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Students read aloud God's Word in both English and Lusoga.



Students from Hope Lutheran School in Bufuula share a drama about the Magi's visit to see Jesus.



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And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" Luke 2:13-14

Joy to the World!



Students from Nakabango Lutheran Secondary School dance as they sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

If I had been with the shepherds that first Christmas night, I do not think I could have contained my excitement upon hearing the glorious singing of the heavenly host which filled the sky. However, the Bible makes no mention of the shepherds' reaction to the sound of the angels. Rather, what caught the shepherds' attention were the words the angels shared. What blessed words those were, as the angels glorified God at the birth of the long-awaited Savior!

This year, students from Lutheran schools near Jinja are also celebrating the birth of our Savior in word and song. On November 30, the Lutheran Church of Uganda held its first annual Christmas Carols program in the Eastern deanery. Students from eight area Lutheran schools, as well as seminarians and members of local church choirs, gathered together for a service of Lessons and Carols. God's Word was proclaimed as students from each school read aloud scriptures, beginning with the Old Testament prophecies of the Savior, continuing through their

fulfillment in the Christmas narratives of the Gospels. To aid the students' understanding of those scriptures, each school also presented a poem or skit based on one of the readings. The meaning of that Word was further embedded into their hearts and proclaimed for all to hear as each school joyfully sang an Advent or Christmas carol.

It was a joy to work with the students from each of these schools to help teach them these Christmas carols. It was the first time most of these students had heard these songs. Yet now, many of the students have all of the stanzas of these beloved hymns memorized. It brings a smile to my face to hear the students now carrying those songs with them as they prepare to celebrate Christmas with their home congregations and families. As they continue to raise their beautiful voices like the angels that first Christmas night, they are proclaiming the wonderful message of our Savior's birth.



Seminarians sing "Angels We Have Heard on High" in three-part harmony.

Thanks be to God

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *The Lord to bring more people in Uganda and around the world to saving faith in Christ*
- *The Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of the newly baptized and confirmed*
- *God's Word to be proclaimed boldly during this Christmas season*
- *Health and safety of students while they are on break from school*
- *Health and safety as I travel for home service*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *The gift of Jesus, our Savior, the Promised Messiah*
- *The Word of God shared during the LCU Christmas Carols program*
- *The successful completion of our school year*
- *The many congregations, schools, and individuals who pray for, encourage, and support me*

YOU ARE IN MY PRAYERS.

- *I regularly pray for the individuals and congregations who support me by name. Please share any specific prayers I can bring before the Lord for you.*



◀ Growing the Church

We rejoice with the congregation of Nakabango Lutheran as three people were brought into the Lord's family through the waters of baptism and 15 young adults were confirmed on November 17. We thank God for the way He is working through His Word in the lives of the people in this congregation and community.

Connecting with Students ▶

This month, we were able to connect with students from Concordia University, Irvine, who were in Jinja as part of a study-abroad class they are taking. It was very special for me to get to see one of my former second grade students from California!



◀ Completion of School

The students shared a presentation for the parents as we concluded the school year at Hope Lutheran School in Bufuula on November 26. We thank God for all of the parents, teachers, and church and school leadership who are working together for the education of the children.

Thank you all for your prayers, encouragement, and support. I will be coming to the States in December and January for home service. I look forward to seeing you soon and sharing updates about the amazing ways God is at work here in Uganda!

*A blessed Christmas to you in Christ!
-Rachel*



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