



SUPPLICATION

- ✦ For honest workers for the renovation project. For continued financial support so that the entire project is funded.
- ✦ For the members of the Indonesian hymnal committee as they proofread the hymns and compile all the parts for laying out the hymnal.

THANKSGIVING

- ✦ For the service of Rev. David and Barbara Bush, recently retired from the mission field.
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CHINESE HYMNAL SUPPLEMENT

It's been about five years since we produced the initial test hymnal for the Chinese Lutheran Church. This test booklet is the only hymnal used in most of the congregations in Taiwan, so they are learning well the 55 hymns in that book. Last week we finally finished editing a first unofficial "hymnal supplement" which contains 30 new hymns, 18 of which have never been published before in Chinese translation. It's been a long time coming, but we're holding the translations to the highest standards.

Our six principles for translations are (in order of importance):

1. the theology must be correct (as judged by Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions),
2. the lyrics must be easily understandable by the average Church member,
3. the lyrics must rhyme, (just like the lyrics of nearly all English hymns do),
4. the lyrics should fit the music as best as possible,
5. the lyrics should accurately translate the original English (most are translated from English),
6. the lyrics should be proper, dignified Chinese—fitting for hymns sung in worship.

Our current plan is to produce three more similar supplements, each having 50 hymns, to bring our total number of hymns to about 250. We still also have lots of work to do on various liturgies and other material aside from the hymns. Lord-willing, maybe by the end of 2026 we can publish the full version of the Chinese Lutheran Service Book.



THANK YOU AND GODSPEED

Rev. David and Barbara Bush retired from the mission field in February, and since I was in Taiwan that month, I got to be part of a farewell celebration for them. Godspeed to the Bushes as they begin a new stage of life back in the States.

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 Above: The missionaries who live in Chiayi, Taiwan gathered for a farewell party for Rev. David & Barbara Bush



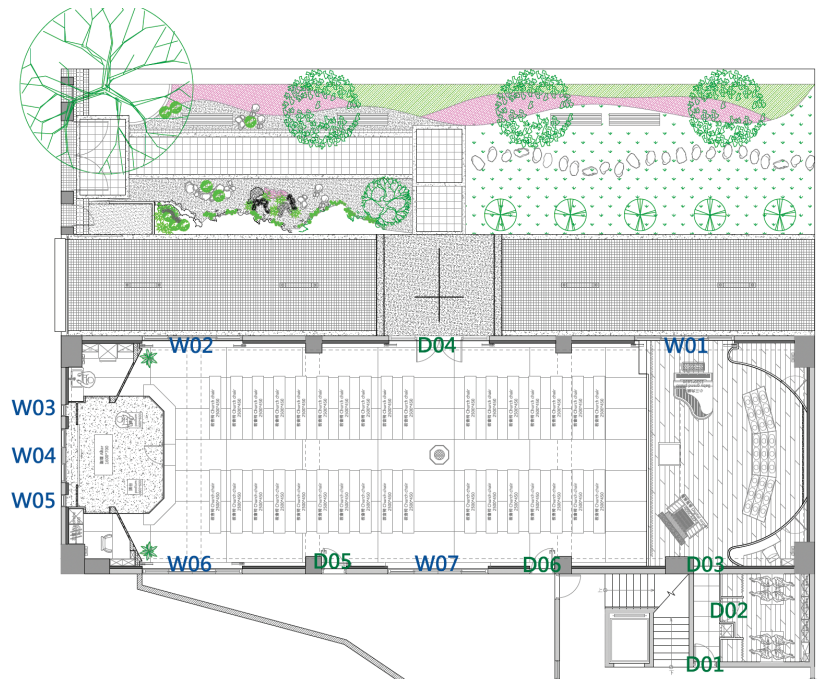
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PROGRESS ON MUSIC CONSERVATORY/ CHURCH PLANT

I spent all of February and the first half of March in Taiwan, primarily so Becky Bartelt and I could work closely with the architect for the music conservatory and church plant room renovation. Most of the plans are in place now and materials chosen, and the renovation work should begin in May or June. Excitement is mounting as we watch the room take shape on paper.

Stained glass windows provide beauty and artistry in a church. They can be powerful tools for worship, meditation, and education. This room has many windows and happens to be right next to a Buddhist temple. What better opportunity could there be to proclaim Christ and the good news of the Gospel! These windows need to shout the Christian faith to passersby. There should be no doubt as to the fact that this building is Christian.

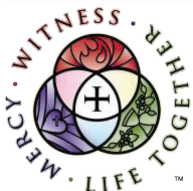
Actual stained glass is cost-prohibitive, so we will use high quality window clings. These have been tried in another church in Taiwan with great success. I'm most pleased to announce that renowned artist Edward Riojas is designing the window clings. The six windows nearest the chancel will depict the six chief parts of the Small Catechism. The window across from the entrance explain the VDMA church logo in both Latin and Chinese, and the window near the stage will have a music theme. Once these drawings are completed, I'll be excited to share them to you, with more details and explanations.



Top to bottom: Meeting with the architect (left to right) Irene Paul (translator), Becky Bartelt, Sandra Rhein, secretary, Architect Ray Yu.

A architect drawing of the renovation. One end of the room is the chancel; the other is the performance stage.

The outdoor patio is in good condition and will serve well for receptions. Renovation plans include a new sidewalk and landscaping.



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."

You can support my work for the LCMS in Asia...

- To give securely online, scan the QR code or visit lcms.org/rhein.



- To give by mail, send a check to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166. Memo: "Rhein-Asia"