

MISSION FIELD: GARY, IN



December 24, 2019

<https://www.facebook.com/MissionGI/>

Witness – Mercy – Life Together gets out of the box



Interior of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Garv. IN

We envision a city that is attractive, inviting, and thriving, based upon Agape Love In Action (ALIA).

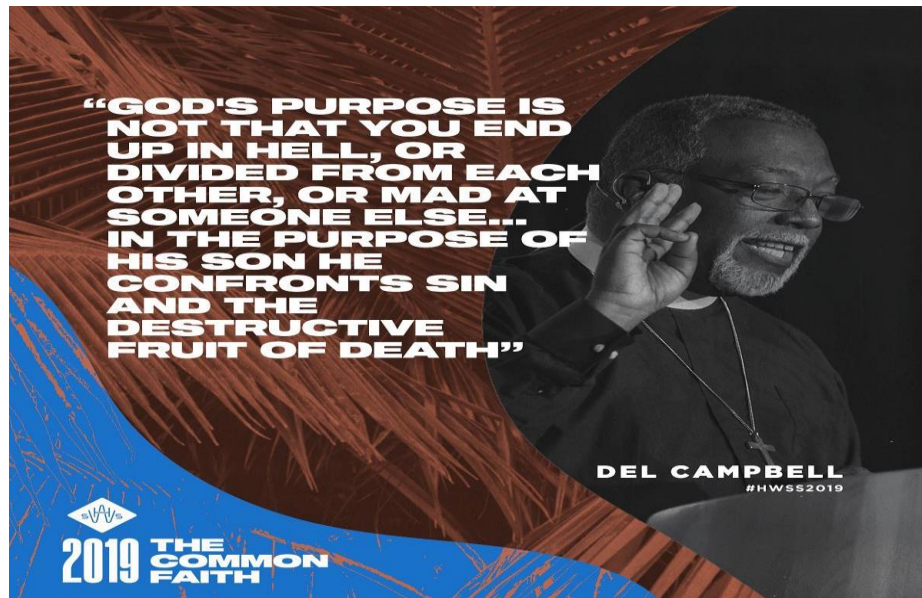
ALIA looks to serve my neighbor, not according to my comfort zone, but according to his or her need.

1. The Gospel
2. Knowledge of Self (Vocation)
3. Recognition of Community
4. Cooperation over Competition
5. Edification over Destruction

Soli Gloria Dei



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to [firstname.lastname@lcmsintl.org] with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.



The Rev. Delwyn Campbell, of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, speaking at Here We Still Stand 2019 in San Diego, CA

2019 was a productive year of ministry. Our fundraising goals were met, God opened doors and brought us before people whom I never would have dreamed of meeting, and the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ was proclaimed from coast to coast, before audiences large and small, Lutheran and non-Lutheran.

This has also been a year of significant beginnings. The city is about to inaugurate a new mayor, our two LCMS congregations are exploring a new worship and working relationship, and St. John's is being recognized for its historic presence and contribution to the life of the Northwest Indiana region.

God has been faithful to watch over His Word to perform it. We have been partners together, you, me, my family and the wonderful people of the Gary, Indiana Lutheran Community.

Together, we give glory to God through Jesus Christ our Lord for everything that has happened, and we look forward to what lies ahead for us in 2020.

We have gained new ministry partners, and watched other partners move on to new mission taskings. We thank God for those who have brought us to this point, and for those who will take us forward. We are as grateful for the \$5 gift as for the 5-figure one, because each gift plays its part in helping us to do the work to which God has called me and Lenita, here in Gary, IN.

For these things, and for the continued growth of God's ministry here, please remain a part of our support team, and invite others to join as well. Your prayers and contributions enable us to serve the Lord, to the praise of His glorious grace. God bless you, and Merry Christmas!

Worshiping as a Community

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Joined Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for Advent

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is the Calumet Region's oldest continuing worshipping congregation. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church was planted to support the growing African American Lutheran community in Midtown Gary, Indiana.

For Advent, this year, the two congregations looked to the past and to the future. At one time, Gary's Lutheran community did many things together. There was a Gary Mass Choir, and congregations often held joint services. Over the years, as many congregants moved south, the other churches closed or moved with them.

This year, the congregations have begun exploring the possibility of a merger. The options have included a joint-operating agreement, one congregation being absorbed into another, and the two congregations coming together to form a new one. A joint constitution is being developed by a Unification Committee based on the two churches.

