follow him as a prophet as God preserves his faithful. On July 3, Jesus sends out 72 to share the gospel, trusting in God to provide and they see Satan fall from heaven. On July 10, Paul writes to the Colossians that he thanks God that the Gospel is producing faith in them as it does all over the world and he prays that they continue to grow in wisdom and Godly living since God called us out of darkness into His light.

On June 19, we heard about the first "overseas" mission trip as Jesus goes to the other side of the Sea of Galilee and casts demons out of the man of Gerasa. But then he sends

him to go back to his hometown to tell others what God has done for him. This is a reminder that God has mission work for all of us to do right where we are. No matter where we are, God is with us and makes His word effective to do what He wants.

Please pray for us, Praising God for raising up His servants, thanking Him for His powerful word and asking Him to give us the ability to share it with everyone.

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*

or *Mission Central,
40718 Highway E16,
Mapleton, IA 51034-7105,*

- Give on-line at **Error!**

Hyperlink reference not valid.

- or missioncentral.us/becker
- Give by phone at 888-843-5267.

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.