

Pastor's Corner

By: Pastor Tom Eckstein



Concordia's Financial Situation at the end of 2024

Praise the Lord! By God's grace working through the loving gifts of His people, Concordia was able to end 2024 over \$20,000 in the **black!** As God continues to move Concordia's members to support our congregation with their offerings, we will continue to move forward in mission and ministry in **2025!!**

ND LCMS District Convention in Minot, ND: 1/19/25 — 1/22/25

Every three years the ND District of the LCMS has a District Convention for elections to various District positions as well as voting on various resolutions pertaining to our mission and ministry together. The most recent District Convention took place in Minot, ND, this past January. Pastor Eckstein was our congregation's pastoral delegate and Rob Craig was our

congregation's lay delegate. Information about passed resolutions will be provided in the future.

Lent begins with "Ash Wednesday" on March 5th, 2025

Lent begins later than usual this year – with Ash Wednesday beginning the season of Lent on March 5th. During the Sundays of Lent as well as Good Friday and Easter Sunday pastor Eckstein will be preaching a sermon series on the **Book of Job**. During the mid-week Wednesday Lenten Services pastor Eckstein will be preaching on texts from the **Book of Exodus**. *There will also be soup suppers from 5:30PM to 6:30PM before the Wednesday Lenten Services – being on March 12th.*

New Bible Study topics at Concordia!!

During our Sunday adult bible class (which meets from 9:30AM to 10:15AM) we will soon begin **Part 2** of our bible study on the **Gospel of Matthew**. We've covered the first 13 chapters, and now we will be working our way through to chapter 28. *If you haven't been attending this class, we'd love for you to join us and grow in Christ's teaching with us!*

Our Tuesday morning (10:00AM) bible class recently started a study on **the Lord's Supper**. Please join us if you are able!

Our Thursday morning MEN'S bible class (8:30AM to 9:30AM)

will soon complete on our study on the **Book of Hebrews** and will soon begin a new study on the **Book of Daniel** which contains the well known stories about *the three men of God in the fiery furnace, *Daniel in the lion's den, *fulfilled prophecies about the future as well as *prophecies that are still to be fulfilled! Plan to join us if you are able!

Help Needed for Luncheons

Everyone loves a good pot luck! But, due to the fact that there are fewer ladies available to serve in the LWML, we need to recruit some more help in the kitchen. Starting in February, we will have a sign-up list for people to indicate their willingness to set-up and clean-up when we have pot luck dinners and funerals. Please consider lending a hand so we can continue to have these times of fellowship together.

Thank you!

Andrea and I would like to extend our thanks to everyone at Concordia for their support over this past year. Christmas is a time when we receive many blessings in the form of cards and gifts – which we appreciate greatly. We especially treasure our church family here at Concordia as one of our greatest gifts. Thank you for your ongoing support and outpouring of love.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Eckstein

Newsletter Notes from Deaconess Nayva



Fellowship

BOOK CLUB

The Choir Immortal Harvest Raise

By Katie Schuermann.

Copies of the books
(new and used) are
available for sale in the
church Narthex.

Discussion date:
Saturday, February 1st
2:00pm

Grief Support Fellowship
February 23rd
Noon

Bible Study

Hymn Study

Friday, Feb 7th 10:00am

Marian Duff (Host)
Ave Maria B25

A New Song

Bible Study on the Psalms
Thurs, Feb. 13th 1:00pm

Vera Schulz(Host)
114 12th Ave NE
Apt. 2030

Women's Bible Study

Unforgivable?

*How God's Forgiveness
Transforms us*

Tuesday
Fellowship Hall 7:00PM
Feb. 4th
Feb. 18th
Feb. 25th

Feel Free to join us
anytime.

Outreach

Outreach

Stephen Ministry **Wednesdays**

1:00 – 3:00PM

Feb. 12th and Feb. 26th

Please let Nayva know if you have any
questions.

