



LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL  
**SEMINARY**  
IN TSHWANE



IN THIS ISSUE

**NOVEMBER 2023  
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WERNER KLÄN**

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## Graduation with 14 Students!

On Friday, November 24th, the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane celebrated the graduation of 14 students. The students are from the following countries:

- South Africa (8)
- Ethiopia (4)
- Malawi (1)
- Democratic Republic of Congo (1).

The graduation service was held at the nearby St. Paul's congregation, as the LTS chapel is too small to accommodate such a large group of graduates and their guests.

The graduation service started with the order of Matins so that guests could share in the daily devotions held at the seminary. The sermon was held by Rector Hiestermann on Luke 19:10: "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost".

The conferring of the graduation certificates and a prizegiving ceremony followed. After the service, guests were invited to lunch on the LTS campus.

GRADUATION GUESTS IN THE ST PAUL'S CHURCH



BY RECTOR HIESTERMANN

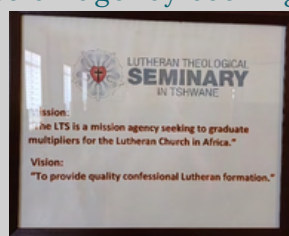
## Graduation message

14 students have graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane. It is indeed a joyous occasion to have such a big group of students graduating. After today, 14 congregations will have vicars or pastors serving the church, spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to many. They will bring the message of God's grace in Christ for our salvation to the people.

We have tried our best in the limited time we had with the students to thoroughly teach them the content of the Bible, even in Greek and Hebrew, and also the Lutheran Confessions, Dogmatics, Church History, and Practical Theology.

They have heard many sermons during the daily Matins services. And today I'm sharing a last sermon to them on the words of Jesus from Luke 19:10, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

This verse encapsulates the very mission of our seminary. In the seminary chapel and in some classrooms there are picture frames with the mission statement of our seminary, which reads: "The LTS is a mission agency seeking to graduate multipliers for the Lutheran Church in Africa".



In their future ministries as multipliers for the Lutheran Church, they would do well to remember these words of Jesus, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost". For if we look at the meaning of this verse, we first encounter the wonderful knowledge that the Son of Man came. That Jesus came. That he came to us. The incarnation of Christ happened, that awe-inspiring moment when the Creator of the universe entered our fallen world as one of us. When the Word became flesh, dwelling among us. When Jesus came to us in our world.



LSCA BISHOP MARAGELO &amp; FELSISA BISHOP PAUL

FRONT: DR KLÄN, STUDENT NKAMBULE, LECTURER SCHÜTZE.  
BACK: RECTOR HIESTERMANN, REV. HANFATO, DR REINSTORF



The framework was set by the first twenty-one articles of the Augsburg Confession and the “arc of suspense” comprised texts from it, which next to the Scriptures is the foundational confessional document of the Lutheran church and its doctrine. We also looked at texts from Luther’s Small and Large Catechisms, the Apology, the Smalcald Articles, and the Formula of Concord.

The results of the tests by the end of class were absolutely satisfactory for me as a teacher and for the (major part of the) students.

## Trip Report Dr Werner Klän: Back at LTS after four years

In 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic impeded me from coming to LTS and teaching as I had done from 2008 to 2019. In 2022 I suffered myself from that disease which, in the words of Psalm 91, is best labeled “the pestilence that stalks in the dark”. But at the beginning of October this year, I was able to return in order to teach “Theology of the Lutheran Confessions” for two weeks.

Students from first year to third year attended – which is always a challenge for students and lecturers alike, for differences in previous knowledge, in debating culture, and in theological judgment occur. Nonetheless after getting to know each other better, which always takes a few days, lively conversations took place.

A reader composed of basic texts taken from the Book of Concord, and introductory chapters to the various topics helped the students prepare for each of the three hours of class per day, five days a week. Lively conversations took place whether it was about the Trinitarian dogma, original sin, Christology, justification, good works, the sacraments, prayer, the office of the ministry, church orders, civil ordinations, or the Last Judgement.



PROF KLÄN HANDING OUT CERTIFICATES TO THE STUDENTS

## TRIP REPORT CONTINUED...

Even those who did not contribute much in class by oral attendance did well in answering the questions in the test. Hearing from students: 'We learned a lot,' – what else may make a teacher happy? The class bid me farewell with gracious gifts like toffees, coffee, and fridge magnets that made their way even to Lübeck/Germany (but for the toffees).

