

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!

May, A.D. 2026

BUILDING LUTHERAN CHURCHES IN UGANDA!

Construction of Ojeburun Lutheran Church, Serere District, is proceeding. The roof installation is now complete and metal bars have been installed in the windows. Plastering of the walls and installation of the doors should begin soon.



Ojeburun Lutheran Church, LCU Eastern Deanery

NEWS FROM UGANDA

“More good news. Last Sunday (6th Sunday of Easter) The Lord helped me to baptize five children from a Muslim family. Their father, Mr. Abdullah, was also converted from Islam to Christianity. He is now a member of St. Peter’s Church. Abdullah was convinced by the teachings which I introduced to him and his family. He and all his children are now Lutherans at our church. However, the wife of Abdullah remained a Moslem; pray that she comes to the light (to faith in Christ). We have received over twelve newcomers to our congregation this year, following the house-to-house evangelism which I made in February, this year.” - Rev. James Alinaitwe

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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BIBLE DISTRIBUTION IN KENYA



Bishop Geoffrey Mburugu at one of several Bible distributions in the Mt. Kenya Synod

Thanks to a very generous donor, LLR was able to provide funding for the purchase and distribution of 250 Bibles in several areas of the Mt. Kenya Lutheran Synod in April.

CHILDREN'S EASTER DINNER AT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH - ALIMUGONZA

"It was yet another joyful moment during the Children's Easter dinner at St. John Lutheran Church –Alimugonza. The children were also joined by their parents and other community members during the feast. Now an annual event, it was jointly organized by the Lutheran Church of Uganda Midwestern Deanery, together with Sheep on His Right (SOHR), an NGO advocating for the rights of children in the deanery, and funded through Lutheran Lay Renewal of America (LLRA). Thank you all for your partnership and support!

The dinner attracted over 250 celebrants and it was presided over by the area pastor, Rev. Morris Tusiime, on behalf of Dean Raymond Kaija, who was on pastoral duties in the northern districts of Uganda. Others present during dinner celebrations were the Executive Director Sheep on His Right, Vicar Willy Kisige, and Deanery Public Relations Officer, Mr. Kiirya Wagoina Joseph.

In his opening devotion, Rev. Morris Tusiime congratulated the younger stars, their parents and the community members upon reaching this year's Easter celebrations. He noted the Easter feast was aimed at sharing with the children and every one present the love of the resurrected Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for their sins.

The youthful man of God was thankful to the deanery, Sheep on His Right, together with Lutheran Lay Renewal of America for the initiative, saying it a good mobilization strategy to reach out to both church and unchurched members of the society.

He asked God for more provisions so that such celebrations are held annually in a bid to

further spread the Good News of God's Love to all. "We are also grateful for the maintenance of our borehole and for the new church facelift," Rev. Morris further noted.

The Executive Director of Sheep on his Right, Mr. Kisige Willy, said the Children's Easter Dinner was aimed at sharing the love and joy of the heavenly gift who is Jesus Christ. He underscored the importance of sharing God's love with others, saying it attracts blessing from heaven and keeps the community strongly united.



Some of the children at the Easter dinner at St. John's Lutheran Church, Alimugonza

The Executive Director highlighted lack of the means of transport for both himself and that of the congregational minister as the biggest challenge as they only depend on hired means, which is quite expensive for the organization and the church. Lack of a school is yet another major challenge that community is facing as learners trek long distances to get to the government schools which are about. It's indeed a great pleasure as a deanery for partnering with you Lutheran Lay Renewal of America, Sheep on His Right and all the individual persons and churches that are helping in improving people's livelihood. Thank you all! *Aluta continua*" (the struggle continues). – Joseph Wagoina, Lutheran Church of Uganda, Midwestern Deanery, Public Relations Officer

REPORT ON THE SPONSORSHIP OF CHILDREN FOR ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH - ALIMUGONZA AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

"The Midwestern Deanery together with Sheep on His Right, a Non-Government Organization advocating for the rights of children, this year embarked on a sponsorship program to ensure that Ugandan children attain at least basic education with focus on Alimugonza village and the surrounding communities in the midwestern district of Masindi. This was made possible with the Deanery's partnership with Lutheran Lay Renewal of America.

The school dropout rate in the said village is reported to be a severe concern, with about 36% of the children aged 13-17 years not attending school. This trend has been attributed to high poverty rate, long distance to schools (16-20kms), early marriages and teenage pregnancies. It's also reported that Approximately 23% of girls drop out by primary seven (P.7), increasing to 38% by senior four (S.4).

It's against this background that the LCU Midwestern Deanery and Sheep on His Right are sponsoring up to 10 children, both girls and boys. The 10 lucky children are currently studying from Katumba Lutheran Nursery and Primary school. On top of paying for their school fees, each of them was bought a mattress along with other scholastic materials.



The Executive Director of Sheep on his Right, Vicar Willy Kisige, poses for a photo with some of the sponsored children at Katumba Lutheran Nursery and Primary school

Based on the above statistics, 10 children currently under education sponsorship program is a one tablespoon scoop of water from an ocean, due to the magnitude of the children not attending school, thereby calling for a long-term solution of establishing a school in the locality purposely to offer if not free, then subsidized education services to the community. By so doing we believe that many children can be absorbed into school, thus ensuring basic education to numerous children in the community, and this will be empowering future servants of the church in one way or the other.” – Joseph Wagoina, Lutheran Church of Uganda, Midwestern Deanery, Public Relations Officer



Children of Alimugonza

Editor's Note: Many thanks to the very generous donors who are supporting the children of 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!

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. 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, Jade, 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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Window installation at Ojeburun Lutheran Church