

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 53 Years!

July, A.D. 2025

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE ON HANGA LUTHERAN CHURCH, UGANDA



Second phase of construction of Hanga Lutheran Church

Rev. Raymond Kaija, Dean of the Midwestern Deanery, Lutheran Church of Uganda, has been keeping us updated on the construction of the church in Hanga, which is a very remote and poor village populated by many refugees. This project is being funded by Lutheran Lay Renewal of America. Thanks to some very generous donations this year, we are providing funding for three building projects for Lutheran congregations in Uganda, in addition to funding the Naigobya Health Clinic, teachers' salaries at two Lutheran primary schools and the Lay Leaders Training Program in the LCU Eastern Deanery.

FROM THE SOUTHWESTERN DEANERY, LUTHERAN CHURCH OF UGANDA

"You mean you have been doing these Renewal Conferences for 53 years? This is so amazing, happy anniversary to you Lutheran Lay Renewal for renewing faith, promoting growth in individuals and congregations. Your dedication and compassion to excellence are truly commendable and I am so grateful for your support. Thank you once again for being a part of this important event, I and many others look forward to continue collaborating with you again. God bless your work and your family and those that you are working with for the growth of these workshops here in Uganda and other countries." - Rev. Allan Karuhanga, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church of Uganda

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YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S GATHERING, DIOCESE OF NORTHWEST ANKOLE



Children enjoying praise during the 2025 Youth and Children's Gathering

"Thanks for the generosity of Lutheran Lay Renewal of America for supporting the work of the youth ministry. As a diocese, we have continuously had the Youth and Children's gathering, which is an annual event. From 8th – 12th January 2025, we were able to host 1,714 youth and children for the youth gathering at Kibubura Girls Secondary school under the theme: *'And let us not grow weary of doing good,'* - Galatians 6:9. We thank God 1,385 youth and children made a commitment and received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

We had different speakers, i.e. His Grace, Bishop Henry Luke Orombi, former Archbishop of Uganda, as our main speaker, and Rev. Dembe Ye Yesu as our Bible expositor. The youth were involved in different activities like boy and girl mentorship talks, Bible study in different groups and training in different life skills.

This youth gathering was a success because Lutheran Lay Renewal of America provided the money for feeding the youth and children, which reduced the conference fee, hence registering more numbers for this ministry. For 2026, our 8th annual gathering will be from 14th – 18th January 2026, we request for support towards this gathering in food suppliers of \$5,714 dollars. May the Lord bless the work of Lutheran Lay Renewal of America." – Rev. Kuruka Amutuhair, Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator

FROM IBANDA, UGANDA

"On behalf of the church, I thank you for sparing your precious time for the seminars you conducted here for our deanery. Your kind presence gave us a great opportunity to share in your words of encouragement. The three days we spent here were amazing for all of us. We learned a lot from you, especially how one should trust and be obedient to God; these words you taught us will help us participants to renew our minds, souls and hearts. To me my life will change because of God's words you shared with us. Thank you for the good job you are doing for God's people; may God bless you as you travel back and extend our greetings to your people in America." – Chairperson, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE FROM TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, KYAHENDA



Trinity Lutheran Church is getting closer to completion

The construction project for this church in the remote highlands of Buhweju District in Southwestern Uganda is moving along quickly. It appears that it will soon be ready for the installation of the roof, after which the building will be usable by the congregation. Lutheran Lay Renewal is providing the funding for this construction project.

LIFE OF A VICAR IN BUHWEJU DISTRICT

In general, pastors and vicars in Uganda do not get paid a salary, as their parishioners are too poor to pay them. In addition, these servants of God must travel mostly on foot, and many times to remote places, to lead worship, to visit their parishioners who are not able to walk to church on Sunday, as well as to pray for the sick. Godwin Ngabarino, who is serving his vicarage year at St. John's Lutheran Church, Kiyanja, Buhweju District, sent our office some photos that illustrate these difficulties. Like many pastors and vicars, he is in need of a motorcycle or motorbike in order to reach people in this remote and mountainous area.



Vicar Godwin Ngabarino (L) visiting the home of parishioners in Buhweju District

Godwin writes: "I'm walking long distances to reach our congregations in deep villages. Met all these in my pastoral visit, some don't have clothes to meet with us at church, some are very sick and with no money for medication, poor houses and their children don't go to school."

R.I.P. KATHIE KLUEG



We were saddened to hear of the passing of Kathie Klueg on June 21 at age 65. Kathie, her husband Dan and son Ryan all served on many Lutheran Lay Renewal Weekend teams. Kathie loved to lead the children's ministry and was a great blessing to many children on these weekends. Husband Dan is a former member of our Board of Directors. Please keep Dan, Ryan and the rest of Kathie's family in your prayers.

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant Kathie, being raised with Christ, may know the strength of his presence and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Our Board of Directors will hold its annual meeting sometime in August and during this meeting board elections will be held. If you have a heart for spiritual renewal, discipleship and evangelism, and would be interested in serving on our board, please contact our national office prior to the meeting for more information.

Does your congregation need a spiritual boost? Are your people in need of deeper spirituality and understanding? 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!

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.

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

Martin Luther Evangelical 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, Martin Luther Evangelical Church of Rwanda

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.

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 Klueg
- For the Lord’s blessings on our ministry in the U.S., Uganda, Rwanda and for the financial resources that are needed for this ministry to continue to grow and flourish
- Additional funding so that we can soon be able to lead renewal conferences in Kenya, where Lutheran bishops are requesting our help

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 and soon (God willing) Kenya!

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