

THE MISSIONARY'S VOICE

SERVING THE LORD IN

GHANA

NEWS FROM THE SCHUMACHERS



July - August 2020

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Teaching and Learning In an Uncommon Time



Moses and the Ten Commandments
by James J. Tissot 1896-1900

THE LAW OF GOD

"Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law." Galatians 3:21 (ESV)

"By these words Paul indicates that no law by itself is able to quicken or give life, but only kills. Therefore such works when they are done, not only according to the laws and traditions of men, but also according to the very Law of God, do not justify a man before God, but make him a sinner; . . . For it humbles men, it prepares and makes them apt to receive the righteousness of Christ, by terrifying them, showing them their guilt, bringing them to a knowledge of their sin. After it has done this, the opinion of man's righteousness vanishes away, and Christ with His benefits becomes sweet to him. It is for these reasons that we see the Law is not against the promises of God, but rather confirms them. . . ."

Five Minutes Daily with Luther p.83
by John Mueller



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to Cynthia.schumacher@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.



Photo by: C. Schumacher

Rev. Schumacher preparing his class on Romans for email instruction which is continuing from the United States.

Pastoral formation is our purpose as called missionaries serving in Ghana for the past 6 years. We were invited by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (ELCG) to assist in the instruction at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Ghana. This pastoral formation continues even during this uncertain time of CoVid-19, with all private and public schools in Ghana being closed.

It is an uncommon August day when I am sitting in our home in Fort Wayne, Indiana, using the internet for our seminary instruction. I confess we are enjoying northern Indiana weather along with an air conditioned house.

Our students have successfully completed their vicarages and have additional studies before graduating and receiving their first calls as pastors. I am teaching a class on Romans. This

class has practical application as the students look forward to shepherding God's people wherever he calls them. Romans is an especially important book as it clearly speaks the Law and Gospel. The students are gaining a clearer understanding along with the proper distinction and the relationship of the Law to the Gospel. This understanding is vital for the future pastors as they proclaim God's gracious work of restoring sinful humans through the salvation won by Christ Jesus. Many Ghanaian Christians, as well as some Lutherans, have the misunderstanding that grace is something that must be earned by their "good works."

God is blessing these men as they live at home in their villages and communities while continuing their studies and being about their "Father's Business."



Photo by: J. Schumacher

Rev. Schumacher and Cynthia with grandchildren, Griffin, Gordon, and Hadley.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

God's mercy upon the world that He would heal those afflicted by CoVid—19, storms, and hurricanes; and continue to strengthen His servants who proclaim His Word of Salvation as the only means to eternal life.

The ELCG and President John Donkoh, as they care for the pastors, congregations, and members of the church.

Our granddaughter Hadley, God spared her life from an unknown infection. May she grow stronger each day.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

Our good health during this time of CoVid-19.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

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

This month we give praise for:

Mt Calvary Lutheran Church
Omaha, NE

Christ Lutheran Church
Topeka, KS

Zion Lutheran Church
Fort Wayne, IN

Classes at the Seminary before CoVid-19



Photos by: C. Schumacher

Rev. Dr. Schumacher with the Seminarians: Paul, Emmanuel, Samuel, and Adobasom.

Life at the seminary revolves around the Word of God and worshipping Him. Our day begins with Matins at 7:30 a.m., and classes begin at 8:00. The Chapel Service is at 10:15 following with a short tea break, before convening with more class lectures. Lunch is provided at 1:15 p.m. followed by library and study time. The class day ends at 4:30 p.m. with our Vespers Service. Our focus during the Matins and Vespers is on Luther's Small Catechism. By the daily reading of the catechism the students put to memory the basic Lutheran teaching in it.



The pictured four students above are in the final stretch of their seminary education. Upon their graduation a new curriculum will be implemented. The plan is for a more vigorous first year of classes focusing on a survey of the Bible, catechesis, and studies in English comprehension and writing. The goal of the program is to equip future ELCG pastors with the knowledge and skills to shepherd God's people of the Lutheran Church in Ghana.

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. and Mrs. Steven Schumacher, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Schumacher/Ghana." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/schumacher.