



## Greetings from Liberia – May 2022 Easter Blessings from here to you!

We are still in the Easter Season and in the Resurrection stories in the Gospels, Mary Magdalene plays a major role. In John's Gospel, she makes a statement that is so important. Mary Magdalene, after meeting the risen Jesus at the tomb, does not recognize him at first but when she does—oh she cannot keep it to herself. She goes immediately to the other disciples and announces, "I have seen the Lord!" She does not worry about how they will respond, she just puts all her focus on Jesus; she sees him; and she share that sight with others.

The question comes to us today----"How have you seen the Lord?" We are in the Easter season (in the Lutheran Church in Liberia, this is also Bishop Election Season) and I am asking you---" How have you seen Jesus recently?" "How have you seen the Lord?"—in your church, in your family, in your closest relationships, in your neighbors, in every aspect of your life. "How have you seen the Lord?"

I have seen the Lord in many places here in Liberia. I have seen the Lord in the ministries the CL pastors and members do every day in their churches and communities. I have seen the Lord in the words and face of a pastor who was, oh, so sick, and now tells the good news of moving towards health. I have seen the Lord and heard God's word in countless sermons from pulpits in the LCL I have seen the Lord in the way this church has supported the grieving, the sick, and those who need Christ's love and care. I have seen the Lord in the way the youth of our church move ahead with the theme, "Let's Make It Happen!"

Mary saw Jesus, and went to share the Good News with others. As we are in the Easter season, may we see the Lord AND be moved to share the Lord's love and vision with those we meet.

May this Easter Season be a time of vision for you—a time when you can join Mary in saying, "I have seen the Lord."

Christ is Risen, my brothers and sisters! Christ is Risen indeed! And may you, along with the people of God in the Lutheran Church in Liberia, say "Amen! Eketi! Amen."

*Linda Johnson Seyenkulo*

Rev. Linda Johnson Seyenkulo



## Stories and Pictures from My Work in Liberia

(Me with the Bishop of Sierra Leone and one of the people from the Sierra Leone Delegation.)

### Lutheran Church in Liberia(LCL) Biennial Convention

The convention was successfully and peacefully held in April. The Lutheran Church in Liberia welcomed international visitors from Sierra Leone, the Gambia, Denmark, Bavaria, and the ELCA. This convention had an election for the new Bishop of the LCL. This Bishopric Election was different due to the fact that there were four candidates for the Office of Bishop. This was a clear sign that there are gifted and educated leaders in the LCL to work in leadership positions. It was also a sign of concern, given the committed supporters of each of the candidates. The expectations were high and there was nervousness about conflict in the church. However, the work of leaders of the LCL, led by Bishop D. Jensen Seyenkulo, led to fruitful discussions and a move towards peace and reconciliation. The new Bishop-Elect of the LCL is G. Victor Padmore, a long time pastor of the LCL. The first weekend in July will be a busy time for the LCL with a celebration of 10 years of ministry as Bishop of the LCL for Bishop D. Jensen Seyenkulo on July 2 and the Consecration of the Bishop-Elect G. Victor Padmore on July 3. Congratulations to Bishop Seyenkulo for his work the past 10 years and to the newly elected Bishop of the LCL, Bishop-Elect Padmore. May God richly bless them both.



LCL Convention 2022



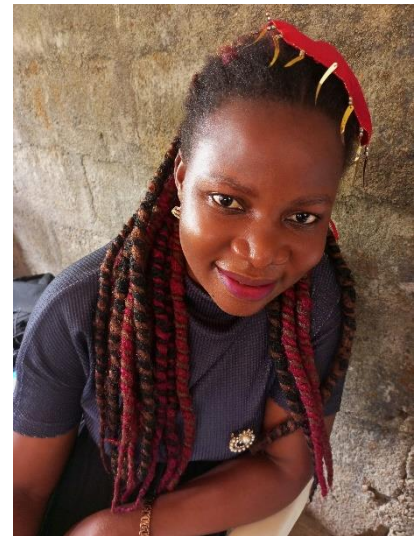
**Deacon Retreat** The Deacon and Deaconesses of the LCL had a retreat just prior to the LCL Convention. I was privileged to spend time with them on the topic, “The Importance of Retreat.” The hard-working Deacons and Deaconesses gathered together to spend time in prayer and in understanding the importance of connecting with God for a vital faith and ministry relationship to happen.



