



# LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN TSHWANE

NEWSLETTER  
1, 2023

*Picture right: Rev. Tim Mech, Dr John Pless, Rector Heinz Hiestermann  
Picture below: The 7 first-year students*



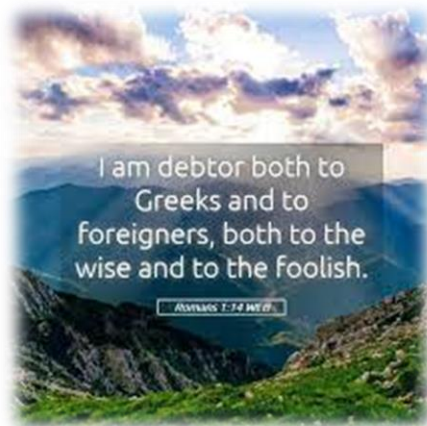
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## STUDENT BODY

The 2023 academic year started on February 1. The total student body for this year consists of 30 students: 20 South Africans, 5 Ethiopians, 3 from the DRC, and 2 from Malawi.



## Rector's Message:

The apostle Paul writes in Romans 1:14 that he is under obligation "both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish".

Following the command of our Lord Jesus in Matthew 28:19 to make disciples of all nations, Paul was not ashamed to proclaim the gospel to people from all nations. For this gospel "is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Rm 1:16).

Following the command of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and the example of St. Paul, we at LTS have the following mission statement: "**The LTS is a mission agency seeking to graduate multipliers for the Lutheran Church in Africa**".

LTS is a mission agency. We train students from various African countries who will proclaim the message of Jesus Christ in their home countries.



*Rector's message continued:*

We are seeking to train multipliers of the faith, people who will not be ashamed of proclaiming the Gospel to all who will hear.

In the first chapters of Romans, Paul tells us why all people from all nations need to hear the saving message of the Gospel:

- All people from all nations are sinners;
- All have turned aside, and all are under the wrath of God;
- God shows no partiality;
- Therefore: We all need a Saviour from sin: Jesus Christ;
- We all are justified by His grace as a gift;
- And all are justified by faith in Jesus apart from works of the law.

In the first chapters of Romans, Paul gives us our diagnosis: We are sinners. All of us. Instead of looking at others whom we perceive as worse sinners than we are, Paul forces us to see our own sin. To see our own need of a Saviour.

And then, after having been confronted with our sin, he compels us to look away from ourselves to the cross of Jesus, where we see the kindness of God. Where we see the antidote to our sin. Where we receive the assurance that Jesus gave His life, and shed His blood, so that you and I may have life eternal.

The Gospel needs to be proclaimed to all people, Greeks and barbarians, wise and foolish, you and me.

That is why our seminary exists. So that we can train multipliers for the Lutheran Church in Africa, who will show no partiality, but preach Jesus to all nations.



*Rev. Timothy Mech has been teaching a two-week intensive course at LTS for the first time.*

*Here are his first impressions:*

***The students at LTS are well served and it has been a joy to get to know these brothers in Christ. They will make an eternal difference in the lives of those they serve as they become pastors who faithfully bring the goodness of God in Christ to those who will be entrusted to their care.***

***Soli Deo Gloria!***





## LTS VISITORS

LTS has been at its current campus in Arcadia since 2001. One of the great benefits of being in a big city and not too far from an international airport is that we regularly receive international visitors.

Sometimes these visits are planned long in advance. Other times, they happen more sporadically. In February, we had two visits from the USA to our seminary. One visit was by a US citizen who lived in South Africa from 2014-2017. Before his time in South Africa, he was a medical missionary in Uganda. In Uganda, he learned what a vital role a seminary plays in the life of the church. The visitor and his wife have recently become Lutherans. They have been Christians all their lives, but becoming Lutheran has transformed their faith as they share in the joy of the gospel. As I gave him a short tour of the campus and told him a little bit about the work we are doing and about our students, his heart was touched. He asked for a slide show presentation about the seminary which he could share with two LCMS congregations back home in the hope that they will financially support our seminary.

A similar visit took place a few days earlier. We were visited by an LCMS pastor and his vicar. They were also moved when learning about the seminary and its students. They immediately went and bought food supplies for the seminary and pledged to support the

seminary annually. We are grateful for visits such as these. We thank God when people see the impact our seminary has in various African countries.

We furthermore receive regular visits from international lecturers, especially from the USA and Germany. Prof. John Pless is teaching at LTS for the 26<sup>th</sup> time! Others, like Prof. John Nordling and Prof. Dr. Werner Klän have also taught many intensive courses at LTS.

