



Coming for the Gospel

A few weeks ago a man and two of his young sons showed up at our mission congregation on a Sunday morning. We were surprised to learn that Pingjun knew about us from regularly listening to my sermons and teaching online. He lives almost four hours away but that weekend happened to be just 45 minutes away where his wife's parents live. He and his sons made a special trip to attend our worship, because he wanted to hear in person the Law-Gospel teaching and preaching that he had heard online. (In Taiwan, most churches teach and preach nearly all Law --- all about how Christians need to "try harder." Very little is mentioned about God's love and forgiveness in Christ.) That Sunday morning, he first attended Irene's children's Sunday school class with his sons, and then heard me teach for the pre-worship "mini Bible class." He next cherished our traditional liturgical worship, which is also extremely rare in Taiwan. After worship he showed us that he had purchased several books I had recommended during one of my lectures. Our member Sharon, who works with publications for our partner synod here, was quick to introduce more good books, and he's since purchased some of those as well. Unfortunately, we could not recommend a good Lutheran church in his home town. He attends the best he's able to find there, but longs for a church...like the one he attended that morning. His visit was a nice encouragement to us, but also a reminder of the countless needs there are in Taiwan for churches and pastors that teach and preach God's Word clearly, accurately distinguishing and applying God's Word of Law and Gospel.



Pingjun

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.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.
(2 Timothy 2:15 ESV)





What can you pray for?

Thanks for:

- Pingjun's desire for the faithful preaching and teaching of God's Word
- the preaching course, which helped our preaching and gave us encouragement

Petitions for:

- Taiwan churches and pastors, that God's Word would be taught as clearly and faithfully as possible
- our mission congregation's upcoming move
- our home service preparation

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."

Preaching Progress



A few days ago was my last of 15 classes for the continuing education course I taught on preaching. The four students and I already have lots of preaching experience already, so the course was focused on fine-tuning our skills, especially distinguishing and applying Law and Gospel. Two of the men in particular commented frequently throughout the course how helpful it was. Moses was grateful that the Gospel is now much more prominent in his preaching, as it was hardly there at all during the past few years. Ivan expressed how the work we did on sermon structure and outlining was invaluable for him, making sermon preparation much less stressful than before. Aside from learning together, the five of us all thoroughly enjoyed the Christian fellowship that the course provided. We all certainly challenged and critiqued each other often during the course, but we also encouraged and supported one another as well. What a tremendous blessing!

Home Service Coming...



Every two years we spend a few months in the US during the summer to visit congregations to report on the mission work here in Taiwan. We plan to be in the US from the beginning of May 'til the beginning of August. We hope to see many of you there! Please stay tuned for our schedule as it gets set over the next two months. We're planning to be as east as Ohio and as west as Nebraska, focusing especially on Indiana, Wisconsin, and Iowa.

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.