



SMAHLBURG@YAHOO.COM

Altar and Pulpit Fellowship



Motorcycles for Ministry

Getting around the tea plantations in the mountains is a challenge. Buses and walking are time consuming and impractical. Yet, the pastors and evangelists of the CELC have been doing their best to carry out the ministries.

The roads on the tea plantations are narrow, dirt roads or roads that appear to have been paved many years ago, but not maintained. As you can imagine, this makes for difficult terrain that not any vehicle can get down.

Motorcycles are best suited for the church workers to get around these challenging areas.

Thanks be to God, the through the generous funding of the members of the LCMS, the CELC was able to purchase 5 motorcycles and 1 car in order to facilitate the ministry, especially in the rugged terrain of the tea plantations.



Presenting the plaque recognizing altar and pulpit fellowship to Bishop Arulchelvan.

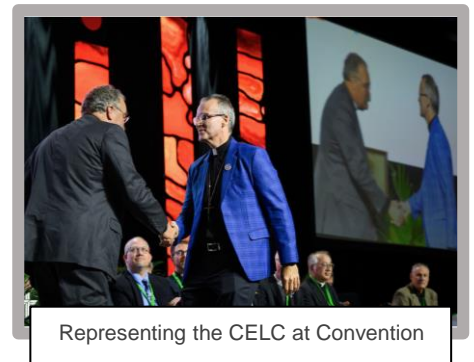
The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

This past summer, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention unanimously voted to recognize the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church as a partner church, recognizing altar and pulpit fellowship between these two church bodies. All Praise be to God.

This was a momentous occasion for these two church bodies. Bishop Arulchelvan was not able to attend. This left me the honor of representing the CELC at convention. It was an even greater honor to make this announcement before many of the lay people of the CELC when they had three regional Reformation Services.

I was able to present the plaque which the LCMS gave in order to commemorate this wonderful event.

After being out of the country for a Tamil studies and Home Service, this was a wonderful way to gather with the members of the CELC around our Savior Jesus Christ and to show the honor the LCMS has for the CELC.



Representing the CELC at Convention



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to newsletter@mahlnews.com with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

Bishop Remarks to the LCMS in Convention



The following are the words Bishop Arulchelvan provided to read at the LCMS Convention:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Warm greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I write to you today with great joy and deep gratitude, standing here on this momentous day, to extend my heartfelt thanks to God Almighty and to each one of you for embracing the declaration of altar and pulpit fellowship between our two churches. It is truly an honor and privilege for me to address you, and I thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

I stand here representing the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka, along with our brothers and sisters. We are filled with gratitude as we express our sincere appreciation to President Harrison, the esteemed delegates at this convention, and the entire LCMS for welcoming us into the unity of faith. We eagerly hold onto your hand, desiring to learn from you and walk alongside you as we proclaim to the world the precious gifts of God's forgiveness and eternal life in Jesus Christ.

On this special occasion, we take a moment to remember and give thanks to God for the many individuals and organizations that have supported us from the very beginning. Through their unwavering prayers, encouragement, and support, we exist today as a Lutheran Church in our respective countries. We remain committed to upholding sound confessional Lutheran theology, fervently sharing the saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus, and...

Honoring bishop with a gift from the LCMS.



The gift was a medal commemorating the 175th anniversary of the LCMS

The Plaque

Beginning with the quote from 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, the plaque goes on to read:

Giving Thanks to God for the altar and pulpit fellowship between the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC) and the The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) recognized this day with the CELC as a self-governing partner church with mission planting from 1927, for our shared quia subscription to the Book of Concord and for our work together in Christ and His Word.

Given this 30th Day of July 2023 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from the Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, LCMS president, to the Rt. Rev. Arumanayagam Arulchelvan, CELC bishop.





“Let us remain united in faith and love, knowing that Jesus, our Intercessor and Advocate, is with us always.”

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demonstrating God's love through acts of mercy to those in need. Therefore, I humbly invite you to join hands with us, so that together we can bring the joy of the Gospel to the many who are lost.

