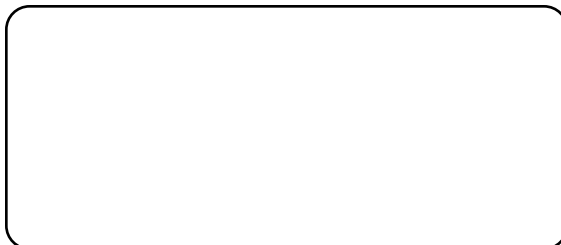


St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

Rev. Timothy Bayer
8990 Church Rd.
St. Johns, MI 48879

Phone: 989-224-3178
E-mail: church@stpeterriley.org
school@stpeterriley.org

We are on the web!
www.stpeterriley.org



THE MESSENGER *June 2022*



Church Services

Divine Service – Sundays at 9 am
Office of Matins – Wednesdays at 9 am

Advent and Lent – Wednesday services at 7 pm
Feasts and Festivals – Services as announced in calendar and bulletin

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Administration of the Sacrament of the Altar

A simple description of the procedure for the distribution of the Lord's body and blood is provided in the printed order of service each week, but a little more explanation may be warranted.

At the time of distribution, those who are unable to come to the altar are served first at their seats. If you receive communion at your seat, please sit toward the front of the church so the elements need not be carried a far distance. If you are able, stand to receive the Lord's body and blood. If we do not see you, and you need to be served at your seat, raise your hand. We have returned to our normal practice which was interrupted by the pandemic in that the blood of Christ is brought in the chalice to those in their seats for reasons of reverence and practicality.

At the altar, following the distribution of the Lord's body, the blood of Christ is distributed from the chalice. For those desiring to use an individual cup, these are given after the chalice.

Last, a couple notes on receiving the Supper that contribute to reverence and good order so our focus can be on the gift we are receiving. The body of Christ can be received either directly into your mouth or into your hand to be eaten. To receive in your mouth, open your mouth when the pastor gets to you, and he will place the host on your tongue. To receive in your hand, hold your hands palms upward, one hand on top of the other. To receive the blood of Christ from the chalice, hold your hands out again to indicate you would like to receive from the chalice. When drinking from the chalice, the pastor will continue holding the chalice at the knob, but you may hold the base of the chalice to tip it for yourself as you drink.

I hope this brief description promotes a salutary use of the Sacrament of the Altar, where the sacred body and blood of Christ are handled reverently and faith, which believes the promises offered and set forth through the Sacrament, is increased.

-Pastor Bayer

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Celebrating a Year of Blessings

We made it to the end of the school year! The key word in that exciting statement is "we". The students and their families, the staff and their families, and the church members giving their support all played a part in the accomplishments of the year. And there are many accomplishments to be celebrated.

Personally, I am celebrating my first school year here at St. Peter. It hasn't always been easy, there were struggles along the way and a lot of hard work that had to be done. There were also many blessings and I am thankful to be a part of the work that God is doing in this place.

The teachers are celebrating alongside their students in the learning that they have seen throughout the year. Learning that came from careful planning by the teachers and hard work put in by the students.

