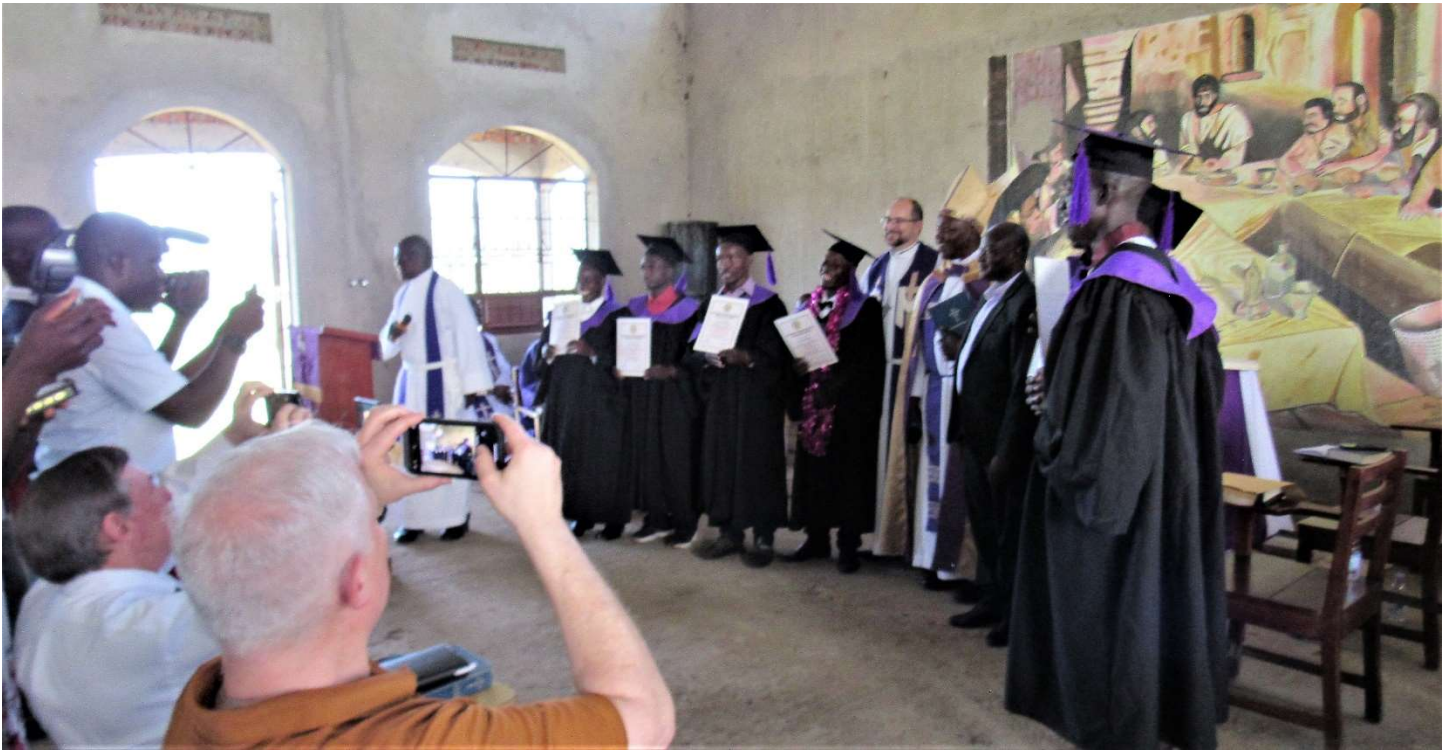


## Week 3 Report

**Sunday, February 12**

Sunday was graduation day at the Lutheran Seminary in Magamaga and I was invited to attend. There were ten men who graduated but one could not be there because he lives in South Sudan.



**Graduation Celebration**



**Cutting of the cake on graduation day**

After lunch the seminary board met with Pastor Tim Radkey and two men from Our Savior Lutheran Church, McKinney, TX and me. They thanked the OSLC team for their financial support of the seminary and Lutheran Lay Renewal for our support of the Lutheran Lay Leaders Training program.



**Meeting with the board of the seminary**

## Monday, February 13

Today Rev. Raymond Kaija, Dean of the Midwestern Deanery, drove Rev. Peter Maganda and me to Masindi, which is where Rev. Kaija pastors Masindi Lutheran Church. Masindi was a 4-hour drive northwest from Jinja. Here Rev. Peter and I stayed at the Kolping Hotel.

## Tuesday, February 14

In the morning, Revs. Kaija, Maganda and I drove to the village of Hanga to visit with congregational leaders. It was about a 1 ½ hour drive, the last several miles on a dirt road, to this remote village. Most of the people in Hanga are refugees from either the DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) or the West Nile area of northwest Uganda.

This congregation is currently worshipping in a rented building that is owned by the government; however, there is a one-acre lot for sale nearby for only \$1,700 and the LCU would like to purchase the lot for this congregation. Unfortunately, the deanery lacks the funds to make the purchase. Once they can raise the funds and purchase the lot, the men of the church can build a temporary structure for a school and Sunday worship. Of course, the school also would need a bore hole for water. I should mention that currently the children do not have a school to attend, which is why they all gathered around when we arrived.



With congregational leaders in front of the church they are renting



**Fist bumping the children before we leave**

**Wednesday, February 15**

Today the 3-day renewal conference began but before it did, Revs. Kaija, Maganda, seminarian James Alinaitwe and I visited St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Nursery and Primary School, in the village of Kyamujwara. James has been serving as the vicar at St. Peter's and held the first Lutheran Lay Renewal Weekend in the Midwestern Deanery here last year.