May the name of the Lord be praised now and forever more!
Amen!

In conclusion, I extend my prayers and blessings to each one of you gathered at the LCMS Convention. May the Holy Spirit guide and inspire your discussions, decisions, and actions, so that the Church may continue to flourish and bear witness to the triumph of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. Let us remain united in faith and love, knowing that Jesus, our Intercessor and Advocate, is with us always.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Arulchelvan

Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran church

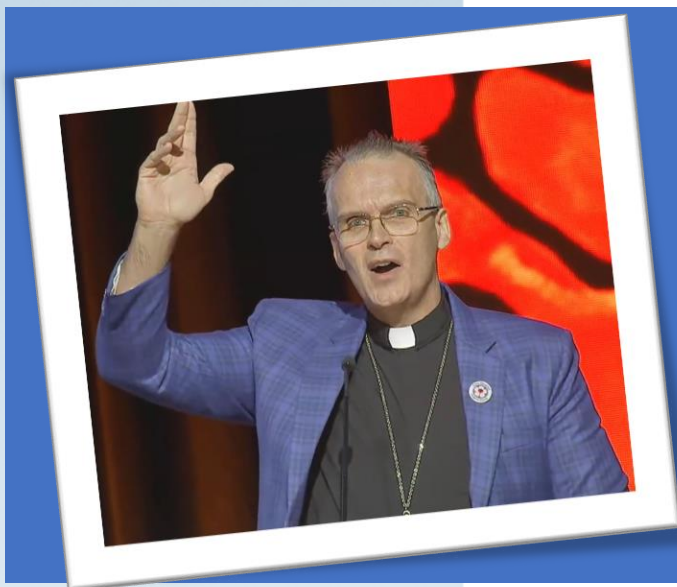
[Click here to see this being read at the convention](#)



Dressed up for the Reformation Service in Westward Ho



Bulletin for the Reformation Services



Devotion in Tamil

I was asked to read from Psalm 106, pray the Lord's Prayer, and give the benediction in Tamil on behalf of Bishop Arulchelvan. This was a great honor for me. It was a bit nerve wracking because I did not want be embarrassed or dishonor the language. There were in fact a few people at the convention who were native Tamil speakers. Though not perfect, I was thankful to hear that many were proud to hear their language spoken at the convention. You can hear the recording by [clicking here](#).



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Upcoming Christmas Programs in Sri Lanka*
- *Opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ*
- *CELC hymnal project*
- *To grant Rev. Nadaraja patience and healing.*
- *To grant Autumn patience healing in the face of Graves Disease*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *A successful Home Service*
- *Joyful return to Sri Lanka*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *His faithfulness*
- *His care and protection*

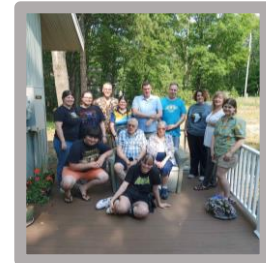
Mahlburg Moments



July birthday buddies

Another special treat we experienced on home service this year was being able to get Martha's whole family together at once at her parent's home. The youngest brother and his family came all the way from Arizona. It was a great time.

July is always a special month for us. Usually we come back for home service after the first week in July. This year we got to celebrate the 4th in the US. We also get to celebrate two birthdays. Liberty turned 22 and Duncan turned 16. Hard to believe they are that old.



The whole family together at Mom and Dad's



Rose with her new buddy, Spartan on the campus of Michigan State University

Another regular item on our home service events is drop another kid off at college. This year was Rose's turn. She started at Michigan State University. We are very proud to be Spartan parents. We know she will do well there.

This year we were not only able to celebrate Autumn's birthday with her in America, but we also were able to bring her back to live with us in Sri Lanka. She has recently been diagnosed with Graves Disease. It is an autoimmune disease that attacks the thyroid. She is currently under the care of an Endocrinologist here in Sri Lanka.



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."

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Steven & Martha Mahlburg. Make checks payable 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

On the memo line include Mahlburg-Sri Lanka

Give securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/missionarypage

Call a donor care representative: 800-930-4438