

MISSION FIELD: GARY, IN



May 13, 2020

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



Interior of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Gary, IN

Witness – Mercy – Life Together gets out of the box



The Rev. Delwyn Campbell, of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, standing near the Palace Theater in Gary, IN

WHO WE ARE: LUTHERAN MISSION – GARY

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@cmsintl.org] with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

There was a time when this time of the year would be taken up with summer preparations, kids getting out of school, youth department staff making VBS plans, and the various other activities that are part of summer. For the Gary Mission, that meant the Summer Youth program with the Gary Cultural and Historical Society and, starting last year, watching our community garden grow.

It also meant getting ready for a slew of mission presentations, both in and out of state. We would have been to Southern Indiana by now, along with trips to various places in Illinois and perhaps even Missouri, along with preparing for visits to Southern California and the Gulf Coast and Atlantic Seaboard.

Finally, we would have completed our fundraising for Fiscal Year 2020, thanks to your prayers and support. Ever since I was a child, May was my favorite month of the year.

This year, however, we were introduced to the novel coronavirus-19. All of a sudden, nothing was as it was. Our ordinary lives were turned upside down.

Financially, we are not in the place where we were last year at this time. The 2021 Fiscal Year begins in July, and we are not ready for it. As of this month, we have a shortfall of - \$40,550. That isn't because of any expenditures by me; it's because we don't have the gifts coming in like we did last year. Last year, the Indiana District blessed this mission from the proceeds from the sale of a closed building that was once a congregation. We don't have that coming this year.

What we do have is you and the Lord. Our Lord called me to Gary, and I am praying for Him to send us what we need to put our budget in the black. I ask you to join me, and then do as the Lord encourages you. God bless you.

Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land

“Lord I’ve learned to put my trust in You when the ordinary just won’t do…”

Like many of you, the past two months have been trying times for the saints of the Gary Lutheran Community. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church went on hiatus, and all but a few of St. John’s members stayed home.

Elder Roosevelt Kelly and his wife, Lydia said, “We just couldn’t sit at home. We needed to be here.” Sis Raquel Posey, (seated near the front to the right of the Baptismal Font) needed to come to the place “where the Lord caused His name to dwell.”

While we were careful to maintain the proper social distancing and kept the number of worshippers at or below the stated minimum requirement of 10 people, it was good to see saints in praise, to experience the call-and-response of the Divine Service in the historic St. John’s sanctuary.

Many did enjoy the worship service as it was being broadcast on Facebook, and still others watched the sermon when it was rebroadcast on YouTube, both in Gary and throughout the country, it felt good to be inside the sanctuary for that hour.



Image from live stream of Sunday Morning Divine Service at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church on 5/10/2020.

While we wait on Him to answer our prayers as it is written in 2 Chronicles 7:14, we encourage you to remember that He has promised, in response to our prayer and repentance, to “heal the land.” Until that day, we rejoice in the resources with which we are blessed in this era.

Modern technology has made our experience radically different from what it was the last time a health crisis of this magnitude struck the world. People did not have social media and the internet. You could not live stream worship. There were no apps that would enable people to interact with one another while being physically apart in real time. These are great blessings, for which we give thanks.

At the same time, FaceTime, Zoom and Google Meeting, as wonderful as they are, do not capture all that there is of human interaction. Looking at an on-screen image is not the same as standing beside a fellow worshipper as you listen to God speak to you and then respond to Him in adoration, praise, and thanksgiving. The gathering at the Table of the Lord could not be duplicated in front of our computer monitors and flat screen TVs. The warm echoes of voices could not be heard in our living rooms or bed rooms. And yet the Lord was with us, even when we were only virtually together. Soli Deo Gloria!

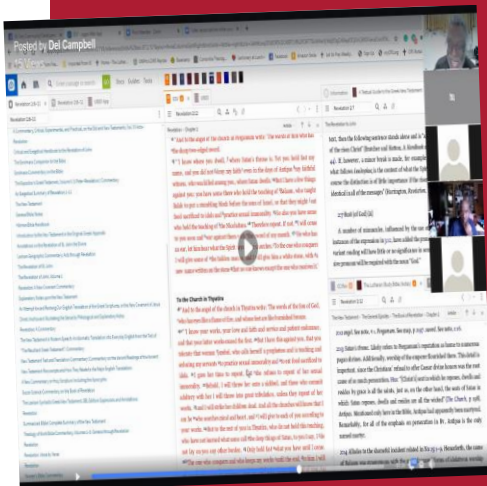
ANOTHER SHORT STORY OR PHOTOS

Mondays have become an opportunity to unite with believers locally and outside of the Northwest Indiana Region. People have requested invitations to join our Monday Night Bible Study. We are currently studying the Book of Revelation.

One reason for this study came out of a church mother’s confession that her previous experiences in reading or being taught about this book led her to become fearful. This was in contrast to the promise of God that those who read and who listen to the words of this

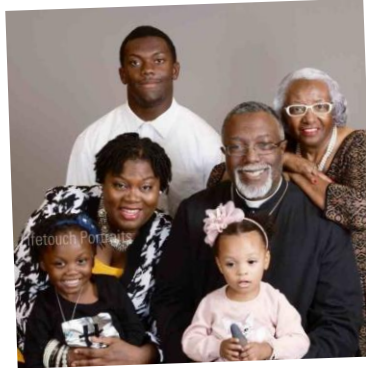
prophecy would be blessed, found in the very first chapter of the book.

i/n addition to congregational Bible Study, we have joined with our pastoral colleagues for lectionary studies in preparation for Sunday Divine Services. Once again, the Lord blessed our desire to redeem the time, inspite of the physical obstacles to coming together, and the pastors were able to share insights from the lessons for the coming Sunday. Praise God from Whom *all* blessings flow!





It's Spring Again!



They look forward to joining us in the garden starting next week, as well as later during harvest season. This year, Lenita plans to grow tomatoes, squash, melons, corn, greens, herbs, and even watermelon. Our neighbors and Corey Hagelberg, director of the Calumet Artist Residency program, are excited to sow good seed into our good ground, while we sow the seed of God's Word into their lives.

SUMMER SCHOOL NOTES

Father and son are off to school. D2 continues his college education at Purdue Northwest, while Dad begins a new chapter at Concordia Theological Seminary in pursuit of a Ph.D in Missiology. Both look forward to completing their studies in four years or so.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- God's continued protection
- Our fundraising goals for 2020
- Continued growth in the community

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Health and strength to continue to serve.
- The lack of members who have suffered from the COVID-19 virus.
- Continued cooperation of the St. John's and Good Shepherd Unification Committee during this time.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

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

Now that Spring is here, it's time to get back into the garden. Lenita spent the winter planting seedlings in her indoor greenhouse in the basement. Now those seedlings are being transplanted to the outdoors in our backyard and on the church grounds near the parsonage.

NEW NEIGHBORS, SAME PURPOSE

We began receiving phone calls from people who participated last year, and also answered questions from new neighbors who had moved into the Tolleston area during the winter.

While the Pandemic has kept us from seeing your faces and hearing your voices, it has not stopped us from being grateful that you are a part of our lives. We look forward to seeing you all soon, and we pray your strength in the Lord.

- 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. 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.