SERVING THE LORD IN

NAIROBI, KENYA

NEWS FROM THE ODEMBA FAMILY

October 2026



"COUSINS"

Twice a year, LCMS Africa missionary families gather for a time of fellowship and learning. Being away from our biological families for extended periods can be challenging, but missionary families often become our second families. When we come together, we share the common experience of living overseas, serving alongside local church bodies, and raising our children in international "waters." The unique challenges of life overseas are easier to navigate when surrounded by others who understand. Our children experience these same challenges, and these gatherings provide them with the freedom to talk, play, and connect with their "cousins" who share similar experiences. We are so thankful for these second families and are truly blessed by their presence in our lives.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

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And the journey continues



I have been part of the Project 24 / Christ's Care for Children: Kenya program for over 10 years, and during that time, I have had the privilege of following each student's journey from elementary school through secondary school and into higher education. I have photographed them each year, watching them grow, not only in age but also in their faith in our Lord. I have witnessed this growth through Catechetical Club competitions, where elementary students recite Bible verses and perform Bible dramas, to secondary students asking deeper questions about their faith, and eventually to young adults serving as student leaders, choir members, and community outreach leaders in their churches. The transformation has been tremendous, and I am especially proud to be part of this ministry.

This past fall, we had the joy of celebrating another graduate from our program, Sophia, who completed her deaconess studies. Sophia has been part of Project 24 for the past 10 years. While attending the Pre-College Luther Academy, she felt called to continue her education at the seminary and pursue service as a deaconess. Along the way, she married a Lutheran pastor who serves as a chaplain at one of our Project 24 sites. Now, this husband-and-wife team will serve together in the church and in the child ministry that holds such a special place in their hearts. May God richly bless their ministry together!



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *The Project 24 students who will return home for the long Christmas holiday*
- *The new missionaries who will be deployed to our Africa region*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Time in Ghana with our fellow missionary families*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us*

Bridge cultures





Education has always been an important part of my life, and sharing the wonders of God's world with others has long been a passion of mine. This fall, I have the opportunity to develop an educational packet that will help connect children in Kenya with students in Lutheran schools in the United States.

Each year, the LCMS Pacific Southwest District raises funds for a mission that proclaims the Gospel and shows mercy. This year, Project 24 has been chosen as the recipient of this wonderful gift! To help schools throughout the district learn more about Project 24, my colleague and I have developed an educational program that encourages teachers to explore Kenyan culture with their students.

Through these lessons, students will discover what daily life looks like for children in Kenya. They will also learn that they share the same faith in Christ. They, too, are baptized, receive catechesis, and grow in their understanding of God's Word.

My hope is that these lessons will do more than teach students about another country but develop a deeper appreciation for their brothers and sisters in Christ.

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving:

"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you. I will sing praise to your name, O Most High." Psalm 9:1-2

With love, The Odembas



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Britt Odemba. Make checks payable to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

On the memo line include *Odemba - Kenya*

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