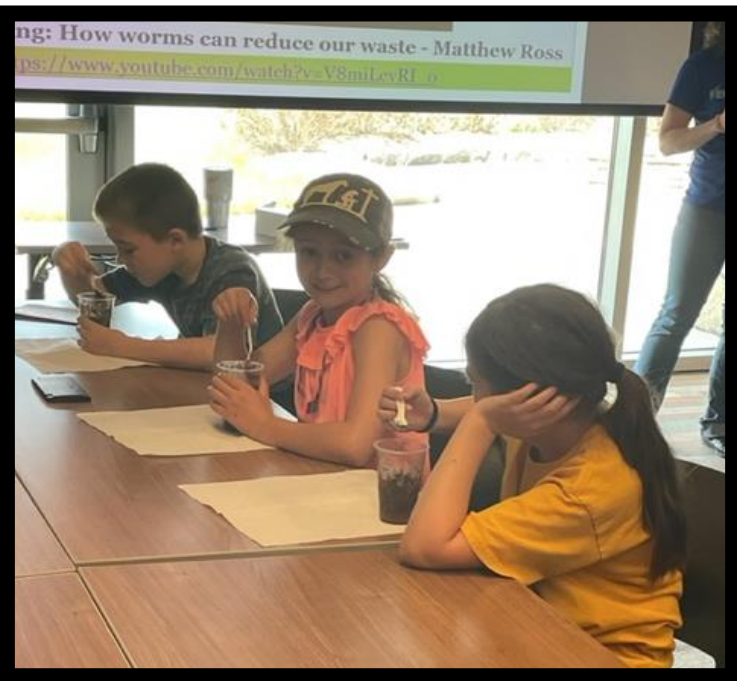
God has blessed new relationships throughout the year. Students have made new friends and shared many fun experiences in the classroom, at recess, and on field trips. Relationships have been formed and strengthened among staff, school families, and students.

As I look ahead already to the next school year already I know that there is more work to be done. I know there will be struggles. I also know that providing students the opportunity to be here at St. Peter, learning about a God who loves them and has a plan for their lives, makes it all worth it.

Blessings in Christ,
Erika Brown
Principal/Teacher



The day school children took a field trip to AgroLiquid in May.



The students had an opportunity to learn about Red Worms at AgroLiquid. The students learned that Red Worms are used in vermicomposting. They learned how they could make their own worm bins at home. Then they got to make a yummy treat to mock how they would make those bins at home.



6-7 grade had a field trip to the Wharton Center to see How To Survive Middle School.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESCHOOL

Summer Vibes

We had a great last month of preschool. We spent a lot of time outside exploring and enjoying the beautiful weather. We celebrated a wonderful year of preschool with a picnic at Fantasy Forest in St. John's. Thank you to all the family members that joined us for this special day and to PTL for providing lunch for everyone.

We are very excited to have 25 children enrolled for preschool next year. We feel very blessed to have a full class for the fall. Thank you for all the prayers and support.

We hope everyone has a fun and relaxing summer with family and friends. We look forward to seeing all of our new and returning families in the fall.

Blessings,

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Fletcher



A LETTER FROM OUR CANTOR

Why We Do What We Do

Last time I pointed out that one objective in Lutheran worship is to preserve what has been some of the Church's legacy across centuries and throughout the world. With that as background, let me touch briefly on another detail.

Perhaps you've noticed "+" at various places in the liturgy. In all probability, during your Baptism, the Pastor said, "Receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified." As he said this, he made the cross on your forehead and heart. Luther continuously said our Baptism is an ongoing present reality, not just some event in the past. So it fits that, as we worship in the name of our Triune God, we do so, as our hymnal suggests, remembering it is into His name that we are Baptized. So also as we conclude the Creed in which we confess His Name.

Pastor makes the sign of the cross at the end of the Confession and Absolution, when dismissing us from the Sacrament, and during the Benediction. For the worshiper to do the same then is a way of acknowledging the words of blessing apply to the individual, not just everyone else.

Does making the sign of the cross make you a better Christian? Absolutely not. Does NOT making the sign make you a better Christian? Again, no. Faith in the Redeemer into whose name you were Baptized is the issue. But knowing the theology of making the sign of the cross can help us understand those who choose to do it. And you may consider trying it as a way to celebrate your Baptism.

I hope to share more of why we do what we do. Perhaps if you have a particular question or concern, you might pass that along to me through the church office.

Your brother in Christ,
Dick Davenport

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

Memorials

Ethel Flegler \$250.00



LADIES AID SALE

We welcome donated homemade items for Ladies Aid Sale. We have a display case in the hallway outside of the Fellowship Hall. Drop off your donated items at the church office or at church on Sundays. Proceeds go towards the Ladies Aid to support the needs of the congregation, charities we give to and the seminary student we support. There will be a payment box on the Ladies Aid display. Makes checks payable to St. Peter Ladies Aid.