Deaconess Nayva



Main Street Living TV Program
www.mainstreetlivingnorth.com

**Every Sunday on the local Fox
Station at 9am**

Tuesday, February 13th, will be
a special opportunity to show
your support for your Main Street
Living North Media Ministry! This
is **"GIVING HEARTS DAY 2025"**,
and this will be our ministry's
second year of being involved.
You can add your support by
going to
<https://app.givingheartsdays.org/>
at any time either before
February 13th or on that day.
Support may also be mailed in
advance to: "Main Street Living
NORTH", 821-5th Ave S, Fargo,
ND 58103. Date the check
"February 13, 2025 and write
"Giving Hearts Day" in the memo

line, and have postmarked by and preferably several days before that date.

Please continue to share information about our LCMS "Main Street Living" media ministry with others. You can view archived programs anytime at www.mainstreetliving.com – then click on the link identified as "Fargo/Bismarck." Worship services from the 5 other MSL broadcast areas, as well as the weekly "This Is The Life" programs, are also available for viewing on the website. Thank you for your needed financial support! Checks may be sent to:

"Main Street Living NORTH," 821 5th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103, or donate by Credit Card or your PayPal account on the website.

God's blessing in Christ! –

Ken Koehler, MSL North Volunteer Coordinator.



The LWML will meet on February 4th at 3:00pm. We will be planning the Valentine Tea.



Quilting has resumed, continuing with the regularly scheduled 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 1:00PM. All

are welcome and no experience is needed - we will teach you.

The first Sunday of February is Mite Sunday

Thank you to everyone for donating to the noisy mites. We collected **\$123.64** in December and **\$100.13** in January. Thank you for supporting our mission grants.

We continue to collect our mites to help fund all of our District and National LWML mission grant projects for this biennium....the mission grant being featured this month is: **LWML Mission Grant #23**

A LEGACY OF LOVE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

In 2023, Lutheran Special Education Ministries celebrated 150 years of serving God's children with special needs. They have a rich and full history which began as an orphanage for children after the Civil War, turned into Lutheran School for the Deaf, and has grown into Lutheran Special Education Ministries now serving children with all kinds of learning needs across the country and internationally.

This grant will allow LSEM to continue to develop and research tools and techniques so they can provide resources to Lutheran churches to welcome, integrate, and support children with specialized needs and their families in their church bodies.

Follow this link to learn more about the 2023-2025 Mission Grants:

<https://www.lwml.org/mission-grants>

Thank you for helping to share God's word and mercy through your mites.



Sunday School continues on Sunday mornings at 9:30. Come early and enjoy the fellowship time before Sunday School.

--Sunday School Superintendent Sue



YOUTH OF CONCORDIA-

You can be a **Light** to others in many ways. One way to let your **light** shine is in service to others e.g. acolyte during the Service. Check out the **sign-up list** on the narthex table for opportunities to acolyte.

Youth Group

All dates are tentative and subject to change, but here is the proposed schedule:

February

Friday 7th 6:30PM

Sunday 16th NOON (bring your own lunch)

Friday 21st 6:30PM

Volunteers for February:

Elder and Acolyte Schedule

Sun. 2/2	8am	10:30 am
	E = Curt S. A = ---	E= Doug P. A = ---
Wed. 2/5	7 pm	E=Quincy B. A = ---
Sun. 2/9	8am	10:30am
	E = Curt S. A = ---	E = Ed M. A = ---
Sun. 2/16	8am	10:30am
	E = Dernel D. A = ---	E= Larry W. A = ---
Wed. 2/19	7pm	E =Quincy B. A = ---
Sun. 2/23	8am	10:30am
	E =Dave H. A = ---	E = Josh R. A = ---

Communion/Altar preparation:

Pati and Doug Pieske

Musicians:

Sun. 2/2	Carmen McBride
Wed. 2/5	Carmen McBride
Sun. 2/9	Daine Flieth
Wed. 2/12	Daine Flieth
Sun. 2/16	Lille Douglas
Wed. 2/19	Carmen McBride
Sun. 2/23	Ione Somsen
Wed. 2/26	Ione Somsen



All the ladies of Concordia are invited to the Valentine's Day Tea. Bring your favorite tea cup if you have one.

This year the Tea Party will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00 on February 9th. Please come join us.



Please pray for those serving our country...

- SFC Randy Flieth; ND Army National Guard-drilling in Fargo, ND
- Darren Kuhlmann; Whiteman Air Base, MO

Please pray for those that are dealing with cancer...

