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END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The school year at Hope Lutheran School in Bufuula concluded on November 29. Our celebrations that day began with a marching band leading us on a walk through the community, welcoming people to our school and the day's activities. Afterwards, we celebrated the nursery school graduation, and then all of the students had an opportunity to share the gifts and talents God has given them through performances of singing and dancing.



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And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

Sharing the Good News



Students rehearsing a Christmas drama, which they performed on the last day of school. Here you can see the shepherds kneeling at the manger with Mary and Joseph.

Merry Christmas!

In Lusoga, we say,
Nkuendeza sekukulu eyeisanu!

Christmas is referred to as the father of all holidays in Uganda. Most people return to their home villages to celebrate the holiday with their families. Christians may gather for worship at church on Christmas Day morning. Then they celebrate at home with a special Christmas meal, which may be one of the few times of the year that they eat meat.

As Christians, we know that the true reason for these celebrations is because of the birth of our Savior, Jesus. I am very thankful that the students at Hope Lutheran Church and School in Bufuula had opportunities to hear this message during church, chapel, and Sunday School lessons. In addition, during the last month of school, the students frequently requested that I share the

Christmas narrative during break times, as well. For some students, it was the first time they had heard the message of how Jesus was born in the humble stable, heralded by glorious angels, and visited by lowly shepherds.

Like the shepherds, these students had the opportunity to tell others the good news of Jesus' birth. On the last day of school, amidst all of the other celebrations, one group of students performed a drama of the Christmas narrative. From the singing angels to the crawling sheep, these students shared the Christmas message of God's love with the parents, community members, and other students gathered for the celebrations on the last day of school.

I pray that as these students gather with their families for Christmas, they will continue to share the good news of Jesus, our Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Youth Sharing Christmas Joy

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

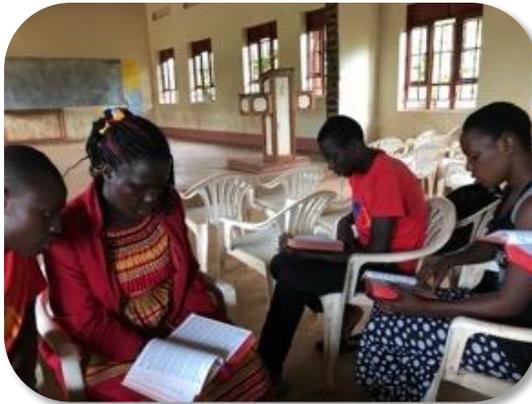
- *The Lord to bring more people in Uganda and around the world to saving faith in Christ*
- *Families to know the love, joy, and peace of Christ this Christmas season*
- *Health and safety*
- *Continued progress in Lusoga language study and use*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *The gift of Jesus, born to save us*
- *The successful completion of our school year*
- *The ways God is growing his children in His Word*
- *The many congregations, schools, and individuals who pray for me, encourage me, 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.*



Some of the youth practicing newly learned Christmas hymns in both English and Luganda before church on Sunday.

It has been a joy preparing for Christmas with the youth of Hope Lutheran Church in Bufuula this past month. Many of the youth are alumni of Hope Lutheran School, and show a great love for the church and school. Each weekend, they help to set up for the worship service, and they are working on building a playground for the students at the school. They have also come back to help decorate for various school events.

I am thankful to see these young Christians growing in the Word. Several of them had the opportunity to attend a youth conference at the seminary with more than a hundred other youth from the Eastern Deanery in December.

Recently, the youth have started sitting as a choir at church, and they help to lead the congregation in singing. This past month, they asked me to help them learn some Christmas music for their choir to sing during the Christmas services at church. They were also very excited to go Christmas caroling for the first time, taking the joy of Christmas to the homes of members of the church and community who are sick or elderly.

Please keep these future leaders of the church in your prayers. May God continue to help them grow in faith and loving service to their neighbor.



*May the joy of Immanuel, God with us, be yours, in this season and always.
-Rachel Meyer*



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