

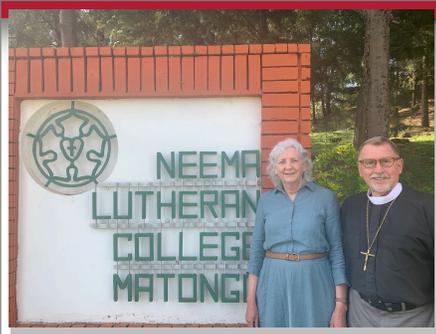
# Musings from MATONGO

NEWS FROM REV. DR. WALTER & ROBYN STEELE



February 2022

[SteelesInAfrica.com](http://SteelesInAfrica.com)



## LUTHERANS IN SOUTH SUDAN

- The South Sudan Evangelical Lutheran Church (SSELC) is a confessional Lutheran Church, seeking to be faithful to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures.
- Many of the pastors were first brought to the faith by the work of Anglican missionaries.
- Sadly, the Anglican Church has departed from many of the core teachings of Holy Scripture.
- By studying the Scriptures, these men came to embrace the solid teaching, as found in our Lutheran Confessions.
- Men such as Abraham are helping the SSELC to become even more faithful, as they study the Word together.



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

## Pastor Abraham Thiong' of South Sudan



### Pastor Abraham Thiong' Presents the Attendees with Catechisms

In South Sudan, a country not long ago torn by civil war, The Rev. Abraham Thiong' Nyang' serves as the only fully-trained Lutheran pastor in the South Sudan Evangelical Lutheran Church (SSELC). He was one of my students in the Bachelor of Theology Program at Neema Lutheran College, Matongo, Kenya.

For seven days in December, he conducted youth training in the Small Catechism, the Lutheran Confessions, and basic Christian Doctrine. This was done to equip these young people so that they might be strong in the Faith and be ready to share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ with those they meet.

Over 35 young men attended this training along with several women. Conducted in two sessions, one before and one after Christmas, he was able to tell them about how Jesus has died so that they might be set free from the guilt and shame of sin. He explained how they have new birth of water and the Spirit by their baptism into Christ. He emphasized the free grace of God in Christ, which is so counter to the core teaching of the various African Traditional Religions, to which a third of the population still hold.

One of the great challenges in South Sudan is the influence of Islam. Sudan to the north is majority Muslim. South Sudan only became independent from its northern neighbour in 2011. And although Muslims comprise only 6% of the population, Islam's influence is felt in the entire East African region. Pastor Thiong' teaches the truth so the youth of the Church are not led astray by its lies.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- For Abraham as he continues to faithfully teach the youth and others in the South Sudan Evangelical Lutheran Church.
  - For his safety and the safety of all the faithful churches in our region, that all attempts to disrupt the peace would come to nothing.
  - For wisdom and strength for Walter as he works alongside the Principal and other faculty to increase the quality of teaching at Matongo.
  - For Robyn as she continues to support the students.
- **FINAL NOTE OF THANKS**
- We give thanks that we were able both to have a short visit in the States to celebrate Christmas with our family, and that Walter was able to be refreshed at the annual Symposia at our Fort Wayne Indiana Seminary. Nonetheless, it is good to be back in Kenya, where the Lord has called us.

## JOYS & STRUGGLES

It is truly a joy to be called to do this work, when we see men like Abraham, who take the study of God's Word seriously. Men like him know that getting the message correct and getting the message out are both important.

Still, the work here has its struggles. We are still dealing with the challenges of the pandemic. Each wave seems to bring more travel restrictions and challenges. And since about one half of our students come from outside Kenya, the challenge is real.

We also deal with the challenges of maintaining the support needed to continue to do this important work

This is where you come in. We are serious when we say, you are in this mission business with us. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial support is vital.

Asante sana! Thank you, for your faithful support.



### Pastor Abraham Thiong' Teaching Lutheran History & Doctrine

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

[lcms.org/givenow/steele](https://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



### Over 35 Men Attended the 7-Day Training

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

Our Website: [SteelesInAfrica.com](https://SteelesInAfrica.com)

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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](https://lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

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