

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 52 Years!

September, A.D. 2024

LAND PURCHASE FOR BUZIBIRIRA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thanks to a very generous U.S. donor, Lutheran Lay Renewal was able to send enough funds to the Eastern Deanery of the Lutheran Church of Uganda to purchase two and a quarter acres of land for this congregation. The land also comes with a building that has many options for use by the congregation, including as a temporary worship facility. This congregation has been trying to raise funds for a land purchase for many years and has been asking us for help since our Executive Director first visited in 2019.



Rev. Fred Waako (L) and some of the members of Buzibirira Lutheran Church

"Thanks very much for your godly support for us, the Lord's servants of Buzibirira Lutheran Church. Thanks for the Lord enabling you to plan the donation for us which has enabled us to be in position to acquire the church land for our church on the 5th of September, 2024. Buzibirira Lutheran Church is now with its own land. May the Lord reward you abundantly!" – Rev. Fred Waako, Pastor

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
Jerry Kuhn
Rev. David Luecke, Ph.D.
Rev. Peter Maganda

SERERE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship and catechism classes are now being held at Serere Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church of Uganda Eastern Deanery, on the four acres of land purchased for the congregation with funds sent by Lutheran Lay Renewal of America in 2023, again thanks to a very generous donation to our ministry from a U.S. donor for this purpose. This is the first Lutheran congregation in Serere District, a remote district, and the land is on a peninsula on the eastern side of Lake Kyoga.



Catechism class in Serere



Some of the Sunday worshippers at Serere Lutheran Church

NAIGOBYA LUTHERAN CHURCH, NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Good morning brother in Christ Jesus! Thank you for the support, we received our salary and we are all happy with you. We always put you in our prayers. God protect and give you peace in Christ Jesus, Amen." – Hamidu Kwanga, Vicar

Editor's note: Lutheran Lay Renewal has been providing funding to pay the teachers at this remote school, as well as funding to purchase books and desks for the teachers and students. We are also funding the health clinic on the church property, which provides health care for people from five remote villages.



Students in one of the classrooms with new desks purchased this year

SCHEDULED EVENTS

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|-----------------|--|
| September 24-26 | Lutheran Church of Uganda Partners Conference
St. Luke Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan |
| September 28 | Spiritual Transformation Retreat & Sharing Your Faith Workshop
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Rochester, Minnesota
Rev. John Saethre, Pastor
Bill Oehlschlager, Retreat Leader |
| September 28 | Renewal Weekend
Kemenzu Lutheran Church
Kemenzu, Uganda
Edison Abigaba, Vicar |

Does your congregation need a spiritual boost? Maybe it's time to schedule a retreat, workshop or renewal weekend. Call our office or check our website for details and informational flyers!

LUTHERAN LAY RENEWAL CHANNEL ON YOUTUBE

Thanks to generous funding by one of our board members, we now have some 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":

LLRA in the U.S. - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-RfXq0HuerI&t=79s>
Lutheran Lay Renewal in Uganda- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVU2uNsJPek>
Teaching Lutherans to Fish - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7bKT0eFsLY&t=5s>
Yesu Angonza (Jesus Loves Me) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCuIkqo1IqM>

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

Plans are being made to build a maternity block at Naigobya Medical Clinic, a clinic we have been funding for 5 years. We do not yet know the cost but funds are needed. \$355 will pay the salaries of 6 teachers & the principal at a primary school for 1 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.

Josiah Youth and Child Care Center – Ibanda, Uganda

Josiah Youth and Child Care Africa is dedicated to nurturing the potential of youth by providing a diverse range of educational, skill-building, and mentorship programs. Guided by our core values, we aim to foster personal growth, inspire leadership, and create a supportive environment where each individual can thrive.

Diocese of Northwest Ankole, (Anglican) Church of Uganda

"We are looking for partners to work with us to address the matters of education, health, food security, household income, clean water, sanitation, hygiene and afforestation. We, therefore, request a partnership in any of these matters, especially assisting the youth and children to attain education so that they might be released from poverty and ignorance." – The Rt. Rev. Amos Magezi, Bishop

Reformed Lutheran Church of Rwanda

Funds are needed to build a church building for the Lutheran congregation in Ntoma, which currently is using a rental house. "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." - Pastor Jean Claude Maniragaba, President, Reformed Lutheran Church of Rwanda

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.

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Healing for Elaine Schomaker, Julie, Dan and Kathie Klueg, Vicar Edison Abigaba and Vicar James Alinaitwe
- For the Lord's blessings on our ministry in the U.S., Uganda and Rwanda, and for the financial resources that are needed to continue to grow and flourish

"The soul can do without everything except the Word of God, without which none at all of its wants are provided for. But, having the Word, it is rich and wants for nothing, since that is the word of life, of truth, of light, of peace, of justification, of salvation, of joy, of liberty, of wisdom, of virtue, of grace, of glory, and of every good thing." – Martin Luther

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 (tax ID#35-2442848) and depends on contributions from churches, and individuals, that 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!

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Rev. Fred Waako and members of Buzibirira Lutheran Church on their new land