

# THE MISSIONARY'S VOICE

SERVING THE LORD IN

## GHANA

NEWS FROM THE SCHUMACHERS



November 2019

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## International Lutheran Council World Seminaries Conference



First Thanksgiving by Jennie A. Brownscombe

### WE GIVE THANKS

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself."*

*Matt. 6:33-34a*

We live in a world of stress, whether your home is in America or in Africa. The pressure to succeed or to provide is a burden we all share. Some try to avoid their problems, thinking one day they will vanish. Others plan every step they take, thinking they can control every facet of their lives. Some hide from these worries by partaking in alcohol or drugs. Yet all of these actions cannot solve the troubles we all face each day.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has a solution in Matthew chapter six. He promises to provide for every need of this life, and we do not need to fear the future. We can let go of our concerns and rest in our faith in the One True God, who loved us and sent His Son to redeem us. All the past worries are forgiven; we can trust that God alone controls the future and He has promised to bless us. At this time of Thanksgiving, we can rest assured of these promises and give Him our thanks. We thank God because He has and will provide all we need for this body and life. More importantly He has also provided for our eternal life with Him. All THANKS be to Him whose promises and Word are sure.



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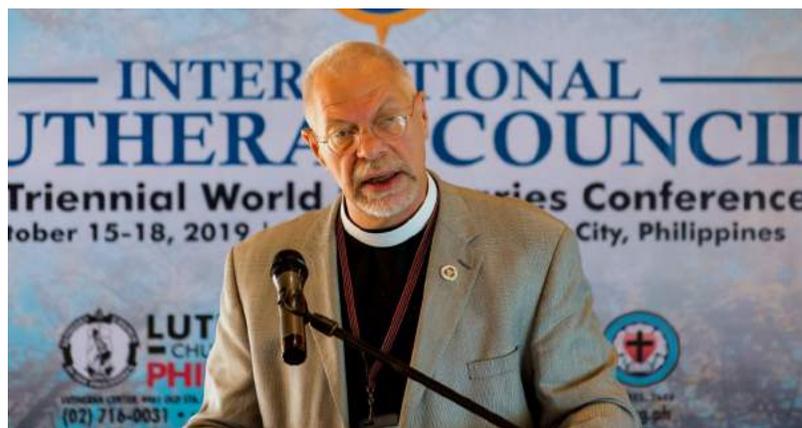


Photo by: Thomas Winger

### Rev. Dr. Schumacher presenting at the ILC World Seminaries Conference

The International Lutheran Council, ILC, is a worldwide association of confessional Lutheran church bodies that proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the basis of an unconditional commitment to the Holy Scriptures as the inspired, infallible Word of God and to the Lutheran Confessions.

I had the privilege of being invited to present at the ILC's 7th Triennial World Seminaries Conference in Baguio City, Philippines, in October 2019. Attention was given to exploring a common-ground Lutheran curriculum for theological education for the ILC churches. Rev. Dr. Werner Klän of Germany and Rev. Dr. Timothy Quill, the ILC's new incoming General Secretary, moderated this discussion. I presented on "A Lutheran Curriculum for Theological Education: Discovered Fundamentals." One point offered was the fact that a basic foundation is important for all levels, but learning styles may vary. Research from my dissertation indicated that, for quality theological education in Ghana, several areas needed reinforcement, includ-

ing a more in-depth study of pastoral theology, while at the same time, a biblical and confessional structure is necessary. The conference highlighted the value of identifying a common curriculum for confessional Lutherans around the world.

Another topic was "Spiritual Warfare and Declining Religiosity." Rev. Dr. Nicolas Salifu of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana, presented "Spiritual Warfare in a Lutheran Perspective." He noted the early church accepted the influence of the demonic realm with great seriousness, while Western culture has downplayed or even denied this aspect of historic Christian theology. He stated the reality of spiritual warfare is readily apparent in the African context—and, indeed, in much of the world.

Leaders and participants expressed joy over the mutual commitment to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions which binds them together, even as they recognize the differences in cultural contexts, yet, together focusing Jesus Christ.



Dorothy Decker, Cynthia's mom, holding her great-granddaughter Hadley Grace Schumacher.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

*The Seminary IV students as they complete their last term of classes and prepare for graduation.*

*Pray for our safety; more armed robberies happen during the month of December, as people seek funds to celebrate Christmas.*

**GIVE THANKS FOR:**

*The blessings of good health allowing us to teach and share the Gospel with the deaf congregation and deaf school children.*

**PRAISE GOD FOR:**

*The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us.*

*This month we give praise for:*

*St. John Lutheran Church  
Waterbury, CT*

*Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Renault, IL*

*Hope Lutheran Church  
Des Moines, IA*

# Our Schumacher Family Yearly Update



*The Emily & Stephen Blank family (above),*

*The Joshua & Laura Schumacher family (top right),*

*The Jacob and Becky Schumacher family (right).*



Emily and Stephen's family, had a very special summer, driving from their home in Las Vegas to Alaska. The photos they took highlighted all the beautiful creation and creatures they were able to witness. This fall sports and piano are again keeping Heidi, 13; Samantha, 10; and Harry 7; very active. At the research green house on the Faith campus, Stephen, the director, has created a new sport with the score: Stephen 0, resident rat 20+. A rat has evaded and is enjoying the students' vegetables. Emily, a chemistry teacher at Faith Lutheran High School, continues leading the STEM program, as well as providing guidance for the other academies.

Joshua and Laura welcomed a beautiful daughter, Hadley Grace, to their family in August. It was very special that Great-grandma Decker, who made the baptismal gown Hadley wore, could attend her baptism. The gown was made 34 years ago and worn by her father and Uncle Jacob. Joshua, the head football coach at CUAA has had another winning season. When the internet in Ghana cooperates we are able to live-stream their games. Laura has just returned to teaching art at Saline High School after having time at home with Hadley and Gordon turning three in December. Griffin, the big older

brother age 5, was off to all day kindergarten. Laura enjoyed turning the "boy nursery" into the "little girl's room" with some gold glamour!

Jacob and Becky are awaiting the birth of their second son in December, and C.J, 4 years old, has been practicing being the big brother. C.J. loves books and in his Super Hero ABC book knows all 26 heroes ... in his mind the letters are not so important. We enjoy our Face time with the Schumachers. Becky and Jacob are in their fourth year of teaching at Faith Lutheran in Las Vegas. Jacob's love for sports, and the outdoors keeps him busy with camping and fishing. This year Becky enjoyed her first tent camping. She spends her free time creating crafts and supporting Faith's many robotic and sports teams.

*Cynthia and I thank you for your time in reading our monthly newsletter. We thank God, for you and pray that you would, prayerfully, consider praying for us and, if possible, support us through a financial gift.*

*May God bless you and your service to Him,*

*- Rev. Dr. Steven & Cynthia Schumacher*



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

To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. and Mrs. Steven Schumacher, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Schumacher/Ghana." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [lcms.org/schumacher](http://lcms.org/schumacher).