

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!

March, A.D. 2026

BUILDING LUTHERAN CHURCHES IN UGANDA!



Hanga Lutheran Church, LCU Midwestern Deanery



Ojeburun Lutheran Church, LCU Eastern Deanery

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The church building in Hanga, Midwestern Deanery of the Lutheran Church of Uganda, is nearing completion. Many of the people living in this remote village are refugees from the DRC, Rwanda and Northwestern Uganda. Last year we funded a borehole, so the people of this area have clean water without having to walk for miles, and now they also have a usable church building, although there is still a lot of work that needs to be completed, so more funds are needed.

The church in Ojeburun, a remote area in Serere District, LCU Eastern Deanery, still needs a roof and other additional work. The estimated cost for roofing, windows and doors is \$7,200; then an additional \$5,300 will be needed for plastering.



Christians in Hanga cleaning the church

FUNDING LUTHERAN SCHOOLS IN UGANDA



Outdoor class at Naigoby Lutheran Nursery and Primary School

Lutheran Lay Renewal is continuing to fund the Naigobya Health Clinic, which we have been funding for the past seven years, and we are also providing funds to pay the teachers at Naigobya and Kyabazaala Lutheran Nursery and Primary Schools. In these remote and very poor areas most parents cannot afford to pay school fees, so we are providing the necessary funds to pay the teachers and support staff.

Both schools are growing very fast and outgrowing their facilities, so some classes have to be held outside. Of course, this can be problematic during the rainy season, which is going on right now.

Rev. Peter Maganda, Dean of the LCU Eastern Deanery, writes that Naigobya Lutheran Nursery and Primary school now has 230 students. Some of these students study under trees because there are not enough classrooms. He adds: "Parents have continued to bring their children to our school because they trust the school, being church founded, will shape their children's morals and spirituality because of the chapel services conducted there."



Rev. Buluba Erifazi speaks to students at an outdoor class at Kyabazaala Lutheran Nursery and Primary School. Some of the indoor classrooms are to the left.

Rev. Erifazi writes that there are now 342 students in this school and there is a great need to build more classrooms. Before the church and classrooms were built, students had to walk several miles to attend school, making it too difficult for younger children to attend school at all.

"Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.'" - Luke 18:15-17

DIOCESE OF NORTHWEST ANKOLE – YOUTH AND CHILDREN MINISTRY

By Rev. Kuruka Amutuhaire – Diocesan Youth and Students Coordinator

We extend our sincere gratitude for your spiritual, moral, and financial support. A special word of thanks goes to St. Peter's Anglican Church in Butler, Pennsylvania, for their continued generosity in feeding the youth and children during the convention.

We are delighted to report that the **8th Annual Diocesan Youth and Children Convention** was successfully held from Thursday, 22nd to Sunday, 25th January, 2026 at Kibubura Girls Secondary School in Ibanda. Organized under the guidance of the Diocesan Youth Ministry, the convention brought together young people from across parishes and communities to worship, learn, and grow in leadership.



The theme of this year's convention was: **"Anchored in Christ for Peace, Unity, and Stability" (Ephesians 2:14–17)**. This theme shaped all sessions, teachings, and activities throughout the four days. We give thanks to God for the steady increase in attendance, which reflects the growing hunger among youth and children for spiritual nourishment.

This year, we welcomed **1,473 youth and children**, alongside **130 convention officials and facilitators**, bringing the total attendance to **1,603 participants**. Most importantly, **304 youth gave their lives to Christ** and now await discipleship in their respective parishes.



The Youth and Children Convention continues to be a significant milestone in empowering young people for service and unity, reaffirming the vitality of youth in the life of the church and community. As we look ahead, we encourage more partners to join us, especially in supporting school-based discipleship programs. For our planned **May–September school visitations**, we prayerfully seek **\$2,000** to make this mission possible.

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?

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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*"The secret of holy living is in knowing (Rom. 6:6) that our old self was crucified with Christ. It is in knowing (verse 3) that baptism into Christ is baptism into his death and resurrection. It is in reckoning, intellectually realizing (verse 11), that in Christ we have died to sin and we live to God. We are to know these things, to meditate on them, to realize that they are true. Our minds are so to grasp the fact and the significance of our death and resurrection with Christ, that a return to the old life is unthinkable. A born-again Christian should no more think of going back to the old life than an adult to his childhood, a married man to his bachelorhood, or a discharged prisoner to his prison cell."
- John R.W. Stott*