They come back regularly because they know that the need for quality confessional Lutheran teaching in Africa is great. They return again and again to teach young men who will be multipliers of the Lutheran Church in Africa.

Our seminary is dependent on donations. And it is absolutely amazing to see how God unexpectedly sends people here who after seeing the work done by the seminary start supporting it. We are grateful for such unexpected visits. We are also humbled by our international lecturers who come back to teach at LTS again and again.

You all are welcome to come and visit our seminary. We will be happy to share with you what we are doing!

*If you wish to donate, please visit the following link:*  
<https://www.lts.ac.za/support-lts/>

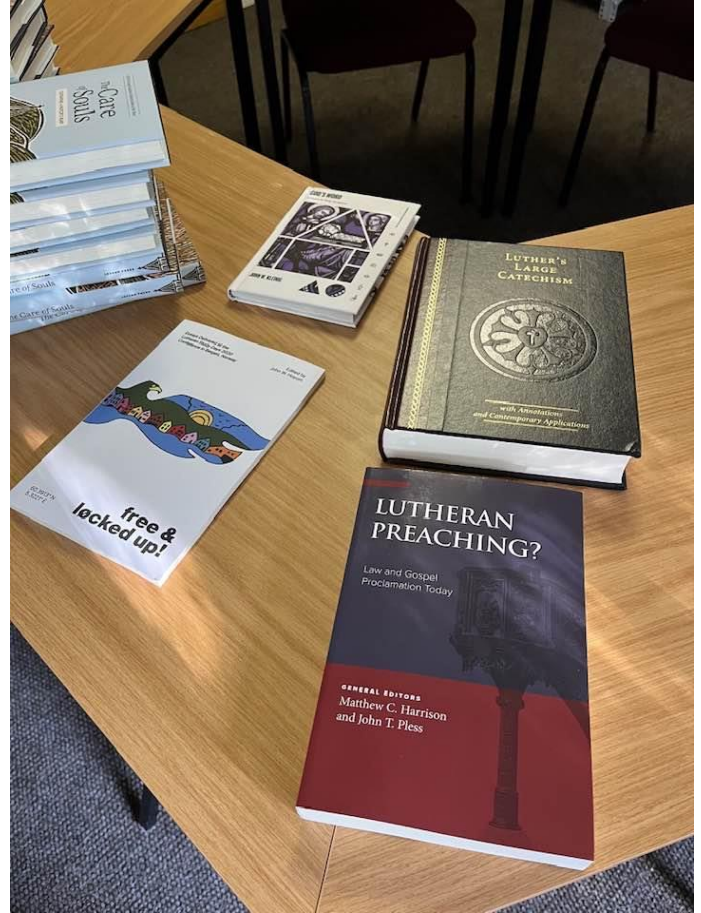
# ACCREDITATION UPDATE

On February 21, as final step towards the accreditation, the Council of Higher Education (CHE) conducted a virtual site visit of LTS. At this site visit, four experts from South African universities interviewed the LTS management, fulltime and parttime lecturers, as well as our support staff. They also received a virtual tour of the LTS campus. The site visit panel will make recommendations to the CHE. We will hopefully receive feedback soon.

Even though we are still waiting for the outcome of the accreditation application, the whole accreditation process has been beneficial to LTS and its students. Academic and administrative process have improved. The 4 fulltime and 8 parttime lecturers are all qualified and experienced men who provide quality confessional Lutheran formation to the students!

As part of the accreditation process, we needed to submit a video our lecturers and facilities to the CHE. You can watch it by clicking on this link:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AgIcRo75MCnLhPRYiS9k2xAxRWqMjQ?e=W6y6en>



*Top: Recent book donations to the LTS library*

*Left: The LTS guesthouse where our visiting lecturers are staying*



## REPORT ON THE WORK OF AN LTS GRADUATE

*Rev. Jonah Khalid, one of the LTS 2019 graduates, was involved in the founding of new congregation and nursery school in his home country of South Sudan. He is a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Sudan and Sudan, a confessionally Lutheran church. He writes:*

We established a new Lutheran congregation in Kauda on 4th of July 2021. Shortly after, a nursery school began on 9th of September 2021. Before starting the nursery school, we called the community leaders and talked with them about the vision of the school and the importance of early childhood education and enquired if they were interested in the church to open the nursery school because there were no nurseries around Kauda where we have opened a Lutheran Church.

