

Tanzania



Arlyn Norris spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on November 27 and showed a video about his trip to Kidugala, Tanzania, along two others from St. Paul Lutheran church. They left on the three week trip on 18 May and traveled took 27 ½ hours, reaching their destination when it was dark. St. Paul Lutheran church has a companion congregation in Kidugala.

Tanzania is a country about twice the size of California. The people are about one-third Muslim, one-third Christian, and one-third indigenous religions. The average income is about \$1400/year. Only 4% of the land can be cultivated. The average life expectancy is about 50 years old.

The first place they visited was a school for the deaf. They also visited a Lutheran Health Center which will become a full fledged hospital. They also observed a new procedure for planting corn using two "bottle caps" of fertilizer planted beside the seed

The Lutheran Diocese has a 350 pupil high school to train girls who will eventually pass on information to their families. Arlyn and the others talked to secondary school students who asked in-depth questions, such as "how does globalization affects the U.S.?"

Water wells, provided by the Diocese, supply water for thousands. It is not unusual for residents to walk 2 miles to get "good" water.

St. Paul Lutheran members made a cross to symbolize unity with their companion congregation. Arlyn Norris said that a highlight of the trip was the worship services and communion where the cross made in Treynor was presented to the local congregation. Arlyn said that they "felt very welcomed and established meaningful relationships."

The video can be seen at <http://vimeo.com/14600018>