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Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!



Graduation

I had the privilege of attending the Commencement Service for Concordia Theological Seminary Nagercoil, India. I give thanks for all the students who graduated. The Bachelor of Divinity students who are wearing red hoods will serve as parish pastors. The Bachelor of Christian Studies students are lay people who serve the Lord in various lay capacities in their congregations.

I had the honor of addressing the students focusing on the words of Jesus, "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:26-28.

In the center is Rev. Dr. Priestly Balasingh, the president of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church. On his other side is Rev. Dr. Selvaraj, principal of Concordia Theological Seminary Nagercoil. On the end is Mr. Ravi Jesupatham, the country coordinator for The LCMS.



According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3.

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At the beginning of March, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church re-dedicated her newly renovated building to the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ risen from the dead. The pictures on the right were taken from this wonderful occasion. All the ordained pastors, the evangelists, and Rev. Ferry the Asia Regional Director were in attendance. The procession included a local marching band. Thanks be to God for this renovation made possible by the generous grant from The LCMS.



Before the Service



After the Service

The top left picture shows a picture of 17 people whom I baptized in 2022. 12 of these were youth who had since been catechized and were confirmed by Rev. Nadaraja this past Easter Sunday. Dhanush Mary was confirmed along with them, but was not a part of the group baptized in 2022. I had the honor of baptizing her Easter morning before her confirmation.

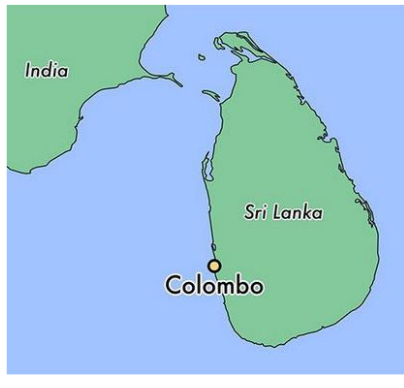


New Altar

Praise be to God that we have all been



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Mahlburg Moments



Steven decided to test his physical fitness by joining a race up the stairs of the Lotus Tower. The race started on the ground and ended up on the observation deck 803 feet above.

Steven after reaching the top
We were able to take the train to go up country for Easter. We left for home very early on Saturday morning. We were able to see the clouds pooled in the



Clouds below us valleys between the ridges. We also saw beautiful flowers, monkeys, and rivers. The train runs through tea country, and you can see people plucking the leaves.



Going through a tea plantation

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- God's guidance for the ministry of the CELC
- Opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- CELC hymnal project
- To grant Autumn continued good results from her thyroid treatment

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Autumn's thyroid treatment
- Graduates at Concordia Theological Seminary Nagercoil
- The renovation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
- The newly baptized and confirmed

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- His work through Concordia Theological Seminary Nagercoil
- His work through the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church
- The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

Living overseas is an amazing experience. There are sights, smells, and things that are not seen in the States. I was on the way home with Autumn when we came across a Buddhist parade. As part of it, there was not one, but two elephants.



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:

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