

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

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Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Isaac Schmitt (Principal)

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

November 17, 2024 † **Pentecost 26**



We Welcome Our Visitors who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday.

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 146 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.
To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

Opening Hymn: 673 Jerusalem, My Happy Home

LSB 673



1 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home,
2 O hap - py har - bor of the saints,
3 Thy gar - dens and thy gal - lant walks
4 There trees for - ev - er - more bear fruit



When shall I come to thee? When shall my sor - rows
O sweet and pleas - ant soil! In thee no sor - row
Con - tin - ual - ly are green; There grow such sweet and
And ev - er - more do spring; There ev - er - more the



have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?
may be found, No grief, no care, no toil.
pleas - ant flow'rs As no - where else are seen.
an - gels dwell And ev - er - more do sing.

5 Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there
Around my Savior stand;
And soon my friends in Christ below
Will join the glorious band.

6 O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare
For that bright home of love
That I may see Thee and adore
With all Thy saints above.

Text: F. B. P., 16th cent., alt.
Tune: American
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- C** **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.
- C** **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:5, 7-9)
- P** Let us pray...
- C** **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer:
We confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.**
- 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 time of need. In the joy and peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord...

“Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices” LSB 811

1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es To praise my
God with thou-sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
joic - es, Would then pro-claim in grate - ful songs To all, wher -
ev - er I might be, What great things God has done for me.

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658-1734; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691-1758
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862 Tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, by Your victory You have broken the power of the evil one. Fill our hearts with joy and peace as we look with hope to that day when every creature in heaven and earth will acclaim You King of kings and Lord of lords to Your unending praise and glory; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 51:4-6 (NKJV)

⁴ " Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation: For law will proceed from Me, And I will make My justice rest As a light of the peoples. ⁵ My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, And My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait upon Me, And on My arm they will trust. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, The earth will grow old like a garment, And those who dwell in it will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not be abolished.

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4-7 (NKJV)

P The second reading is from Revelation 1:4-7

C Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

**☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits 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 of the Day: 663 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

LSB 663



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a - wak -
2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares Lest a - sleep he find
3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de - feat
4 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you tri -
5 But while watch - ing, al - so pray To the Lord un - ceas -



en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a - wares o'er -
you; For in - deed no pains he spares To de - ceive and
you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be - tray and
fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's mer - cy
ing. God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and faith in -



tak - en; For the foe, Well we know, Is a
 blind you. Sa - tan's prey Oft are they Who se -
 cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less
 sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your
 creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u -



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.
 cure are sleep - ing And no watch are keep - ing.
 friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.
 hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.
 nite to serve Him And for - ev - er love Him.

Text: Johann Burkhard Freystein, 1671–1718; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Hundert . . . geistlicher Arien, 1694, Dresden, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Luke 12:35-40

(NKJV)

³⁵ " Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; ³⁶ "and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. ³⁷ "Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. ³⁸ "And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. ³⁹ "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Sermon Theme: Be Like Those Waiting for Their Lord

- 1. With our lamps burning**
- 2. With our loins girded**

Offertory

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Public domain

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

Sermon Hymn: 516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

LSB 516



1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," The watch - men on the
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, And all her heart with
3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels



heights are cry - ing; "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"
joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym - bals' clear - est tone.



Mid-night hears the wel-come voic - es And at the thrill-ing
 For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join-ing with the



cry re - joic - es: "Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?
 truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.
 choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne.



The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!
 Now come, Thou Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son,
 No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might



Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your - selves pre - pare
 Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall
 Of Thy glo - ry; There - fore will we E - ter - nal - ly



To meet the Bride - groom, who is near."
 To eat the Sup - per at Thy call.
 Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Church *We bring our prayers to God.*

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

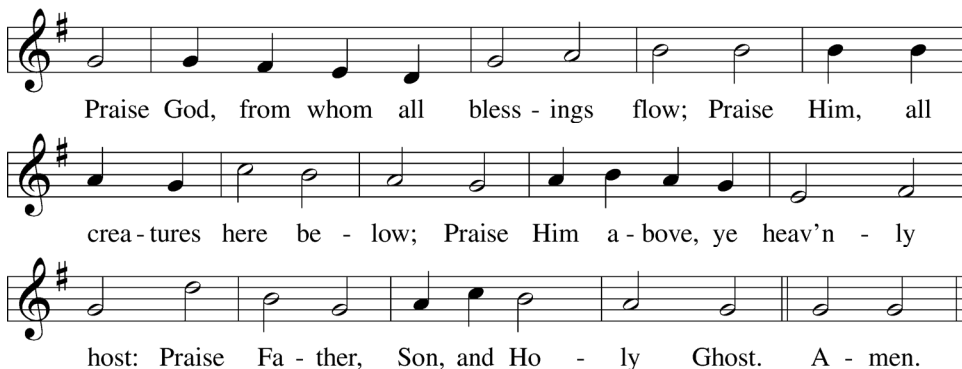
- ☞ Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