We announced in a church service that we are going to start registering children at our nursery school. People who were present in the church that day passed on the information to the community members around them and the people brought their children. The members of the Lutheran church in Kauda were given chance to register their kids also because many children were just at home without school.

The children were selected from the vulnerable family members especially those who have lost their fathers in war, and they have no one to help them get education. These kids were not having hope for education since they are in a war zone and most of the basic needs are not there and their right for education or health is denied by Sudanese government.

St. Augustine Nursery School is open to spread the love of Christ to the children through Christian education and to bring hope of better future to these marginalized children in isolated part of Sudan.

This year have three hundred and twenty children (320) in the nursery school, and we have opened a primary school, so that those who graduated from the nursery school can join the primary. We plan to add another class each year to the primary school.

Some of the parents of these children have become members of the Lutheran Church in Kauda congregation and the school attracted many people from different parts of Nuba Mountain. The distance of the school is a problem to those kids who are living far away from the church school. If it was a boarding school then we could hosts these children also.

The families are happy for their children to be in the Christian school, and we see this as the future of the Church and their families too. We are aiming to make this Nursery school best if there is financial support to build the classes and dormitory for the children.

The majority of children in Nuba Mountain are not attending school. By giving these children education, we will really bring changes to the community of Nuba Mountain in the come years.

We have five teachers, two female and three male teachers and we are in need of more than one teacher again because there six (6) classes and our teachers need support to continue to teach the children and some training for them to fresh or get more skills as a way of empowering them.

The current total of 320 children will likely increase next year, so the school needs more assistance with school stationary and playing equipment for the physical exercise for the kids.

We have no classrooms which have been constructed for the school. It is our vision to have two or three classrooms built for us in St. Augustine Nursery and primary school in Kauda.



*Pastor Jonah Khalid*

We need running water for the school which we will also use for planting trees in the school compound. The community around will get water from there. Because we have no running water, we now have no toilets in the school and they children easy themselves in bushes or the rivers around the school.

The school has a lot of challenges but there is hope also in these children, they just need support that will help the continuation of the school operation and to qualified teachers.

Thank you and God bless you. Yours in the Lord

For more information, contact Pastor Jonah at [youmankhalid@gmail.com](mailto:youmankhalid@gmail.com)



## **New LTS Lecturer: Mr. Tobias Schütze**

I, Tobias R. Schütze, would like to introduce myself to you all. I was appointed as the new lecturer for dogmatics at LTS. I was born (1995) and raised in Northern Germany, more specifically in Hermannsburg, Farven, and Hamburg. To those that know the first two places it might already be obvious that I am a pastor's son. My mother is a South African who emigrated to Germany when she met my father, I therefore have German and the South African citizenship, which benefitted my quick transition to Pretoria. She is the daughter of the former professor and rector of the seminary's predecessor in Enhlanhleni Wilhelm Weber sr. (the only thing I remember about Enhlanhleni [I think I was about four years old, when they left] is, that my grandmother wanted to make nettle tea and I was shocked how someone could drink this itchy stuff). Looking at the wall in the chapel at the LTS in Pretoria with pictures of the former students and lecturers hanging there, I can see many familiar faces: my uncles, cousins, and even some of my former lecturers.



I have studied theology in Oberursel, Fort Wayne (USA), and Münster (Germany) from 2014 to 2021 after trying out – or rather being enrolled in – Economics for a year. Since my final exam in Oberursel, I am (or should be, depending on the given day) busy writing a PhD in Systematic Theology (surprise) at the University of Münster about the relationship of churches (or in other words: the recognition of other and especially non-Lutheran churches as such, considering that the bible and the Lutheran confessions only know of the one, holy, Christian and apostolic Church and not of different confessional churches or denominations while at the same time recognizing that we do not simply consider other churches and Christians as heathens).

Before coming to Pretoria, I lectured at the Lutherische Theologische Hochschule Oberursel (Germany) as an assistant at the partner seminary, where I taught the bible courses for one and a half years after graduating at the same place. Originally, I planned to stay at the German seminary for another seven months before starting with my vicarage, but because there was a shortage of lecturers at LTS, the professors in Germany were kind enough to let me go ahead of time to support the teaching staff here. Thanks for that once again!

In the end it went all very quickly. As my last day of class in Germany was on February 8, it was not possible for me to move here in time for the new semester (which started February 1 already). The students and I will therefore need to teach and study even harder than originally expected (sorry for that).



When thinking about my move here and everything that came (and still comes) with it, two things are very clear. First, God's ways are not our ways, and his thoughts are not our thoughts. Second, the German "Wir haben einen Plan" ('We have a plan') and the South African "Wir machen n' Plan" ('We'll make a plan') are two very different things.

