SERVING THE LORD IN

TAIWAN

NEWS FROM HANNAH HESTER

March 2025

LEARN CHINESE

復活節快樂

Fùhuó jié kuàilè

Happy Easter

- *The first and second characters are* fùhuó. 復活(fùhuó) translates to “resurrection”.
- *The third character means festival or holiday.*節(jié) is used any time there is a special holiday celebration.
- *The last two characters are expressing happiness.*快樂 (kuàilè) are used on all the holidays to wish happiness to others.
- *This phrase will be heard once Lent is over, and we celebrate resurrection of our Lord and Savior.*
- *Thanks to Heather from Iowa for suggesting this phrase.*

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

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

hannah.hester@lcms.org

Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society for the Chinese (ELMSC)

Another project that many of us in Taiwan have been helping with is the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society for the Chinese (ELMSC). This is a nonprofit organization that gained 501c3 status in the state of Indiana in 2013. That’s right homebase is actually stateside. Since 2019 it is also a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church−Missouri Synod.

This society has lots of projects within itself. Annually there is a seminar in Chinese on Luther’s Small Catechism and Holy Scripture at the campus of Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. This has been going on since 2014 with participants from the United States, Canada, and Taiwan. The purpose of the seminar is further educate Mandarin-speaking Lutheran pastors as well as allow laity the opportunity to learn more of Lutheran theology in their native language. The next seminar is this summer, June 19-23; right before the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League’s (LWML) national convention.

Another task that the society is working on is helping to create and issue Chinese Lutheran resources. There are also some translation projects that the society has been assisting in, such as the Chinese Lutheran Service Book. Besides aiding in translation work, there are needs to distribute this material. The society has increased their support of shipping these materials to those Chinese Christians who would have the most use of them.

Since we are in the 21st century, the society has joined the digital world and has a website (lutheranchinese.org). This site is accessible in countries where YouTube and Google are restricted. The content includes audio, text, and video Lutheran resources in Chinese that can be downloaded and shared. I have been asked to help with organization of the website materials. Check out the site to learn more and even learn some Chinese hymns.

Pictures: Happy Easter written in Chinese, ELMSC logo found on the website (https://lutheranchinese.org/elmsc/)

Alex, a friend of a friend

I want to share about a story that my friend, Swimming, shared with me. Swimming, yes that is his English name that he has chosen. His Chinese name sounds similar to the English word swimming, not because he is exceptionally great at aquatics.

Swimming is one of my closest Taiwanese friends. He has known the American missionaries for years. He used to live and work in Chiayi and would go to Friday Night Bible Study at my church to practice English. He went before I was in Taiwan. I continually pray that God will open his heart to hear the Word. He has let me pray for him and his family. He reminds me to bless our meals together before we eat. He always wants to introduce any Taiwanese Christian that he meets to me; which brings me to Alex.

I must confess, I have never met Alex in person. But what I do know is Alex is an avid badminton player and so is Swimming. Swimming loves badminton so much that he joined a badminton gym near his house. This is where he met Alex; Alex is also a member of this badminton gym. They had formed a fast friendship. Alex decided to share with Swimming that he wanted to learn more about God and had lots of questions. Swimming then of course wanted to tell me about this. Swimming knows my faith is strong and wants to help others to have strong faith even if he doesn't believe.

He created a messaging group with me, Alex, Alex's wife, and himself. The purpose of this chat was to introduce me to Alex. Alex had questions and wanted to go to church. The problem is that he lives in a city about an hour from my church so it would be difficult to have him come to Chiayi for church. He found a church and started going. I offered to answer questions that he had as best as I could or offer to ask a pastor for him. This group message was created almost a year ago.

Two days ago, Swimming sent a picture of Alex being baptized! Praise the Lord and prayers for his continued journey with God. I messaged the group and he talked about needing to continue his studies. I can't wait to meet *in person* this brother of mine.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Continued prayers for Boni's brother, mother, and father with health issues. Pray for healing and comfort for the family.*
- *ARC application with strict regulations.*
- *Good weather for a youth group event the first weekend in April.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Alex and his baptism*
- *Time with friends and family*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *New missionary friends being deployed to the Dominican Republic*
- *Friends who are pregnant*

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

(Acts 2:38)

彼得說：你們各人要悔改，奉耶穌基督的名受洗，叫你們的罪得赦，就必領受所賜的聖靈；

(使徒行傳2:38)

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 Hannah Hester. 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 "Hester – Taiwan."

Give securely from any device: *lcms.org/givenow/missionarypage*.
Call a donor care representative: 888-930-4438.

Pictures: Alex being baptized, my friend's baby shower – Laura and Kyle