



Our family

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



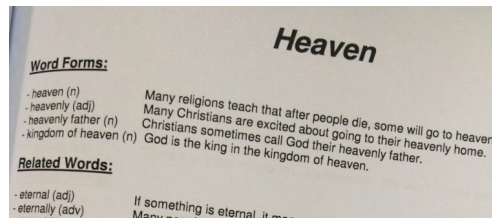
Pastor Paul's Call

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.

History of Lutheran Liturgy

Last month Dr. Robert Rhein lectured (and I translated) in two different cities on the history of the Lutheran liturgy. Especially with the recent publication of the pilot edition of the Chinese Lutheran Service Book, this background was very helpful for the Taiwan Church to know how and why Lutherans traditionally worship the way they do. Particularly helpful was learning how the liturgy clearly centers around God's Word and highlights the giving of God's gifts to His people. These emphases are very different for the great many Lutherans here who have come from other denominational backgrounds. The worship services of nearly all other Churches in Taiwan rather emphasize what people do for God in worship.



I'm not a Christian yet...

Those were the words of Hugo during my latest Men's English class. It was Hugo who randomly selected the topic for the class from our textbook of 24 different topics. He opened the book to "heaven," and so we talked about

heaven for well over an hour. ("Heaven" is the only clearly religious topic of the whole book!) Needless to say, I was able to share a rather full presentation of our problem of sin and God's salvation in Christ...which results in eternal life in heaven. After I had taught quite a bit, the textbook asked the question, "Do you believe that after people die they go to heaven or hell?" Hugo answered that he did. Then a later question asked, "What do you think is the reason that some people go to heaven, and others go to hell?" Hugo answered, "Whether or not they believe in God." I followed up, asking, "That sounds like a Christian answer...are you a Christian?" He said, "Uh...no, not yet anyway..."

At his request, I gave an English-Chinese New Testament to another student, Bocun. He, by the way, said he believes that there is a heaven and a hell, but going to one or the other is based on how good a person is in this life. I'm pretty sure he knows from my explanation that that isn't the Christian answer...but he is very willing to continue learning what Christians believe. Please join us in praying for Hugo and Bocun!

But our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we await a Savior, the
Lord Jesus Christ.
(Philippians 3:20 ESV)





What can you pray for?

Thanks for:

- learning about the Lutheran liturgy
- our male neighbors learning God's Word
- more good books coming in Chinese

Petitions for:

- Hugo and Bocun, that God would create Christian faith in their hearts through His Word
- the arranging of our summer visitation schedule and safe travel wherever we go

Our mailing address:

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China Lutheran
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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."

Brief Updates

Hymnals going fast! In March we printed 1000 copies of the pilot edition of the Chinese Lutheran

Service Book...but to our surprise they're almost already all distributed. We're now getting ready to print at least 500 more.

Three new resource projects approved. The CELC (the LCMS partner church body here) recently approved funding for translating into Chinese three new books: *Prepare the Way of the Lord: An Introduction to the Old Testament*, *Of Good Comfort: Martin Luther's Letters to the Depressed*, and *Getting into the Theology of Concord*. While it will take at least a year or two for these projects to finally reach completion, it's great to see that they can get going soon.

Taiwan legalizes same-sex "marriage." Two years ago we reported that the Taiwan Supreme Court ruled that same-sex "marriage" would not be against the constitution, and gave the legislature two years to pass laws to make it legal. Even against a clear 2/3 rejection of this proposal by Taiwan voters in a nation-wide non-binding referendum vote last Fall, the Taiwan legislature still wrote this tragedy into law a few weeks ago.

From Luther to the CELC. I recently had the chance to prepare and give a fun lecture attempting to chart in less than an hour how the CELC got from Martin Luther to where she is today. While I need to make the presentation much better, this was a great opportunity to begin to tell this story. Somewhat to my surprise, many here are very eager to learn it.



Home Service Visitation Schedule

We still have lots of holes to fill in, but here's what's scheduled so far:

June

- 16 AM - Holy Cross, Anita IA
- 19 PM - Good Shepherd, Lincoln NE
- 20 PM - St. John, Cordova NE
- 21 AM - Messiah, Lincoln NE
- 22 PM - Mission Central, Mapleton IA
- 22 PM - St. John, Beemer NE
- 23 AM - Zion, Bancroft NE
- 23 PM - Trinity, Marcus IA
- 24 PM - Hope, Hastings MN

July

- 6 AM - Apostles, Platteville, WI
- 7 AM - St. John, Hubbard IA
- 8 - Iowa East District Office
- 10 PM - St. Andrew, Van Horne, IA

July

- 12 PM - Faith, Mt Pleasant IA
- 13 PM - Trinity, Ottumwa IA
- 14 AM - St. John, Oskaloosa IA
- 14 PM - Immanuel, Iowa Falls IA
- 22 PM - St Paul, Westlake, IA
- 28 AM - Trinity, Darmstadt IN

August

- 4 AM - St Peter, Vincennes IN
- 11 AM - Our Saviour, Evansville IN
- 18 AM - St. Paul, Evansville IN
- 20 PM - Zion, Naperville IL
- 25 AM - Blessed Savior, Milwaukee WI

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. 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.