

The Voice of Renewal

NEWSLETTER OF LUTHERAN LAY RENEWAL OF AMERICA

*Renewing faith and promoting spiritual growth in individuals and congregations
with renewal weekends, retreats, workshops, and conferences*

Celebrating 51 Years!

September, A.D. 2023

LUTHERAN LAY RENEWAL IS NOW ON YOUTUBE!

Thanks to generous funding by one of our board members, we now have three short videos on YouTube. Just click on the links below to watch and find out more about our ministry, and please give us a "Like":

Lutheran Lay Renewal in the U.S. - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2x9Kjbdydg0>

Lutheran Lay Renewal in Uganda-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6gN22j8a9c&t=2s>

Teaching Lutherans to Fish - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7bKT0eFsLY>

Thank you to Nate Kelly of Blue Heron Media Group (nate@blueheronmedia.group), Pittsburgh, PA for his excellent filming and production work, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Wexford, PA for their hospitality in hosting the filming.

LUTHERAN LAY RENEWAL WEEKEND IN KEMENZU, UGANDA

"Mukama Asiiimwe (Praise the Lord) Bill, thanks be to God for your prayers towards the Lutheran Lay Renewal program of Kemenzu and I thank Lutheran Lay Renewal for trusting me and to give me the opportunity like this to teach the great word of the living Christ, because it's all to prepare people's souls for Christ. I had 30 participants, including Lutherans of Kemenzu, and other Christians also from different denominations. The program was for two days, Saturday, September 16th and then on Sunday we closed with prayers. The program was for both youth and elders; the youth were 11 in number and the elders were 19 in number. I wish next time to have this at Kemenzu Lutheran Church and the community as well, I am really very happy with the church together with the community, and to tell you everybody who attended went home happy with the teaching they got. Christians shared and gave testimonies how God lifted their lives and worked through their weakness. One Christian gave testimony how forgiveness is good to the Christians and even it sets you free in God's presence." *Cont'd on page 2*

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judy Moser, President
Lou McKibben, Vice President
Karen Ferrari, Secretary-Treasurer
William Oehlschlager, Executive Director
Elaine Schomaker, President. Emerita

Rev. Kuruka Amutuhair
David Fugate
Deacon Michael Grube
Jerry Kuhn
Rev. David Luecke, Ph.D.
Rev. Peter Maganda

Cont'd from page 1:



"These two women gave testimony according to how God has done for them. The woman with the stick thanked God that although she got into an accident last year, through trusting in God and having faith, on Saturday and Sunday she managed to walk slowly to the church for the lay renewal program. Really she praised God and thanked him for his glory; she appreciated the program and she was very, very happy for the teaching. We also hosted the youth chairperson of Kemenzu community and in the middle he also thanked the program and said next time we prepare this lay renewal program he will bring all youth in the village to attend the best teaching." - Vicar Edison Abigaba, Kemenzu Lutheran Church

NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

Our board of Directors met on August 27, at the meeting Judy Moser was reelected President, Karen Ferrari was reelected Treasurer and the board also elected two new members, Rev. Peter Maganda and Rev. Kuruka Amutuhaire.



Rev. Peter Maganda is a pastor in the Lutheran Church of Uganda, where he serves Our Savior Lutheran Church, Magamaga. He also is Dean of the Eastern Deanery of the LCU and Dean of Students at the Lutheran Theological College. He is married to Elizabeth and they have four children: Martinet (16), Bertina (11), Jonathon (9) and Elisheba (4).

Rev. Peter was our first contact person in Uganda and his congregation hosted the first Lutheran Lay Renewal Weekend in Uganda in 2018. He also has been appointed by Bishop Charles Bameka as the coordinator of Lutheran Lay Renewal activities in the LCU.



Rev. Kuruka Amutuhairi is a priest in the Diocese of Northwest Ankole, (Anglican) Church of Uganda, where he serves under Bishop Amos Magezi as Director of Youth Ministry for the diocese. He and his wife Brenda were married earlier this year. Rev. Kuruka has been instrumental in establishing a partnership between Lutheran Lay Renewal and the Diocese of Northwest Ankole, where we led three retreats in 2021 and four earlier this year.

OUR PARTNERS IN AFRICA NEED OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The financial needs of our partners in Africa are great, as Uganda and Rwanda are two of the 25 poorest countries in the world. Below is a wish list of current financial needs. Would you or your congregation be willing to help?

Lutheran Church of Uganda

\$100 will pay the salary of a nurse at Niagobya Medical Clinic for one month.

\$355 will pay the salaries of 6 teachers plus the principal at a Lutheran primary school for one month

\$1,500 will buy a motorcycle for a pastor or vicar. At least three motorcycles are needed. Many pastors and vicars serving rural congregations must walk long distances every week to minister to their congregations.

