



## Hymn Translations

Translating hymns is a complex task.

The list of needed skills is daunting:

*theologian,  
poet,  
linguist,  
musician,  
a passion to serve.*



LCMS has supported this work by twice sponsoring a Hymn Writers and Translators Symposium. In both 2016 and 2019 this symposium was held at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, in conjunction with their annual Good Shepherd Institute conference. This symposium is an opportunity for writers and translators of hymn texts to gather together, learn from experts in their field, and from each other. Mentoring periods give them time to work with participants on their hymn writing and translating craft.

Translators representing Taiwan, Indonesia, Chile, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Ukraine, Czech Republic, and LCMS deaf ministry have attended. A highlight of the symposium is worship at Kramer Chapel. The robust singing of a full house, accompanied by organ, instruments, and choirs, brings to mind these precious words from the Sanctus: with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy Holy Name.

This symposium allows translators to get to know their counterparts from other countries. They share the frustrations and accomplishments, encourage one other, and leave with a broader perspective and new insights.

Some of the presentations offered:

- Metrical Translation: On the Art of Fitting Words to Music
- Sharing of International Hymnody
- The Art of Translation
- To Know Christ: The Hymns of the Catechism

Lutheran hymns are shaped by the theology of the cross, as they interpret Scriptures in reference to Christ. The music of the church catholic is its own culture, which transcends geographical and time period cultures, and unites the body of Christ. Hymns teach people about Jesus and the music carries those texts into every corner of their lives.

### Can you match the language with the hymn title?

- |            |                                       |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| English    | 親愛信徒欣喜快來                              |
| Swahili    | Cantad cristianos, por doquier        |
| Amharic    | Pengikut Kristus Soraklah             |
| Indonesian | ደስ ደበላቸው ክርስቲያኖች                      |
| Mandarin   | Wakristo Wote Furahi                  |
| Spanish    | Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice |



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The hymn writers and translators conferences have been blessed times of study, worship, and fellowship. Faith was strengthened and renewed, spirits were revived and encouraged, and the many skills for translating were increased.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

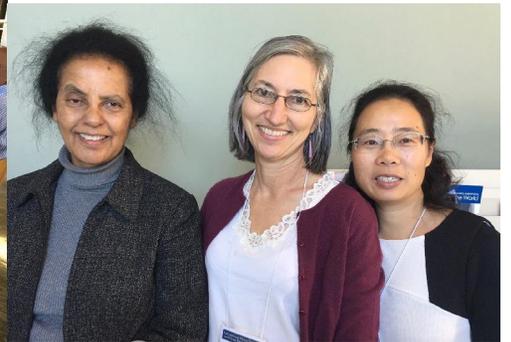
- *Insight and discernment for hymn translators around the world.*
- *Patience and endurance for all during this pandemic.*

**GIVE THANKS FOR:**

- *The consistent progress we've been able to make on both the Indonesian and the Spanish hymnals, even while sheltering-in.*

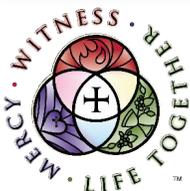
**PRAISE GOD FOR:**

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



*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Psalm 98:4*

English: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice  
 Swahili: Wakristo Wote Furahi  
 Mandarin: 親愛信徒欣喜快樂  
 Amharic: ደስ ደብላችሁ ክርስቲያናዎች  
 Indonesian: Pengikut Kristus Soraklah  
 Spanish: Cantad cristianos, por doquier



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](https://lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

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