

Namibia

Wartburg Seminary has a long and valued partnership with the Lutheran churches in Namibia. Beginning with the attendance of the Shejavalis at Wartburg in the 1970's, faculty and students learned about the oppression of Namibia under the illegal apartheid occupation of South Africa. Eventually Wartburg Seminary became the home of the National Namibia Concerns committee and worked with other organizations to encourage divestment in companies working in South Africa. This committee was a key part of the fight for Namibian independence in the United States. Wartburg Seminary also hosts a Namibia Archives around the struggle for independence that is unsurpassed outside of Namibia itself. Several Namibia Lutheran pastors have also received degrees from Wartburg, enriching the Wartburg community with their presence.

Wartburg will be hosting a tour to Namibia in January. Tentative dates are January 5th – 23rd and will cost around \$3,000.00. We will visit with church leaders, pastors and laity to understand the context of the Lutheran church a generation after independence. We will explore the churches' mission in times of increasing secularization and widespread poverty. We will also see how the church engages its youth and elderly, and provides creative programming with minimal funds. We will also meet with former Wartburg graduates and hear about their ministry. Saturdays will include a trip to the one township in Namibia, Katatura, and a safari to Etosha National Park. We will take full advantage of worship opportunities on Sunday mornings. For more information, contact Dr. Ann Fritschel at afritschel@wartburgseminary.edu .