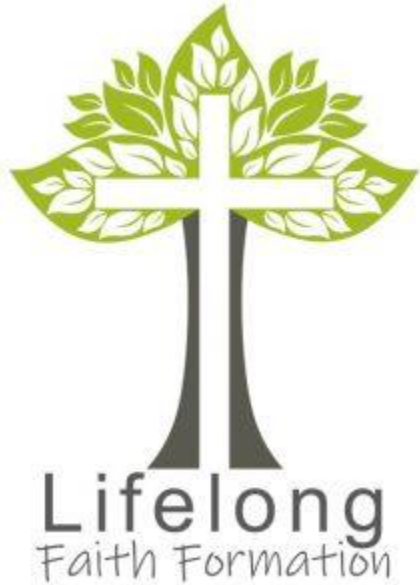


Lifelong Faith Formation



WALKING TOGETHER: COMPANIONSHIP WITH THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN TANZANIA

Today there are five Lutheran Church bodies in Africa that have more than a million members each. There are more Lutherans in Tanzania than there are in the United States! African Lutheran churches are growing. Western European and American Lutheran churches are not.

What in the world do the people of Tanzania have to do with us in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Northeastern Wisconsin? What can we learn from the Tanzanian Lutherans and what can our congregations gain from being involved with our African brothers and sisters in Christ?

If you have ever thought about taking a trip to visit the church in Tanzania this class is for you! If you are interested in learning about Christian life and practices in Africa this class is for you. If you are trying to discern whether to help your congregation develop a companion congregation relationship with a Tanzanian congregation this class is for you.

Luanne Skrenes and Bishop Emeritus Thomas Skrenes will be leading a six session class this fall on our relationship with the people of Tanzania. The Skrenes' have been to our companion synod, the Eastern and Coastal

Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania on eight occasions since 2001, and have experienced the blessings and challenges of this work.

5:00 p.m-6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

4:00 P.M.-5:00 p.m. Central Time

Six Thursdays–September 30 to November 4, 2021

OBJECTIVES

1. **KNOW** the purpose of the Companion Synod Program that connects the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
2. **APPRECIATE** the bonds that exist as well as the cultural differences between our churches.
3. **UNDERSTAND** the thirty year history of the diocese to synod relationships and what we have learned about each other.
4. **LEARN** how your congregation can be a part of this experience.
5. **SEE** Jesus Christ as center to the growth and maturity of this ministry.

A recommended resource for the class is the book: “Africans and Americans: Embracing Cultural Differences” by Joseph Mbele Available from Amazon (New \$12.49; Used \$5.96+)

September 30 Week 1 We will explore the companionship program, survey the landscape of this ministry and hear from Bishop Katherine Finegan on her perspective as our synod bishop.

October 7 Week 2 What should we know about Tanzania? It has a history, a culture, a geography and a large Lutheran presence. And it is an exciting place for Christian mission!

October 14 Week 3 Education is a key part of our relationship as synod to diocese. Pastor Bob Langseth will discuss our work at the Lutheran Junior Seminary (High School) in Kisarawe, Tanzania.

October 21 Week 4 Tanzania knows that an important part of its future is dependent upon educating all of its people. Today we talk about education for women, children, and those with special needs.

October 28 Week 5 In the last fifteen years dental and medical ministry has grown to be a key part of our companion relationship. Drs. Brian and Danielle Anderson share their experiences with us.

November 4 Week 6 Congregational companionship between Tanzanian and American congregations is central to a long term healthy relationship. How can this ministry be enhanced? Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Jim Duehring will reflect on the possibilities.

(The weeks above may be interchanged depending on the guest speaker's availability)