**Thursdays in Black** During the Convention I led a section of the convention program on the Thursdays in Black Campaign of the LCL. Thursdays in Black is a campaign where people pledge to stand against violence of any kind, especially rape. During that part of the convention, leaders of the Women’s Auxiliary, the Men’s Auxiliary, and the Youth Auxiliary joined in with their leaders to take the pledge to stand against violence directed at Women, Children, Men, and the Environment. A very encouraging sign at this convention is that a large number of the LCL men joined in making the pledge.

**Continuing Education for Pastors (CEP)** CEP was held in Totota LTBLLMTC where I teach. We welcomed around 40 pastors to learn about the Gospel of John, Leadership, Lutheran Church Witness in the World, and Worship. Usually this program is held in May but due to the upcoming Bishopric Election, the Pastoral Fellowship of the LCL had asked that we meet prior to the convention. Those who participated were active and interesting in their interactions and insights around Bible and Ministry.

**Education Sponsored by the ELCA** Through my work at LTBLLMTC I have the opportunity to teach Evangelists who have low levels of education and pastors and deacons who have Bachelor’s Degrees, all of whom benefit from the generosity of the members of the ELCA. What I forget is that that generous support of education extends beyond theological education. This past Sunday, I met Dr. Tarmay Yekeh-Saa. During the service, she came up to thank me for the ELCA support of her education. I am passing that thank you on to those of you who are members and leaders of the ELCA. Doctor Yekeh- Saa is a young woman, married with two small children who chose the specialization of Ob Gyn after her own mother was diagnosed with cervical cancer. The good news is that her mother is recovering well and Dr. Yekeh-Saa is on her way to being a fully equipped Medical Doctor with a specialty in Ob Gyn, serving in Liberia. She says thank you and I give God thanks for her work and commitment to medical services in Liberia, as well as the support of you in the ELCA for this work.







## Looking Ahead in My Work

(I invite you to remember these people and events in your prayers.)

### June 2022

The team from the Louis T Bowers Lay Leaders and Ministers Training Center (LTBLLMTC) will be traveling to do training for Evangelists and Deacons in Lower Lofa County and St. Luke's/Phebe Parish in Upper Bong County. This is an initiative that we have started but which was slowed due to Covid restrictions. The parish/district provide housing, food and transportation for the evangelists and deacons; LTBLLMTC provides teaching faculty, and subject matter resources for the participants.

July 2 Celebration of the ministry of Bishop D. Jensen Seyenkulo, PhD, and his staff for the past 10 years of leadership of the LCL.

July 3 Consecration of Lutheran Church in Liberia Bishop-Elect G. Victor Padmore

July/August 2022 I will be on home leave in the U.S for two months. I hope to have the chance to visit some of you who support the ministry I do on your behalf here in Liberia with the Lutheran Church in Liberia. Please contact me at [ljseyenk@gmail.com](mailto:ljseyenk@gmail.com) or [Linda.Seyenkulo@elca.org](mailto:Linda.Seyenkulo@elca.org)

**Mid-September** We are in the process of working with parishes and districts of the LCL to recruit students for the new Level 1-4 training which will begin September 18. The course is intensive and involves basic literacy as well as Ministry subjects like Biblical Studies, Church History, Lutheran Doctrine and Identity,

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## Stay Connected with Me:

### Home Leave

I will be in the U.S. from the second week in July through 2 week in September. Contact me at [Linda.Seyenkulo@elca.org](mailto:Linda.Seyenkulo@elca.org) or [ljseyenk@gmail.com](mailto:ljseyenk@gmail.com) or on Facebook Messenger: Linda Johnson Seyenkulo

### Facebook

I am the only Linda Johnson Seyenkulo on Facebook. Check out my page information about Liberia. Send me a personal message or if you are in a sponsoring congregation, have your pastor/Global Mission Chair send me a list of people to add.

### Congregation On-line Ministry

I am available for Confirmation Classes, Video or live stream sermons, Zoom Fellowship Hour, Book Discussion. I'm open to new and creative ways to be in touch during this season of our life together.

### Listserv for Newsletter

Email me at [Linda.Seyenkulo@elca](mailto:Linda.Seyenkulo@elca) for more information and to add people to my newsletter list.

### Missionary Support

If you are interested in supporting my ministry here, check out the missionary sponsorship page at [https://www.elca.org/OurWork/GlobalMission/Global-Service/SupportMissionaries?\\_ga=2.77845010.72199263](https://www.elca.org/OurWork/GlobalMission/Global-Service/SupportMissionaries?_ga=2.77845010.72199263)