

## LUTHERAN COMMUNION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA NEWSLETTER

### Message from the President of LUCSA Council

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, many greetings from the Communion Office as well as from all LUCSA member churches. We continue to be reminded of the watchword of 2015 as it was well set by our Executive Director in the previous Newsletter. That reminder is the call to us to accept, receive, and welcome one another both in unity and purpose, with open arms full of love towards everyone who is created in the image of God.



**Bishop Dr. Nambala plants a tree during the Marangu 2015 conference in Moshi, TZ on May 22, 2015.**

This year and two years ahead will be unique years for the Lutherans' expression within the African continent as well as in the southern continental sub-region. From the 20-25 May 2015, all African Lutherans, with the exemption of few churches, met in Moshi, Tanzania, in commemoration of the first African Lutheran Conference that met at Marangu, Tanzania in 1955. We believe all communion member churches have by now received the Marangu (2015) message, and spread that message through out the communion church members and communities.

Other important events and festivals have also taken place and continue to take shape on the ground and contexts through out the year 2015. Therefore, we owe praise and thank giving to God for the opportunity given to our believers and church members to worship and celebrate together the holy sacraments within the sub-region.

The message has also reached our member churches in LUCSA that come May 2017, all Lutherans are planning to hold the Lutheran Assembly in our region, in Windhoek, Namibia. It is our hope that all member churches are preparing to show case our region to the global Lutheran family.

Against this background and on behalf of the communion office I have the honor to invite all our member churches in LUCSA to continue praying for all Christians wherever they are. Let us all kneel before God, so that He can transform Africa and the sub-region into a loving and caring communion. By doing so, vulnerability, poverty and all other unwanted social ills that often disturb our spirituality, will be drastically minimized, if not totally disappearing.

May the grace and love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit direct us in his holy name. "Kwa Neema naPenda" (Kiswahili = "by grace and love") we will overcome. Be greeted with Hebrews 12:28-29.

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Bishop Dr. Shekutaamba V V Nambala

## Malaria Desk

### Strengthening local ties with Gauteng Provincial Health Department

On April 29th, 2015 the Malaria Coordinator, Ms. Shoni Ngobeni attended the Regional Malaria Workshop organised by the Gauteng Department of Public Health at the NICD-Sandringham. LUCSA helped to sponsor the event with folders, pens, and brochures about LUCSA and our programs.

The conference brought together over 100 health workers from across the province to learn more about malaria. The one day workshop provided a large amount of information on what malaria actually is and how it is spread, how to identify the signs of malaria, the importance of testing for the disease, and different malaria prophylaxes and how to prescribe to travellers. The department of health also gave a presentation on the number of cases of malaria in the province. There were 14 deaths due to malaria in Gauteng because of neglecting the symptoms and wrongful diagnosis in 2014.



**Ms. Shoni Ngobeni gives a brief summary of LUCSA programming at the Gauteng Dept. of Health Malaria Workshop on April 29 2015.**



LUCSA has been working most often with surrounding countries to assist programs that have already been established by other NGO's and government programs. Recently, LUCSA has seen the need to extend our resources to South Africa as well. This workshop was a wonderful opportunity to share about what LUCSA does and how these various health workers can reach out to our organisation for support. At the end of the workshop, Shoni Ngobeni gave a short presentation highlighting the malaria program, and gave a brief overview of LUCSA's programming as well.

## Christian Education Desk

### Youth and Young Adult Resource Book 5 Workshop a success

On May 6th, 2015 Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson, a representative from the ELCA and interim Christian Education Desk Coordinator, led a three day follow-up workshop with youth and young adults from the LUCSA member churches to collaborate and develop the curriculum for Book 5 of the LUCSA Christian Education Resource Book Series. The group met at eMseni Christian Centre in Benoni, South Africa where they discussed several topics that will be included in the book. Members from ELCSA, ELCIN, ELCB, ELCM, and the Moravian Church were represented during this follow up workshop. The young adults are each leaders within their congregations and were invited by LUCSA to help the process of development for the book.



**Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson leads the morning bible study with the youth and young adults. During this bible study the group was discussing the creation stories.**

Each morning one of the young adults led a devotion, followed by a bible study facilitated by Rev. Dr. Knutson. The rest of the day was spent discussing the curriculum. Each participant received a “Lutheran Tool Box” filled with resources on how to read scripture using a “Lutheran perspective.” The young adults continued using the technique of looking for the 3 criteria of “God’s Mission” which are, transformation, reconciliation, and empowerment. They also learned how to understand different perspectives of scripture from

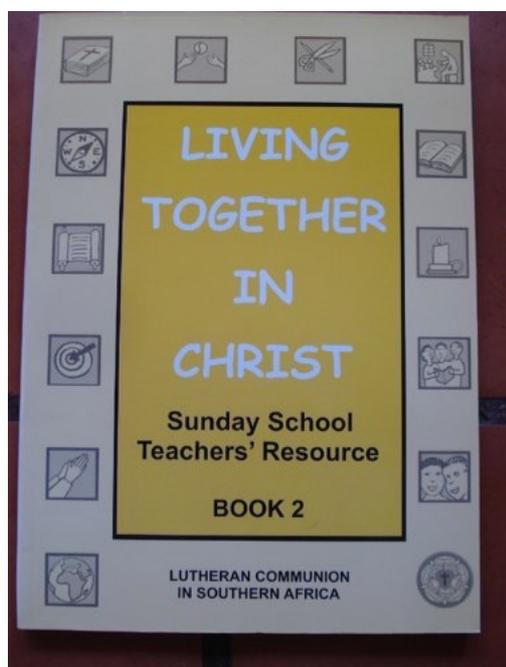
a liberal to fundamentalist perspective as well as the Lutheran interpretation. Using these tools, the youth and young adults explored, identity, relationships, gender, sexuality, intimacy, ethics, morality, climate change, stewardship, traditions, culture, and faith. Each representative came with their assigned topics and led a discussion on their perspective and ideas for what to include in the curriculum.

By the end of the workshop, not all of the topics were covered but there was a lot that was accomplished. The young adults were very passionate about each of the topics, which shows how important this resource will be for the member churches. The book hopes to be a starting point for asking hard questions, and opening a positive discussion on some of the issues the youth and young adults are facing today. LUCSA is hoping to have the LUCSA Youth and Young Adult Resource Book 5 completed and ready for printing tentatively by October 2015.

**From left: Allison Westerhoff (LUCSA Communications/ELCA), David Daniels (Moravian Church), Tsepong Motlogelwa (ELCB), Noko Mapotse (ELCSA), Howard Maujo (ELCM), Iyaloo Nuuyuni (ELCIN), Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson (LUCSA Christian Education/ELCA)**



## Use LUCSA Sunday School Teachers' Resource Book Two (yellow cover) throughout 2015!



The three LUCSA Sunday School Teachers' Resource books "Living Together in Christ" generally follow the Revised Common Lectionary. The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) is a work of The Consultation on Common Texts, an ecumenical consultation of liturgical scholars and denominational representatives including Lutherans, Anglicans and others. Each year of the RCL centers on one of the synoptic Gospels (Year A – Matthew, Year B – Mark, Year C – Luke). John is read in each year in the major seasons of Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

LUCSA Book Two (Yellow cover) is based on Year B and should be used throughout 2015. LUCSA Book Three (Blue cover) should be used in 2016 and LUCSA Book One (Green Cover) should be used in 2017. The three books should continue to be used following the same three year cycle pattern in the following years.

The fourth book provides a curriculum for confirmation classes. Book 5 will be a resource for youth and young adults and book 6 is an adult Christian education resource for lay and clergy.

The first four books are sold as a set for R250 (\$23). Book 6 is available at a price of R75 (\$7) Books can be purchased through LUCSA by calling +27 (11) 979 7142 or via email at [info@lucsa.org](mailto:info@lucsa.org)

## HIV & AIDS Desk

### ELCSA-ED Mentorship For Mainstreaming Follow Up Workshop

On May 11th through May 13th, 2015

LUCSA HIV & AIDS Desk held a workshop for ELCSA Eastern Diocese to follow up on their workplace program and the connected schools' within the Eastern Diocese.