In my free time I love to watch and play football (association football to be exact [this is where the American word soccer has its roots, as opposed to rugby football]). Surprisingly I am much better at the former and therefore decided at some point to rather coach (not saying that I am any good at that) than play myself. In Oberursel I coached three different boys' teams of a bunch of 10-year-olds. Who knows if I'll find an opportunity to do the same here.

Thus far about me and my journey up to this point. Please keep me and my work here as well as the students and the whole seminary in your prayers.

Greetings from Tshwane!

In Christ,

Tobias

# BUILDING PLANS

With 30 students, the LTS campus is full. Students all are sharing rooms, and there are no empty rooms left on campus. Furthermore, two of the classrooms are in bad shape. The foundation of the classrooms has a major crack, leading to cracks in the wall.



Cracks in the wall and floor

It is our vision to have the two current classrooms demolished and replaced with a much larger building. See drawing below. Before building, two of the properties must be consolidated, and rezoning must be done. These processes have been started.

The new building will have space for:

- 3 classrooms (2 for 20 students each, 1 for 40 students). We won't have to use the chapel as classroom anymore.
- A student dining hall and kitchen. Currently students are having lunch under the trees, as there is no other space available
- 21 single rooms for students. Current student houses could be rented out for extra income.

The building is designed in such a way that it could be build in three phases as funds become available. The estimated total cost of the building is around R6,5 mil or USD \$355,000. R3,7 mil (\$200,000) has already been pledged towards the building project. If you're able, we'd love it if you could help us achieve our building needs. For options to donate, see the last page of the newsletter.





## Coming up @LTS

- ◆ February 27 – March 10 Intensive Course 1: Dr. J. Pless (Christian Ethics) & Rev. T. Mech (Pastors and Elders)
  - ◆ March 7: Board of Directors/Members Meeting
  - ◆ March 31: End of 1<sup>st</sup> Academic Quarter
- ◆ May 22 – June 6 Intensive Course 2: Dr. J. Pless (Pastors' devotional life) & Dr. J. Nordling (Revelation)

**Mission: "The LTS is a mission agency seeking to graduate multipliers for the Lutheran Church in Africa."**

**Vision: "To provide quality confessional Lutheran formation."**

### HOW TO SUPPORT THE LTS:

**IF YOU LIVE IN EUROPE:** Send it via Lutherische Kirchenmission (Bleckmarer Mission) e.V.: IBAN: DE09 2579 1635 0100 4239 00, BIC: GENODEF1HMN; (Spendenzweck „LTS“)

**IF YOU LIVE IN NORTH AMERICA:** Send your donation via St. Philip Lutheran Mission Society - SPLMS.

- **Saint Philip Lutheran Mission Society**

c/o Rev. Anthony Oliphant, Redeemer Lutheran Church

123 E. St. Charles Rd., Elmhurst, IL 60126

- PayPal via [www.splms.org](http://www.splms.org)
- Thrivent Choice: SPLMS can be supported through Thrivent Choice dollars. You can direct Thrivent Choice dollars through [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) or by calling 1-800-THRIVENT.
- Amazon Smile: SPLMS can be supported through Amazon Smile, where a small percentage of every purchase goes to designated charities. Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and search for 'Saint Philip Lutheran Mission Society'
- **LCMS's Mission Central**

Gifts can be made online through the link <https://missioncentral.us/donation-form/?project=LTS%20Seminary%20Pretoria&reference=ZA0001-60604&id=IM0020ECXXH000>

If writing a check, please make the gift to: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. In the memo line, write: ZA0001-60604: LTS Seminary South Africa. And send the gift to: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis MO, 63166-6861.

Or, to make a gift by phone, please call: 1-888-930-4438 and designate the gift to "ZA0001-60604: LTS Seminary South Africa".

**IF YOU LIVE IN SOUTH AFRICA:** The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane is a registered Public Benefits Organization. Donations to LTS can be deducted according to Section 18(a) in the South African tax laws. Donations are also possible via check or Paypal. Please see our website for details ([www.lts.ac.za](http://www.lts.ac.za)).

**Account Holder: "Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane NPC"**

**Bank: ABSA, current account no. 860510030 Branch Code: 632005 Swift Code: ABSA ZA JJ**

Bank Address: ABSA Enterprise Business, Campus Building, 1102 Burnett Street, Hatfield, 0083 South Africa

LTS: 790 Arcadia Street, Arcadia, 0083 | P. O. Box 12547, Hatfield, 0028 | South Africa

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