

# MINISTRY MOMENTS



*"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17)*



## REJOICING IN FAITH AND MISSION TOGETHER...

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

*LCMS and Alliance missionaries live and serve in six countries across Africa, partnering with Lutheran churches in twenty-five countries. Our mission is clear: to equip, enable, and encourage our church partners in the vital work God has set before them—sharing the Gospel and building His Church.*

*Amid the challenges and joys of mission work, we are called to find joy in our faith and service. Rejoicing always is not about living in a state of perpetual happiness but rather about finding joy in our Lord's steadfast love and grace. As we share the Gospel, we witness lives transformed by Christ, and in these moments, we can't help but rejoice.*

*Our focus is to support and uplift our fellow believers in Africa, working hand in hand to share the Good News of Christ. This unity is what it means to be "Together in Mission." Just as the early Christians in Thessalonica prayed for one another and rejoiced together, we, too, can find strength and joy in our shared mission.*



## UPDATES FROM THE FIELD:

### LUTHERANS ENGAGE...

In August, my colleague Rev. Fernando Huf and I attended a youth gathering and meeting of church leaders and women's conference of the Confessional Lutheran Church Malawi Synod (CLCMS). Youth of CLCMS and Igreja Cristã da Concórdia em Moçambique (ICCM) attended their first youth conference in Blantyre, Malawi. Sessions focused on The Ten Commandments, The Apostles Creed, The Lord's Prayer, Justification by Faith, and Youth Leadership and Stewardship throughout the week. All the lessons were taught by their pastors from the CLCMS, the ICCM, and the Lutheran Evangelical Church in Africa from Zambia (LECA). The CLCMS youth event was a fantastic experience. Pastors, women, and youth all valued the time spent together, learning about essential church teachings and fostering fellowship. I enjoyed reconnecting with CLCMS members and making new friends among the youth.

After the youth conference, Rev. Huf and I attended a meeting with church leaders from Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia. The primary purpose of the meeting was to introduce the churches that work with the LCMS OIM Africa region, discuss the work of the Confessional Lutheran Church Malawi Synod and how it can work together with the other church bodies (ICCM, LECA), talk about what is happening in the churches and how the churches can work better together. It is always a joy to meet church leaders and to hear about the work of the churches we serve alongside in God's mission.

Lastly, we attended the CLCMS women's conference. The theme of the conference was "Choosing What is Needful." There were sessions on Women and Prayers led by the ladies from the CLCMS. Deaconess Christine Ouko of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) presented on the Role of a Deaconess, The Identity of Diakonia, and the Role of Women in the Church. The conference ended with a beautiful church service attended by men, women, and youth from the community. It was a lovely time of fellowship and joy in being together.

### GOD IS ABLE...

In October, I co-hosted (with my colleague Britt Odemba) a team from Living Faith and St. John's Lutheran churches in Lodwar and the refugee camps. The excellent and joyful reception from ELCK pastors, evangelists, and congregants from Living Faith - Lodwar and Turkana County was heartwarming. Throughout our time in Lodwar, the pastors taught about the Resurrection, baptism, and the sacraments. Engaging discussions and thought-provoking questions emerged as men and women gathered in separate groups for reflection. The women posed particularly intriguing and impactful questions that prompted deep reflection.

Pastor Kuhnle delivered an inspiring sermon centered on "God Can Do The Impossible" and connecting it to the Great Commission. He encouraged the congregation to actively go forth and share the Gospel to strengthen the Church. Our time together was incredibly rewarding, marked by building relationships, mutual encouragement, and an overwhelming sense of joy.

The final leg of our journey led us to the refugee settlements of Kakuma and Kalobeyei, where we had the privilege of visiting and uplifting our fellow believers in Lutheran congregations. As we went from home to home, we listened to the challenges of life in the camps, yet we also conveyed the message of hope that we find in Christ and the promise of the Resurrection.

Once a year, the Africa team meets for our Continuing Education retreat. This year, we traveled to Kigali, Rwanda. Dr. William Schumacher led us in sessions about Missiology - history and approaches to mission. Our team worshipped together on Reformation Sunday. Together, we rejoice in our calling and service to God in Africa. It is a blessing for us to serve as part of God's mission and to share His mission with you.

*Together In Christ...Shara & Michael*

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## Prayers & Praise

- Pray for God's strength and guidance as Michael and I serve in Africa.
- Pray for the Alliance & LCMS missionaries serving through LCMS International Mission.
- Pray for the churches in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia & in the refugee camps.
- Thank the Lord for the team from Living Faith & St. John.
- Praise God for all of YOU and the love & support that you give to me and Michael.

## To support the work of Shara Osiro

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