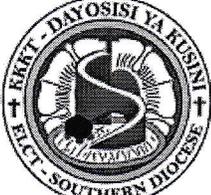


KANISA LA KIINJILI LA KILUTHERI TANZANIA DAYOSISI YA KUSINI		AFISI KUU: S. L. P. 97, NJOMBE SIMU: 026-2782032
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Wito: Kwa maana Mwana wa Adamu naye hakuja kutumikwa, bali kutumika, na kutoa nafsi yake iwe fidia ya wengi. (Mk. 10:45)

Ref. No. LMC/17/101

31st March 2020

Dear Friends in Christ

in

- ❖ Leipzig Mission
 - ❖ Berlin Mission
 - ❖ Mission One World
- GERMANY**

Greetings from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Southern Diocese

We, the Leadership of ELCT Southern Diocese together with Christians and Partner Parishes, we are greatly moved by the World Plague, Corona Virus, COVID – 19 the way it has hit the World. We understand that Germany is one of the Countries in Europe which is also affected.

Life has abruptly changed in the whole world. This shows how the world is connected in such a way that; when one person suffers, the whole world suffers.

Fear has fallen upon the whole humanity regardless of race, religion and geographical boundaries.

The plague has proved that we need the mercy of God to survive. We are in the lent season towards Passover. This reminds us of the work of Jesus on the cross, who poured out His precious blood for the whole world. In times such as this, Jesus Christ is our hope. Isaiah 53:4 “surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering...”

It is my hope that corona reminds us that the World needs more the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ to wash our souls than mere hand wash and sanitize our hands. It is the time to go before God on our knees. 2Chronicles 7:14 is one of verses the church in Tanzania uses to go before God. “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then, I will, hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land”.

Together with all scientific efforts and discoveries which God has granted to mankind, we still need Him to intervene in our situation.

As I write this letter in Tanzania we have 19 cases of people infected with COVID – 19. Schools and Colleges are closed since Mid March. Measures to restrict large gatherings are taken; this is going together with washing of hands in homes, offices, shops, churches, mosques, bus stops, etc. Some plans of visiting each other in various congregations, within the country and with partners in Germany, all have been affected.

The church in Tanzania is praying for the world because we are all affected. We are also praying for the economy of the entire world, praying for the sick people of the world and for our scientists that God quickens to open their mind to find a medical solution.

May God help us to stand together in such a difficult time.

Convey our sincere greetings and the word of encouragement to our sisters and brothers in Christ, through Isaiah 43:1.., "Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have summoned you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you".

Yours in Christ,



Rt. Rev. Dr. George Mark Fihavango
† BISHOP
ELCT – SOUTHERN DIOCESE