We received a tour of the church and school, as well as the property owned by the church. Currently the school offers nursery school through 4<sup>th</sup> grade, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes sharing the same room. There are not enough rooms to offer more classes. We also found out that the well pump on the property is broken and children have not had any water to drink while at school. A company came out on Friday to give an estimate for repairs and said it will cost roughly US\$500, funds which neither the school, nor the deanery, now has.



**St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Primary School, Kyamujwara**



**The visitors with the children, some of the classrooms are behind us**

From Kyamujwara we drove to Masindi Lutheran Church, where Rev. Kaija serves as the pastor, for the Renewal Conference. The first two days of the conference we took the clergy and lay leaders through our Lutheran Lay Renewal Weekend program, so they could experience it for themselves.



**Day one of the Renewal Conference**



**Small group discussion**

**Thursday, February 16**

Today we continued with the remainder of our Renewal Weekend program.



**Women's session**



**Men's Session**



**A layman praying for a friend before he gives a testimony**

**Friday, February 17**

On Friday morning, before our last session, Revs. Kaija, Maganda and I visited Katumba Lutheran Nursery and Primary School. Here we received a tour and a briefing on the successes, needs and challenges of the school. I should mention that whenever we visit a school we are greeted very warmly by both the students and teachers. The children always stand up when we enter their classroom and in unison say something like: "Welcome visitors, we are Katumba Lutheran Nursery and Primary School. We are happy to have you visit us today."

This school is a boarding school and I would guess that about 30 children board here.



**One of two classroom buildings**



**Housing for the school staff**





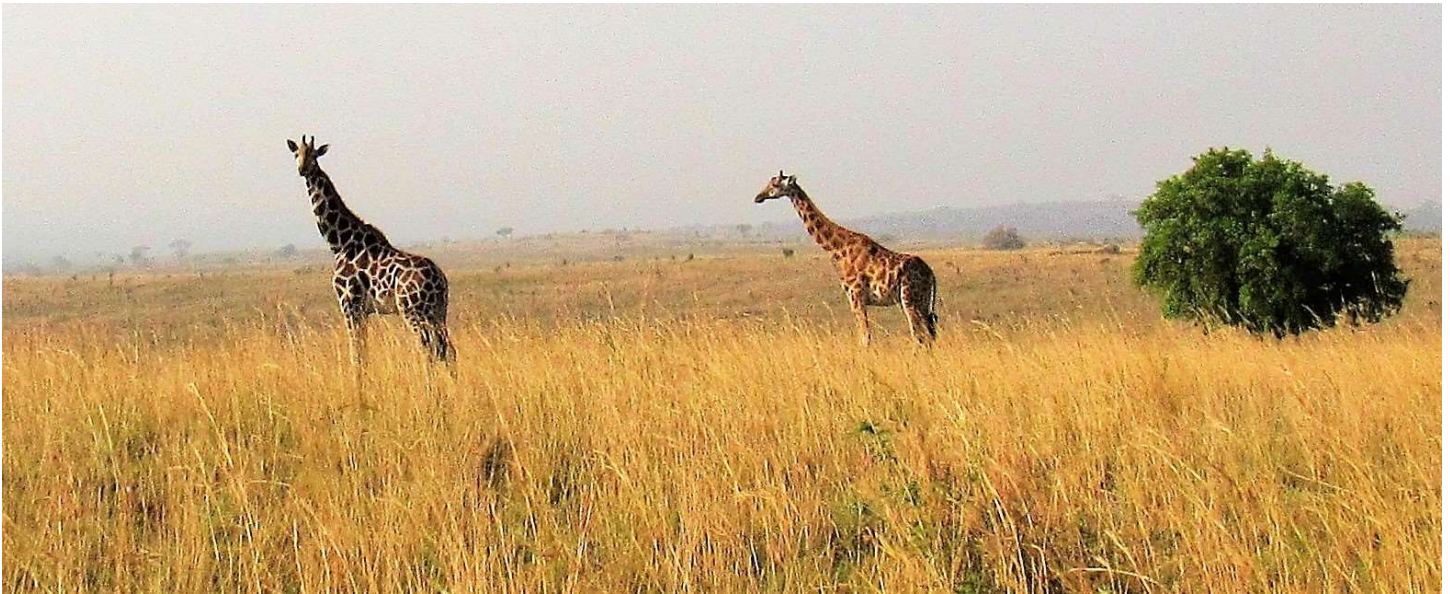
**Cooking lunch for the children, Rev. Raymond Kaija is in the gray suit**

After returning to Masindi on Friday, I led a retreat on 7 Lessons for Living the Spiritual Life and after each lesson we had time for people to share their testimonies on that particular topic.



**Group photo at the end of the 3-day Renewal Conference**

Saturday was a free day so Rev. Kaija, his wife Monica, Rev. Maganda and I drove to Muchison Falls National Park, where we saw lots of baboons in the forest and hippopotami when we crossed the Nile. Next we drove back into the bush where we saw, and photographed, bushbucks, antelope, osiri, Uganda kob, giraffes, elephants, buffalo, wart hogs and monkeys.



**(L-R) Rev. Raymond & Monica Kaija, me and Rev. Peter Maganda at an inlet on the Albert Nile**