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## Sing Praises!



“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” Psalm 46:1. We give thanks to God for caring for our daughter Autumn. A few days before she was set to come to Sri Lanka for Christmas, Autumn ended up in the hospital with internal bleeding around her kidney. This was a scary time and challenging being so far from her. We are thankful to God that her sister was able to be with her and for good pastors to care for her. We are especially thankful that she has now returned to health and does not need surgery as first thought. Thank you for all your prayers.



Deaconess Sandra Rhein after service in a tea estate worker's home.

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

The Lord speaks to us, gives us His good gifts in Word and Sacrament, gives us the Holy Spirit. We respond in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. We break forth in joyous song and sing praises!

A good hymnal aids and guides us as we gather around our Lord, both in public worship and in our homes. A hymnal is a great blessing.

One of the projects in Sri Lanka is to publish a Lutheran hymnal in the country. The Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church has begun the process of publishing a new hymnal. A committee has been formed. They are blessed to have Deaconess Sandra Rhein, a fellow missionary in the Asia region, guide them in this process. She is experienced in guiding other church bodies in producing hymnals.

Please keep this project in your prayers.

Another effort that has been years in the making is the restructuring the Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka. God willing, the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church will have her first

Church Assembly where the church leadership will be elected, the constitution approved, and most importantly, Christ will be proclaimed.

I am blessed to facilitate much of the work that needs to be done before the Church Assembly such as finalizing a constitution, setting policies, and drafting a program for pastoral education leading to ordination.

I am particularly thankful that travel has opened up in Sri Lanka. I have been able to make several trips upcountry and engage people face to face once again.



Handing out school supplies to a young lady from Good Shepherd, Westward Ho

### Family Dates

Wedding Anniversary **August 11**

Birthdays:

Steven	<b>January 27</b>
Martha	<b>December 11</b>
Autumn	<b>September 13</b>
Liberty	<b>July 15</b>
Skye	<b>May 29</b>
Rose	<b>March 19</b>
Duncan	<b>July 24</b>



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**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- Sri Lanka hymnal project
- Upcoming CELC Church Assembly
- Spread of the Gospel in Sri Lanka
- Continued financial support for local congregations and mission work around the world

**GIVE THANKS FOR:**

- Autumn's recovery
- Libby's recovery from Covid

**PRAISE GOD FOR:**

- Sending the Holy Spirit in Sri Lanka
- Love and care for our lives and our families
- The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage us and partner with us

**CONSIDER:**

- Adding us to your congregation's mission budget as a Together in Mission partner (Call 888-930-4438 for details).
- Starting, continuing, or increasing financial support for mission work in Sri Lanka (See below).
- Having a Zoom or Skype update with your congregation, Bible study, Day School, Sunday School, Women's group, etc...

# Family News



Martha prepares to enjoy a rotating rose candle



Skye all dressed up for her "Senior" pictures.



Steven celebrates another year of God's blessings.

As you can tell by the pictures we had more birthdays to celebrate. Martha enjoyed a quiet celebration of her "cough, cough" birthday in December. The top of the cake played happy birthday as the rose opened up to reveal candles on all of the petals. Steven had his birthday at the end of January and we were able to celebrate it with Sandra Rhein.

We took two quick weekend trips since the last newsletter. In December we went to Ella. It is a very beautiful area not far from Yala National Park. We went ziplining, saw the famous 9 Arches Bridge for trains, and beautiful waterfalls. We saw a wild elephant on the way home. It was something none of us will forget.

Our second weekend trip was to Kandy. Kandy is famous for being the home of the Temple of the Tooth, which holds a tooth from the Buddha. We saw plenty of wildlife there including a pelican, large monitor lizards, ducks, turtles, fruit bats, and monkeys. We always enjoy our time in the beautiful heart of the island.



A new friend we met near Yala



Enjoying a later dinner in Ella



I was never quick enough to get a picture, but they were around.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

IG: stevemahlburg  
 Twitter: MahlburgMission  
 FB: missionSriLanka

*Together in Jesus' Service,  
 Steven & Martha,  
 Autumn, Liberty, Skye, Rose, and  
 Duncan*

**Kindly consider a special gift to further support LCMS mission work in Sri Lanka. The instructions below explain how you can give this gift.**



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

To support the LCMS through the work of Steven Mahlburg, 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 Mahlburg-Sri Lanka". Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [lcms.org/Mahlburg](http://lcms.org/Mahlburg).