

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600

Mark Gullerud, Vacancy Pastor

Email: markgull76@hotmail.com † **Cell:** (605) 282-9185



Online Video Production: Chris Holt, Michael Slattengren

Website: - sslwest.org

Church Office: (650) 964-5915

St. Stephen Lutheran School Staff: Isaac & Mikkela Schmitt (Teachers),
Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Isaac Schmitt (Principal)

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

January 12, 2025 † Epiphany 1



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. Please sign our guestbook in the entry.

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 8 (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.sslwest.org/worship.html>

791 All People That on Earth Do Dwell



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With - out our
3 O en - ter then His gates with praise; Ap - proach with
4 For why? The Lord our God is good: His mer - cy
△ 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with mirth, His
aid He did us make. We are His folk, He
joy His courts un - to. Praise, laud, and bless His
is for - ev - er sure. His truth at all times
heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the



praise forth - tell; Come ye be - fore Him and re - joice.
doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.
name al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood And shall from age to age en - dure.
an - gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1593, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

SERVICE OF THE WORD

(Worship Supplement, p. 12)

Invocation

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

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

G **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy upon me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. Through faith in Him, which was created in you by the Holy Spirit, you are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

G **Amen.**

Kyrie *Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.* W.S. p. 13

♪ Lord have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

Gloria in Excelsis *Latin for "Glory to God in the highest."* W.S. p. 13

**♪ Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.**

**Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God's right hand in majesty most high:
Who with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.**

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son in Whom You were well pleased. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling and enable us to finally enjoy the inheritance of eternal life in heaven; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13 (NKJV)

Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons." ² And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³ "Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you." ⁴ So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." ⁸ So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." ¹¹ And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the

youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here." ¹² So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7 (NKJV)

P The second reading is from Titus 3:4-7

⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it!

Alleluia and Verse

When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing "Allelujah!"—meaning, "Praise the Lord!"

***♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
These words are written that we may believe
That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Apostles' Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

W.S. p. 15

C 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: 405 "To Jordan's River Came our Lord"

LSB 405



1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, The Christ, whom
 2 The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized— The Son of
 3 As Je - sus in the Jor - dan stood And John bap -
 4 Then from God's throne with thun - d'rous sound Came God's own



heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, The God from God, the
 God in flesh dis - guised— To stand be - neath the
 tized the Lamb of God, The Ho - ly Spir - it,
 voice with words pro - found: "This is My Son," was



Light from Light, The Lord of glo - ry, pow'r, and might.
 Fa - ther's will And all His righ - teous - ness ful - fill.
 heav'n - ly dove, De - scend - ed on Him from a - bove.
 His de - cree, "The one I love, who pleas - es Me."

5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight
 Anointed Christ in glorious sight
 As God's own choice, from Adam's fall
 To save the world and free us all.

6 Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;
This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

Text: James P. Tiefel, 1949, alt.

Tune: Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, 1690, Hamburg, alt.

Text: © 1993 James P. Tiefel. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862

Tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Matthew 3:13-17 ¹³ *Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.* ¹⁴ *And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"* ¹⁵ *But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."* *Then he allowed Him.* ¹⁶ *When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.* ¹⁷ *And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

Sermon Theme: Wonderful Truths for our Lives Revealed at Jesus' Baptism.

W.S. p. 16

♪ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence,
Take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.
Uphold with Your Spirit free.**

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*
(† *If you have an offering to give today, please place it in the plate in the church entryway.* †)

Sermon Hymn: 404 *Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered*

LSB 404



1 Je - sus, once with sin - ners num - bered, Had no blem - ish
2 John con - fessed Him as the Sav - ior— “Look, the sin - less
3 This the bap - tism that our Sav - ior Great - ly longed to
4 Je - sus, once with sin - ners num - bered, Full o - be - dience



of His own; In the wa - ters of the Jor - dan
Lamb of God!” Yet he dared not loose the san - dals
un - der - go; This the crim - son cleans - ing need - ed
was Your path; You, by death, have con - se - crat - ed



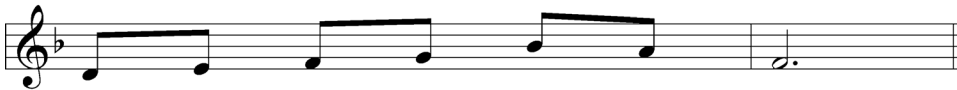
His true worth and work were shown: Heav - en o - pened
Of the One God’s love had shod. Oh, how fair the
So the world God’s love might know; This the mis - sion
Wa - ter in this sav - ing bath: Dy - ing to the



and the Spir - it There de - scend - ed like a
feet of Je - sus, Bring - ing news of peace to
of Mes - si - ah As He stepped from Jor - dan’s
sin of Ad - am, Ris - ing to a life of



dove, As the Fa - ther’s voice re - sound - ed,
us, Christ, the her - ald of sal - va - tion,
stream, He, the cho - sen and a - noint - ed
grace; We are count - ed with the righ - teous,



“Hear My Son, the One I love.”
Preach - ing mer - cy from the cross:
Son of God, sent to re - deem.
O - ver us the cross You trace.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: William B. Roberts, 1947

Text: © 1999 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862

Tune: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862

Prayers *We bring our prayers to God.*

Lord’s Prayer

- ☩ 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.**



☩ A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 394 Songs of Thanksgiving and Praise

(LSB 394)



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
2 Man - i - fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak-ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest-ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest;
Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo - rious sign;
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
Thou by all wilt be con-fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments - Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

Scripture quotations marked Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright ©

1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today:
1/12/25 **10:00 a.m. Worship Service**

This Week:

5:30 p.m. Wednesday – Bd of Ed. Meeting via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86876579256?pwd=N0I1aS9QK0svanBsVjNiMW8vZnVJQT09>

Next Sunday:
1/19/25 **10:00 a.m. Worship Service**
 11:00 a.m. Voters' Meeting with Annual Reports

Upcoming:
January 25th 9 a.m.-11a.m. Zoom CLC Women's Retreat
January 26th 11 a.m. St. Stephen Ladies' Auxiliary meet

Online Worship Services - <https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

Call Meeting Last Sunday the voters of St. Stephen decided to issue a call to Pastor Paul Krause of Watertown, SD to serve as our next full time resident pastor. Below you will find a letter from Pastor Krause, acknowledging receipt of our call.

