

News from the Michael Paul family serving our Lord in Taiwan

[michael.paul@lcms.org](mailto:michael.paul@lcms.org)



### 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.

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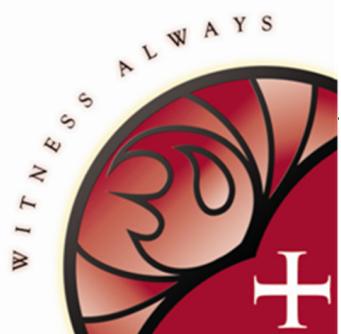
## Ten Neighbors Come for Bible Teaching

As I often report, we regularly reach out to our 300+ unit apartment complex neighbors with Christian care and God's Word. Irene continues to meet and befriend more and more of them, and we do our best to share and teach God's Word to them any way we can. For example, every few months we invite neighbors to our apartment for one 45-minute class to learn the basic teachings of Christianity. I use eight pictures called "The Stream of Life," which clearly show our need for salvation and how the Triune God has saved us. After Irene made lots of new friends at various Christmas events, we knew it was time to invite people for this class again. We planned a few weeks in advance, and after much effort to find the best time for the most people, Irene invited everyone she could think of. At first, we thought we might have only 2-3 come...which still would have been fine. But in the end, on February 18<sup>th</sup> 10 women came, along with 6 of their children. The women all listened intently and we heard many positive comments afterwards. For several, it was their first time to hear what Christians believe. One of the women, Yingtong, previously had some contact with the Church, but does not worship regularly now, and has not yet been baptized. She texted Irene afterwards saying that she is very open to begin attending Church services. We naturally invited her to our mission station, but the first two Sundays she's been unable to come for different reasons. We pray that she would indeed soon begin worshiping with us. There certainly are lots of opportunities to reach out to people with God's Word in Taiwan. We pray that more and more of our neighbors will hear God's Word and that the Holy Spirit

would grant them faith. In the meantime, I'm also busy teaching God's Word to current and future Christian leaders in my seminary classes. More on that on the back side of this newsletter!



So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
 it shall not return to me empty.  
 (Isaiah 55:11 ESV)





## What can you pray for?

### Thanks for:

- the gospel, which is the power of God for salvation (Romans 1:16)
- the ten neighbors who came to our apartment to hear God's Word

### Petitions for:

- Yingtong, that she would regularly attend worship and Bible study
- my seminary students, that they would grow in understanding of and trust in God's Word, and then teach it clearly to others

### Our mailing address:

No. 98, 12F Lipeng Road  
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."



*Students taking a quiz*

## The Importance of Doctrine

I'm now teaching the course "Introduction to Doctrinal Theology" for the third successive year at China Lutheran Seminary. I have a record 19 students this time, many of whom signed up because of "referrals" from former students. At the same time, my local coworker, Rev. Dr. Joseph Lu has 60 (!) students in his seminary extension course, "Introduction to the Lutheran Confessions." There are lots of Taiwanese Christians who want to study doctrine!

Doctrine is simply teaching. Christian doctrine is Biblical Christian teaching. When I teach doctrine, I'm teaching God's living and active Word. And whether I'm teaching seminary students or non-Christian neighbors, the Holy Spirit works through God's Word in people's hearts. Teaching doctrine to seminary students is a particularly strategic method to do Christian mission work, since the stronger these students become in their understanding of and trust in God's Word, the better they become at teaching that Word to their own people. What I am particularly blessed to see in my teaching is how God's Holy Spirit helps students understand, often for the first time, that salvation is truly a free gift and is absolutely certain for them, since Christ and His Word are absolutely certain. So many times I've seen waves of relief spread across students' faces as the free and freeing Gospel "sinks in" to their hearts. The doctrinal topics of law and gospel, the sacraments, and vocation are some of the most commonly cherished units of my classes. As always, thank you so much for your support that makes it possible for this doctrinal teaching to continue! God's Word never returns empty!

**Keeping up-to-date:** If you're not receiving this newsletter by email but would like to, please contact us at [michael.paul@lcms.org](mailto:michael.paul@lcms.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.