SERVING THE LORD IN
AUSTRALIA
NEWS FROM DEACONESS SANDRA RHEIN

Joyous Song
Vol. 4. No. 5 November 2024

SUPPLICATION

- For strength and wisdom for our brothers and sisters in Lutheran Mission–Australia, that they hold firm to the confessions of the Lutheran Church
- For the deaconesses of the Filipino Church

THANKSGIVING

- For the completion of the Indonesian hymnal
- For all Asia missionaries and their families

Sneak peak: the new hymnal for the Indonesian Lutheran Church is back from the printer and will be dedicated on November 13!

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to sandra.rhein@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

LUTHERAN MISSION–AUSTRALIA

Lutheran Mission–Australia is a newly-formed organization in Australia which seeks to "ensure Confessional Lutheranism has a home in Australia for generations to come." It arose out of a confessional movement within the Lutheran Church of Australia/New Zealand (LCANZ) which was concerned that the church was declining from historic Lutheran teaching and practice—visibly on the issue over women's ordination but even more fundamentally on the nature of the authority of Scripture.

The LM–A was established to support, encourage, and strengthen confessional Lutheranism. They are eager to study liturgy and hymnody. The Lutheran Church is a liturgical church because the liturgy is the structure or ritual through which we receive the sure and certain gifts of the Gospel. The entire point of the liturgy is the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins by the grace of God in Christ Jesus. It is the service of Christ to His bride, on her behalf. The Gospel and the historic liturgy give us certainty of Jesus' love for us, and of our forgiveness and salvation.

This coming January will be a Young Adult and Young Family Retreat at Tandara Lutheran Camp in Victoria, Australia. The theme of the retreat is Sacred Song: The Voice of God's People, and the Bible verse is Colossians 3:16. "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

Rob and I are privileged to be two of the three leaders for the retreat.The two of us have taught liturgy and hymnody together in several venues now, and are blessed to have the opportunity once again.

"So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us" (2 Thess. 2:15).

More about LM–A can be found at: lutheranmissionaustralia.org.au.

"GLAD HYMNS FOREVER: ALLELUIA"

Two circuits in the thumb of Michigan joined together for a celebration of our hymnody and hymnals in this 500th anniversary year of the first Lutheran hymnals. The theme for their October 5 convocation, "Glad Hymns Forever: Alleluia," fit the day well.

Rev. Steve Starke gave the keynote address on the first Lutheran hymnal, the Achtliederbuch (Eight song book).

Starke told about Martin Luther's first hymn in 1523 and his discovery from that of the power of music combined with God's Word. Luther continued writing hymns and encouraged his colleagues to do the same, bringing on a flourish of hymn writing and new hymnals, and establishing the Lutheran Church as a singing church.

As Luther wrote to his friend. George Spalatin:

"[Our] plan is to follow the example of the prophets and the ancient fathers of the church, and to compose psalms for the people [in the] vernacular, that is, spiritual songs, so that the Word of God may be among the people also in the form of music."

The need for hymns in the vernacular continues 500 years later, in 2024, on the mission field, so in my presentation I talked about the translation of hymns into Mandarin, Indonesian, and Tamil, as part of the ongoing work on hymnals in Taiwan, Indonesia, and 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."

You can support my work for the LCMS in Asia…

- To give by mail, send a check to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MI 63166 Memo:Rhein-Asia:
- To give securely online, scan the QR code or visit lcms.org/rhein
- You can ALSO make checks payable to "Mission Central" and send your tax deductible gift to our friends at: Mission Central, 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034.