



**PRAY**

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley  
I will fear no evil, for You are with me;  
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
Psalm 23:4*

**For almost 40 years, St. Thomas has had a sister congregational companionship with the Basotu Lutheran Church in Mbulu, Tanzania.**

The original purpose of the mission was to engage in partnerships, cooperating in ministry and mutual programming exchanges in visits, prayers, letters, and education.

**When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States last spring, our Basotu partners prayed for us**, and sought to learn more about our experiences in dealing with the pestilence. Basotu and the Mbulu diocese had their own challenges.

First, horrendous flooding impacted the largely rural and agricultural people, leading to crop failures, food shortages, death, and disease.

Then, COVID hit Tanzania. Only until recently has the national government acknowledged the severity of the pandemic and finally accepted assistance from the outside world.

And, within the last month, due to changing weather patterns Tanzania has experienced the worst outbreak of desert locusts in its modern history – a tragedy of biblical proportions. Hugh swaths of affected areas are being sprayed with pesticides causing panic among residents and farmers

Led by Pastor Elibarki Duwe, our brothers and sisters in Basotu ask us to pray for them, and to remember them in our 40 Days of Generosity during this Lenten season.



## PRAYER

*Compassionate God, source of all comfort, We pray for the people of Mbulu, Tanzania and especially those of Basotu whose lives have been devastated by rain and flood, by crop failure and food shortages, by death and disease. Bring comfort to all those who have lost loved ones. Bring healing from all sickness, and help them to recover from the many disasters they have faced this last year. Bless the harvest that it may be bountiful and provide for the needs of the whole community. Lord help us to help them in any and all ways we can. In Your name we pray. Amen*

**We pray Bega Kwa Bega (Shoulder-to-shoulder), the Lord's Prayer:**

Baba Yetu uliye mbinguni, Jina lako litukuzwe;  
Ufalme wako ufike, Utakalo lifanyike Duniani kama mbinguni.  
Utupe leo mkate wetu wa kila siku, Utusamehe makosa yetu,  
Kama nasi tunavyowasamehe waliotukosea.  
Usitutie katika kishawishi, Lakini utuopoe maovuni. Amina.

### **DONATIONS TO OUR SISTER CONGREGATION IN BASOTU**

Place your check in the offering plate or mail it to the office. On the memo line note that it is for MBULU. Online go to [www.stthomasgi.com/giving/](http://www.stthomasgi.com/giving/) and fill in the amount by "other" and type MBULU in the box. You can make a recurring or one time donation with a credit card or AFT. You do not need to set up an account for a one-time credit card donation.