



What happening in Chiayi, Taiwan?

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19) Amen.

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)



Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a great privilege.

Even though it is getting warmer now that summer is here in Chiayi, Taiwan, my joy is not diminished. As the Psalmist writes, *“The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!”* (Psalm 97:1)

So, though at times there are challenges at home and abroad, it is good to know that the Lord reigns.

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

I pray that you, our partners in the Gospel, have the confidence in Christ that you can rejoice with us here in Asia.



The view from my office window from the fifth and top floor of the Luther Building, the Asia headquarters of the LCMS.

Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

THANK YOU, LORD...

For our Partners in the Gospel who sacrifice to make our sharing the Gospel in Taiwan possible.

LORD, hear our prayer.

Thank you...

- For blessing upon our work with the people and the CELC in Taiwan.
- For your protection during all our traveling we are doing.
- For the opportunity to investigate the possibility of establishing a ministry to the Deaf in Taiwan.
- For wisdom as to how to teach a catechism class using interpreters to teach Lutheran theology and liturgy.

We ask you Lord,

- For the Holy Spirit to guide us in our ongoing assignment in Taiwan.
- For the salvation of all who hear and “see” His Word.
- For help for family members back home.



Chiayi is called country by others in Taipei. It is a city, but most buildings are no more than three stories high. Barbara is thrilled to be able to see the sunsets from our apartment building. The local people are very friendly, but English-speaking people are usually from the younger generations, so it is very different from Hong Kong in that way.

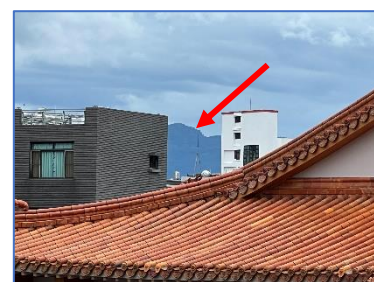
However, Barbara handles herself

very well in the

marketplace. I guess there is a universal language for shopping.



The Deaf school in Tainan has a part-time deaf teacher who teaches sign language.



On a clear day when we can see the mountains. Psalm 121:1 *“I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?”* Of course, my help is from the Lord, the creator of heaven and earth.

What happening in Chiayi, Taiwan? (continued)

I am assisting **Salvation Lutheran Church** by teaching a catechism class. We are currently working on the **Apostles' Creed**. The Salvation congregation is a member of our sister synod, The **China Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC)**. Their pastor, the Rev. Alex Wu, has been very helpful by supplying Chinese translations of the *Luther's Small Catechism*, and the *Lutheran Order of Holy Communion*. +++

One of the tasks I have been asked to accomplish is to determine the need for deaf ministry in Taiwan and to evaluate if the CELC has the resources to be able to support such a ministry. I have visited the local university and talked with the man responsible for getting the Taiwanese Sign Language approved as an official language in Taiwan.

After summer break, I will begin assisting with the mini-Sunday School class that is held just before the service. The class is a mini-Sunday School, and the topic is "*The meaning of the Divine Service.*" The goal is to enhance the understanding of what worship is, in order to enhance the worship experience of the congregation. The CELC synod desires helping the congregations to understand the Lutheran worship service.

Another part of my work here is to develop some resources as an aid to help the pastors teach the people about the Lutheran Divine Service. As an example of the kinds of things I can help with is; (Long ago, in the United States, I saw this.) when we normally greet someone, we usually look at them and then respond while looking at them.

That is how the **Salutation**, (*The Lord be with you.*), is generally practiced. But when it is read by the pastor from the book, or when the pastor is reading it from the screen with his back towards the people, the meaning of the words, "*The Lord be with you.*" will not communicate the intended message. That comes off as ritualistic and cold. In the historical Lutheran service, the pastor faces the people and says, "*The Lord be with you*" (Emmanuel). The **Salutation** is used three times. **1)** It introduces the reading of the assigned lessons from the Scriptures. It is placed before the **Collect of the Day** which can articulate the theme that the readings may be about. The words actually are a "*heads-up*" to prepare our hearts for the Lord to come to us through His Word. Being Lutherans, we understand the Lord speaks to us by **His Word**. So, the pastor tells us, "*The Lord is going to speak with you.*" We respond, "*And with your spirit.*" recognizing "*God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*" (John 4:24). There is a spiritual aspect to the worship. There are unseen realities that we believe are present during the Lutheran way of worship. The liturgy is much more edifying when we understand **what and who** are being communicated to us. **2)** The **Salutation** again is spoken or chanted as part of the **Preface** for the Lord's Supper indicating the Lutheran doctrine of the **Real Presence** of the resurrected body and blood of Jesus given for the forgiveness of our sins. **3)** The **Salutation** is also placed before the **Aaronic Benediction** when the pastor blesses us with God's name that he is placing upon us for our journey to the promised land. [Read **Numbers 6:22-27** for God's promise.] +++

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