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News from Pastor Michael & Jen-Yi "Irene" Paul serving our Lord in Taiwan michael.paul@lcms.org

Pastor Paul's Call

Pastor Paul is a theological educator in Taiwan, serving with the China Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC). He teaches God's Word at seminary and congregational levels, and develops text, audio, and video resources for the Chinese Church.

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

Missionary as Resource Sharer

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Most pastors and other Church servants in Taiwan are exceedingly busy. Since over 95% of Taiwanese are without faith in Christ, the Church is surrounded--even overwhelmed--by needs and opportunities. One result is that Church leaders often find it difficult to spend time preparing their own Bible studies and other teaching materials. The fact that most schools in Taiwan focus on memorizing correct answers and not on creative thinking makes it even more challenging for pastors and teachers to develop their own resources. That's why one of my significant roles here as a missionary in Taiwan is to develop and share such resources with the Church. In just the past two weeks, I was asked to share my Chinese resources on teaching the Old Testament, the Book of Concord, the traditional worship liturgy, the Church Year, and also my Maundy Thursday and Good Friday liturgies, a funeral liturgy, simple piano accompaniments for hymns and the liturgy, and material to play handbells for Easter Sunday. In addition, my Small Catechism PowerPoint files and videos, as well as my sermons (text, audio, and video) continue to be used a great deal in Taiwan and beyond. Having access to these ready-made resources enables the Taiwan Church leaders to focus on other things that they're good at. But preparing them is also a good fit for me, as I've always enjoyed trying to be creative. It's such a blessing how our Lord places us all in His Church together to serve with the specific gifts and abilities He's given to each of us.

> So we, though many, are one body in Christ…having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.
> Romans 12:5-6 (ESV)

WITNESS ALWAYS

What can you pray for?

Thanks for:

- the opportunity to create and share Biblical resources with the Church in Taiwan
- God's gifts of music and especially the message of salvation in Christ, which were joined so wonderfully at the recent music recital

Petitions for:

- an upcoming retreat on marriage and the family, including speaker Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer, coming from the U.S.
- preparations for our upcoming summer home service

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the Word of the Lord endures forever

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Musical Outreach Again!

Ms. Rebecca Bartelt, our Asia Regional Music Educator, organized our second music recital at the Chiayi Luther Building this past Saturday. While Irene couldn't attend (since she was playing music elsewhere!) she invited many of her musical friends from the community to perform. I got involved by composing a simple arrangement for six recorders on "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" and also by playing for a French Horn duet. There were 23 total pieces, including five songs sung with a clear Christian message, especially highlighting Lent and Easter. Additional spoken commentary by both our local Chinese pastor, Rev. Alexander Wu, and by some of the performers presented the Christian witness even more strongly. I was especially glad to see two families present at the recital. One was a family which had lost contact with the Church over the past few years, but was willing to make a "soft" return by attending this recital. The other family has begun coming regularly to Salvation Lutheran Church's Friday night English Bible Study, and having the mother and son perform at this recital was a great way to strengthen their connection to God's Word. What a joyous time we all had enjoying God's wonderful gift of music and even greater gift of the message of salvation in Christ!

playing "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

U.S. Home Service

While I've had very little time yet to prepare for it, our summer U.S. home service is fast approaching. If you haven't already, please let us know if you would like us to try to visit your congregation. We plan to be in Texas from May 26 to June 4, and then in the Midwest (especially Indiana, Iowa, and Wisconsin) until August 12. Our schedule (which will continue to be updated) is available online here: https://sites.google.com/view/2025homeservice/home

Keeping up-to-date: If you're not receiving this newsletter by email but would like to, please contact us at michael.paul@lcms.org. For frequent Facebook updates, go to the Facebook group: "Michael Paul family Taiwan mission."

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at *www.lcms.org/service*. Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support our work financially, you may make checks payable (memo line: "Support of Missionary Michael Paul") to "The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod" and send your tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

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.