

THE MISSIONARY'S VOICE

SERVING THE LORD IN

GHANA

NEWS FROM THE SCHUMACHERS



January 2020

Steven.schumacher@lcms.org

God's Blessings for the New Year 2020



The Baptism of Christ
By Bartolome Esteban Murillo, 1655

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

"When Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him." Matthew 3:16

Until the time of Jesus' baptism people were baptized to confess their sins, a ritual of purification. Jesus, without sin, didn't need to be purified. He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness and to be revealed as the Son of God. The Spirit of God descended like a dove and came to rest on Him; and the Father spoke, "*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*"

In our baptism we receive the forgiveness of sins and become one of God's dearly loved children. Let us daily remember our own baptism and praise God for His forgiveness and everlasting presence in our lives.



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Photo by: S. Blank

Baptism of Otto Leonard Schumacher: Jacob, C.J., Becky Schumacher, Rev. Dr. Schumacher, Emily Blank, Rosie Aumann, and Stephen Blank.

What a blessing it was for us to spend Christmas with our family and meet two new grandchildren: Hadley Grace Schumacher born in Ann Arbor, MI, on August 15, 2019, and Otto Leonard Schumacher born December 11, 2019, in Las Vegas, NV.

Our children; Emily, Joshua, and Jacob; along with their spouses and the eight grandchildren spent Christmas together. During this time, it was an honor and joy for me to lead worship and preach at Grace Lutheran Church in Henderson, NV, on Christmas Eve with our grandson Henry serving as acolyte, and our son-in-law Stephen serving as elder, assisting with Holy Communion. On December 29, I had the honor to baptize Otto. We are so blessed, and thankful, to have a family that worships and prays together.

Otto, through Holy Baptism, was reborn, regenerated, and renewed by the work of the Holy Spirit through the water and Word. In this baptism, Otto (as well as all those baptized into Christ), receive the gift of faith, forgiveness for all their sins, salvation from death, judgment and destruction, and gifted with the promise of eternal life. This is the saving message that is preached throughout our Lutheran churches here in America and also in the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (ELCG).

We continue to pray that our merciful God would keep Otto in his baptismal grace and grow him in faith to lead a godly life in praise and honor of God's holy name. May he, and all believers in Christ, receive the promised inheritance of life everlasting in heaven.



Photo by: S. Blank

Otto Leonard Schumacher

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The ELCG and their support of the seminary and of the education of its future pastor.

The vicars as they serve in their assigned congregations.

Give thanks for:

Our daughter, Emily, and her helpers who print and send our postal newsletters and thank you letters.

The many Christmas cards and letters of encouragement from friends and family.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

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

This month we give praise for:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Ossian, IN

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Tilden, NE

International Lutheran
Deaf Association

Funeral Service for Kwame Osae in the village of Adamarobe



Photos by C. Schumacher



Kwame Osae (above), Seminarian Moses Abughilla, Dr. Schumacher, Chairman of Deaf Lutheran Church (above right), family and friends attending the funeral (right).

On Saturday evening, December 7, I received a text message from our Deaf Evangelist Akorful. He notified me that there would be a funeral for a deaf member the next day; the day I was to lead deaf worship in the village of Adamarobe. Kwame Osae had died earlier that day and the funeral would be the next morning beginning at 7 a.m. The burial of the very poor happens within 24 hours as they have no means to pay for any funeral services other than a simple wooden coffin.

We traveled the short distance to the village without our driver who was away attending his brother's wedding. Upon arrival we had a flat tire, several Ghanaians rushed to help us. Afterward,

we traveled to another location in the village for the funeral. This was my first opportunity to proclaim the Gospel Saving message at a funeral in Ghana. I signed and voiced in English while a deaf member interpreted into Adamarobe sign, and Sem. Moses Abughilla interpreted into Twi, a local language.

Kwame was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness in his Baptism and now walks in the newness of life awaiting the glorious resurrection when Christ returns on the last day.

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. Click on "Service Opportunities."

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

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P.O. Box 66861
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