Mites Sunday is
June 26!



I want to thank my church family for all the nice birthday cards that I received and for all the people that came to my birthday card shower. It was so nice to see all of you. I want to send a special thank you to the Ladies who made the John Deere quilt for me. I LOVE IT! Mark hung it on the wall in my room. When I have visitors in my room I look at the quilt.

Thanks again!

Terry Ordway

Mediolodge of Okemos

5211 Marsh Rd.

Okemos, MI. 48864

Room # 206

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

Shut-In Visit List Monthly Visits

Virginia Davis Glenn Bennett
Charlie Silm
Shirley Edwards
Albert Smith
Sue Yelden
Linda Davis
Terry Ordway

Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call the church office (989) 224-3178 during office hours. If in the evening or weekend, please call Pam Mohr (989) 292-1686.

Happy
Father's
Day

Endowment Fund Newsletter Article June 2022

One of the roles of the Endowment Board is to educate the congregation about the Endowment Fund, its benefits and how to contribute. The Endowment Fund is not meant to compete with operational dollars but to enhance ministry offerings beyond what the annual budget offers.

The Endowment Fund is a way to receive special gifts outside of the operational budget of the church. It provides an opportunity and a structure for members to provide a future legacy for the church and their families through planned giving such as a will, estate planning, life insurance, etc. While the original gift will grow through prudent investments, the church can use the earnings each year to enhance church and school ministries, outreach, and facility improvement projects.

Gifts to the Endowment Fund can happen in many ways. It can be a one time gift such as a memorial, a direct gift such as cash or stock or through a legacy donation from a will or estate plan. At St Peter Lutheran Church legacy donations are accepted and welcomed.

For more details about the St Peter Endowment fund and how you can contribute a legacy donation, please contact an Endowment Board member, Paul Weismantel, Jeanette Mehney, Sara Thurston, or Sandy Lenneman.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS & EVENTS

What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven” (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles’ Creed in *Luther’s Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed’s First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

“He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

“(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.”

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

“That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.”

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God’s Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.



2022-2023 OPEN ENROLLMENT



DISCOVER the difference at St. Peter!

Enrollment for St. Peter Lutheran School Pre-K – 8th grade is open!! Please contact the school for more information and school tours!!

Rev. Timothy Bayer, *Pastor*

Mrs. Erika Brown, *Principal*

Mrs. Lisa Smith, *Preschool Director & Lead Teacher*

Mrs. Corrine Fletcher, *Administrative School Assistant*

St. Peter Lutheran Church & School

8990 W. Church Rd. St. Johns, MI 48879

1/2 mile south of Price Road between Dexter Trail and Forest Hill Office

Phone: 989-224-3178

E-mail: school@stpeterlutheran.org

Website: www.stpeterlutheran.org



Blessings, St. Peter Lutheran Staff



VBS

Come join us for a fun filled week of games, crafts, and fellowship June 20-23 from 9-Noon. Anyone that is in preschool through 5th grade are welcome. To sign up you can call the church office at 989-224-3178 or you can fill out a paper in the back of the church or in church office as well. We are still looking for volunteers to help. If this is something you are interested in please stop by the church office to fill out some paper work before June 10th. Thanks in advance and we hope to see you there!