With gratitude, I am looking back at the hospitality provided by the LTS faculty and co-workers. The guest room is well equipped, food is provided generously, the company with Rector Dr Heinz Hiestermann (and his wife at invitations to their home), registrar Mintesinot Birru Hanfato lecturer Tobias Schütze, pastor Nathan Mntambo, and guest lecturer bishop em. Dr Dieter Reinstorf, was pleasant and enjoyable. The office administrator, Mrs Rosmarie Rynners, and the librarian Ms. Margarete van Zyl, did anything to support me technically, let alone Mr Gustav Paul who took care of nearly any of my necessities.

Thanks be to God that this bond of fraternal, moreover ecclesial collegueship and friendship has outlasted the threats of a worldwide crisis – and the crises are not over by far when we look at the state this world is at. Still, it is God who rules the course of His creation and will see to it that His Church will not perish and have ministers to serve His people with Word and Sacrament.

*Prof. Dr. Werner Klän*

*Lübeck/Germany, 2023-11-15*

## Rev. Hanfato appointed new LTS registrar



Rev. Mintesinot Birru Hanfato has been appointed at the Board meeting on 24 October 2023 as registrar of LTS. Rev. Hanfato has been serving at LTS since 2014. He has a master's degree in New Testament studies from the Mekane Yesus seminary in Ethiopia and is busy with his Ph.D. in Old Testament Studies at UNISA. The position of registrar had to be filled after the tragic passing of Rev. John Nkambule earlier this year. The LTS registrar is responsible for student admissions and many aspects of the academic programme of our seminary. God bless Rev. Hanfato in his new position.

## Meet the Graduates



Mxolisi Vuyisile Nkambule, born on 31 December 1991, will be doing his vicarage in the Confessional Lutheran Church of South Africa (CLCSA).



Given Ntokozo Masemola, born on 22 November 1991, will be doing his vicarage in the CLCSA.



Sicelomusa Julias Khumalo, born on 22 February 1995, will be doing his vicarage in the LCSA.



Carly David Tlhapane, born on 6 March 1953, will serve as pastor in Botswana.



Oageng Terrance Rampulane, born on 11 November 1997, will be doing his vicarage in the ELCSA.



Mpho Samuel Moema, born on 18 April 1994, will be doing his vicarage in the ELCSA.



Yamikani Nkhata, born on 12 November 2001, will be doing his vicarage in the Confessional Lutheran Synod, Malawi.

## Meet the Graduates



Bienfait Safari Romeo, born on 5 December 1992 in the DRC, will be doing his vicarage in Durban under Rev. Dr Christoph Weber (MLC).



Dipolelo Obed Moatshe, born on 6 November 1992, will be doing his vicarage in the Mogajane Congregation, Evangelical Lutheran Church, under Rev. P.J. Gouwe.



Veli Absolom Mdluli, born on 28 March 1952, will be serving his home LCSA congregation in Ermelo.



Zwedu Hussen Ultro, born on 18 July 1987 in Ethiopia, will be doing his vicarage in the Christ for all Mission, Witbank Ethiopian Church.



Demeke Digebo Wakocho, born on 10 September 1990 in Ethiopia, will be doing his vicarage in the Bochum Eleroe Christian Church.



Wabalo Bayo Jochaye, born on 10 October 1971, will be doing his vicarage in the Ganuwa Congregation, Mekane Yesus, Ethiopia.



Derese Yohannes Heramo, born on 20 March 1985 in Ethiopia, is looking to further his studies next year.

# More Graduation Pics...

We heartily thank Mr. Muzi Khumalo for taking the graduation pictures. All the graduation pictures in this issue were taken by him.



Student Given Masemola at the graduation



Student Yamikani Nkhata with Rector Hiestermann



Guests and students praying after the graduation



Registrar Rev. Hanfato addressing students and guests

## More Graduation Pics...



Group photo in the LTS chapel before the graduation



Lecturers Rev. Kurt Schnackenberg and Tobias Schütze



Board Members Ms. Nkosi and Dr Rencken with the registrar and rector



# COMING UP @LTS IN 2024

February 6: Welcoming day

February 7: Start of Classes

February 26 - March 7: Intensive 1 (Dr John Pless - The Psalms as Pastoral Theology; Dr Jacob Corzine - The Apology of the Augsburg Confession)

**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: GENODEFIHMN; (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=IM0020ECXXXH000>

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

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