

*Certainty in Uncertain Times*

Cheryl and Charlotte visit the hospital during the initial outbreak, and wear the mandated masks for protection.

The current struggles with the Novel Coronavirus are not so *novel* to us... Asia has been dealing with this since late 2019, when it originated just across the Taiwan Strait from where we live. But because it's gotten so much more universal lately, things have certainly taken on a whole different flavor in the last few weeks. We are joining so many of you in limiting our exposure, and our gatherings with others.

Of course, we who live deployed are no strangers to working from home. Remote meetings over Skype, Zoom, or the like are commonplace for us, and are sometimes the only connection we have with our LCMS colleagues. Our temperatures are constantly being screened in airports and public places, and people wearing surgical masks are commonplace: it's simply considered polite if you have a cough or cold. After all, people in this part of the world learned some difficult lessons from the SARS epidemic some years ago.

But with the recent escalation to pandemic status, things have begun to change for all of us, just like for you. Our LCMS leadership has placed a temporary moratorium on international travel. So the trips I had planned to visit our LCMS Asia team and partners are on hold

indefinitely. The Ferry Family had been planning a trip back to the USA this summer to visit our congregational partners and supporters. But due to this current situation, that trip is also on indefinite hold. Gatherings and events are being cancelled all over.

Thankfully, the Ferry Family and all our LCMS Asia colleagues are healthy and well. A few have returned to the US until things settle down, but most are sheltering in place. We await eagerly the day when things have abated, and we can resume life with a new version of "normal."

We are utterly confident, however, in the midst of these uncertain times. We know that this is nothing compared to the great storms the Christian Church has weathered in the past. And we have the sure and certain hope that Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. We belong to Him because He has claimed us in the waters of our baptism, and nothing can take from us the victory He has won and given to us as a gift.

And even in the midst of social distancing, He has come near to us, and brought us together with each other as fellow forgiven, redeemed children of the Father. To God be the Glory.



Thank you to the wonderful supporters who sent us a package of cards for holidays and birthdays!



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Our world, which groans under the weight of sin and disease.*
- *Those who face this time of uncertainty without the sure and certain hope of eternal life in Christ Jesus.*
- *All of your LCMS Missionaries and families as they shelter in place and strive to serve under great limitations.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Deliverance and protection for our families and workers.*
- *Our generous church, which continues to support her missionaries and servants even in uncertain times.*

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Congratulations and Happy Birthday to two of our girlies who celebrated birthdays in February...



Cassandra turned six years old, and helped Mom to make her own birthday cake and decorate it. “Cassie” has a personality that is barely contained by her little body, and enjoys learning to read. She takes Chinese classes every day during the week, and says she wants to learn how to play the harmonica someday.

Charlotte turned two years old, and really didn’t care how her cake was decorated... she just dove into it!

She started joining her older sisters in Chinese classes, and has been building quite a vocabulary in various languages: English, Chinese, Indonesian (the language of her birth place!), and even some German her Opa was teaching her.



A good way to while away time when self-isolating... building with blocks!

God bless all of you for your continued friendship, support, and love.

*- Your Servants and partners in Asia, **the Ferry Family**
Charles, Cheryl, Caleb, Caitlin, Carissa, Cassandra, Chloe, and Charlotte*



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