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## GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS

Thank you all for your emails, cards, notes of encouragement, and especially for your prayers. I am continually humbled and blessed by the way God shows His love through you, the body of Christ. Many of you have told me you have been specifically praying for my health lately. My health is generally improving, and I know God is hearing the prayers of His children. Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support as I serve the Lord here in Uganda.



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to [Rachel.Meyer@lcms.org](mailto:Rachel.Meyer@lcms.org) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.  
Matthew 24:35*

## A New School Year: Changes and Constants



*Enjoying time with some of the P6 students during the first week of school.*

“What a friend we have in Jesus...” the P6 students sing within their classroom. As I listen to them from where I stand on the other side of the school compound, I smile to hear them beginning this new school year voluntarily recalling this hymn we learned last school year.

Our new school year at Hope Lutheran Church and School in Bufuula began on February 4. This new year has begun with many changes, including many new teachers and administration. Everyone at school is working hard to be able to provide the best possible education for the students.

While I am just starting to get to know the new faculty and staff, I am enjoying seeing the familiar faces of the returning students from last year. As I am teaching the same classes as last year (Christian Religious

Education for P5, P6, and P7), it is easier for me to prepare my lessons because I have an idea of what these students learned last year.

It also means the students and I already have a relationship established. The first days back at school, the young students came looking for me during break times, knowing they could ask me to read them a Bible story. The older students beckoned me into their classroom, requesting me to teach them a new hymn.

Amidst the changes in life, I am so thankful that I can help share the good news of the unchanging love of God with these students. Please pray for them, that as we study God’s Word together this year, they may know the certainty of God’s promises and the comfort we have in the sure Word of God.

# Praise the Lord with Song

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *The Lord to bring more people in Uganda and around the world to saving faith in Christ*
- *Wisdom for those in leadership positions in the church and school*
- *The students and teachers as we begin this new school year*
- *Health and safety*
- *Continued progress in Lusoga language study and use*

## GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *The gift of God's enduring Word, certain promises, and constant love*
- *The gift of music and hymns*
- *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.*



*Sunday worship at  
Nakabango Lutheran Church*

The Lutheran Church of Uganda has a great love for music. Several people in the church have told me that they were initially drawn to the Lutheran church because they loved the hymns. In most congregations, the music is sung a cappella, and many people can sing all of the stanzas of their favorite hymns from memory.

The church body has expressed a desire to expand the repertoire of hymns used in the congregations. While many have access to hymnals, many of the hymns are unfamiliar to them. People most frequently learn to sing and play instruments by ear, but very few learn how to formally read musical notation. Consequently, it can be challenging to learn new hymns.

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
teaching and admonishing one another in all  
wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and  
spiritual songs, with thankfulness  
in your hearts to God.  
Colossians 3:16*

*Humbly in the Lord's service,  
-Rachel Meyer*

Recently the congregation in the village of Nakabango acquired a keyboard and generator for use in worship services. The congregation is very excited to have this instrument to support their singing in church. In addition, they are hoping to use it to help lead the congregation in learning new hymns.

The church body has asked me to play the keyboard for their Sunday morning English worship services at Nakabango. I am thankful to be able to use my musical training to serve the Lord and support the church in this way. It is now easier for the pastors to select hymns that coincide with the season and readings, without being limited to the hymns and tunes they already knew.

They have also asked me to play for weekly chapel at Nakabango Lutheran Secondary School. The goal is to help the youth learn the hymns so they will then be able to help lead the congregation in singing on Sundays, as well.

I thank God for the opportunities He is providing for His people to sing the truths of His Word through the rich texts of the hymns. Please pray for God to work mightily in the hearts of His children as they sing His praise.



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