- ☐ The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

The Doxology

LSB 805



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Public domain

Closing Hymn: 677 For All the Saints

LSB 677



1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest,
2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might;
3 Oh, may Thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,
4 Oh, blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!

Who Thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, Thy
Thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
Fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old And
We fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; Yet

name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
Thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
win with them the vic - tor's crown of gold!
all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
 Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
 And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
 Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
 Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
 The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
 The King of Glory passes on His way.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
 Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
 Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt.
 Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **10am Worship Service**
 11am Choir Rehearsal

Next Sunday: **10am Worship Service**
11/24/24

Upcoming: **10am Thanksgiving Day Worship Service** (11/28/24)
 11am Sunday, December 1st Christmas Eve practice for the children
 11am Sunday, December 1st Putting up the Christmas decorations in the church.

Letter to SSLS Parents The following letter from SSLS Board of Education was given to the parents of SSLS students. It reveals the financial situation of the school and addresses the prospects of having school for 2025-2026.

Dear St Stephen Families,

The Lord has truly blessed us for nearly 30 years with the ability to share His word with the community and we are extremely grateful and feel blessed for this opportunity. Through those years, He has taught us to trust in Him and although we had some tough years, He continued to make it possible for us to continue and even thrive thanks to generous donors, generous volunteers, and reserve funds. Due to the steady decline in enrollment, the school is no longer able to maintain fiscal stability. We feel we have done everything we can to provide quality education, a safe environment and a healthy place for your children to grow and promoted this through written advertising, social media, and word of mouth. However, this year the projected loss for the current fiscal year is about \$80,000 which is expected to nearly deplete the reserve funds. We are expecting to have sufficient funds to finish the 2024-2025 school year and are committed to finishing out this school year.

Looking ahead to the 2025-2026 school year, with an enrollment of four children, the projected loss would be about \$60,000, even if we go down to one teacher. It would take another 5 additional students or an accumulated donation of \$60,000 or a combination of both to continue to operate and to be financially sustainable for the near future. Although no

final decision has been made on the 2025-2026 school year, we wish to give everyone a clear picture of the current situation. ***A final decision will be made by the Board of Education at our January 14th meeting giving you all ample time to decide how to proceed.***

We continue to trust the Lord will make it clear to us the direction He intends for us. We are so very thankful to all of you for entrusting the education of your child/children to us. Some of you we have known for many years, some are new to our community. No matter, we are ever so grateful to all of you.

Any questions can be directed to our principal, Isaac Schmitt: principal@ssls.org.

In Service to Him,
St Stephen Board of Education

SSLS Library Books Our SSLS teachers are hoping to reduce the number of library books that our school has. Those who loaned books to the school and want them returned are asked to inform either Isaac or Mikkela Schmitt. Those who would like to receive books for their children or grandchildren are also asked to let our two teachers know that and check with our teachers to learn which books are available for the taking. Following Sunday services would be a good time to do this.

St. Stephen's Financial Update At the request made at our voter's meeting last Sunday, the following information of the latest financial report is being shared with our congregation. The report of the fiscal year to date (July 1 – November 3) shows that our expenses are \$4,720.83 greater than our offerings. The current Bank of America account balance for St. Stephen is \$233,509.57 and our Schwab investment total is \$99,183.49.

CLC World Missions Prayer List – November 2024

...pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified...

2 Thessalonians 3:1



Pakistan (South Asia) – Pastor Tim Daub and Missionary Ohlmann were unable to visit Pakistan due to a medical emergency that occurred during their flight from the U.S. Their visit will be rescheduled according to God's will. In the meantime, Pastor G. and the believers in Faisalabad continue to participate in weekly online video classes with Pastor Daub. Praise

and thank the Lord for His protection and healing for Pastor Daub and the excellent care he received at the hospital in Dubai. Ask the Lord to continue to bless the believers in Faisalabad as they grow in their faith and understanding of God's saving word.