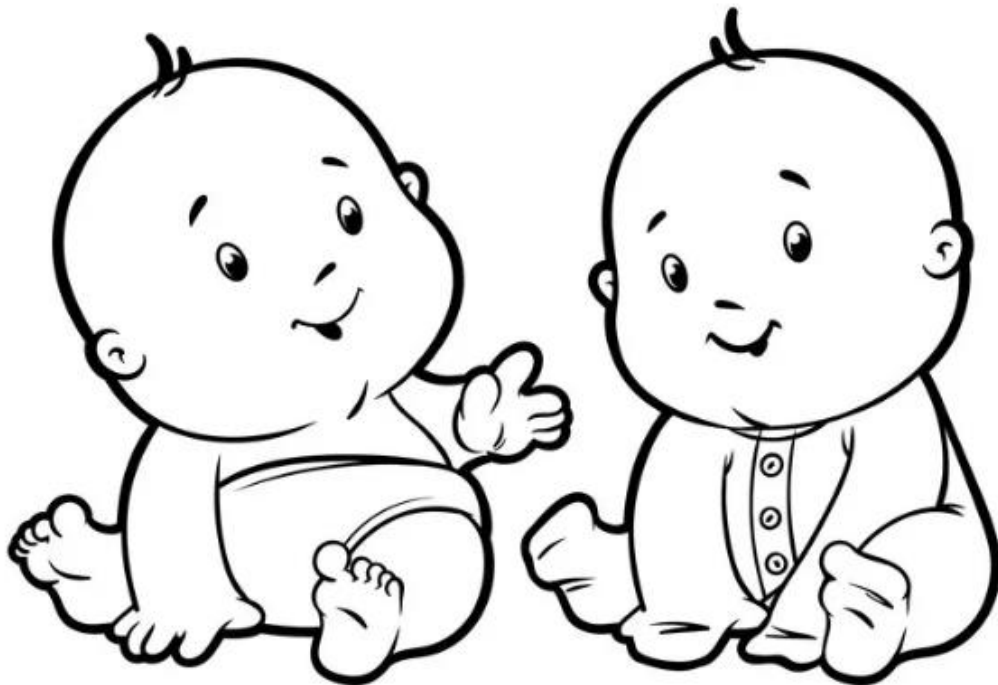
Wednesday: 8am –1pm

Thursday: 8am-1pm

LFL: The Lutherans For Life Team of St. Peter is sponsoring an event that you will certainly want to be a part of! We are collecting the following items for the Pregnancy Center in Lansing. This nonprofit organization helps mothers to keep their babies by helping to provide them with items they will need after giving birth to these precious children of God.

- Large size diapers (sizes 4,5,6)
- Baby Wipes
- Enfamil Formula (regular and gentlease)
- Baby Toiletries (shampoo, wash, lotion, diaper rash cream, etc)
- Receiving Blankets
- Baby Bath Towels and Wash Cloths
- New Bottles and Pacifiers
- Nursing Pads
- Diaper Bags
- Baby Monitors

Also added this year is gently used baby clothes, newborn to 18 months. You may place your items in the pack and play in the back of church. We will collect items from Mother's Day, May 8th through Father's Day, June 19th when they will be delivered to the Pregnancy Center. Thank you so much for helping to be a voice for the unborn. If you have any questions, please see any of the team members. Sarah Sills, Vickie Pline, Kristin Bayer, Sara Thurston, Diane Thurston.





13400 Pinewood Street, Gowen, MI 49326

Phone: 616-754-3785

office@campconcordia.org

www.campconcordia.org

Camp Concordia exists to provide opportunities *for children, youth and their families*, to encounter Christ in the midst of God's Creation: Enriching Body and Soul *and resulting in strong missional skills and actions.*

April 20, 2022

St. Peter Lutheran Church
8990 Church Rd
St. Johns, MI 48879

Dear Servants of Jesus at St. Peter,

With the cost of goods and gas going up, your missions contributions totaling \$250.00 are more valuable than ever. Thank you for keeping Camp Concordia on your prayer and donation list. We have been good about using your gifts – making sure they go toward camper needs – and we plan to continue to be careful as we head into a more serious consideration of a new shower house. Read on...

In the upcoming Annual Report for 2021, we were excited to announce \$190,000 was provided through an estate gift and has been dedicated to new showers at Camp Concordia. These will replace the 1958 showers that have so valiantly served Camp Concordia for so long. We will need to raise additional funds to do the job correctly, but how exciting! There is a plan for the future.

