
Konde Partnership Newsletter

A publication of the Konde Diocese Committee of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA



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LSS SUPPORTS KONDE MISSIONS

Through donations from churches, organizations and individuals, the Lower Susquehanna Synod is able to partner with the Konde Diocese in support of many missions that reflect the three priorities established by the Konde Diocese Committee of Education, Agriculture and Health Care.

In 2010, the Konde Diocese was able to purchase a tractor to be used at the Kifunda Farm. Kifunda, a one hundred acre farm, is run by the Diocese as a method of reaching financial sustainability. The tractor and accessories funded through a grant from the Lower Susquehanna Synod will improve the efficiency of the farm, which will produce bananas, cocoa and avocados.

The Lower Susquehanna Synod invests in the future of the Konde Diocese by supporting students at Manow Lutheran Junior Seminary, a Konde Diocese-run secondary school. Presently the synod

supports 56 students in forms 1-4 and about 20 students in forms 5 and 6. For the current school year, over \$30,000 was donated by the synod's churches, organizations and members to cover these tuition and uniform costs.

In addition to Manow's secondary school, the synod also assists 15 students at the Mbeya Teacher's College.

Some LSS churches, like St. Paul's of York, also supported Konde students by providing over thirty youth with scholarships to secondary school.

Health care assistance is administered through the Medical Mission Subcommittee. Their present project is to help the partners purchase a new X-ray machine for the Itete Lutheran Hospital. The machine will cost approximately \$70,000, and money is being raised by the German churches, the Konde Diocese and the Lower Susquehanna Synod. A grant of \$10,000 was approved in 2010, and additional money through contributions has been added since then. When sufficient money has been

raised by the partners, the machine will be purchased.

The Lower Susquehanna Synod also uplifts the partner relationship through visits. No less than three separate trips to Konde are planned for 2011. The synod also funds trips FROM Konde to here. Presently two trips, possibly encompassing four visitors, are being explored in 2011.

The LSS continues to support Konde pastors through advanced education at the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. The Konde Diocese selects a candidate every two years to attend the Seminary, who provides tuition at no cost. The pastor's expenses are funded through donations to the Konde Diocese Committee of the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

Yet another vital area of support is found in the Companion Congregation program. For those churches with an active companionship, the mutual support of the congregations is inspiring and uplifting. Through constant prayer, communication, visits, and sometimes monetary gifts,

the partners encourage each other in their mission.

Support to the Diocese to assist in providing their pastors with income continues until the Diocese reaches sustainability.

All of these projects, and more that weren't included in this article, are funded through the Lower Susquehanna Synod, through contributions of its churches, organizations and members.

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ST PAUL'S, YORK TO CELEBRATE COMPANIONSHIP

St. Paul's of York is gearing up to celebrate their 175th anniversary. The history of St. Paul's is rich with relationships and concern for others. Their ministry with their sisters and brothers in Tanzania is no different. On Sunday, March 27th, St. Paul's will celebrate their history as they share the story of their companion relationship with Mpugoso Lutheran Church of the Konde Diocese in Tanzania. Retired Bishop Rev. Guy Edmiston will be the guest preacher for the day at both the 8 a.m. and 10:30 services.

During the 10:30 service the children from Exploring Music and Crafts will sing Bwana Awabariki and Tunoamba Mungu Atawale. The children's global craft projects will also be on display.

In the Sunday school hour (between the services), Bishop Edmiston will reflect on how the companion synods and congregations were formed in the early days of the ELCA. He will also respond to questions people have about that mission.

Also joining in the celebration will be Kari Plymette, who served St. Paul's as Vicar last year and is now a senior at the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg. She will tell of her excursion to Tanzania last summer.

A special invitation has been extended by the Anniversary Committee to members and friends to join St. Paul's on this day of celebration. A luncheon will follow the 10:30 a.m. liturgy in the fellowship hall.

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GATHERING SET FOR MAY

"Companions in Christ: a Celebration of our Companion Relationship" is the gathering event taking place at Camp Kirchenwald on Saturday, May 21st. Areas will be set up highlighting the three priorities of Agriculture, Education and Health Care, allowing visitors to share in experiences related to these themes. Also scheduled is an open air market, a time of worship, and lunch, offering foods typically served in the Konde Diocese.

Advance registration is requested (for lunch planning),

and the registration form can be found on the Lower Susquehanna Synod's website. The event begins at 8:30 a.m. and will last until about 1 p.m.

Attendees should dress for camp!

This event is open to ANYONE interested in learning about the Konde Diocese. It would make a great "field trip" for Sunday school classes or organizations. The event is free, although an offering will be taken to offset the food purchase, with the excess going towards the Konde Diocese partnership missions.

If unable to locate a registration form, registration can be made by email to the editor of this newsletter. Be sure to give the names of attendees, and what church you are from.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Benevolence or general questions: Pastor Cliff Eshbach, Assistant to the Bishop, LSS. Email: ceshbach@lss-elca.org

Companion Congregation program: Pastor Judy McKee, Union Lutheran, York, jmckee408@unionlutheran.org

Newsletter questions or articles: Jacob Maser at cpo.jake@verizon.net