



<https://www.lcms.org/payne>

Culture Bites

Here you will find a small sample, tiny nibble or little bite of some of the things we are learning about Tanzania.

One Swahili word you may be aware of is Safari. However, if you see or hear this word you might associate it with going to see wild African animals.

The word safari actually means "journey." It is originally from the Arabic noun سفر *safar*, meaning "journey," "travel," "trip," or "tour." The verb for "to travel" in Swahili is kusafiri.

We had many journeys and trips to visit many of you and many churches over the past six months and now we are to continue on kusafiri (to travel) towards Tanzania!



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email to bryan.payne@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Departure

Dear Friends and Family,

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11).

This is the type of news that must be shared, the kind of news that you can't help but proclaim from the rooftops! And that's just what we're preparing to do in Tanzania.

The month of December began with Bryan and Keah traveling back to Oklahoma from the Library Training in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Our return to Oklahoma had us visiting doctors between visiting Oklahoma churches. Bryan assisted Pastor Bersche at our home congregation, St. John's Moore, the first Sunday of the month.

With Christmas fast approaching, we had Advent Services to attend. Bryan preached the first Wednesday in December at Christ Lutheran Church in Perry, OK. Bryan's family had attended this church back when he was preschool aged. We were warmly welcomed, and Bryan remembered the church and school.

We were invited to the Ponca City Circuit Christmas dinner and caroling hosted in Guthrie at Zion one week, and then we returned for their Advent service the following week. Zion Lutheran LWML in Stillwater invited us to their Christmas party to celebrate with them as well as share about Tanzania. Another LWML group from Holy Cross in Lawton asked Keah to join them for an evening to discuss the role of the Deaconesses in The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. Fellowship and fun was had by all!

Our final scheduled presentation was at Zion Lutheran in Oklahoma City. This was the church Keah attended most of her childhood and where Serenity (Rory) was baptized. We enjoyed service with the members and a wonderful potluck afterwards.

Christmas was spent in Oklahoma. We had family time and celebrations near Enid with Keah's Grandmother Roggow and family as well as her mother's side in their annual family progressive dinner in Oklahoma City. Christmas Eve and morning we were with Bryan's parents who accompanied us back to



Family Photo at Camp Lutherhoma in November



The children found Tanzania.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The Africa field office as they are helping us get to Tanzania.
- Health as we are now traveling around Africa.
- Our minds to comprehend the language of Swahili so that we can better communicate for the mission set before us.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The hospitality we have been shown throughout our travels.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The many congregations and individuals who pray for, encourage and support us in so many ways, such as you!



St. John's Lutheran Church in Moore, OK held a potluck lunch after the morning service where they had a sending prayer for the Paynes. This was our last Sunday in Oklahoma before we left the country.

Oklahoma City to continue celebrating with Keah's parents and siblings.

These past few weeks we have been packing and preparing for our departure. We flew out January 15th! We have arrived on the African continent to Nairobi, Kenya just this past week, and we look forward to sharing this mission with you. But more to come in our next newsletter! We are so very excited to arrive in Tanzania.

We visited many other churches, places, friends and family. You can check out [our Facebook page](#) for more pictures and highlights. Also, don't forget to check out the podcast, "5 Minutes with a Missionary," at this [link](#) or wherever you listen to podcasts. We will be in Season 6.

God's Peace,

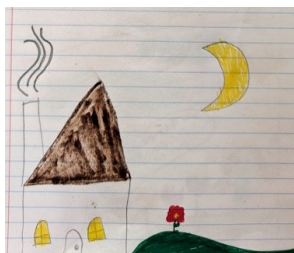
Rev. Bryan, Dcs. Keah, Rory, & Dalton

Kids' Corner

As part of our homeschooling we have started having the children journal and draw. Here are two such journal entries and their drawings! Dalton's is his expectations of riding on an airplane. He wrote, "I think that I will get to see clouds out the window. My parents will be



there, so it makes it more fun."



Rory's is explaining what home means to her, "I think it means a cozy bed and nice place to stay. I think it means somewhere you live. It also means where my family is too."



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service.

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Rev. Bryan and Dcs. Keah Payne. Make checks payable to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	OR	Mission Central
P.O. Box 66861		40718 Highway E 16
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861		Mapleton, IA 51034

On the memo line include: Payne-Tanzania

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