Liberia (West Africa) – CLC Board of Missions Chairman Joel Krafft and Missionary Ohlmann are set to visit Liberia in mid-November. They will depart on November 14th and attend a four-day pastoral conference during their trip. Additionally, they will have the opportunity to meet with several independent pastors who have been working with Pastor Joseph Kwiwalazu and Pastor John Hein over the past couple of years. Pray for God's blessings and provision for the work of spreading the Gospel in Liberia and for the developing of opportunities among the independent pastors and in Guinea. Pray for the Lord's blessings on visitation preparations. Ask the Lord to bless the cancer treatments that John Hein is receiving so he can resume his work in Liberia.

Tanzania (East Africa) – Four students—Elinaja, Jasper, Raphael, and Marko—are set to graduate at the end of November. Additionally, four students will return to the seminary in January to continue their studies. Missionary Naumann reports that the seminary is expecting 5 to 7 new students in January. Thank the Lord for safe travels and productive visits. Praise God for the privilege of partnering with the TZCLC in training men to be faithful preachers and teachers of God's saving Word. Ask for God's continued blessing, guidance, and provision for Wittenberg Seminary and the work of the TZCLC.

Nepal (South Asia) – Missionary Ohlmann is set to visit Nepal in December. During his time there, he will teach fifteen students at the Himalayan Lutheran Bible Institute (HLBI). Following the week of classes at the HLBI, he will also attend and teach at a regional pastoral conference organized by the HCLCN. Ask our Savior to grant safe travels for the pastors and leaders who will attend classes and the pastoral conference. Praise the Lord for the fifteen men who have dedicated their time and lives to training for the Gospel ministry. Ask for the Lord's blessings on the upcoming visit and for all the preparations that need to take place.

Bangladesh (South Asia) – Pastor Monotosh reports that the new interim government is making positive progress, and citizens are feeling hopeful about the future as peace continues to be maintained. The plans for the BLCM building project have received government approval, and the necessary permits are ready to be issued. The contractor is prepared to begin construction as early as January or as soon as funding becomes available. The Board of Missions has approved an MDF grant to support the construction of this multipurpose building, which will serve the Bangladesh Lutheran Church Mission (BLCM). This facility will function as a Bible Institute for training faithful church workers, a place for worship, and housing for teachers and students. Thank the Lord for His protection of His children during the recent violence and change in government. Ask the Lord to bless this nation with good government so they can live in peace and continue to spread the Good

News of Jesus. Pray also for the building project and that the Lord would move the hearts of His people to give generously for this important work.

Nigeria (West Africa) – The NCLC has been planning the construction of a multipurpose building for the seminary for over twenty-five years. They have recently met their fundraising goal for the project and received approval for the building plans from the local government. Brick making and foundation work began in late-October, with hopes of completing the project by March. The CLC Board of Missions has approved an MDF grant to help with construction costs. The building will include two large classrooms, a library/computer room, and an office for faculty. For the past several years, they have been using two small dormitory rooms as classrooms. With an increase in enrollment and expectations for even larger enrollment next year, this new building is essential. Ask the Lord to bless this project and to provide necessary funding through the offerings of NCLC members and MDF offerings of CLC members. Thank the Lord for the privilege of working together in this effort to train faithful workers in His Nigerian harvest of souls!

Myanmar (South Asia) – It has been nearly four years since the military overthrew Myanmar's democratically elected government, plunging the nation into a devastating civil war. Countless individuals continue to suffer, including farmers who are unable to grow crops, resulting in food shortages and high prices for basic necessities. Many members of the CLCM (Christian Laymen's Church of Myanmar) have been forced to flee their homes in search of safety for their families. With love and concern for our brothers and sisters in Christ, the CLC Board of Missions approved Kinship funding for one year. This funding provides essential humanitarian aid, ensuring access to necessities like food, shelter, and medical care for displaced CLCM members. Please continue to keep our brothers and sisters in Christ in your thoughts and prayers, asking for peace, justice, and relief for all affected by this conflict.

