



### Our family

Michael, Jen-Yi "Irene",  
Rachel, Jonathan, Elizabeth



### Pastor Paul's Call

Pastor Paul is a theological educator in Taiwan, serving with the China Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC) and China Lutheran Seminary (CLS). He is called to teach, write, and help plant and pastor Lutheran churches.

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to [michael.paul@lcmsintl.org](mailto:michael.paul@lcmsintl.org) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

## Meet Binghui

Binghui Lai is a gardener, an elder at our mission station, and one of Pastor Paul's friends. While today he's a very kind and stable Christian man, he wasn't always like that. As a younger man, he was a drug addict and lived a life full of darkness. However, the light of God's Word completely changed Binghui, granting him faith in Christ and a new life. As part of his new life, Binghui came to love and become skilled at gardening and groundskeeping.

A few years ago he was the groundskeeper for China Lutheran Seminary, and his connections there were what brought him to our mission station. The teaching and preaching of God's Word at our mission station has continued to cause growth in Binghui. He's shared in our home Bible study and post-worship discussion groups how these past few years he's come to a much better realization of his own continuing sin, but also how his salvation is completely God's free gift in Christ. This assurance of salvation has freed Binghui from the pressure and threat of God's Law, and granted him more peace and calmness in his life and work.

Just a few months ago, Binghui left his job as a groundskeeper for a large company and began his own groundskeeping business. He left the former job largely because he was continually asked to engage in unethical work practices. Leaving that to try "going it on his own" was quite a step of faith. But largely by word-of-mouth, his groundskeeping contracts have quickly increased and he is positive about the future. Binghui now enjoys preparing altar flowers for our mission station, and also provided Easter lily look-alikes for Easter. A few weeks ago, he also accompanied me to buy all we need at our apartment to grow vegetables on our narrow balcony. Just as Binghui's plants grow, so has God's Word grown in him and it continues to bear fruit.

"You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God." (1 Peter 1:23 ESV)





### What can you pray for?

#### Thanks for:

- God’s Word working in and through Binghui
- the many opportunities to support the Taiwan Church through pastor support and resource development

#### Petitions for:

- Binghui, that God’s Word would continue to strengthen him in faith and that God would continue to supply his employment needs
- smooth and effective production of Chinese resources

#### Our mailing address:

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Hsinchu City 30072  
TAIWAN, R.O.C



China Lutheran  
Seminary

Our official website:  
[www.lcms.org/paul](http://www.lcms.org/paul)

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at [www.lcms.org/service](http://www.lcms.org/service). Click on “Service Opportunities.”

## Supporting Local Pastors

One of my roles as a theological educator is supporting pastors and other Church workers in their service. While I do this on a regular basis especially with the vicars in the China Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC), I’m also more and more being asked to help leaders in other Lutheran Church bodies as well. Just this past month I was asked to help three different Church workers in various ways. First, a pastor asked me to help him plan out his Doctor of Ministry thesis, which will include a section on how to teach Luther’s Small Catechism in the congregation. Then, another Church worker asked if Irene and I could visit their home and give them ideas about how best to reach out to their community. Finally, a few days ago I received a text from another Church leader (whom I’d never met before), asking specific questions about Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. These are good examples of how a western missionary like myself can help to support local Lutheran pastors and other leaders so that they can more effectively preach and teach God’s Word in their own Churches, and beyond the Church into the 95% non-Christian Taiwanese population.



CELC Church workers and LCMS Taiwan missionaries

## Streamlining Resource Development

I receive requests over and over again for more and better Chinese-language Lutheran resources. While I’m also repeatedly asked to teach more and more classes in the seminary and in congregations, one good Chinese book can go a lot longer, and influence a lot more people, than one good class or course. My co-worker in the CELC, Rev. Dr. Joseph Lu, has a similar desire to increase resource production, and we have been hard at work over the past year or so streamlining the production process. The most important component is identifying and keeping busy excellent translators, who are highly skilled in both English and Chinese, as well as in theology. We now have two such people, who are now both working nearly full-time on good projects. After translations are finished, then a team of editors needs to review and revise the translations, and then page layout, copyright issues, and printing considerations all need to be finalized. Of course, adequate funding is essential, but several sources have been generous lately, and the CELC herself seems able and willing to give good support to projects moving into the future. Dr. Lu is an expert in administration and in all the technical aspects of publication, and he’s recently arranged for administrative support to help projects proceed smoothly and efficiently. We’re prayerfully optimistic that the Church will receive a big boost in resources over these next few years.

**Keeping up-to-date:** If you’re not receiving this newsletter by email but would like to, please contact us at [michael.paul@lcmsintl.org](mailto:michael.paul@lcmsintl.org). For frequent facebook updates, go to the facebook group: “Michael Paul family Taiwan mission.”

To support our work financially, you may make checks payable (memo line: “Support of Missionary Michael Paul”) to “The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” and send your tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 790089  
St. Louis, MO 63179-0089.



You can **ALSO** make checks payable to “**Mission Central**” and send your tax-deductible gift to our friends at: Mission Central, 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034.