

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!

November, A.D. 2025

IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH BUILDINGS IN UGANDAN LUTHERAN COMMUNITY: A PERSPECTIVE

Although the church is the community of believers, the importance of church buildings in our Lutheran community cannot be underestimated. They are providing much needed identity with which Lutheran Minority Saints in Uganda are identified from other denominations that are associated with makeshift structures.

They are providing sacred spaces which glorify God in which the saints gather for worship and connect with their God. They are also providing spaces for the Lutheran saints to gather, fellowship and support one another. They are providing venues to host a wide variety of ministries, from teaching and Bible studies to youth groups, social events and community outreach programs.

It goes without saying therefore that the ongoing partnership between Southwestern and Midwestern deaneries of the Lutheran Church of Uganda and Lutheran Lay Renewal of America to construct church buildings is not in vain. Currently, with funding from Lutheran Lay Renewal of America, two church buildings, at Kyahenda and Hanga are nearing completion.



Trinity Lutheran Church, Kyahenda



Hanga Lutheran Church

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When completed, it is hoped that the church buildings will be used to portray the church as:

A Family where the saints of all social status will be raised, nurtured and equipped with spiritual gifts, such as love and care for one another.

An Altar where the saints will come to offer themselves as living sacrifices as they worship their God.

A School where the saints will come to learn as disciples, in order to disciple disciples who will disciple others to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord.

A Hospital where people of all categories will come for physical, spiritual, mental, emotional and psychological healing and rehabilitation, in order to live healthy lives in healthy bodies.

Editor's note: In addition to providing funding to build Hanga Lutheran Church, LLRA also has provided the funds for a borehole (well) on the church grounds. This source of clean water will be a huge blessing, not only for the Lutherans of this church but also for the entire community, many of whom are refugees from fighting in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The writer, Fred Magezi, is Head of the College of Laity, Lutheran Church of Uganda, and Extraordinary Ambassador of Josiah Youth and Child Care Africa.



CONFERENCE AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, KYAHENDA

"Good evening here in Uganda. Today's deliverance conference ended with ten people being confirmed in the Lutheran faith. The conference was very successful after many were set free in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and testified positively. I have realized these conferences are very important to the congregants, though transport of facilitators (pastors) is becoming unaffordable."

Evangelist John Baptist Kyabahwa wrote this to us about the conference held over the weekend of October 18-19 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kyahenda, LCU Southwestern Deanery. This is the church Lutheran Lay Renewal has been paying to build this year in

the remote highlands of Buhweju District in Southwestern Uganda. Although the project is not yet complete, the building is at least usable. About \$6,500 is still needed to complete the construction of this church, which is the only Christian church for many miles around in this remote area.



October conference at Trinity Lutheran Church, Kyahenda

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 Uganda are great, as this is one of the 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, Eastern Deanery

\$7,750 is needed to complete a building for **Ojeburun Lutheran Church** in the Eastern Deanery.

\$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**

Josiah Youth and Child Care Center – Ibanda, Uganda

At Josiah Youth and Child Care Africa, we are dedicated to nurturing the next generation through discipleship, mentorship, and life skills-based training. Our vision is "*An enlivened purpose-driven generation for Africa*," and our mission is "*Nurturing children and youth through life skills-based training towards holistic transformation*." Our goal is "*To raise a generation of God-fearing, purpose-driven young adults who will positively impact Africa and beyond*."

Our initial annual budget is **\$5,514**. This amount includes leading retreats, leadership training and Bible studies for young people—activities that closely mirror the Lutheran Lay Renewal model of lay-led renewal weekends. – **Rev. Kuruka Amutuhaire, Founder and Executive Director**

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.

WISDOM FOR OUR TIME

"The word of God is the only light in the darkness of this life, a word of life, consolation and supreme blessedness. Where this precious and saving word is absent, nothing remains but a fearsome and terrifying darkness, error and faction, death and every calamity, and the tyranny of the devil himself, as we can see with our own eyes every day." – Martin Luther

"Jesus Christ is the object of all things, the center towards which all things tend. Whoever knows him knows the reason for everything." – Blaise Pascal, *Pensees*

"As soon as Christ's kingdom comes to terms with the world, Christianity is abolished." – Soren Kierkegaard

"As many academics look at the Scriptures, they begin with the assumption that miracle passages must be unhistorical, that is, they never happened. Such a belief is not one they learned from the Scriptures, but one they bring to the Scriptures. They are therefore not true students of the Scriptures but students of the culture. Their own cultural bias is superimposed on the Scriptures. This however is not true biblical scholarship. The authority of those who speak in this way count as nothing for they speak only as men, influenced by and uncritical of the culture in which they have grown up." – C. S. Lewis, *Fernseed and Elephants*

"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried." - G. K. Chesterton

"Christianity preaches the infinite worth of that which is seemingly worthless and the infinite worthlessness of that which is seemingly so valued." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Humility is the foundation of all the other virtues hence; in the soul in which this virtue does not exist there cannot be any other virtue except in mere appearance." - Saint Augustine

"Wherever riches have increased, the essence of religion has decreased in the same proportion." – John Wesley

"However, in early democracies, as in the American democracy at the time of its birth, all individual human rights were granted because man is God's creature. That is, freedom was given to the individual conditionally, in the assumption of his constant religious responsibility. Such was the heritage of the preceding thousand years. Two hundred or even fifty years ago, it would have seemed quite impossible, in America, that an individual could be granted boundless freedom simply for the satisfaction of his instincts or whims. Subsequently, however, all such limitations were discarded everywhere in the West; a total liberation occurred from the moral heritage of Christian centuries with their great reserves of mercy and sacrifice. ... State systems were becoming increasingly and totally materialistic. The West ended up by truly enforcing human rights, sometimes even excessively, but man's sense of responsibility to God and society grew dimmer and dimmer." – Alexandre Solzhenitsyn

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

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