

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

MAY 2017

888-THE-LCMS
www.lcms.org
infocenter@lcms.org



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

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



HE KNOWS NOT HOW

Dear Friends,

Easter greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus!

I hear that it's been a wet spring in the American midwest. My brother and dad have their planter ready to go in northern Illinois, but no corn has gone in the ground yet, and the farmers are praying for the opportunity to get in the fields. Here in Kenya the *maize* (its local English name) has already been in the ground for several months, and the farmers are now praying for the annual rains to come and make it flourish.

On the one hand, American and Kenyan agricultural are very different: the American farmer rides his tractor pulling a 12-row planter while his Kenyan counterpart sows seed by hand.

On the other hand, though, they are fundamentally the same: both rely entirely on the gracious provision of God. Only God provides opportunity for the seed to go into the ground, and once in the ground, only God can make it grow.

Daily I'm confronted by the truth that farmers and missionaries are in a similar situation. Our Lord Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how." (Mk 4) A farmer shouldn't be too proud of his multi-million-dollar equipment, because ultimately he doesn't have the ability to make a single seed sprout. Likewise, we missionaries have our plans and programs and

highly-researched global evangelization strategies, but in the end we must acknowledge that we cannot create faith in a single heart. We merely sow the seed of God's Word; only the Holy Spirit makes faith sprout and grow from that seed.

Last week I had the opportunity to spend most of a day in conversation with Dr. David Erber, a veteran missionary of 20+ years visiting us from west Africa, and he encouraged me with this truth of God's Word. He told me of many plans for educating church leaders that he'd tried over the years which later failed, but how nevertheless the Word of God bore fruit, sometimes in ways he hadn't anticipated. It is God who grows His church; we merely sow seed.

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."

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to jonathan.clausing@lcmsintl.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line. If you have an email address but are receiving a paper copy of this newsletter, please request a digital copy.

www.lcms.org/clausing

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This past month I have been mostly in Nairobi finishing up preparations for this month's two-week intensive Small Catechism course. Besides our Easter celebration, the highlight of the month was the annual east Africa retreat, an opportunity to get together with all the other missionaries in the region (including the Erbers) for five days. It was especially a treat for our kids to see all their friends again.

Our church plant in Karen continues to take shape. On Sunday mornings after worship I've been teaching a bible class using the Augsburg Confession as an outline. The class is quite a mixed group, made up of missionary Americans, local Kenyans, and teens. For some the teaching is new, for others it is a review of the

basics, but for everyone it is good to spend time in the Word of God.

Thank you to all who prayed for my family during the days of my grandma Alice Rogner's declining health. The Lord took her from this world on April 6. We were grateful to be able to join family and friends by watching her funeral via the internet from Immanuel, Belvidere; and we rejoice that as she was buried with Christ through baptism into His death, so she with all believers will also share His resurrection. We wish you a blessed Easter.

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



Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

Praise and thank God for the encouragement He gives us through our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pray that God would provide new opportunities for us to sow His Word in east Africa.

Pray for wisdom for Anita, me, and our oldest son Emil as he begins exploring options for college.

Pray for our friends Britt Odemba and Krista Trump, both of whom are expectant mothers who are due to give birth soon.

Pray for political peace in Kenya and a peaceful transition of power at the time of our August elections.



LCMS East Africa Missionaries and Families at the Annual Retreat, April 7-12

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
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-OR- Mission Central
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Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Include "Clausing-Kenya" in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/clausing.

