

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!

November, A.D. 2024

RETREAT AT EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

On Saturday, September 28, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN hosted our retreat on Spiritual Transformation, as well as our Sharing Your Faith workshop, both led by our Executive Director. In addition, Fred Magezi, Head of the College of Laity of the Lutheran Church of Uganda, gave a presentation on the work of the LCU.

"We saw the Holy Spirit move, especially during the section on "forgiveness." The Spirit opened up people's hearts to deep hurts from the past. There was open sharing which encouraged others to share similar hurts, especially in marital conflict. Healing occurred as the group gathered laid hands on one individual and prayed corporately. Having Mr. Fred Magezi of the Lutheran Church of Uganda was a real bonus as he shared the ministry of that country on PowerPoint.

Our retreat was a real blessing for Emmanuel Lutheran. Fervent prayer leading up to the event brought much spiritual fruit. God showed up in a big way. Thank you for sharing the Word and many sites from Barna's research and others. . . God's blessings on your continued ministry with Lutheran Lay Renewal!" – Rev. John Saethre, Pastor



Attendees of the retreat at Emmanuel Lutheran Church

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judy Moser, President

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Karen Ferrari, Secretary-Treasurer

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Rev. David Luecke, Ph.D.

Rev. Peter Maganda

RETREAT AT KEMENZU LUTHERAN CHURCH, KEMENZU, UGANDA

"Greetings Brother in God's name, let me hope you're doing well and your family, including Bob and his family. Well, those three days starting Thursday I was busy working on the notes of 7 Lessons for Living the Spiritual Life, including the scriptures; these notes were requested by the 3 Moslems who attended our weekend retreat on 28th September. These notes will let them understand Christianity and strengthen them to grow in faith, so yesterday I had to give out these notes to them. They were very happy and thankful.

My appreciation goes to you, thank you so much sir for the love and trust to me, who am I to preach to the Moslems, actually this is my first time to reach the Moslems, really your notes for 7 Lessons have helped me a lot in ministry as my weapon and thankfully people are appreciating it and many have changed their lives, including me in ministry. Thank you so much. Yesterday when I visited the Moslems with the notes from 7 Lessons, I saw victory in these people, very happy and appreciative. May God bless you abundantly. Yours in Christ, Abigaba Edison, Vicar."

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF UGANDA PARTNERS CONFERENCE IN ANN ARBOR, MI

The three-day LCU Partners Conference at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan concluded on Friday September 27, with a call for the participants to return home and proclaim Christ as they serve the church and grow their respective ministries. Our Executive Director attended this conference, as our ministry is a partner of the LCU.

In his closing remarks, Bishop Charles I. Bameka, on behalf of the LCU, thanked the partners for their continued partnership and for walking alongside the LCU, as well as for their unwavering support in the growth and the development of the Lutheran Church of Uganda.

He was very grateful for the work, preparation and organization of the conference by Ms. Lynn Corker of Women of the Pearl. Lynn was very grateful to the partners who were able to be in Michigan for the noble cause of supporting the work of Christ in Uganda. She reminded the partners of the need to align their various ministry efforts with the 5-year Strategic Growth and Development plan of the LCU. Pastor Dan Schneider preached and led the closing Communion Worship Service assisted by Bishop Charles I. Bameka.

Editor's note: Photos from the conference are on the LCU's website at www.lcu.ug.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

We now have a new website, which can be viewed at www.LLRA.org. All of our YouTube videos are now on the site, as well as on our YouTube channel. In addition, the site has downloadable flyers on all of the ministry options we offer, as well as links to our newsletters. Many thanks to Maddie Fair for all the work she did in creating the new site!

LUTHERAN LAY RENEWAL ON THE RADIO!

In October we recorded two 25-minute radio interviews for the Biz Burgh program on WORD-FM 101.5 in Pittsburgh. Bill Oehlschlager and Fred Magezi recorded the first program and LLRA board members Lou McKibben and Jerry Kuhn recorded the second. The purpose of these programs is to promote awareness of our ministry in Africa. For those who are interested, but live outside of the Pittsburgh area, and others who have not heard the programs, they still can be heard by clicking on the following links:

<https://omny.fm/shows/word-podcasts/biz-burgh-lutheran-lay-renewal-1-1>

<https://omny.fm/shows/word-podcasts/biz-burgh-lutheran-lay-renewal-2-1>

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

\$4,500 will pay for all the annual expenses at Naigobya Health Clinic on the grounds of Naigobya Lutheran Church and School. This clinic serves the people of five remote villages in Eastern Uganda.

\$355 will pay the salaries of 6 teachers & the principal at a primary school for 1 month. Due to poverty in these areas, we are providing support as we are able for both Naigobya and Kyabazaala Lutheran Nursery and Primary Schools.

Katafari Lutheran Church Kazo District, Southwestern Deanery

The people of this congregation have put up the poles and next will build the sides of their church. They just need \$1,000 to purchase a roof and have it installed.



Trinity Lutheran Church Kyahenda, Buhweju District, Southwestern Deanery

Bricks made by the congregation are ready to be fired so that construction can be started to build a large church for this congregation. \$10,000 is needed for the first phase of construction.



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

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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Masindi Lutheran Church, Uganda
This is what can happen when Americans are willing to help!