



Pastor Paul's Call

Pastor Paul is a theological educator in Taiwan, serving with the China Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC) and China Lutheran Seminary (CLS). He is called to teach, write, and help plant and pastor Lutheran churches.

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

Dingtai Chou had a successful career in Taiwan's world-famous technology industry, but came to realize that his success and entire life was simply “meaningless,” as Ecclesiastes puts it. But then, especially through the efforts of his older son, God's Word and Spirit reached him, converted him, and gave him true meaning in life. After becoming active in his local Presbyterian congregation, he even decided to take early retirement and study God's Word full-time at the nearby China Lutheran Seminary. While there, he discovered the grace-centered Biblical Lutheran theology and requested to do field work in an authentic traditional Lutheran congregation...and was directed to our Church home here. After graduating this June, earning the Master of Divinity degree, he is now a vicar serving at our congregation. Being a still rather new Christian, Vicar Chou especially enjoys sharing the Christian faith with non-Christians, and hopes to help our congregation reach out more to our neighborhood in different ways. I'm blessed to be able to serve together with Vicar Chou and mentor him especially in teaching and preaching.

Meet Vicar Dingtai Chou



l - r: Vicar Chou, me, Vicar Chou's wife Jiayu, their younger son Ryan, Ryan's girlfriend Candace, CELC Church body president Rev. Andrew Miao, CELC vice president Rev. Dr. Joseph Lu

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (Ecclesiastes 12:13 ESV)





What can you pray for?

Thanks for:

- the service of Vicar Chou
- eased restrictions for missionaries coming to Taiwan
- Ryan becoming a Church member and Candace continuing to hear God's Word

Petitions for:

- missionaries to soon finally arrive in Taiwan
- our congregation's VBS program August 15-19
- 5th grader Yuyu, preparing for Baptism
- Candace, that God's Word & Spirit would work faith in her

Our mailing address:

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our mission
station's crucifix

Our official website:
www.lcms.org/paul

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."

COVID-19 Update

The good news is that the Taiwan government continues to very slowly relax restrictions within Taiwan and open the borders to those coming in from the outside. We're especially thankful that now Christian missionaries are finally able to apply for visas to come here. We are first anticipating Rev. Dr. Tom Park's arrival, who has been waiting for well over a year to get in. After him, several others will Lord-willing be arriving in the next several months. The bad news is that everyone is still required to wear masks here nearly all the time, short-term visitors to Taiwan are still not allowed in, and quarantine requirements make life difficult for many. Several of our members have contracted the coronavirus, and one member's father died partly as a result. We continue to pray for our Lord's mercy and strength, and also for relief from this plague.



Update on Ryan & Candace

I've written previously about Ryan Chou, the younger son of our now *Vicar* Dingtai Chou, and his girlfriend Candace. I first led a study on world-views with them, and then led them through many Old Testament Bible stories. Lately, though, I taught a Church membership class for Ryan, and Candace was willing to join our discussions. This past Sunday, Ryan became a communicant member of our congregation (and his father promptly put him to work, helping prepare for our upcoming VBS!). Candace has yet to confess faith in Christ, but she continues to meet with Ryan and me, and has been coming very regularly to Sunday worship with Ryan as well. They are planning to get married probably sometime in the next year. We all hope and pray that God's Word and Spirit will first grant her Christian faith and lead her to desire Christian baptism.

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."

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.

