

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*

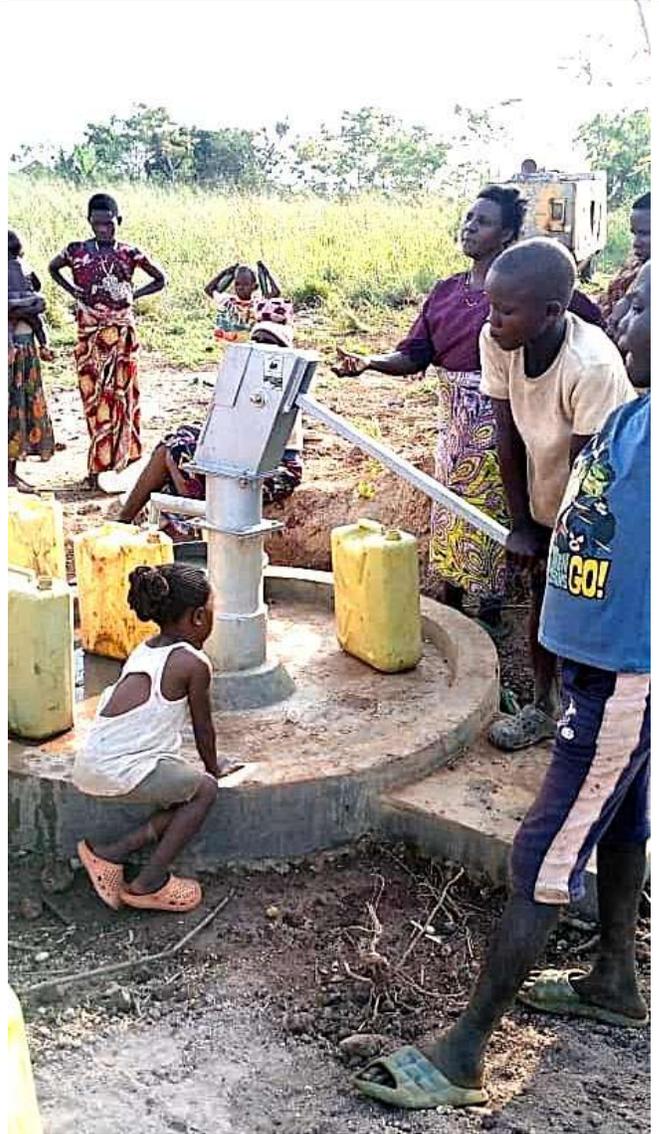
Celebrating 53 Years!

January, A.D. 2026

HANGA LUTHERAN CHURCH IN UGANDA GETS A BOREHOLE!

"On behalf of the deanery and on my own behalf, we extend our sincere thanks for the support extended to us towards the construction and completion of the borehole! Water is life! Thank you for helping improve the lives of the community members in Hanga and the surrounding villages! The community has started the new year with the new life and blessing of the borehole! Thank you for bringing new life of joy and peace that comes with the new bore hole constructed at Hanga Lutheran Church!

The congregation Chairperson, Ja Batista said: 'We are very excited and blessed to have water close to us! Our children and wives will no longer have to walk long distances in search for water! Our children can now have more time to study at school and also rest from long distances! Our health is also going to improve since we have clean and safe water for drinking and using at home! Thank you Lutheran Lay Renewal, thank you the LCU Midwestern Deanery and everyone who supported us in any way.'" - Your Brother, Dean Raymond Kaija Abwooli



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The new borehole in Hanga

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER AT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ALIMUGONZA, UGANDA

It was a joyful moment at St. John Lutheran Church, Alimugonza during the children's Christmas dinner, jointly organized by Sheep on His Right (SOHR) and funded through Lutheran Lay Renewal (LLR). The dinner attracted over 180 celebrants, including children and parents. The joyful dinner was presided over by the Dean Midwestern Deanery, Rev. Raymond Kaija, flanked by the Executive Director Sheep on his Right, Mr. Kisige Willy, the Deanery Coordinator, Rev. Robert Wabyona and the dean's wife, Monica Kaija.

In his opening devotion, Rev. Raymond congratulated the younger stars and the members present for successfully completing 2025 and wished everyone a happiest New year 2026. The man of God reminded the attendees that it's not by their might or power that they are still living but only by the Grace of God. The Executive Director Sheep on His Right, Mr. Kisige Willy, said the children's Christmas dinner was aimed at sharing the love and joy of the heavenly gift, who is Jesus Christ.

The congregational minister, Rev. Morris Tusiime, was grateful for the initiative, saying it's an evangelism tool that gives the congregation opportunity to share the love of Christ to children all over the community. He recommended that this should be an annual event for the congregation. The young pastor expressed a need for construction of a church building. The congregation is currently conducting prayers in a temporary church structure and during the rainy season they are forced to suspend worship service until the rain stops.

Rev. Morris however, listed a lack of safe and clear water in the area as a borehole that was drilled by the church broke down two years ago, forcing the locals in the area to share the only available water source with animals.



The Executive Director of SOHR serving the children



The local well in Alimugonza

Lack of a school is yet another major challenge the community is facing, as learners trek long distances to get to the government schools which are about 6 kilometers away. The Sunday school had a series of performances at the dinner.



Editor's note: Many thanks to all those in the U.S. who donated funds for the borehole in Hanga and the Children's Christmas dinner in Alimugonza!

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!

"The renewal conference was just what we needed. I highly recommend it to everyone seeking to help people grow in relationship with God and in discovering God's mission for their church. (The retreat leader) provided solid biblical/practical application insights and his own personal witness that engaged all of us in seeing God at work in our own lives. The balance between presentation, questions, answers and sharing in the group was especially rich and helpful. For individuals and congregations who want to grow in their spiritual life and in learning to share and witness Christ, Lutheran Lay Renewal is a "not to miss opportunity." - Rev. Dr. Alden W. Towberman, Senior Pastor, St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Butler, PA

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.

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**

"The heart overflows with gladness, and leaps and dances for the joy it has found in God. In this experience the Holy Spirit is active, and has taught us in the flash of a moment the deep secret of joy. You will have as much joy and laughter in life as you have faith in God." — Martin Luther

"When men choose not to believe in God, they do not thereafter believe in nothing, they then become capable of believing in anything." – G.K Chesterton

"This is the most dangerous trial of all, when there is no trial and everything goes well; for then a man is tempted to forget God, to become too bold and to misuse times of prosperity." — Martin Luther, A Treatise on Good Works

"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." – C.S. Lewis