

## New Life in the Land

By Kathy Bolin  
Synod Staff Coordinator for Global  
Missions/Companion Synods



*You care for the land and water it;  
you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled  
with water to provide the people with grain. Psalm 65:9*

What was once a sandy, barren field at Lutheran Institute Kiomboi (LIK) is now a lush garden of eggplant, cabbage, betroot, boreal, sweet pepper, carrots, cucumbers, okra, Swiss chard, Chinese cabbage, and three types of tomatoes. Vegetables from the garden feed the students and staff at LIK, a Central Diocese school that trains pastors, evangelists and parish workers for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

In 2003 and 2004 fundraising began in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod for LIK's "Healing the Land, Restoring Seeds of Hope" Project. Project plans include planting vegetable gardens, fruit orchards, installing a water catchment system, removing invasive plants, fencing LIK's boundaries to keep cattle from grazing the gardens and crops and planting landscape plants around the buildings. In the summer of 2004, a youth group from Southeastern Minnesota helped to install the fence. Over the past two years local villagers have been hired to plant and maintain the gardens, begin the removal of invasive plants (guava and eucalyptus) and work on the fruit orchids. In February of 2006 two large catchment tanks were built to capture rainwater from the school building roofs. The water will be used in



*Catchment tanks to capture rainwater.*

the gardens and orchards during droughts, which are common and frequent in the Central Diocese.

A group from the synod visited Kiomboi in May 2006. Pastor Linda Helberg, (Bethel, Rochester) exclaimed that it was "wonderful to see how huge the gardens are, to see how much progress has been made with the gardens, the fencing and now the water tanks!" In August of 2005 surplus from the first crop yielded over \$200 U.S. at the local market. The Healing the Land project provides jobs for people in Kiomboi, puts food on the tables at the school, results in some income to pay for school salaries and other needs and is bringing hope for being less dependent on others and more self sufficiency. "Healing the Land, Planting Seeds of Hope" is Psalm 65:9 in action, taking root at Kiomboi through the generosity of your giving. Asante sana sana!



*Tending the garden in Tanzania.*

### Website Updates

New pages have been added to the synod website. Check out updated Global Mission pages and new WELCA pages (including *River Channels*, the newsletter of the synodical WELCA group).



### Get synod news in your e-mail inbox!

Anyone can sign up to get free synod news weekly on e-mail! Simply send a blank message to [semnsynodnews-request@listserv.com](mailto:semnsynodnews-request@listserv.com) with the word **subscribe** in the subject line.