

Expanding on an opportunity in 2006 to minister to Sudanese refugees in central Iowa, Lincoln Heights Evangelical Lutheran Church today has over 70 Sudanese members. Services at Lincoln Heights include Nuer, the common language spoken in Southern Sudan, Africa.

Providing assistance with daily struggles and the physical needs which refugees often face in just one small part of their larger goal; sharing God's message of salvation through Jesus Christ. Outreach at Lincoln Heights goes well beyond the boundaries of their Des Moines, Iowa community, contacts have been made with four groups in northeast Africa in two different countries. A recent exploratory visit to Gambela, Ethiopia solidified a relationship; the WELS mission congregation is flourishing with help from their Sudanese relatives and friends in the United States.

Future plans for Lincoln Heights includes translation of teaching materials into the Nuer language and assisting with church improvements for congregations in Africa.