Anglican Diocese of Northwest Ankole, Uganda

\$90 per year will pay for school fees, scholastic materials, a uniform and school bag for a child in a rural school.

\$211 per year will pay for school fees, scholastic materials, a uniform and a school bag for a student in a rural secondary school. Funds also are needed to support the growing youth ministry of the diocese.

Triangular Communities – Iganga, Uganda

Vision: To see all children and girls enter adulthood with holistic skills and abilities necessary to contribute effectively to the development of Uganda.

Dear friends in Christ and partners of Lutheran Lay Renewal,

Marianne Foundation for Youth Development, your friends in Uganda, is EXPLODING! Our programming is growing; our reach in the communities is spreading. We invite you to learn more about us, our current programming and future plans.



Our previous location could no longer suit the growing needs of the organization. Therefore, our Executive Director and Founder, Justus Ahimbisibwe, has sought out a new location in which more women and girls can have the opportunity to learn valuable life skills and contribute back to the community. More photos are on our Facebook page.

Features of the new location include a larger girls' dorm, an expanded skilling center, a women's tearoom, accommodations for



international volunteers, a craft shop, water and electricity connections, and staff offices. The new structure is being built with safety and sustainability at the forefront of all decisions. We are grateful to all of our partners thus far who have helped make this a reality, but we are not done yet!



The Marianne Foundation needs \$10,000 more to complete the project - \$5,000 to complete the main structure and \$5,000 to finish the girls' dorm!

If you are interested in supporting the growth of Marianne Foundation, please consider donating using our safe, secure donation link so that the money goes directly to the Foundation:

[DONATE HERE!](#)

[www.https://flutterwave.com/donate/ls1iujwevkj?_gl=1%2ay7i6o5%2a_ga%2aMjg4NDQ3NzU5LjE2NTkwOTAYNzg.%2a_ga_KQ9NSEMFCE%2aMTY2MDQyNDQ5Mi45LjEuMTY2MDQyNTE1NC4w](https://flutterwave.com/donate/ls1iujwevkj?_gl=1%2ay7i6o5%2a_ga%2aMjg4NDQ3NzU5LjE2NTkwOTAYNzg.%2a_ga_KQ9NSEMFCE%2aMTY2MDQyNDQ5Mi45LjEuMTY2MDQyNTE1NC4w)



God's blessings to you and thank you for your continued support and partnership!

Justus Ahimbisibwe

Executive Director and Founder | www.marianne-foundation.org

justusahimbisibwe@gmail.com

contact@marianne-foundation.org

+256 765 672 662

FROM THE REFORMED LUTHERAN CHURCH OF RWANDA



Dear People of God, God's peace!

Servants of God, these pictures are from our local congregation in Ntoma. This is a rental house. It is not our own building. Please, we need to build our own church building in Ntoma. Your prayers for the work of God in Rwanda will continue to be a blessing. Adult members are 120, and the total believers including youth and children are over 300.

It is a problem to me as the church president once the government local leaders say that they need this house for other use because we rented it from them. Please share this prayer request to all brothers and sisters in Christ so that they too can remember the church in Rwanda in their daily prayers. God bless you and God bless your family and God bless your country of the United States of America (USA).

In His Services!

Pastor Jean Claude Maniragaba, President, Reformed Lutheran Church of Rwanda



The Reformed Lutheran Church of Rwanda also needs funds for the Lay Leaders Training Program, which is training men, women and youth in Biblical studies, and to be leaders in their congregations. The RLCR also is training Lutheran adults to be deacons and deaconesses.

One hundred percent of any donations to Lutheran Lay Renewal will go to the need designated by the donor or, if you prefer to work directly with a church or ministry in Africa, please contact our office and we will put you in touch with church leaders there.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

September 19 7 Lessons for Living the Spiritual Life Retreat
Young Adult Group
Zion Lutheran Church
Chicora, PA

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Healing for Elaine Schomaker, Julie, Dan and Kathie Klueg
- For the Lord's blessings on our ministry in the U.S., Uganda and Rwanda, and for the financial resources that are needed for this ministry

Lutheran Lay Renewal of America is eligible to receive Choice Dollars Grant Funds from the Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars program. We are grateful to Thrivent Financial, and those individuals who designate their Choice Dollars to us, for their support of LLRA and its ministry!

Lutheran Lay Renewal of America is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization and depends on contributions from churches and individuals who have benefited from our ministry to help us continue to bring this ministry to more and more congregations all across America - and also in Uganda and Rwanda!

**Lutheran Lay Renewal of America
209 Thornwood Drive
Butler, PA 16001
724-287-5151
LLRAJ316@gmail.com
www.LLRA.org**