



Pastor Paul's Call

Pastor Paul is a theological educator in Taiwan, serving with the China Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC) and China Lutheran Seminary (CLS). He is called to teach, write, and help plant and pastor Lutheran churches.

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

I'm guessing that most of you reading this were born into a Christian family. Many of you probably had family devotions as a child and went to a Lutheran elementary school, high school, and/or college. Many of you probably went through one or two years' confirmation instruction with your pastor during your junior high school years. These are all tremendous blessings that you have received. While it's certainly possible that we can take these blessings for granted, they provide an invaluable foundation on God's Word and a Lutheran Christian worldview that many Christians worldwide simply didn't receive growing up.

Building Foundations

Take, for example, Taiwan. The majority of Christians in Taiwan were not born into Christian families, and the few years they've spent in the Church have most likely been in a very legalistic, "try-harder" environment. The clear understanding of our sin and God's grace and forgiveness in Christ is not only foreign to non-Christians here, but unfortunately is also not very clear to many Christians as well. Called to Taiwan as a theological educator, a considerable amount of my time is spent helping theology students and Church workers receive the type of solid grounding in God's Word and the Lutheran Christian worldview that many of you simply grew into. If Church workers don't have a solid foundation and worldview, it's very difficult for them to maintain teaching and practice that are faithful to God's Word and accurately distinguish and apply Law and Gospel.

One of the ways the LCMS partner synod here has asked me to help in this regard is by teaching Luther's Small Catechism...to many different groups in many different ways. For example, I'm currently meeting on Mondays with a seminarian and his wife, and on Saturdays with a vicar and his wife. Before long I'll probably add another vicar and his wife who desire to join our local synod from a different Church body. A soon-retiring man, who would like to study to be a pastor, will likely be added in soon as well. These classes progress rather slowly, but there is always invaluable back-and-forth discussion, as we seek together to be shaped by God's Word in our lives and Church service. I'm thoroughly convinced that these efforts are very worthwhile, and are an essential part of the entire theological education process. As always, thank you for your partnership in this vital work!



The word of His grace... is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

(Acts 20:32 ESV)





What can you pray for?

Thanks for:

- all the opportunities to teach the basics of the Christian faith in many different classes
- more moms and tots who can hear God's Word every Friday

Petitions for:

- Yawai, Xiaoyu, Candace and others who do not yet profess Christian faith, but are interested to learn more of God's Word. Pray that the Holy Spirit would grant them repentance and faith
- good progress on book publication, especially for the *Book of Concord* and *What Abouts...*

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our mission
station's crucifix

Our official website:
www.lcms.org/paul

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Many More Moms & Tots

Prior to our summer home service in the US, there were four regular moms with their kids who would come when able to the Friday morning Moms & Tots group that Irene co-leads. Since returning to Taiwan, however, the number has quickly doubled, and the group now needs to invest in some more foam mats for the kids to play safely. Aside from Yawai, whom we've talked about before, new mom Xiaoyu has also clearly expressed interest in the Christian faith. After the gathering a week ago, she texted Irene: "Thank you for your sharing today. Although I'm just accompanying Xiangxiang [her daughter] to attend the group, I personally every week receive quite a lot. I get energized to face the next week ahead." Irene and I are now beginning to plan to invite the Moms to a special one-time gathering at which I'll teach the basics of the Christian faith while Irene and maybe others watch the children. Irene thinks several of the moms might be interested to attend.



Brief Updates

- publication update: Within a month, the long-awaited new Chinese translation of the *Book of Concord* should be published here in Taiwan. Also very close to publishing are the first ten topics of the *What About...* pamphlets. Soon to follow are *Getting into the Theology of Concord*, then *Of Good Comfort: Martin Luther's Letters to the Depressed*, and *Counseling at the Cross*. In addition, I'm now spending more time again working on the *Chinese Lutheran Service Book* and also *Lutheranism 101*.
- ZOOM Winkels continue: In October we learned about Baptismal fonts from Rev. Brent Kuhlman, and in November we'll be learning about the eight characteristics of a good sermon from Rev. Max Mons.
- Next week I'll begin a new term of the men's English (with Bible) class for our neighbors.
- I'm about to start a four-week *Introduction to Christianity* course for the Christian son of our local seminarian (Ryan), and especially for his not-yet-Christian girlfriend (Candace).

Keeping up-to-date: If you're not receiving this newsletter by email but would like to, please contact us at michael.paul@lcms.org. For frequent Facebook updates, go to the facebook group: "Michael Paul family Taiwan mission."

To support our work financially, you may make checks payable (memo line: "Support of Missionary Michael Paul") to "The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod" and send your tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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You can **ALSO** make checks payable to "**Mission Central**" and send your tax-deductible gift to our friends at: Mission Central, 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034.