

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!

September, A.D. 2025

LEADERSHIP TRAINING, EASTERN DEANERY, LUTHERAN CHURCH OF UGANDA

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The leadership Training Program in Eastern Deanery continues to be of great importance to the Lutheran Church of Uganda Eastern Deanery. On behalf of the Deanery, I extend our appreciation to Lutheran Lay Renewal of America, which we have partnered with in this great endeavor of training men to serve in congregations as evangelists, especially in those churches that do not have ordained ministers.



Training session in the LCU Eastern Deanery

Currently the class of Leadership Training has 31 students, and these come from different congregations. Originally our class had 43 students, but some were selected by the Deanery to join the Seminary in Magamaga. The Deanery has great hopes that when the men above finish their training, they will be a great support towards the ministry in the different communities in Eastern Uganda. They will be expected to evangelize and plant more churches in the different villages and towns. We are grateful for the three men who are facilitating the trainings. These include Rev. Micheal Waiswa, Rev. Erifazi Buluba, and Vicar Leonard Opedde. – Rev. Peter Maganda, Dean, Eastern Deanery, LCU

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TESTIMONIES FROM RENEWAL CONFERENCE IN RUSOLERA, UGANDA

Kasange Godian

"I am here to testify about my education path. Since I was born, I had never seen my parents, as they separated during the war in 1980's. I was raised up by people I did not know but thank God I grew up and was able to pursue my education. Whenever I see my friends in the village who had their parents, but they did not pay school fees for them, I thank God. The strangers turned parents paid for my school fees and I am now having a diploma in agriculture and earning some money which others are not getting. Much as I have lived a Christian life, for years I have been entangled with bad life and decided not to forgive my parents, but due to the Lutheran Lay Renewal training on forgiveness and freedom, I have decided to forgive my parents; I called them and told them I have forgiven them, and they too forgave me."

Siliver Kavuma

"I am Siliver Kavuma and I call myself "Kawunawo" (Survivor) because I survived death in an accident that occurred and over 7 people died, and I was among the 3 who survived. The accident occurred along the Masaka highway and after the incident, I was told by my cousin that I should always be prayerful and never leave home before praying. I am happy that I took this seriously and today am pleased to say that I pray from the Lutheran Church, and I have been encouraged by the clergy to do the same. I give thanks to the Almighty God for the second chance that he offered me, and I will pray every time. In this Lutheran Lay Renewal conference, I have learnt how to pray and the need for daily prayers. Every session we were having during the training we prayed together; we even prayed right away for those participants who requested to be prayed for. This renewal conference indeed has renewed my spiritual life with my father and my family!"

Asiimwe Rebecca

"I thank God for my children who have been successful in their education after my husband left me and I raised them alone. When my husband got another wife, I was chased away from home with three children and their father did not care at all. I once met with the Lay Leader for the Lutheran Church who told me that prayers are the only solution to the situation. I really prayed for them and am happy they got bursaries and have two degrees and a diploma at home and now the husband is always asking for them to help him. I advised them after the Lutheran Lay Renewal training to forgive their father, which they did, and they are now giving the necessary support. God is good all the time! The Spiritual Renewal conference came at a time when my family needed it most to learn the importance of forgiveness and prayer. And through this conference God reconciled us and brought us together in love and unity again as a family!"

Rev. Raymond Kaija, Dean, Midwestern Deanery, Lutheran Church of Uganda

"After the Spiritual Renewal conference, I had a case reported in my office of a young girl who fought with her aunt (maternal). The girl Phiona accused her aunt of restricting her movements and assigning her work at home, which she doesn't want to do, like sweeping the compound, cooking food, and digging in the garden. Phiona told the aunt, "You are not my mother," and immediately started the fight. Phiona is an orphan; her mother died over ten years ago, and her aunt raised her up. That aunt and all the sisters vowed not to forgive this child and even threatened to curse her out of the family. I was called to go and help handle the matters. Thanks be to God, this was just after the Lutheran Spiritual

Renewal conference; I used the Seven Lessons for Living a Spiritual Life and I emphasized having a forgiving heart vs unforgiving heart that closes the big doors of the church, holding one in the past! These lessons helped so much to bring the aunt to a peaceful mind and a heart of forgiving but also humbled Phiona to a broken and contrite heart, that she knelt before her aunt and sought for forgiveness.

The leaders who attended the conference from different church bodies have since called me extending appreciations, saying after the renewal conference they can hear God's calling in their lives to reaching out to the communities around them with the gospel. Before the conference, many didn't know what to do and where to begin mission work. It was through the training that they were equipped and empowered for training their leaders of the congregations to join them in sharing the gospel to the people."

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

BIBLE DISTRIBUTIONS IN KENYA



Bishop Geoffrey Mburugu (r-2nd row) and other church leaders at one of the Bible distributions

"I am glad to inform you that our Synod has started a Campaign by the name "GOD WITH US." It is true that we can't know God and live according to his ways without hearing Him speak to us in our daily life. This can only happen when we have His Word right with us in our congregations, homes and workplaces. Our Synod has identified that great need and it is the reason behind the Campaign. In this Campaign we are targeting to reach out to congregations, families, to individuals. We are starting our Phase One of the distribution with making sure at least each family gets a Bible. In our Phase One we are targeting a

hundred Families. And it is in this light that we appeal to the Lutheran Lay Renewal of America [LLR] to help us in achieving this noble task. Having you as our first partners in this work will be a great blessing to our Synod. Blessings to you as you purpose to respond. *Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."* - Bishop Geoffrey Mburugu, Mt. Kenya Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Conference and Ministerium of Kenya

Editor's note: Thanks to a generous donation to Lutheran Lay Renewal of America, we were able to fund phase one of this campaign.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE FROM TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, KYAHENDA

The construction project for Trinity Lutheran Church in the remote highlands of Buhweju District in Southwestern Uganda is moving along quickly. We held a one-day renewal conference on this land in January that was attended by about 140 people, many of whom walked 7-10 miles to attend.

Lutheran Lay Renewal is providing the funding for this construction project, as well as two other church buildings in Uganda: Hanga in the Midwestern Deanery and Ojeburun in the Eastern Deanery. About \$5,000 will be sufficient to complete the Trinity Lutheran Church building; would you or your congregation be willing to help?



Trinity Lutheran Church, Kyahenda is getting closer to completion

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 these are some 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

\$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 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!

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Bible distribution at a church in Mt. Kenya Synod



Renewal Conference in Rusolera, Uganda