- Rose Martin
- Ann Schulz
- Cassie Rott (Friend of Daine Flieth)

- Vanessa Edwards (Friend of Lori Roberts)
- John Hinz (Brother of Dave Hinz)
- Marlane Middlestead; (Sister-In-Law of Shirly Genter)
- Marcella Lange (Friend of Ione Somsen)

Please pray for those dealing with various health issues...

- Elden Englund
- Tom Boerger
- Arianna Walch
- Delvida Obenauer
- Marian Duff
- Lyn Rutherford
- Karen Connell
- Sheila Corwin
- Jodi Anfinrud (Daughter of Mary and Elden Englund)
- Stener Anfinrud (Grandson of Mary and Elden Englund)
- Brad Boerger (Brother of Tom Boerger)
- Harrison Smith (Brother-in-law of Dave Hinz)
- Blair Baker (Cousin of Bill & Tina Busche)
- Rachel Mulder (Mother of Nayva Mulder)
- Joy Jerome (Cousin of Nayva Mulder)
- Sue Hedberg; (Daughter of Gerri & Lloyd Bauske)
- Pam Syverson (Friend in the community)
- Gordie Christenson (Cousin of Randy Flieth)

Please pray for those dealing with the recent loss of a loved one:

- Verney Jorgenson
- David Werth (Son of Rev. Al and Dorothy Werth)

SACRED ACTS:

Confirmations

Scott Murray – 12/4/2024

Elijah Rosin – 12/15/2024

Weddings

Funerals

Verney Jorgenson 12/12/2024

Current Membership Stats:

Baptized Members-607

Confirmed Members-456

2024

Baptisms (Infant)-3, (Adult)-3

Confirmations (Junior)-1, (Adult)-1

Weddings-0

Funerals-5

Transferred In-7

Transferred Out-5

Profession of Faith-2

Removed due to inactivity-3

Miscellaneous Announcements



Thank you to everyone who made our sanctuary beautiful for the Christmas season. Whether it was putting up decorations, making contributions towards the purchase of poinsettias, or providing special music; you helped to make the Christmas experience more wonderful for everyone.

Correspondence

The following cards were received by Concordia in the last few weeks:

*"Dear Church,
Thank you for the Church Worker Appreciation gift. It was so kind of you and I really appreciate it.
I am so blessed by Concordia.*

*Love,
Nayva"*

"Hello, hope you had a great Christmas and a New Year. Hope your 2025 plans go well. Did you know January is National Oatmeal Month and National Soup Month.

*Happy Birthday Jesus!
A little late with our donations this year. We hope to make it to church in 2025.
Carla Willey and Pat too"*

We also received a new *Grossman Prayer Letter* from Lutheran Bible Translators' Becky Grossmann. See the enclosed flyer for a good read about growing up in Africa.

thrivent®

Thank you for considering Concordia Lutheran Church when making your Choice Dollars donation. If you would like more information about the Choice Dollars program at Thrivent, call your Thrivent representative.

Orphan Grain Train +

Did you know that our local Orphan Grain Train warehouse is open 2 days a week to prepare items for shipment and distribution to people in need, locally and internationally? In 2024 we were able to accomplish the following:

- * 2 international shipments
- * 13 domestic shipments
- * 363 local families/individuals helped
- * 7,204.25 volunteer hours logged

Thank you to all our volunteers and everyone who contributed to Orphan Grain Train this year!

California Wildfire Disaster

The Pacific Southwest District of the LCMS has established a Disaster Relief fund to help those who have been affected by the wildfires in southern California. If you would like to contribute to the fund, go to the website at www.psd-lcms.org/give. Scroll

down and click on the box marked "Emergency/Disaster Relief". That will take you to the page where you can donate online through PayPal, Credit Card, or Debit Card.

You can also contact the Disaster Relief Coordinator Jon Niederbrach at disaster.response@psd-lcms.org

Church Office Hours

If you need access to the church during the week please call the church office (252-2819), Pastor Eckstein (658-9473), or Nayva (430-9049) to see if arrangements can be made to accommodate your needs.



We are still in need of someone who is willing to serve by doing Communion/Altar preparation in the month of April. Please prayerfully consider serving the church in this way. If there are questions, call Ellen Walz (320-4808).