Togo (West Africa) – Due to Missionary Evensen's absence for knee surgery and rehab in the U.S., classes at Mt. Horeb Lutheran Seminary have continued using the curriculum by Prof. David Lau and translated by Missionary Evensen. Three students are set to graduate in March and will work to establish preaching stations and congregations before completing their training. Pray that our Savior will continue to bless the students as they finish their studies over the next several months. Ask the Lord to guide them as they work to establish new preaching stations where they will proclaim the Good News of sins forgiven in Jesus' saving name! Thank the Lord for allowing Missionary Evensen's health to improve so he was able to return to Togo.

Kenya (East Africa) – After Missionary Naumann's visit in October, the Kenya-CLC is making progress in organizing itself to better serve the congregations and share the Good News of Jesus with others. Pray for the pastors and leaders of the KCLC as they work on church registration issues and continue to serve the Lord.

Uganda (East Africa) – There is a dispute regarding the ownership of the land on which the orphanage is situated. Pastor Daniel Mugeni is hopeful that the matter will be resolved in a God-pleasing way, allowing them to remain on the property. Missionary Naumann, along with Pastor Andrew Schaller of the CLC Board of Doctrine, continue to conduct a doctrinal colloquy via correspondence with the leaders of the Confessional Lutheran Synod in Uganda (CLSU). Ask the Lord to bless the legal proceedings to protect the ownership of the orphanage. Thank the Lord for opportunity to review the precious truths of His word with the CLSU and to bless this effort to declare fellowship and work together to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

The Philippines (Southeast Asia) – Pastor Palangyos continues outreach efforts targeting the large youth population in Baguio City, where he and his family reside. Outreach activities also continue in the two rural congregations that he serves in the mountains surrounding the city. Recently, Jehovah's Witness missionaries have been trying to persuade some members to abandon the truths of God's saving word. Pray for our Savior's blessings on the outreach efforts of the Lutheran Autonomous Mission in the Philippines (LAMP), both in rural and urban areas. Ask the Lord to strengthen the faith of His children of the LAMP to resist the temptations of devil.

India (South Asia) – The CLCI and BELC continue to spread the Gospel and train dedicated preachers and teachers of God's saving Word. Currently, the CLCI has fifty-one students enrolled in its seminary, while the BELC has twenty-five students enrolled in its Bible Institute. Additionally, there are monthly pastoral training seminars held in twenty-seven districts of the BELC, benefiting over 800 pastors. Thank the Lord for the privilege of assisting the work of spreading the Good News of Jesus in this predominantly Hindu nation. Ask our Savior to provide all that is necessary to continue this important work.

Missionary Peter Evensen (Togo, West Africa) – Missionary Evensen returned to Togo on Tuesday, November 12. He will continue rehabilitation from knee surgery in Togo while resuming his missionary duties at the seminary and in the local congregation in Lomé. Thank the Lord for His protection and healing during Missionary Evensen's health issues and pray for continued health and recovery as he returns to his work in Togo.

Missionary Bruce Naumann (Tanzania-East Africa) – Missionary Naumann and Paula will spend a few weeks in December in the U.S. to visit family. They plan to return to Tanzania in time for the beginning of the new semester at the seminary in early January. You can follow Missionary Naumann's blog at: <https://clc-tz.blogspot.com/> Praise the Lord for all that is being accomplished by Missionary Naumann, and ask our Savior to grant safe and uneventful travels for both Bruce and Paula.

Missionary Todd Ohlmann – Missionary Ohlmann and Board of Missions Chairman Joel Krafft left for a two-week visit to Liberia on November 14th. Afterward, Ohlmann will spend

three weeks in Nepal, teaching at the Himalayan Bible Institute, attending a pastoral conference, and visiting HCLCN congregations. He is also assisting with the pastoral vacancy at Faith Lutheran Church in St. Louis. Ask the Lord to bless and provide for all the necessary preparations for these trips to take place. Please continue to pray for his wife, Beth, as she cares for her elderly father, who longs for his heavenly home. You can read reports and see pictures here: missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com

Ongoing Opportunities – Please continue to pray for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, who, by God's grace, are dedicated to proclaiming the truths of God's saving Word for the salvation of souls as they trust the promise of our Savior that His Word will not return to Him void but will accomplish that for which He sent it. That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. Psalm 67:2



CLC CALL NEWS Pastor Frank Gantt of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Loganville, GA has **returned** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> Pastor Caleb Schaller of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI has **received** the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Teacher Collette Krause of Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD has announced her **retirement** effective the end of the current school year.