

April 2019

# **NEW BEGINNINGS**

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21:5

## The playground is up and running!

The playground was finished just in time for the Easter celebrations at the church. We are so thankful to the workers who really went above and beyond to make the playground look beautiful with all the colors, walkways that lead to the equipment, and trees to provide some shade (as they grow). We knew the minute that Easter break was over the children attending the daycare would be excited and eager to play! So, when Monday rolled around, we did a short lesson and headed out to play until lunch time. All the children had smiles from ear to ear and enjoyed figuring out how each thing worked. My favorite memories were one of our youngest sliding down the slide with the brightest of eyes, how Steven (the young boy with autism) sat on the merry-go-round for the longest time, and how some of the older boys helped the younger children.





# Steven is making big strides!

We sent Steven & his family to a center, in the Kilimanjaro region, that specializes in children with autism for a week so that his family could learn how to raise him to be a more independent boy. When they returned his mother told us many stories and methods that she gained from her time spent there with Steven. It filled my heart with joy. We have been continuing to work with him at the daycare by making sure he has a special individualized lesson every day to work on direction following and speaking in words.



The new class of women with albinism arrived earlier this month. We were able to go and visit with a few of them and they seem excited and eager to learn to sew and other skills through this program. I will be visiting with them and getting to know them better while they are here in Shinyanga for the next two months.





### A new call!

This year God has been teaching me all about his perfect timing, even when it doesn't exactly match up with what we expected. And so it is in the Easter story! I think of the women who faithfully went to the tomb on Sunday morning. The day before was full of sorrow and fear but at the tomb they unexpectedly find that Jesus is no longer in the grave and moments later joy floods in. They realize that Jesus has defeated death for us all and new life begins...

As many of you now know, we made the decision to move back to the U.S. When we made this decision, I began the call process in order to work with children in a church setting. Once my paperwork was sent to various churches, I only received a few offers back, none of which seemed like great options for us. But a month or two ago, after many weeks of waiting and contemplating, I received an offer that aligned perfectly with my heart and skills but also seemed like a perfect location for us. The process went rather quickly – I was interviewed and it was put before the congregation for a vote. And now, I am so excited to announce that Memorial Lutheran Church in Katy, Texas has voted to call me as their Director of Children's Discipleship. Many of the specific details will be revealed in the upcoming weeks but I am so excited and relieved to have a new place to continue ministry upon completion of my internship.

This whole process reminded me of the women at the tomb. Faithfully showing up even through disappointment and sadness to be gladly surprised with something that was beyond all expectations!

## Support Update

Thanks to our generous supporters, we are able to complete my Director of Christian Education internship as well as participate in all these projects for the Lutheran Church in Shinyanga, Tanzania. Without a doubt, it will leave a lasting impact and blessing to this community. After completing the internship, we will, also, be using some of the funds to transition back to the USA for the first few months. We have recently purchased airplane tickets to move back to the USA during the last week of June.

As we announce this next chapter in our lives, we want to say the biggest THANK YOU to all our supporters but especially our monthly donors! If you would like to cancel your monthly contribution - click the link below, log into your profile, and choose to stop donations. Or you can email office@globallutheranoutreach.com for help.

# Prayer Requests

- Thanksgiving for the beautiful playground that will welcome so many children in and for Amber's new call after intership.
- That the daycare would continue to grow and welcome in more young children from the surrounding community in order to spread the light, life, and love of Jesus.
- For Stephen, a young boy with autism that has been attending our daycare, and his mother.
- For the completion of the community projects that are being funded.

#### How To Partner With Us Financially:

Make checks out to
"Global Lutheran Outreach".
Write "REED" in the memo line.
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You can give online using credit or debit card at our website.

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#### **THRIVENT MEMBERS:**

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