



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

August 2022

On the Move in America

During the month of July, we finished up our time in Minnesota and headed south to other states.

July started at Gloria Dei, Pequot Lakes, MN. Vance had a busy week in and around Mankato, MN, including worship at Hosanna on Wednesday evening with pastor Mike Omtvedt and a presentation at Our Savior on Thursday with pastor Adam Matheny. In between, he visited some special supporters in the area who don't travel any more.



We enjoyed being in Iowa for the better part of two weeks. First, we were at St. John, Alta with Pastor Zack McViggers. Then came Our Savior, Denison, and St. John, Dow City, with Pastor Chad Trunkhill. Along the way we visited some more special supporters.

While we passed through Nebraska, we visited friends and



supporters and also dashed back to Council Bluffs, IA, to visit with our friend, Pastor Tim Franks, who works with David's Harp.

They produce material for teaching music as a means of mission outreach. Linda uses their material for her piano lessons.

We ended July at St. John, Topeka, KS, currently being served by Vicar John and Rev. Dan Galchutt, the Mission Executive from the District office right next door. Then we drove to Garden City, KS, arriving in time to sing happy birthday to Vance's mother on her 91st birthday.

Thanks to the Friedrichs, Kraftons, Graus and family members who hosted us along the way.

Special Day in a Special Place

July 10 was a special Sunday. Vance led worship and preached at our home church, Good Shepherd in North Mankato, MN, where Rev. Leroy LaPlant is the new pastor. Then we had an afternoon open house celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary and Vance's 40th ordination anniversary. We were married July 10, 1982



in Mankato! Many friends and family came from near and far, including our children and grandchildren.

While at Good Shepherd, we enjoyed seeing co-workers and friends from our time there and learning about the growth of the Lutheran elementary school we helped to start. It was also fun to see the new babies and new members in the church.

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.

Wonderful Welcome at Mission Central

You can't go through western Iowa without stopping to see Gary Thies at Mission Central, in the middle of farm fields near Mapleton. We enjoyed meeting guests who came to see our presentation along with two other missionary families, Rev. Jerry Lawson, Patty and



Alexander from Riga, Latvia, and Rev. Jonathan Nauman and Cheryl from the Dominican Republic. The send-off prayer was led by Rev. Wayne Bernau, a good friend who had come down from Minnesota with his wife, Donna.

Please pray for us, praising God for the spirit of faith and love He puts into so many people, thanking Him for giving people the desires and resources to spread the gospel, and asking Him to continue gathering and sending out His blessings, especially through Mission Central.

“Thank You” Tour Continues

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

Aug. 14, Peace in Christ, Walkersville, MD; worship at 9 am, 10:30 am presentation.

Aug. 21, Christ, Jackson, MS, 9 am worship, 10:30 presentation.

Then we hurry back home to Kenya just in time for the fall semester.

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...

Is there anything you miss about Kenya while you are in the U.S?

Of course, we miss some of our routines, such as having the same bed every night and not needing to dig through a suitcase to find things.

We notice missing the constantly nice weather at Matongo. It is almost always between 60 and 80, a bit cool in the morning and warm in the afternoon but mostly what Vance calls “perpetual springtime.”

Here, we have wished we had more warm clothes at times when up north and now, in Kansas, it is

uncomfortably warm. After we spend a week in Mississippi in August, we will probably be ready to go back.

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

Culture Contrast

Vance has been a bit surprised as he meets some special supporters how many of them are couples and widows in their 90s. This would be even more of a surprise in Kenya where the average life expectancy is 64 and so the retirement age is 55. The median age is just 19.7 because there are so many children. Even though many die young, Kenya’s population has doubled in 20 years.

Bible reflection

Paul’s letter to the Colossians was written to warn against those who wanted to finish the message about what Jesus has done for us by adding something that is still needed to make a person completely saved, holy or sure of belonging to God. For some it was keeping Old Testament rules and Jewish ceremonies. For others it was some secret knowledge related to Greek philosophy.

The same kind of temptations are common today, including in east Africa. Some think real Christians should, like the Jews, worship on Saturday, avoid certain foods, etc. Some think that it is not enough to be baptized by God but people must make their own personal decision, choosing Jesus or giving themselves to God in order to be truly saved. Some think that the gifts the Spirit gives to all believers are not enough but people need a second experience of the Holy Spirit and need to receive other special gifts and abilities in order to fully live a Christian life.

But Jesus plus anything is really subtracting Jesus. He has done all we need to be saved and God gives us all we need through faith in Jesus which he himself gives us.

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.

If your church happens to have an old Lutheran Worship hymnal Agenda which is not being used. There are leaders in Kenya who would love to have one. Contact Vance at vance.becker@lcms.org.

If you get this newsletter by U.S. mail but also by email and don’t need the paper copy. Let us know at the Mission Central address below.

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 www.lcms.org/givenow/becker 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.