Concordia Lutheran Voter's Meeting Minutes December 2, 2024

Present: Doug Pieske, Sue Corwin, Kim Murray, Don Elstad, Nayva Mulder, Pastor Eckstein, Kevin Nelson, Daine Flieth
Absent: Randy Flieth

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Pastor Eckstein.

Treasurers' report: We are behind \$25,000.00 and we do have \$67,000.00 padding if needed.

Pastor's report: There have been visitors who are interested in membership and Pastor is following up with them. Taking several adults through confirmation instruction. "Everyone His Witness" last class is Monday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. Advent services will be on 12/4, 12/11 & 12/18 at 7:00 p.m. There are soup suppers before each service from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 p.m. and Christmas Day service will be at 10:00 a.m. Pastor and family will be on vacation from 12/26 – 1/3/25. Pastor Al Eppen will lead the 10:30 service on Sunday 12/29. No 8:00 a.m. service, Bible class or Sunday School. If there is a pastoral emergency during this time contact Pastor Bob Hill 701-435-2305. Next meeting will be January 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Elders report: They set up their schedule.

Deaconess report: The youth raised over \$1,000 at the silent pie auction. They will be hosting a soup supper and the cookie walk. Grief share is going well, Stephen Ministry is going well.

Board of Education: Last day of Sunday School will be December 15th. The children's Christmas

service will be on December 15th at 2:00 p.m. Sunday School will resume Jan. 5th.

Board of trustees: The outside faucet will be fixed in the spring. Northland windows looking at the roof.

Board of Stewardship: No report as they did not meet.

Board of Evangelism: No report.

Old business: Pictorial directory, since there are several options available they will be presented to the voters in January.

New business: It was moved and seconded and carried to move the council meeting to 7:30 p.m. Lillie Douglas will be added to players for music on Sunday's.

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Carried and the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:



Sue Corwin, Secretary pro-tem

If you wish to make announcements in the bulletin or newsletter, contact the church office at:

concordiajtsecretary@gmail.com



Concordia Events Calendar – January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 7:30am – 12:30pm Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington
						9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train Book Club – Time to be determined (ask Nayva)
2 8am & 10:30am Services (Lord's Supper) 9-9:30am – Fellowship time 9:30am – Sunday School and Adult Bible class 2-4pm-Pastor @ Trinity/Adrian 6:30pm – Handbell practice	3 9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train 7pm – Elders & Stewardship meeting 7:30pm – Council	4 10am-Bible Class 1pm - Quilting 3pm-8pm – Pastor Eckstein @ Grace/ Carrington	5 7pm -Service (Lord's Supper) 8pm - Choir	6 8:30- 9:30am Men's Bible Class	7 10am – Women's Bible Study @Marian Duff Apartment 6:30-8:30pm Youth Group	8 7:30am – 12:30pm Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train
9 8am & 10:30am Services 9-9:30am – Fellowship time 9:30am – Sunday School and Adult Bible class 2pm – Valentine Tea Party 2-4pm-Pastor @ Trinity/Adrian 6:30pm – Handbell practice	10 9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train 1:30pm – Dorcas Circle	11 10am-Bible Class 1pm – Ruth Circle 3pm-8pm – Pastor Eckstein @ Grace/ Carrington 7pm – Naomi Circle	12 1pm-3pm – Stephen Ministers 7pm – Service 8pm - Choir	13 8:30- 9:30am Men's Bible Class 1pm – Women's Bible Study @Vera Schulz Apartment	14	15 7:30am – 12:30pm Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train
16 8am & 10:30am Service (Lord's Supper) 9-9:30am – Fellowship time 9:30am – Sunday School and Adult Bible class 12pm – Youth Group (BYO Lunch) 2-4pm-Pastor @ Trinity/Adrian 6:30pm – Handbell practice	17 9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train	18 10am-Bible Class 1pm - Quilting 3pm-8pm – Pastor Eckstein @ Grace/ Carrington	19 7pm -Service (Lord's Supper) 8pm – Choir	20 8:30- 9:30am Men's Bible Class	21 6:30- 8:30pm Youth Group	22 7:30am – 12:30pm Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train
23 8am & 10:30am Service 9-9:30am – Fellowship time 9:30am – Sunday School and Adult Bible class 12pm – Grief Support Meeting 2-4pm-Pastor @ Trinity/Adrian 6:30pm – Handbell practice	24 9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train	25 10am-Bible Class 3pm-9pm – Pastor Eckstein @ Grace/ Carrington 7pm -Women's Bible Study @Concordia	26 1pm-3pm – Stephen Ministers 7pm – Service 8pm – Choir	27 8:30- 9:30am Men's Bible Class	28	

