

NEWS FROM THE CLAUSING FAMILY, SERVING THE LORD IN KENYA.

APRIL 2017

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Front row, left to right: Eileen 8.21.11, Eric 12.16.09, Elijah 7.3.13

Back row, left to right:
Rev. Jonathan Clausing 8.20.75
Mrs. Anita Clausing 12.9.74
Emmanuel 3.6.15
Emil 10.29.99
Ellie 1.10.02

Middle row, left to right:
Ethan 5.8.08
Eunice 6.1.06
Ernie 7.16.04



BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As we draw near to the conclusion of the season of Lent and the commemoration of our Lord's suffering and death on the cross for us, I am reminded of St. Paul's well-known words to the Corinthians: "We walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage,...". (2 Cor. 5:7-8)

There were not many encouraging things to be seen during the final hours of Jesus' life. He was betrayed by a friend, falsely accused, unfairly tried, tortured, and put to death by those He came to save. The things that could be seen during those hours indicated defeat. Yet Jesus' words, which could not be seen but only believed, indicated a different reality: "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for

many for the forgiveness of sins." "All this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." "You will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

Three days later Jesus' words were vindicated. All along, His words had been the only reliable guide to interpreting what could be seen during those final days. Sight can be deceiving, but the promises of our Lord Jesus never fail.

Here in Kenya as well as among you who read this it is often apparent that the Christian life is not a triumphant march from victory to victory. Rather, it is filled with unexpected sufferings and tests. Our own sinful failings as well as those of our fellow Christians

are painfully obvious. There is division in the Church. The unbelieving world gains power and dominates while the Church appears frail and in decline.

Nevertheless, we walk by faith in Jesus' words: "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Yes, we are of good courage!

Over the past few weeks I've had several conversations with local pastors regarding possibilities for new education programs for preachers, but so far there are still no concrete plans. The one door that remains wide open is among the Lutheran Church of East Africa, based in Tanzania, so I'm currently focusing a great deal of my effort there. I'm in the midst of preparing a two-week intensive course

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

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for them on Luther's Small Catechism, for which The Lutheran Heritage Foundation has provided a Swahili copy of the *Small Catechism with Explanation* for every student. God promises to be at work through His Word, so I am eager to be back with my former students studying the bible with them again.

This past Friday I was also privileged to attend the spring graduation of Neema Lutheran College (*Neema* is the Swahili word for *grace*.) at Matongo, Kenya. Neema trains pastors and teachers for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya and other churches in east African nations. It was a joy to celebrate with these young men and women whom God has raised up to serve His people.

At home in Nairobi our family has continued to benefit greatly from our December move to our new house within walking distance of the office. Since Anita and the kids now have access to the family van every day, they have become connected with a local homeschooling coop and are able to be much more social in general within the community. We thank God for this.

We wish you a blessed observance of Holy Week and a joyful celebration of Easter. Thank you for your ongoing partnership with us in the Gospel.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. & Mrs. Clausing
Emil Ellie Ernie
Eunice Ethan Eric
Eileen Elijah Emmanuel



Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

Pray that God would open additional doors through which the Gospel can be proclaimed and preachers educated in East Africa.

Pray that I would be responsive and diligent in pursuing every opportunity for education that arises, and that I would be patient when such opportunities are not apparent.

Pray for our neighbors in the nearby slum of Kuwinda as they struggle after a fire burned down hundreds of homes.

Pray for my elderly grandmother, Alice Rogner, whose health is failing, and for all my family in the United States as they care for her, that God would give them strength and patience.



A youth choir sings (above) and a graduate receives his diploma (right) at the March 31 spring graduation of Neema Lutheran College in Matongo, Kenya.



To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Jonathan Clausing, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

-OR- Mission Central
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Mapleton, IA 51034

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