

A MISSION IN TANGANYIKA

St. Paul Lutheran pastor ARLYN NORRIS spoke to Club members about a mission trip to Tanganyika, Africa earlier this year. He and his wife, Wanda, joined a group of 13 from western Iowa on a three-week trip to establish communications with church leaders in this eastern Africa country on the Indian Ocean. ARLYN explained that Lutherans in the U.S. had combined resources to help the fast growing Lutheran church in Tanganyika. Their group interacted with local church leaders in the southern provinces of Tanganyika. There the church has concentrated on providing educational resources, medical supplies, and water supply wells. ARLYN stated that the country is generally one third Christian, one third Muslim, and one third tribal religions. The government is supportive of the Lutheran efforts as there is much need for education, medical supplies and clean water. Only about 17% of students can pass exams to go on to secondary education. Eighty percent of diseases afflicting the people come from surface waters. ARLYN explained the Lutheran Church has placed a well drilling rig in the region to construct wells for clean water. Also the church has purchased a rice plantation to establish a girl's school. ARLYN said one of the purposes of their trip was to participate in the dedication of the new school. The people of Tanganyika were very welcoming and thankful, ARLYN noted. He is looking forward to an opportunity to return.