Administrators, teachers, and pastors from the diocese met with two representatives from the LUCSA staff, Mr. Njabulo Mnguni

and Ms. Chengatai Mano, and the ELCSA-ED HIV & AIDS coordinator, Rev. Constance Mamba. The 3 day workshop refreshed the participants on what mainstreaming is, how they can

**Njabulo Mnguni, LUCSA HIV & AIDS officer, leads the group in a discussion on what mainstreaming really is.**





Rev. Thembi Shabalala patiently listens during the contextual bible study on gender to a participants thoughts. The group looked into the very challenging passage of Judges chapter 20.

implement the program in the workplace, and provided time for the groups to plan their own programs.

The model of mainstreaming in response to HIV & AIDS is meant to empower the member churches to find ways of educating their congregations within the programs they are already implementing. The LUCSA HIV & AIDS team provided a session on resource mobilisation and how the participants can find funding and use their already available resources to maximise overall impact.

The schools were very driven to find ways to incorporate mainstreaming into their lessons and daily activities, as well as improve the staff's experience in the workplace. The pastors were also able to discuss outlying issues that are connected to HIV & AIDS such as gender inequality, abuse of the environment, and stigma. Through contextual bible studies pastors were able to address these issues and were given tools to share these bible studies with their congregations.

One of the challenges within the churches is funding, but during this workshop the participants were empowered to overcome the restrictions of low funds with possible projects such as: creating gardens that could provide an income for the church, utilising the resources they already have, and committing their efforts towards building the HIV & AIDS curriculum into their existing programs. The groups also discussed the challenge of entrenched cultures which can be harmful towards the development of equality and justice for people living with HIV & AIDS, women, and vulnerable groups within the church. On the second day, Rev. Thembi Shabalala led a contextual bible study on gender bias, that not only exposed them to the topic but gave the participants an example of a successful contextual bible study.

On the final day, the pastors and school employees were split up into their respective groups to plan their own programs in their context. Both groups were able to develop a timeline and propose projects by the end of the sessions, which will be further monitored and evaluated over the next year.

The members of the ELCSA-ED Workplace Program Follow Up Workshop in Mbabane, Swaziland from May 11-13th, 2015



To close the workshop, the pastors led a candlelight service with a liturgy focused on HIV & AIDS.

## LCSA Participates in Couples Communication Workshop

From June 2-5th 2015 at Good News Conference Centre the LUCSA HIV & AIDS team facilitated with Mr. Simon Moruakgomo, a motivational speaker from Gauteng, South Africa, a workshop to improve and empower couple communication for pastors and their spouses. Six couples from the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA) were in attendance.

The participants of the Couple Communication Workshop for Pastors and Their Spouses and the facilitators at Good News Convention Centre in Krugersdorp, South Africa on June 3 2015.



## Communications Desk

### Your voice matters

During the last quarter the Communications Officer, Ms. Allison Westerhoff has been working to build relationships with member churches through accompanying other LUCSA program desks to workshops and events.

A highlight of these events was the Marangu conference in Moshi, Tanzania. The African Lutheran Communications Network (ALCINET) met a day before the conference to go over current projects and to delegate the coverage of the current conference. Ms. Westerhoff contributed to the reporting with caption writing, photo organising, and writing a blog for the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) website.

Currently, the LWF is working to build an African region website just for the African sub-regions including the Lutheran Church in Central and East Africa (LUCCEA) and the Lutheran Church in West Africa (LUCWA). Each sub-region will be expected to contribute news and blogs for the global communion to read.

Communication is a very important aspect of faith. We communicate with God in several different ways and we hope to hear God speak back in several different ways as well. This communication is not a one-way flow of information. As a Communion, your voice matters. Our sub-regional expression of the LWF is alive with stories and information. If we work together to collect these stories, they will be shared not only within the sub-region, but globally.

Since the postponement of the Member Church Communication Network (MCCN), the Communications desk is working to find other ways to connect with the member churches. LUCSA is encouraging member churches to send flyers, short summaries of events, photos,

special worship services, information on current projects the church is engaged in, and anything that will give a taste of what is happening. If you need assistance in setting up communications systems, please reach out to our Communication officer, Ms. Allison Westerhoff through email: [communications@lucsa.org](mailto:communications@lucsa.org)

Have you connected with us on social media?



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[info@lucsa.org](mailto:info@lucsa.org)

## Member Church News

### ELCSA-Cape Church Synod Assembly

From May 29th-30th 2015, the ELCSA-Cape Church met for their General Assembly in King Williams Town, South Africa. During the assembly a professor from University of Pretoria, Stephan de Beer spoke to the delegates and guests about “God’s Abundance” and helped the participants think about ways they can share God’s abundance with their congregations and communities.

