

May 2018

View from the mountain-top ridge overlooking Kandep



The Ritzman Family, serving in Papua New Guinea

[www.lcms.org/ritzman](http://www.lcms.org/ritzman)

### Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



Some of what I do to help the Gutnius Lutheran Church is teach them about Church structure and organization. I travel out to the different districts and give short lectures. Basically, it goes like this:

We can think of the 'Law' as being divided into two groups: God's Law and Man's Law. God's Law performs three works. They are a Curb, a Mirror, and a Guide. The Curb is preventative (Thou shalt not), the Mirror is reflective (shows us we have broken the law, i.e. sin), the

Guide is...well, a guide (helps us orient our behavior to God's will).

Man's Law can also be divided based upon the need. Typically those divisions fall along the lines of Church, State, and Business. Today, most of those institutions operate with some form of Constitution which dictates the functions of the organization. Individuals (sometimes called officers) and groups (usually called committees) are given defined roles or powers and there are limitations set on those powers. The hope is that with these boundaries in place the organization (in this case a church body) can perform its main function (proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ) in good order, smoothly and effectively.



In the church, the job of the Officers and Committees is to support the Congregations (The body of Christ) which is beset with all manner of trials, false teaching being the worst.

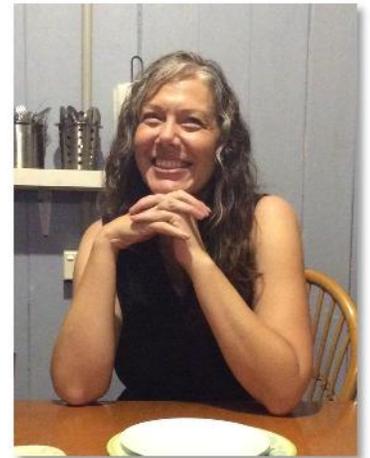
Please pray that all churches can hold the proclamation of the Gospel of Forgiveness in Christ as the highest priority and that whatever structure an organization takes it does its work to that end. Amen.

***In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. ~John 16:33***

## **FAMILY MATTERS:** Monthly Family Stuff...



Beth Ritzman is amazing. She is easy to like as she is kind and gracious to everyone she meets. But she is very shy so you will have to talk to her first.



In addition to being a terrific conversationalist she has developed a number of useful and interesting skills. I could list them but there is not enough space on a page. What is noteworthy is that she has a passion for 'doing'. She tries the things she reads about whether it is cooking a new meal, a new gardening technique, or raising ducks. Sometimes the things work, but even when they don't, Beth does not stop trying. It is fun to watch, and inspiring too. Like I said, 'amazing'.

It is my joy to serve in Papua New Guinea, but in order to continue it is necessary for me to receive adequate funding. The current LCMS 'network support' model requires missionaries to raise their own funds, which come from both individual donors and congregations.

Will you please join our support network and become partners with us as we ensure the Good News of Jesus's death and resurrection for our sins is spread in PNG? The following are suggestions for donations:

***Pledges or Recurring Gifts:*** These gifts occur monthly but can also be quarterly or yearly. Typical giving is \$20-100 monthly for individuals, but can be set at any level. These form the backbone of our support network. To establish a recurring gift go online to [www.lcms.org/givenow/ritzman](http://www.lcms.org/givenow/ritzman), or call **888-930-4438** to speak with someone at the LCMS Office of International Mission.

***One-time Offerings:*** These monetary gifts are given one time, or as desired. These gifts can also be done online at [www.lcms.org/givenow/ritzman](http://www.lcms.org/givenow/ritzman) or by sending a check to:

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
PO Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

or

Mission Central  
40718 Highway E16  
Mapleton, IA 51034-7105

Make Checks payable to **The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**. Write '**Ritzman-PNG**' in the memo line. Thank you. Your support allows us to help spread the Gospel despite many difficult challenges. People are blessed, souls are saved, and God is glorified.



Email: [michael.ritzman@lcmsintl.org](mailto:michael.ritzman@lcmsintl.org)  
Website: [ompng.blogspot.com](http://ompng.blogspot.com)

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus ~Romans 3:23-24*

