

Musings from MATONGO

NEWS FROM REV. DR. WALTER & ROBYN STEELE



January 2022

SteelesInAfrica.com



THE MAASAI

The Maasai are a traditionally nomadic people, inhabiting Kenya and Tanzania. There are about 1,190,000 Maasai in Kenya alone.

Traditional Maasai culture centers around their cattle, which are their primary source of food and wealth. Having many cattle and many children is a sign of wealth and honour among them.

They are also known for their bright coloured shukas (the blanket you see in then photo) and their intricate bead-work. They are also known for their skill as warriors.

As a traditionally monotheistic people, belief in one true God provides a foundation for evangelism. To this must be added the Cross of Christ, the only-begotten Son of God.



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email to walter.Steele@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Evangelist Wilson Preaches Christ



Evangelist Intern Wilson Naigeyo Preaching in Maa, with a Kiswahili Interpreter

Wilson Taleng'o Naigeyo has just about finished his internship, serving Mapashi Congregation in the Trans Mara region in Kenya. The people that live in this region are from the Kisii and Maasai peoples. The word, Trans Mara, means "across the Mara river."

Mapashi congregation is unique in that it is comprised of people from both tribal groups. The Maasai speak "Maa," an Eastern Nilotic language. People from the Nilotic language groups are those who immigrated into the region southward along the Nile River. The Kisii people speak Gusii, a Bantu-based language. So when Wilson preaches at Mapashi, he is assisted by a lay leader who translates the sermon in Maa into Kiswahili—the national language of Kenya, well-know among the Kisii.

At Matongo, we teach and train pastors, deaconesses and evangelists. The evangelist training curriculum equips qualified men to fill the gap for preachers. Kenya, as it is in many Lutheran churches in East and Central Africa, has a significant shortage of pastors. The Certificate in Evangelist Training equips men to step in as we work to raise up more pastors. In fact, it is from the pool of evangelists that we often find men who are recommended to continue on to earn their Diploma in Theology and be ordained in the Office of the Ministry.

This month we begin a new semester at Matongo—the first full-term since COVID upset the normal routine. We are grateful for your partnership in the Gospel, which allows us to continue to serve here at this excellent Lutheran seminary, the only authorised seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- For Wilson as he serves the people of the Trans Mara region.
- For Mapashi congregation as they model life in Christ —the unity that we have as children of God.
- For our students as they return from Christmas break, that they arrive safely, ready to begin another semester.
- For Walter as he serves as Academic Dean, that his curriculum review will help identify areas for improvement in the Diploma in Theology program.
- For Robyn as she uses her gifts to encourage the students in their lives and their studies.
- BLESSED NEW YEAR IN CHRIST TO YOU AND YOURS!

A Third Year Begins

2022 marks the beginning of our third year serving as Missionaries through LCMS International Mission.

We would not be able to serve in Africa without your gifts of prayer, encouragement, and financial support.

We know the past two years have been challenging, to say the least, for many people back home. So we are especially thankful for your continued support.

Regardless of what happens in the world, the one great need that remains is preaching the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your continued partnership allows us to equip those who are best equipped to reach into places you and we are unable to go.

This past year, pastors, evangelists, and deaconesses have been trained and sent!

GOD IS STILL IN CHARGE!



Fellowship Meals after Church are Part of Life in Kenya

Remember, you can help us continue to teach Future church workers here in East Africa by your prayers and financial support at:

lcms.org/givenow/steele

Or at the **world-famous Mission Central**
MISSION CENTRAL

40718 Highway E-16

Mapleton IA 51034

Make the memo line: Steele/ Kenya



Wilson discusses parish needs with Deaconess Mary Koros

For more information on our work and our progress check out:

Our Website: SteelesInAfrica.com

LCMS page: lcms.org/steele

Or Facebook: Walter Steele



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

To support the LCMS through the work of Walter and Robyn Steele, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Steele/Kenya." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/steele.