One of the questions before them concerns the worshipping location. Both congregations have a lot of history, and

there are many wonderful memories connected to each building. One point that we have stressed is that the coming together doesn't have to mean the loss of any of the current structures.



Advent 3 Divine Service at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church 12/15/2019

Still, getting a feel for what it would feel like in each facility would be helpful. As a result, the Unification Committee voted to have joint services from the First Sunday of Advent through Christmas Day. The first two weeks were celebrated at Good Shepherd and the last two at St. John's, with the host pastors officiating.

When Advent came to its culmination on the 4th Sunday service, everyone was fully immersed in the concept of the Gary Lutheran Community walking together. All services were richly enjoyed, and both pastors worked faithfully to serve the community with the pure Gospel.

Since the two congregations' normal worship times were two hours apart, they scheduled the services at 10 am. This meant that the St. John's people began an hour later and the Good Shepherd people began an hour earlier. In addition, our Musician, Donald Thompson, was unable to stay for the entire service because of his other commitments. As a result, the services ended with the closing hymn being sung acapella, as was the normal practice for Good Shepherd. The Music leaders for both congregations worked together in the song selections ensuring an experience that was enjoyed by all.

When all was said, sung, and done, the Gary Lutheran Community experienced not only the ambiance of each facility, more importantly, they shared in the joy of many members of Christ's Body, worshipping in spirit and in truth. In that same spirit, the people of Gary's Lutheran community look forward to working together, worshipping together, and growing in grace together as God's dear children in 2020.



MOMMY/DAUGHTER TIME IN THE KITCHEN

As the girls get older, they want to do more than just watch what takes place. This year, they wanted to help with the food preparation. I didn't want them helping with the roasts, the ham, or the spaghetti and meatballs. That left the desserts, which I don't cook.

This year, we will be eating cookies that have been made by Daniyah and Dinah, with some assistance from Lenita. I'm sure that they will be delicious. I hope that everyone who comes by gets to enjoy them as well.

Wherever you are this Christmas season, I pray that you are blessed with friends, family, and the love of Christ that passes knowledge. Remember, beyond the food, the fun, and the presents, there is the reality of God's love for us, a love that led Him to embrace us in our weakness, endure with patience our blindness, and speak the Word of Life into lives that were bound by sin. The Name that is above every name – Jesus – is the name that gives meaning to this season.

Ministry or Family Update



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *The developing ministry relationship between St. John's Evangelical and Good Shepherd Lutheran Churches.*
- *New opportunities relating to St. John's placement on the National Register of Historic Places.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *The faithfulness of God as He works through our Support Network of congregations and individuals.*
- *The successful efforts to be added to the National Register of Historic Places*
- *God's presence in Word and Sacrament for 150 years through St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

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



Kids growing, Grandma's new bowling partners, and a possible book...

Delwyn II and his sisters are growing up. He is now a full-time student at Purdue Northwest and an employee with UPS. While disappointed that he didn't make the final selection for the U.S. Naval Academy, he has found "plenty good room" at PNW and has joined the NROTC program there.

Grandma Doretha decided that the time was right to develop the next generation of Campbell bowlers, so Daniyah and Dinah are each

possessors of their own bowling balls and bags. I remember being about their age and going with my little sister, Della, to the Tri-City Bowl near our home in Westbrook Apartments. Now it's their turn to experience "the thrill of victory...and the agony" of stale bowling alley nachos!

NEW CREATIVE ENDEAVOR

After my second opportunity to preach at a 1517 event, I was asked by 1517 to consider writing a book that would be presented in time for their Here We Still Stand 2020 Conference in San Diego, CA. The conference theme will be "The Freedom of the Christian." I will be speaking on the subject of "Messengers of Freedom." Since I am more accustomed to writing sermons and research papers (20 page limit), the idea of writing a book is a challenge. I do enjoy writing, but I have never taken up a challenge like this, and the other authors with whom I will be sharing table space are prolific writers. So pray my strength in the Lord, that He would grant me victory over "writer's block."

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! He is a present help in trouble, and the center of our joy. May He be all that and more for you as well as we move forward in Jesus' name.

- Del and Lenita



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](https://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support the LCMS through the work of Delwyn and Lenita Campbell, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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

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