***Fridays-Pastor's Day Off!**

***Mondays-Deaconess Nayva's Day Off!**

***Chancel Duties: Patti and Doug Pieske**

FEBRUARY

This is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. As you lift up the countries and mission grants listed, pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ would be heard by those who live there or are served by our mite offerings. Each country listed has been a recipient of a mission grant from LWML at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!



1. For your LWML sisters.
2. For LWML Mission Grant #4.
3. For Bolivia, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
4. For your church organist.
5. For those fighting cancer.
6. For our Lutheran Women in Mission Vice President of Christian Life.
7. For the country of Botswana.
8. Pray the LWML Pledge.
9. For the needs of those on the mission field.
10. For the country of Brazil.
11. For those in the Armed Forces.
12. For the President of the United States.
13. For love in your heart for your neighbor.
14. For Christ's sacrifice for us.
15. For the country of Cambodia.
16. For the LWML Kansas District.
17. For those who are caregivers.
18. For an opportunity to share your faith.
19. For the country of Cameroon.
20. For those who write devotions and Bible studies.
21. For LWML Mission Grant #5.
22. For those facing the loss of a loved one.
23. For the country of Canada.
24. For the LWML Missouri District.
25. For your LWML district officers.
26. For the country of Chile.
27. For your LWML group members.
28. For the lonely to feel God's presence.
29. For God's gift of another year of your life.

1/19/2025

02:46 pm

Concordia Lutheran

February 2025

Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

Search: =February; Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Birthday or Wedding

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 JESSE DENHAM (b.)	4 MIKAELA COFIELD (b.) KARLENE SERFOSS (b.) SOPHIE SPITZER (b.)	5 GERRI BAUSKE (b.) DOUG PIESKE (b.)	6	7 SHEILA BLOCK (b.) GREGG KUTZ (b.)	8 LARRY WALZ (b.)
9 CATHY NANNENGA (b.) WILL and AMBER MCINTYRE (w.)	10	11 ADRIAN NANNENGA (b.) (DESTINY) TOLTZMAN (b.)	12	13 BLAINE MURRAY (b.)	14 LIANE BRAUN (b.) SHIRLEY STEPINA (b.) RICK and LORI LIPETZKY (w.)	15 DUSTIN HUST (b.)
16 PATTON DOUGLAS (b.) (NEVAEH) PALMER (b.) KIM and (LINDA) NORHEIM (w.)	17 AUTUMN ROBERTS (b.) ELISE ROBERTS (b.) RYKYR WALCH (b.) TWYLA and (CHAD) ANDERSON (w.)	18 MADISEN BJONE (b.) CARMEN MCBRIDE (b.)	19	20 DON ELSTAD (b.) CARTER MALVIN (b.)	21 (DAMEN) FLETCHER (b.) BLAKE HOCHHALTER (b.)	22 EMMA FLIETH (b.) SHIRLEY HUST (b.) AARON ROBERTS (b.)
23 DAWN MARAGOS (b.) DARON and JOLYN BIERI (w.) KAREN and (EZRA) JUNG (w.)	24 BRENDA LUER (b.) HEATHER MARTELL (b.) MICK and DEBORAH FODE (w.)	25 DUANE DUPPONG (b.)	26 (GEORGIA) PAHL (b.)	27 MARLYN BERTSCH (b.)	28 ESTHER KOENIG (b.) SUE LUCHT (b.) ROBERT PURCELL (b.)	



