



SERVING THE LORD IN  
**SRI LANKA**  
 NEWS FROM THE MAHLBURG FAMILY

December  
 2019

[smahlburg@yahoo.com](mailto:smahlburg@yahoo.com)

## Spreading the Joy of Jesus's Birth



The congregations and the mission stations of the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church gather each year to celebrate the Reformation. This is an opportunity to reflect on our shared faith and to encourage each other to remain faithful. Most of the congregations and mission stations are quite small, so the opportunity to meet like this is a reminder that they are a part of the whole Church.



### Family Dates

Wedding Anniversary **August 11**

Birthdays:

- |         |                     |
|---------|---------------------|
| Steven  | <b>January 27</b>   |
| Martha  | <b>December 11</b>  |
| Autumn  | <b>September 13</b> |
| Liberty | <b>July 15</b>      |
| Skye    | <b>May 29</b>       |
| Rose    | <b>March 19</b>     |
| Duncan  | <b>July 24</b>      |



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to [newsletter@mahlnews.com](mailto:newsletter@mahlnews.com) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.



*The angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11"*

It has been an exciting time in Sri Lanka. Our good friend Rev. Karsten came to teach on the Holy Spirit, Vocation, and several Spirit filled hymns. We had our all church Reformation Service. Finally, we have prepared for the annual Christmas programs. The first program took place Dec. 14.

The Christmas program begins with a Service of Lessons and Carols. Here the Gospel of Jesus is proclaimed to all who come including many Hindu neighbors.

After a break for refreshments, the program continues with a cultural program. This includes traditional Tamil music, dancing, skits, and speeches.



Handing out a school supply packet to the youth.

The final component is handing out school supply packets for the children and youth. Most of these



Pastors and Evangelists putting together school supply packets.

youth come from tea estates where the workers make around \$2.75 per day. These school supplies are a great help for these families. These packets also include books on the birth of Jesus and Gospel tracts.

Your generous partnership allows us to remain spreading the joy of Jesus' birth. Thank you and we wish you a blessed Christmas and New Year.



# Family News

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The music program
- More outreach opportunities in Sri Lanka
- Publishing more Christian resources in Tamil and Sinhala
- Autumn and Libi to have a safe return to the U.S.

## GIVE THANKS FOR:

- For Autumn and Libi visiting us during the Christmas.
- Good health
- Spreading of the Gospel

## PRAISE GOD FOR:

- Unity in the faith.
- Bringing people to faith in Christ.
- The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage us and partner with us.

## CONSIDER:

- Adding us to your congregation's mission budget as a Together in Mission partner (Call 888-930-4438 for details).
- Starting, continuing, or increasing financial support for mission work in Sri Lanka (See below).
- Having a Skype update with your congregation, Bible study, Day School, Sunday School, Women's group, etc...



Together again!



Duncan's first communion

Martha and her birthday flowers



We have had a lot to celebrate lately! Skye was in the school musical West Side Story. She played the part of Velma, a member of the Jets. She had a great time.

Duncan was confirmed on December 8<sup>th</sup>. We were very proud of him. We can now take the Lord's Supper as a family.

Martha celebrated another birthday. The kids had that day off from school so we were able to spend the whole day together. It was very nice to have a quiet day with no rushing.

Autumn and Liberty flew from America to Sri Lanka. They touched down here December 16<sup>th</sup>. We are extremely happy to have them back with us. They will fly back to the States January 6<sup>th</sup>.

From our family to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: [stevemahlburg](#)

Twitter: [twitter.com/MahlburgMission](#)

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/missionSriLanka](#)

*Together in Jesus' Service,  
Steven & Martha,  
Autumn, Liberty, Skye, Rose, and  
Duncan*

Kindly consider a special gift to further support LCMS mission work in Sri Lanka. The instructions below explain how you can give this gift.



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](#). Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support the LCMS through the work of Steven Mahlburg, 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 Mahlburg-Sri Lanka". Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [lcms.org/Mahlburg](#).