Several reports were given from the various desks about the health and challenges within their synod. You can also find more information about the Cape Church through their website: [www.uelcsa.org.za](http://www.uelcsa.org.za)



The delegates and council members of the ELCSA-Cape Church during their General Assembly.

## ELCM prepares for first National Youth Assembly

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi is preparing for their first youth assembly to take place from August 19-23rd, 2015 at the ELCM Cathedral in Lilongwe, Malawi with Timothy 4:12 as the guiding verse for the event. Kindly keep this member church in your prayers as they prepare for this gathering!

## ELCB celebrates new pastor ordinations

The Evangelical Church in Botswana ordained five pastors and one deaconess on Sunday, 24 May 2015. This was the first ordination for Rev. Bishop Mothusi J. Letlhage as a bishop. The event was held at Kang Congregation, in the South Western Circuit. It was a great event, which was graced by two Bishops, 25 Pastors and Deaconesses, four Evangelists and 20 congregations. We thank the Almighty God for this gift, and wish

them God's blessings in the future.

Pastors, Deaconesses, & Bishops after the ordination service.  
Photo: Rev. Dickson Moyambo



## Global Church News

### Marangu Jubilee 2015

From Marangu to Wittenberg: Theological Education and Leadership Formation and the Renewal of the Lutheran Church in Africa

On 20 May 2015, over 175 Bishops and Lutheran leaders including clergy and youth gathered at Uhuru Hotel and Conference Centre to engage in a conference exploring the theme "From

The delegates and council members of the Marangu conference at Moshi Town Lutheran Cathedral after the opening worship.



Marangu to Wittenberg: Theological Education and Leadership Formation and the Renewal of the Lutheran Church in Africa.” This conference was in celebration of the first all African Lutheran meeting in Marangu, Tanzania in 1955. Each morning began with a devotion and bible study led by each of the sub-regions. Then, participants began exploring topics such as the sustainability of the African Lutheran church, the importance of climate justice, and a reflection on how far the church has come since the original meeting in Marangu, Tanzania 60 years ago.

During the opening worship at Moshi Town Lutheran Cathedral, Bishop Emeritus Martin F. Shao delivered the sermon, and LWF General Secretary Martin Junge gave a message of welcome to begin the conference. The following day, LWF President and Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), Dr. Munib Younan gave an

address to the participants on the subject of “Africa not for sale.” He spoke passionately about how although Africans have been oppressed, and the mind can sometimes continue to feel that oppression after being liberated, Africans need to remember that God’s grace has set them free.



**LUCSA Executive Director, Bishop Dr. David Tswaedi leads a feedback session on the official Marangu statement.**

The participants were also able to go on exposure visits to different projects and programs from the ELCT. These excursions were meant to be a hands-on experience for the participants, especially the visit to the Moshi Town Majengo Parish where those who attended were able to plant trees. (Read more of the story written by Allison Westerhoff on the LWF website: [www.lutheranworld.org/](http://www.lutheranworld.org/))

The Global Young Reformers Network was also able to participate as delegates came from the three sub-regions in Africa to add their leadership to the event through being the voice of climate justice. The GYRN were vivacious and passionate towards the future of the Lutheran church and were eagerly participating in the conversation about what it means to be an African Lutheran today.

LUCSA Executive Director, Bishop Dr. David Tswaedi was apart of the drafting committee for the official Marangu statement, which can be found on the Lutheran World Federation website. This statement was presented on Pentecost Sunday during the eucharistic service at the Marangu Teachers College, which is the original site of the Marangu conference in 1955. LWF President Bishop Dr. Munib Younan delivered the sermon to over 2,000 people who were in attendance for the joyful and reverent service!



**Rev. Elfriede Katjizumo (ELCRN) and Southern African delegates receive the "Marangu Banner", symbolising the journey to the 2017 Assembly in Windhoek, Namibia.**

More information, pictures, and stories can be found on the LWF website: [www.lutheranworld.org](http://www.lutheranworld.org)

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15 Member Churches

10 Countries

2 Million Lutherans

1 Communion

To find out more about LUCSA and our programming, visit our website: [www.lucsa.org](http://www.lucsa.org)