



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 with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Barbecue Witness

After Lunar New Year, Mid-Autumn Festival is the second biggest holiday on the Chinese calendar. As with Lunar New Year, the Mid-Autumn Festival is primarily a time for family to gather together, but over the past twenty years or so, it has also become a time for family

and friends to barbecue together. Since most families in Taiwan don't have back yards where they can barbecue, groups gather wherever they're able, including in public parks and on sidewalks in front of homes and businesses. Our family was invited to such a Mid-Autumn barbecue this year, celebrated primarily by the staff of a real-estate agency down the street from our apartment complex. We met and chatted (and barbecued) on the sidewalk with several new friends, including Molly, shown in the picture to the right with Elizabeth. Molly has had a bit of contact with Christians and the Church, and we had a good discussion about the basics of the Christian faith. We invited Molly to worship at our mission station, and she seemed very open to coming. Please pray that we can keep contact with her and that she would begin to regularly attend worship and/or Bible Study.



Barbecuing outside the real estate agency



"In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you."

(1 Corinthians 3:6 ESV)





What can you pray for?

Thanks for:

- the opportunity to meet new friends, including Molly, at the Mid-Autumn barbecue
- God’s wonderful gift of music

Petitions for:

- Molly, that she could regularly be connected to God’s Word
- God’s blessing on all our efforts with music, especially that the music would be a fit vehicle for God’s Word
- quicker progress on the Chinese hymnal project

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Our official website:
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. Click on “Service Opportunities.”

Music & Theology

Martin Luther is well-known for his estimation that music is second only to theology among God’s gifts to us. In this vein, in a few weeks I’ll be giving the Reformation lecture at China Lutheran Seminary, with the topic this year being “Luther on Worship and Music.” I’ve often reported the various ways that our family has used music in outreach, how Elizabeth plays piano for worship, how we’ve taught piano and guitar to the youth group members, and how I’ve spent much time working on the new Chinese Lutheran hymnal project. While theology and the Word of God is, of course, most important for us, like Luther we’ve always enjoyed music in our lives and service. One recent addition to all these musical outlets is my leading of a choir at our mission station, primarily for the purpose of introducing new hymns to the congregation. A few months ago we introduced “The Gifts Christ Freely Gives,” and next Sunday we’ll sing “O Love, How Deep.” Irene and I are particularly having fun with this new piece, as the simple arrangement I wrote includes an instrumental verse with me playing melody on my trumpet and Irene playing harmony on an alto saxophone, which she just began learning less than two months ago.

*The Qianjia Mission Station choir singing
“The Gifts Christ Freely Gives”*



Serving Other Missionaries

Two weeks ago, most of the LCMS missionaries in Asia gathered for a three-day meeting at the new Asia regional office in Chiayi, here in Taiwan. Irene volunteered to be in charge of the food for our time together, and spent quite a bit of time working out all the details and making sure it all went smoothly (which it did!) I helped out a bit as well by picking up four missionaries at the airport and driving them three hours to the office. I also preached for one of the prayer services and led small groups to local restaurants for two meals. For her part, Elizabeth accompanied several of the worship services on piano, and she also joined with Irene in babysitting eleven of the local missionary children so that their moms could attend the one formal meal with the rest of the missionaries. Serving other missionaries in this way was a new experience for all three of us, but we enjoyed doing so and welcoming them to our “home” in Taiwan.

Keeping up-to-date: If you’re not receiving this newsletter by email but would like to, please contact us at michael.paul@lcsintl.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 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861



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.