The other good news is that we are currently working with a legitimate planner to lay out the future use of Camp Concordia. And... we have finally begun to build the new climbing tower we have been so eager to get started on. Please let us know when you have a small group that is available to come and do a project!

I am so glad that you and I get to be on this *building* journey together.

Here comes Spring!



Peace in Christ,

Craig

Dr. Craig S. Oldenburg
Camp Director

WE LOVE BEING A
GOOD TOOL FOR
YOUR WORK OF
SPREADING THE
GOSPEL!

BLESSED IS THE FATHER
WHO SHARES HIS HEART,
LIVES HIS FAITH, GIVES HIS TIME,
AND LOVES HIS FAMILY.

PROVERBS 20:7 ESV

Class of

2022
Congratulations!

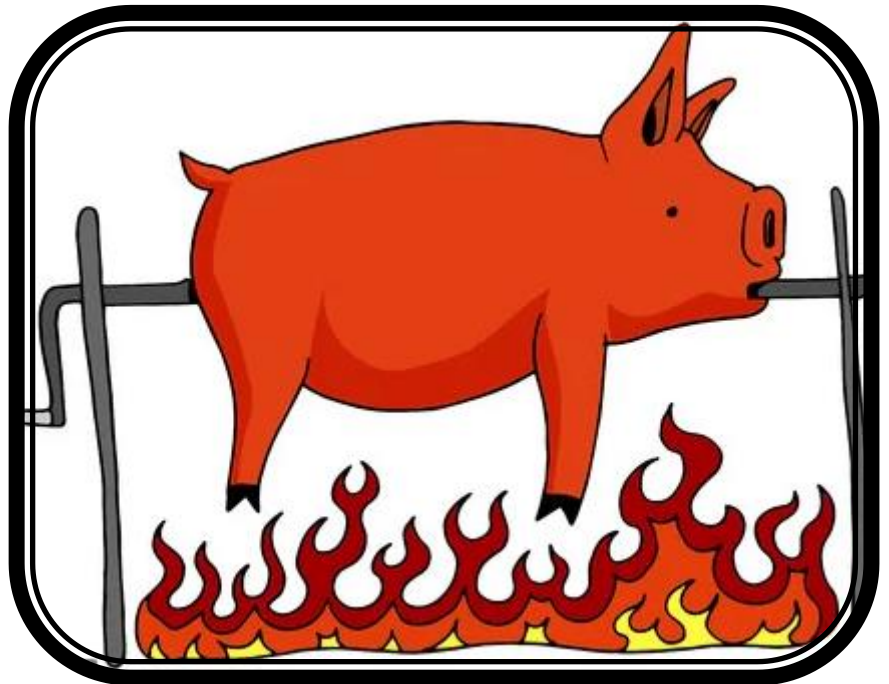
HOG ROAST NEWS

Come join in the fun and fellowship at St. Peter Lutheran Church and School on Sunday, July 17th, from noon until 3:00 pm. Please bring a dish to pass...meat, cheesy potatoes, beans, rolls/buns, beverages and table service will be provided. Food will be served from noon until 2:30 pm.

Get ready to win some pretty awesome prizes playing Bingo which we are offering for adults and older children. The obstacle course will be blown up outside for the younger children. Socks must be worn to go in order to go into the obstacle course. There will be prizes for all ages.

So reach out and grab those people you haven't seen for a while, and invite them to join us. We are looking forward to spending time in Christian fellowship once again with several of our sister congregations!

Charlene Kennedy



Thank you to all the teachers and staff for all their hard work this year. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help out with activities, lunches, and work around the church and school. Many hands make work lighter.



