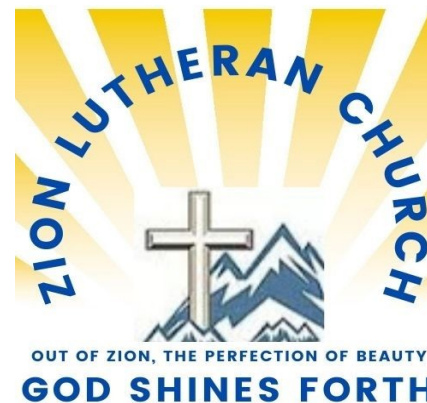


MISSION PRAYER LIST

Missionary Travels – Our missionaries are traveling to several different countries during January and February to visit our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. On January 7th, Missionary Bruce Naumann returned to Tanzania. On January 12th, Missionary Todd Ohlmann and Board of Missions Chairman Joel Krafft departed for a visit to Togo and Liberia. Part-Time Missionary Pastor Paul Nolting will be heading to Tanzania later in January to teach at Wittenburg Lutheran Theological Seminary while Missionary Naumann visits Kenya and Uganda. Joel Krafft will travel from Liberia to Kenya and join Missionary Naumann, Pastor Jeremia Issangya, and Kinship Chairman and Christian School Instructor Supervisor Ted Quade in Nairobi on Friday, January 26. These men will be visiting Moi's Bridge, Kenya; Iganga, Uganda; and Etogo, Kenya, during a 10-day trip. At the end of January, Missionary Ohlmann and CLC Board of Doctrine member Pastor Andrew Schaller will travel to the Philippines to conduct an in-person colloquy with Pastor Jordan Palangyos of the Lutheran Autonomous Mission of the Philippines. Please pray for safe and uneventful travels for our missionaries and that the Lord will bless their preaching and teaching of His Word to accomplish His will.

India (Southeast Asia) – In early December, Cyclone Michaung hit the eastern coast of India, causing damage and flooding to the churches of the BELC as well as the Martin Luther Bible School (MLBS) pastor training center. The storm affected eleven out of the fourteen districts of the BELC, resulting in 55 churches and the MLBS being damaged and in need of repair. The Board of Missions has approved a Kinship disaster relief grant to assist with building repairs and reconstruction. Pray for the Lord's continued protection and provision as our brothers and sisters in Christ begin the clean-up and recovery from this disaster. Ask our Heavenly Father to send His Holy Spirit to give comfort, courage, strength, and hope in His perfect love and plans as they struggle during these trying times. And thank the Lord for the compassionate and generous hearts that provide support through offerings to Kinship.

Myanmar (South Asia) – Pastor Kham recently reported that the Myanmar military had dropped bombs on portions of the city of Kalaymyo. Fortunately, the bombing did not affect the CLC-Myanmar (CLCM) church or orphanage, and there were no injuries to CLCM. However, several private homes, businesses, and church buildings were destroyed or damaged. There were more than twenty people killed and many more injured. February 1 will mark the third anniversary of the military takeover and, thus, three years of civil war. The people of Myanmar and our brothers and sisters in Christ continue to suffer. Please pray for the innocent bystanders caught in this conflict, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ of the CLC-Myanmar. Ask that God's will be done as this conflict continues and that peace may prevail.



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The Order of Worship

OPENING PRAYER: *We ask the Lord's blessings on our worship.*

HYMN: #126.....*"Arise and Shine In Splendor"*

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS & ABSOLUTION

P: God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

Cong: If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Cong: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Then let us confess our sins to God in prayer and seek His forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Cong: Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature and have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray, of Your bountiful mercy, be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH COUNCIL: The church council will meet today following the service to prepare for the upcoming annual voters' meeting.

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING: Our annual voters' meeting is scheduled for next Sunday to begin at 1:00 PM EST. It is during this meeting that we elect officers for the church and conduct other important business such as establishing a budget and generally sets the tone of our ministry for the year. Since things have changed considerably for us since last year, there is much to discuss and to decide on. The church council will be discussing much of this today and will be forwarding to the voters a list of some of the things we will be encouraging the voters to consider. Please come to the meeting well informed, by reading the emails that come to you this week, and well prepared, through much prayer to our Lord.

CALL NEWS: Mr. Dan Roehl has been called to be the new professor at Immanuel Lutheran College, Eau Claire, WI, replacing retiring Professor Mark Kranz. Pastor Thomas Schuetze of St. Paul Lutheran of Lakewood, CO is still considering the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI. Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Rapid City, SD has returned the call from Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. Ann Sprengler, teacher at Faith Lutheran School in Markesan, WI, will be retiring from the teaching ministry as of the end of the current school year.

you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." (49) And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (50) And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. (51) And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. (52) And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Not Taken For Granted

THE OFFERING: *We offer our livelihood to the Lord in response to His grace.*

THE PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER: *We offer our petitions to the Lord and join in the prayer our Lord taught us.*

HYMN: #343 (1-4).....*"How Lovely Shines the Morning Star"*

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Cong: Amen. Amen. Amen.

P: Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in every need. In the peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord.

Cong: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O Lord, almighty and most gracious God, we thank You that You have revealed to us the wonders of Your love in Your Son, Christ Jesus, our Savior. As You have given us grace to believe on Him for eternal salvation, so we pray that You would work in us by Your Spirit through the Gospel that we might more fully know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. As we grow in in grace, so cause us also to grow in our Christian conduct; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit—one God, forever and ever.

Cong: Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6

(ESV) Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. (2) For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. (3) And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. (4) Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. (5) Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. (6) A multitude

of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 12:1-12

(ESV) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (2) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (3) For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. (4) For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, (5) so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (6) Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; (7) if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; (8) the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. (9) Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. (10) Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (11) Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. (12) Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the
right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Holy Christian Church, the communion of
saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN: #129.....*“Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing”*

THE SERMON: Luke 2:41-52

(ESV) Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. (42) And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. (43) And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, (44) but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, (45) and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. (46) After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (47) And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. (48) And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have