



## **ZOOM!**

**Zoom** has proven to be a reliable platform for real-time communication with companions in Iringa. Whether used to introduce new pastors or leaders of congregations to one another, or to monitor projects in between travel, these online video conversations can strengthen relationships through good communication practices.

**Who** – A typical call will include 3 – 4 parish leaders on the Iringa side, members of your mission team or partnership committee on the Saint Paul Area Synod side, a BKB-DIRA translator, and BKB-SPAS personnel

**When** – Mindful of time differences, early morning in Minnesota coincides with the end of the work day in Tanzania; Tuesdays through Fridays work best with diocese pastors' schedules

**Where** – Parish leaders travel to Iringa to access a reliable internet signal; meetings are generally held at The Lutheran Center or in the BKB-SPAS Office/apartment

**Agenda** – Meetings often follow the pattern of a partnership meeting.

- Opening Prayer
- Introductions
- A Parish Report, with time for questions and clarifications
- A Congregation Report, sharing news and prayer concerns
- When time allows, include personal and family updates, and questions designed to get to know one another
- Agreement on next steps – for instance, if a project proposal requires a detailed cost estimate, agree on when it will be received; if an estimate has been offered, agree on when a response will be offered
- Closing Prayer

**Costs** – for parishes within Iringa Town, there may be costs requested for bus fare. For parish leaders coming from rural areas, schedules often require an overnight stay. In those cases, the BKB-SPAS congregation covers the cost of bus fare, lodging, and a meal allowance. Total costs are generally 60,000 TZS per person. If additional expenses are warranted, congregations will be advised in advance.

**How to get started? Contact us at [begakwabega@spas-elca.org](mailto:begakwabega@spas-elca.org)**