Lutheran Bible
Translators

The Relay

Grossmann Prayer letter



January
2025

NEW LEADERSHIP

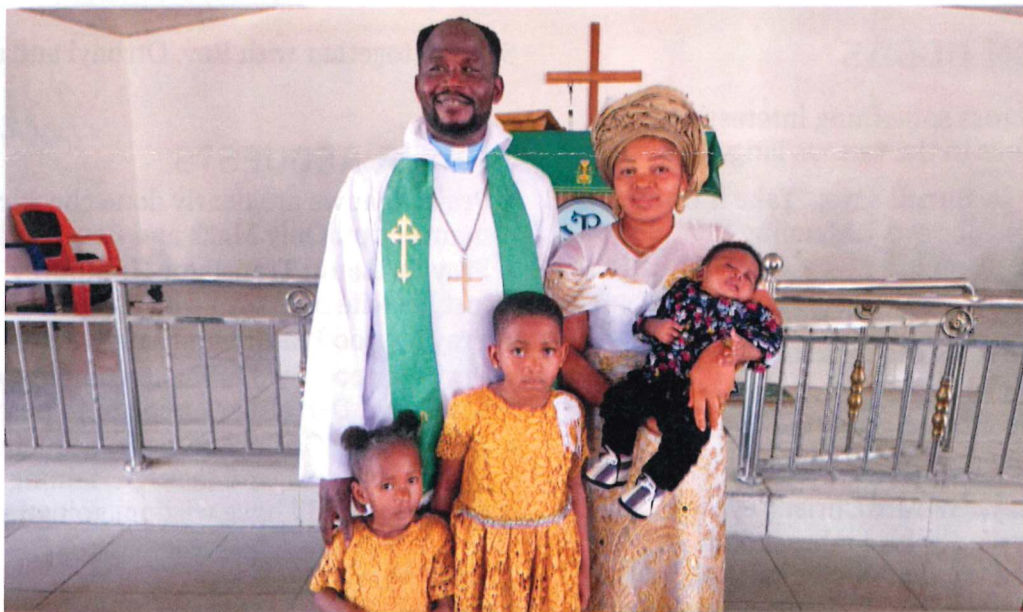
In November 2024, Linus Otronyi **became the new Regional Director for West Africa**. He is my new boss, so I want to introduce him to all of you as part of our team working in Liberia and Sierra Leone. I met Linus a few years back and we studied for several weeks together in Israel. Linus is an ordained pastor with the Lutheran Church of Nigeria and International Associate with Lutheran Bible Translators.

Linus grew up in the rural village of Iboko, Cross River state where the late Rev Dr. Morris and Lois Watkin lived. The Watkins were the founders of Lutheran Bible Translators back in 1964. He was born about the time the New Testament in his language Yala was completed and dedicated. Being the first born in a polygamous and uneducated family made life difficult growing up. Linus grew up sleeping on a bed made of palm fronds and eating three times a day was difficult to manage. Getting through primary and

secondary school was very challenging. Education is not free and often his family could not pay the tuition fees on time. When the fees were not paid, he would spend time helping his family out on the small family farm. Even when he was attending, he often went to the farm after school hours so he could get food to eat walking an hour or more each way.

As a child, he attended church services mostly in the Lutheran church which was the only church then in the village. He never understood anything or what being a Christian meant, partly because the lay preacher was not serious about his work. This preacher would often come to church late and unprepared after returning from his farm. Also, Linus' parents and others could not exemplify their faith, if they had any.

He learned how to read in English while in secondary school and joined the school fellowship.



Linus is married to Katherine and they have two loving daughters Joanna (5 years), Joella (3 years) and a son Josiah-Jason (3 months). Here on the occasion of Josiah-Jason's baptism.



"Two things that will live forever are God's Word and people and to be involved in translating His Word for His people is [the greatest] blessing and privilege that one can ever have."

He would help to lead school devotions. Since there were less than four people in the village who could read well, he became a popular writer and reader of letters for many families.

He started helping in the church to teach children, lead in church worship, and preach. Since ninety-nine percent of the members were non-literate members, everything was done in the mother tongue Yala. He learned how to read in Yala so that he could read from the Yala New Testament directly. **It was when he started reading the Yala NT in the church and for himself and others that he began to understand the message of the Bible and what it means to be Jesus' follower.**

TRANSLATION TIDBITS

We always run across something interesting as we check various books in the various languages.