Run Club is coming to St. Peter: Starting June 15th, 2022 we are excited to offer this awesome fitness opportunity for children in grades K-8 & their families. During summer break, we will have a weekly Running Club on Wednesday mornings after chapel (9:30 am). Participants will be provided with encouragement and guidance about running form, and be provided with tools to foster a better understanding of what our bodies need to remain injury-free while gaining speed and strength. We will have eight training sessions and we will conclude the summer with a 5k walk/run, open to the entire St. Peter community. Required: A positive and respectful attitude, tennis shoes, water, (sunscreen if needed), & a snack for post-run (optional). Time: 9:30ish- 10:30/10:45 AM. Coached by: Kaitlyn Longoria. NASE II Strength & Speed Coach. ACSM Certified Personal Trainer. Corrective Exercise Specialist. Exercise is Medicine Level 1. MS Exercise Science. Runner of 23 years. Contact the church office to sign-up! You can also sign up in church office or the back of the church. You need to sign a waiver to participate. If you want to volunteer you need to fill out an ICHAT form as well and those need to be submitted by June 10th.



Secret Prayer Sisters

Please continue to pray for your "Secret Prayer Sister". This time of year we tend to get a little busier with "life". But make time each day to offer up a prayer for them and their family that God would bless and keep them always, and pray also that they would be faithful in Worship! Thank you. Diane Thurston



David and Joyce Erber
LCMS International Mission in Ghana, West Africa
April 30, 2022

Dear Partners in Mission,

In late 2021, LCMS International Mission met with Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri and formed a plan to offer an Online Master of Arts in Theology degree for Lutheran pastors in Africa.

LCMS asked me to serve as the 'on the ground in Africa' coordinator for this effort. I am grateful for support from our missionary team, especially for Rev. Dr. Walter Steele (Kenya) and Mrs. Megan Mantey (Uganda) who serve as program facilitators with me.

Sixteen pastors from Ghana (4), Kenya (4), South Sudan (1) and Uganda (7) have been working on the application process including an Online English exam.

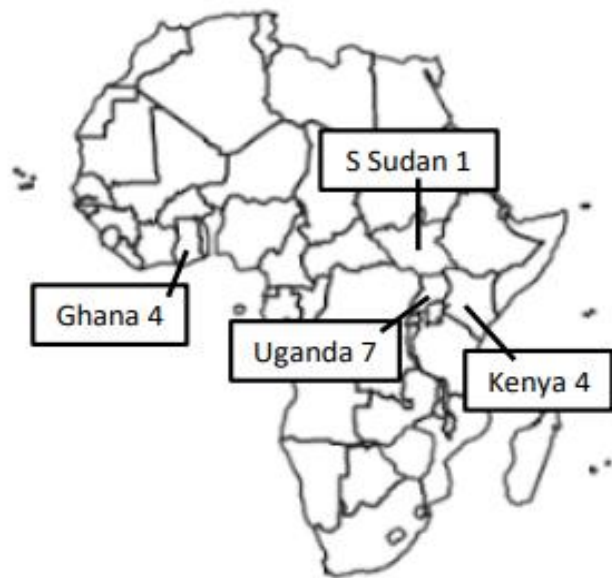
The application process, including the English examination, has been really challenging for these men. Some of them have little or no experience with the computer or internet.

I have been meeting these men in face-to-face using Zoom and working with them through email. Getting these men up and going on computers and the internet is essential for their success in the Online studies.

Instructors in Saint Louis will teach the classes over the internet. Our Zoom sessions have been a good first step of preparation for these classes. Our next steps are coming quickly!

Applications are all due tomorrow, May 1!

We are praying for those men who are still working to send their application documents!



Some of the pastors applying for these studies already teach at their local seminaries or are senior pastors who are responsible for care and supervision of large numbers of other pastors and congregations. Some are congregational pastors.

It is a privilege for me to connect with these special pastors in Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda and here in Ghana! My Zoom sessions with these men have been really great.

It is also a privilege for me to work with Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis and with our LCMS missionary team here in Africa.

May God bless these efforts: the application and admission process And the special upcoming studies in theology across Africa!

Thank you for your prayers for this work!

David and Joyce