

# CHANGING PATHS

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Even as we draw encouragement and faithful support from you, making possible by God's grace this ministry of which we are a part, please know that we lift up you as our partners in ministry, beseeching the Lord to grant you His peace and mercy in these days of new challenges. We are additionally grateful for your letters, emails, correspondence, and prayers. Thank you, truly, for your partnership.

> *Empty but full.* Though the picture on the left (of last week's worship service at International Lutheran Church) shows an intentionally sparse crowd at our *Socially Responsible Service*, the proclamation of the Good News continues to many more who are able to watch prerecorded services, an adjustment that was made at the end of February. We are grateful for the dedication of our pastor, Rev. Carl Hanson, and are blessed to be able to serve alongside him in various roles that support this dynamic ministry.

> *'Happy birthday' to the Church.* This last Sunday of May was Pentecost. What a special event to ponder in the midst of an international community into which flows the same message shared by Peter and the other apostles through the power of the Holy Spirit as recorded in Acts 2. The 'birthday' of the church prompted us to create a project that attempts to capture the linguistic diversity of the Church. (If you are reading this on a phone or computer, you should be able to find the link below.) Enjoy!

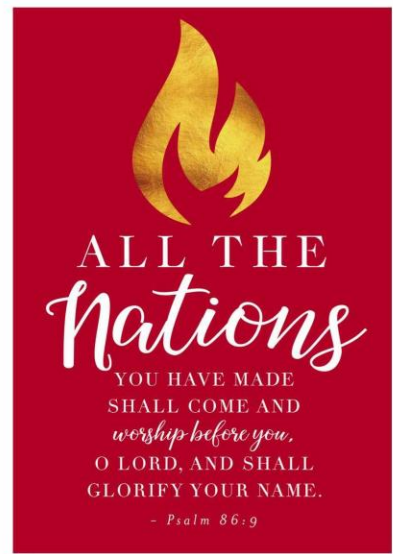
> *'Home Service' update.* Practically everyone in the world has been affected by the virus in some way or another. Even so, changes, cancellations, and adjustments to plans still can cause disappointment. As a family, we were looking forward to traveling back to the U.S. for our biennial visit to connect with our support network of congregations and individuals, friends and family. These plans, unfortunately, have been postponed. In light of this LCMS Office of International Mission announcement, we still hope to 'visit' with you through other means as may be possible. Thank you for your understanding and continued support of our service here, even if we are unable to share with you in person.

> *At home but still at work.* Under normal circumstances, Matt makes regular visits around the region, working to support missionaries at partner schools, English centers, and ministry sites. With strict travel restrictions in place, he has been at home every day since January. Even so, he is able to remain in touch with these colleagues and continues to serve in his role through technology, an opportunity afforded to many who have had to make similar adjustments around the world. Dee Dee also is able to stay connected with her various ministry communities, though we all look forward to a return to 'normalcy.'

Once again, we sincerely thank you for your continued interest and support. As always, we enjoy hearing from you and appreciate communicating through various means. Please stay safe and may our Lord watch over and protect us all by His grace.



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