

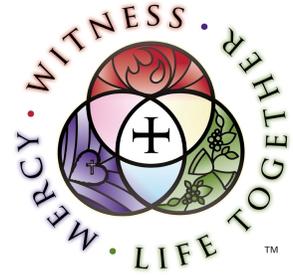


Mission News

David and Joyce Erber

David.Erber@LCMS.org
&
Joyce.Erber@LCMS.org

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Dear Partners in Mission,

Greetings from Ghana, West Africa!

Last week:

All of the pastors, evangelists and seminary students in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana gathered at the seminary in Saasabi. We had four days of worship, topics regarding 'Church and Ministry', discussions on current events in the church and great fellowship! Dr. Detlev Schulz from Luther Academy and the Ft. Wayne seminary was the guest speaker.



One of my roles in Ghana is work with the Regional Head Pastors of the church and equip them for mentoring the pastors and congregations in each of their regions.

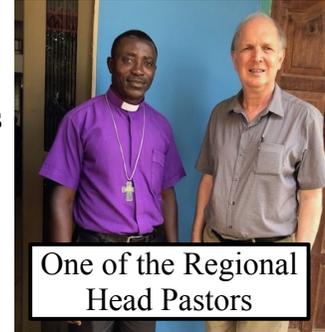
Much of my interaction with these men takes place through cell phone and internet messaging. Last week's event gave us the chance to be in the same place at the same time!

One of these pastors told me about a family in one of his congregations who had recently become Christian. The whole family came and were baptized. The father began growing in his appreciation and understanding of Luther's Small Catechism. Then his brothers came and forced him to leave the church and return back to the religious practices he had tried to leave behind. This has been devastating for this newly in-the-faith family and for the congregation!

This event demonstrates how greatly important it is that we have pastors and church members

who are out in the community and are engaging with people who need to know Jesus as Lord and Savior!

Our pastor continues to do everything he can to bring Jesus into the home of this family.



This week:

Dr. David Mennicke from Concordia University, St. Paul, MN is teaching a special workshop for choirs and musicians. His topics include: conducting, rehearsing and singing. His presentations are also rich with Bible study about worship. To bring it all together, Dr. Mennicke is teaching various liturgical pieces and hymns sfrom the Lutheran Service Book.



Many of our Lutheran congregations in Ghana simply borrow the popular music (and the theology that comes with it) of the churches around them.

This week is a major step in trying to help the church in Ghana develop distinctly Lutheran worship (in contrast to the very strong prosperity gospel influences around them)!

Thank you for your prayers for the church, for people of Ghana, for the family torn in faith (mentioned above) and for us! God be with you!

David and Joyce