

September/October 2023



...NEWS FROM BECKY BARTELT  
...Serving the Lord in Taiwan/Asia

### **Thank You!**



Thank you so much for your prayers for my travel to the US and back in September and for your continued prayers for my family's health! The flights went as planned. It was both good and hard to be back in the United States for a time.

My dad's back surgery went well and he is recovering steadily, if slower than he'd like. He has completed home health physical therapy and has graduated to outpatient physical therapy. He is slowly learning to do more things on his own and is sounding more chipper than I've heard him in many months.

My sister continues on her chemotherapy journey. Every other Monday she goes in for chemotherapy and comes home with a chemo bag for two more days. She is very sensitive to cold and tries to drink a lot of water to stay hydrated, but right now her taste buds say it tastes like soap. In spite of it all God has blessed Sarah with a joyful, persevering spirit. I know it's hard, but she's almost always smiling and making others feel comfortable. She said she has a lot of time on her hands to pray right now, so she is asking others for prayer requests, too.

### **Meetings!**



I returned to Taiwan the end of September in time for our Asia Region Missionary Work Group Meetings. All the LCMS and Alliance (an ordained pastor from an LCMS partner church called by his church and coordinated through the LCMS Office of International Mission) missionaries in Asia met in Chiayi, Taiwan for three days of worship, updates, brainstorming and sharing. We heard from Erin Alter about short-term mission opportunities and Jay Kuczynski about safety and security among other topics. Pictured are Barb Rebentisch, Sandra Rhein, Mindy Thiews and I brainstorming ways to invite short-term missionaries to serve in Taiwan. Also, Rev. Steven Mahlborg, my supervisor, and I

had some good conversations about my work and I received encouragement and advice. As you can see he has definitely adapted to the tropical weather in Sri Lanka! He was the only one in the group who needed a jacket in Taiwan. Sandra Rhein, Rev. Dr. Mike Paul and I shared a voluntary during Wednesday's Divine Service.

After the other Asia missionaries went back to their countries where they serve, I continued to have many meetings as Sandra Rhein and I begin to pray, explore and plan how to furnish and begin the music conservatory in Chiayi, where we hope to offer a Christian witness through concerts and music education. Please pray for this process that we would proceed in the way that God wills and that many would hear the Gospel and come to faith through this ministry!

### **Mid-Autumn Festival:**



Saturday, October 1st we celebrated Mid-Autumn Festival at Salvation Lutheran Church with a congregational barbecue. We enjoyed various meats and vegetables cooked shish-kabob style as well as fruits, salad and mashed potatoes. It was a lot of fun getting to know people we hadn't spoken to before due to language issues and getting to know others even better. The children (and some adults) ended the evening by playing with sparklers. Mid-Autumn Festival was actually on Friday, September 30th. Mid-Autumn Festival is a harvest festival celebrating the full moon. It is held on the 15th day of the 8th month in the lunar calendar.

## Songshan Church Visit:



Mindy Thews (the new education specialist for Asia), Sandra Rhein and I visited a CELC (China Evangelical Lutheran Church) church in the Songshan area of Taipei on Sunday, October 8th. We worshipped with them and celebrated the Lord's Supper together. The pastor kindly had someone translate the sermon into English for us! Afterwards we shared a meal together and listened to their desires and needs for education and music. We came back with many ideas to consider and see how God might use us to help these, as they called themselves, "baby Lutherans".

## Why?

On our way to and from Taipei several people took a good 20-30 minutes out of their day to help lost Americans find their way in the train station or looking for our Air BnB. I can't imagine that happening in the United States. But, here it is a part of the culture, a belief that if you do good, good will come back to you. It is an expected duty. For Christians good works come as a joyful response to the new people we are in Christ. We get to help others. And yet we struggle as saint-sinners to be the people God has made and remade us to be. May God give us hearts to love others as He has loved us!

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PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR:

- my dad's successful back surgery.
- safe and uneventful travel to the USA and back.
- new ventures in Taiwan, including beginning to work on the music conservatory in Chiayi.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- my dad's continued recovery.
- my sister's perseverance through chemotherapy (She is a little over half-way through!)
- new ventures in Taiwan as I start to focus on other things in addition to learning Chinese.
- the music conservatory plans that we would proceed as and how God wills and that people would hear the Gospel through this work and come to saving faith in Him.

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Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Becky Bartelt.

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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."



[Singing the Church's Song in Asia](#) by Becky Bartelt  
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