



Love for the Least

The Global Missions Team at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus, PA, led an advent appeal this past holiday season to support the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center in Tanzania, which was established by ELCA medical missionary Dr. Mark Jacobson, and also had the opportunity to lead the church's worship services on their annual Global Missions Sunday, held this year on January 22, 2023, to share about this ministry with those in attendance.

When a baby is born prematurely in Tanzania, it is considered as good as dead. Premature babies there are often referred to as 'stillbirths.' This was not acceptable to the staff of Arusha Lutheran Medical Center. Fifteen years ago they began to offer neonatal intensive care, and pediatrician Dr. Steve Swanson joined the program in 2011. Initially they were only able to save 4% of the babies. Today they serve almost 400 babies annually, and the survival rate in 2022 was 92%.

The care at the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center NICU is the best in Tanzania, and in most of East Africa. No baby is turned away because of inability to pay or insurance status. The five doctors and 26 nurses who staff the NICU do not just care for the tiny infants, but for the parents as well. A hospital bed and meals are provided to every mother with a baby in the NICU and both parents are encouraged and coached on how to interact with their babies.

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit raised \$3,785 from their Love for the Least appeal to be directed to the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center NICU in Tanzania, and 175 preemie knit or crochet hats were lovingly crafted for the NICU infants, which they hope to send to Tanzania. These hats can save lives by helping to keep the babies warm.

Charlotte Gross, Co-Coordinator



JUNE 1-3 2023 AT
KALAHARI RESORT

ATTENTION ALL CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

Now is the time to figure out who will be your voting members at the synod assembly! Don't worry, it will be well worth their time and yours! Let's have a record turnout, as we gather together (in person) as a synod for the first time since the Great Disruption of 2020. If you have any questions contact the synod office, and together we'll figure it out together!

BEING PUBLICLY INCLUSIVE OF ALL SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS IS AN IMPORTANT STEP YOUR CONGREGATION CAN TAKE TO BE THE COMMUNITY CHRIST CALLS YOU TO BE!



Become a Reconciling in Christ congregation! Reach out to Stacey Burke in the synod office (stacey@nepsynod.org) for more information.

HONORARIUM UPDATE

How much should we pay a supply minister? That question is frequently asked by congregations in transition or when the regular minister is away.

Discussion by the Committee of Deans produced the following:

"that beginning 03/01/2023, minimum honorarium amounts for supply ministers be set as follows:

**Starting
March**

One worship service	no less than \$175
Two worship services	no less than \$225
Three worship services	no less than \$250

an additional \$50 for multiple point charges

an additional \$50 for leading an adult forum or Sunday School class

an additional \$75 if one of the services is on a day other than Sunday; (Saturday evenings, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, etc.)

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