



Christmas Evangelism

Once again this year at Christmas-time we had great opportunities to proclaim and share the Gospel with many non-Christians, especially our neighbors. First of all, our family (Irene, Elizabeth, and I) was invited once again by our apartment complex management to perform and sing Christmas carols for their big "Christmas celebration." It's a good thing we could do so, because of the 10-12 groups performing/presenting, our music was the only thing that had anything to do with Christmas! Next, our family (for this one Jonathan had arrived back to spend his college break here also) gave our annual 90-minute Christmas music recital in the apartment lobby. Finally, our mission congregation held a Christmas evangelistic program at our new location, just a block from our apartment complex. Well over 30 people came as a result of our (primarily Irene's) persistent efforts to keep in touch and continually invite our neighbors to different activities. Our congregation's senior pastor, Rev. Dr. Joseph Lu, said this was a very unique Christmas program for Taiwan, since usually it's almost all existing Church members that come to these type of programs, with only a few outsiders joining them. But for this program, the majority were outsiders, nearly all of whom have no current Church connection. What a blessing that we were able to share and proclaim in several different ways the Gospel message of Christ's birth, death, and resurrection.

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.

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.
(1 Timothy 1:15 ESV)





What can you pray for?

Thanks for:

- the many opportunities to share the Gospel at Christmas
- the many people who attended the Christmas events
- the new catechism class, in which Christians are strengthened by God's Word

Petitions for:

- the Holy Spirit to work through God's Word in those who attended Christmas events
- better progress in the new year on resource translation and publication

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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."

New Catechism Class

After finishing my Sunday morning Bible Study on Galatians I've now returned to teaching Luther's Small Catechism. So far ten people have signed up for the class. Most of them



come from other Church backgrounds, but now want to join our congregation. They have come because they've heard that we clearly preach and teach the unconditional Gospel of God's grace and forgiveness in Christ, and not just the Law regarding all the things Christians need to try harder to do (which unfortunately is what nearly all the other Churches in Taiwan preach and teach). I thoroughly enjoy teaching this class, and am especially thankful when I can see on their faces that the peace and comfort of the Gospel has reached their hearts.

Introducing the LC-MS

I was recently invited to introduce the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to a group of leaders from one of the seven Lutheran synods in Taiwan. This synod, the Lutheran Church of the Republic of China, is the result of the work of the Norwegian Lutheran Mission. The synod's bishop in particular, Rev. Ray Chen, is very encouraged by the LC-MS's commitment to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and he was glad that I could help other leaders of his synod understand the LC-MS better, perhaps as a precursor to the synod requesting a formal relationship with the LC-MS through the president's office. We had a wonderful time of discussion, including talking about more difficult topics like the role of women in the Church and closed communion.

More on Facebook: For more pictures of our various Christmas events, please go to our Facebook mission page: "Michael Paul family Taiwan mission."

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
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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.