A catchy proverb in **Bandi** says: "Take it from your eye and show it to your eye." Meaning that you observe something keenly.

Dan has borrowed the English word "church" but adds "building" to it for the building. *Sósikò* is church building, *sòsì* is the church people. They never have to be confused about the fact that the church is really the people. It is not a place.

In **Maan**, they say, "We are Christ's eyeball" in 2CO 5:20. This means we are his ambassadors. In 2CO 6:3 they translated "so that no one can put butt on our work and overlook it." That is to say no one will find fault with it. It is a common way to refer to a defect and is used elsewhere when describing sacrificial lambs without blemish or no butt on them.

From there, Linus began to grow in his faith and found joy in life. What he was previously doing in church, only because he was one of the few who could read, now had deeper meaning. He says, **"This is why it is important for people to be able read and hear the word of God for themselves in the language of their heart and why Bible Translation is important."**

He studied at the Lutheran Seminary in Obot Idim, Uyo, Nigeria for pastoral training and formation. He studied at the University of Calabar, Nigeria for both his BA and MA in Applied Linguistics and is currently studying toward a PhD in Translation Studies at the Africa International University, Nairobi, Kenya.

Linus has been involved in Bible translation work since 2000 while at the seminary. He has experience in language assessment, scripture engagement, church and community mobilization, project management, training and Bible translation. He occasionally provides pastoral support for a small congregation where he lives.

Linus desires to see more people accessing and engaging in God's word in their heart language so that they can experience the transformative power of God's word in their lives just like he did. He says, "Two things that will live forever are God's Word and people and to be involved in translating His Word for His people is [the greatest] blessing and privilege that one can ever have." One of his **favorite Bible passages** is, "I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service" (1 Tim 1:12 ESV).

Serving together with Rev. Otronyi and all of you,

Becky

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise that we are nearly done checking the Maan manuscript. Only Mark and Revelation remain.
- Pray for Bandi Translator Humphrey Ndorbor who lost his wife of many years in December.
- Pray for good health and safety for all team members.
- Pray for good scheduling to complete the last books in Maan and Dan either online or in person.
- Pray as Rev. Otronyi becomes acquainted with all the people, systems, and tasks pertaining to his new role, and that he will have wisdom going forward.

CONTACT

Becky.Grossmann@LBT.org

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28210 12th Ave, Gobles, MI 49055

Give at LBT.org/Grossmann

Becky is YOUR HEART IN ACTION. She serves you as a consultant for translation teams in Liberia, West Africa by using your prayers and support to fulfill your desire to "PUT GOD'S WORD IN THEIR HANDS." Becky rejoices that she is part of your Lutheran Bible Translators team and values this special relationship.

LETTER WRITING SCHEDULE & GUIDELINES

CALENDAR YEAR 2025

1. Send your letters/cards/pictures attention Jennifer Hummel or Hannah Pennell:
Lutheran Church MO Synod
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63129
~OR~
Scan and email them to jennifer.hummel@lcms.org (or) Hannah.pennell@lcms.org
2. Recommended subjects to write about: your family, your work, your church and church activities, favorite memories, where you live, as well as prayer requests. After communicating a while, you may ask follow up questions of your sponsored student.
3. Feel free to add a picture or two of your family.
4. Please no additional gifts at this time, whether it be monetary gifts or actual gifts. Individual gifts to a sponsored student can make those that are not sponsored feel left out. Letter writing is a gift that is appropriate and can create a lasting bond between the student and sponsor.
5. Please use the following dates for writing to your student during the 2025 calendar year:

DEADLINE TO JENNIFER HUMMEL HANNAH PENNELL	LETTERS DISTRIBUTED TO STUDENTS
March 14	March 28
June 20	July 5
October 3**	October 24

*****PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR THIS YEAR, SEPTEMBER 19TH WILL BE THE ONLY TIME TO SEND CHRISTMAS CARDS AND NOTES TO YOUR STUDENT.***

*Students letters should be distributed to sponsors in February, June, and September

*The students will be testing during October and going home to their extended families and caregivers just after, for the 2025 Christmas break.

Valentine's Day



For this is the
message
that you have
heard from
the beginning
that we should
LOVE
one another.

1 JOHN 3 : 11