Dear Members of St. Stephen Lutheran Congregation,

Last Sunday I received the call that you extended to me to serve as your pastor.

Together with you, I recognize this as a divine call, and as such I assure you that I will be giving it my careful and prayerful attention. It is the Lord who has given "some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ..." (Ephesians 4:11-12)

I appreciate communicating with Timothy Blank and retired Pastor Mark Gullerud – and I will reach out to them with any questions I may have.

We pray for our Lord's guidance in everything that we do, every choice we make, every decision we arrive at – and it is no different here. So, I ask you to join me in praying, as the hymn writer put it – "Jesus, be with me and direct me... Jesus, be in my thoughts all day." (TLH 120:5)

Working with you in His kingdom, Pastor Paul T. Krause

Thank You to those who with willing hearts and hands took down the Christmas decorations in church and stored them away for another year of Christmas celebrations.

Annual Reports Meeting of the voters will be held next Sunday, following the worship service. Voters will be reviewing the reports from various church boards concerning the activity of 2024. Also at the meeting, voters will be considering the Board of Education's recommendation on whether or not we will be able to continue to conduct our Christian Day School for the next school year.

National CLC Women's Zoom Retreat will be held on Saturday, January 25th from 9 a.m.- 11 a.m. To register for this retreat click the following link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/PressPause25>

CLC Call News Sam Naumann of Eau Claire, WI has **received** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> Teacher Claire Abbas of Berea Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights, MN has **received** the call to Trinity Lutheran School, Watertown, SD.

CLC World Missions Prayer List – January 2025

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

2 Thessalonians 3:1



Myanmar (South Asia) – On December 28th, the military forcibly entered the CLC-Myanmar orphanage home, where the Kinship orphans live with Pastor Kham and his wife. They took one of the orphans, a fifteen-year-old boy, to be conscripted into the army. That day, more than 100 young boys were taken from the region. The military agreed to release any boy whose family could pay a hefty bribe. Money was quickly borrowed to pay the bribe, and the orphan was released before he could be sent away to an unknown location, potentially never to be seen again. The CLC Board of Missions has approved a grant from Kinship to repay the loan, helping to alleviate further hardships for Pastor Kham and his family. The harsh military rule and civil war have been ongoing for nearly four years since the **military coup in February 2021**. Our brothers and sisters of the CLC-M have suffered greatly and live in constant fear as much of the fiercest war has been fought in the region where they are located. Thank the Lord for the safe return of the boy and for providing the resources to assist our brothers and sisters during these difficult times. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers, asking for peace, justice, good government, and relief for all who are affected by this conflict.

Bangladesh (South Asia) – The CLC will sponsor a four-day pastoral training seminar in Gopalganj for the pastors and leaders of the Bangladesh Lutheran Church Mission (BLCM) in mid-January. Missionary Ohlmann and Pastor Monotosh will lead the studies. More than fifty pastors and church leaders are expected to attend. 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 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 BLCM as a Bible Institute for training faithful church workers, a place for worship, and housing for teachers and students. In mid-January, Missionary Ohlmann will spend two weeks in Bangladesh teaching at the seminar and visiting several congregations and preaching stations of the BLCM for outreach. Ask the Lord to bless the pastoral training seminar and Gospel outreach. Continue to pray for the building project and that the Lord would move the hearts of His people to give generously for this important work.

The Philippines (Southeast Asia) – Pastor Palangyos had several new opportunities to preach the Good News as part of the Lutheran Autonomous Mission in the Philippines (LAMP) December outreach program. The Christmas outreach was conducted both in rural and urban areas. Missionary Ohlmann will spend ten days in the Philippines working with Pastor Palangyos and the LAMP in late January and early February. Plans include visiting an independent Lutheran congregation with no pastor in a mountain village. Ask the Lord to strengthen the faith of His children of the LAMP and to fill them with zeal to spread the Gospel. And ask for our Savior to bless the outreach efforts of the LAMP so that many more may join us in repenting of our sins and rejoicing in our forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

India (South Asia) – Southern India, where the CLCI and BELC are located, has recently experienced historically heavy rainfall in late December, leading to significant flooding and damage to church buildings and homes of many members. The CLC has faced difficulties in sending funds to India due to restrictions imposed by the pro-Hindu/anti-Christian government on charitable contributions from abroad. No funds can be sent until a solution is found. Pray that the Lord will protect, support, and strengthen the faith of His children in India during the challenges brought about by the recent floods, and ask Him to provide a way for the CLC to continue supporting the ongoing training of faithful pastors and church leaders.

Tanzania (East Africa) – Four students, Elinaja, Jasper, Raphael, and Marko, [graduated from the seminary](#) at the end of November. Four students will return to the seminary when the new school year begins on January 20th. The seminary also expects an additional 3 or 4 new students. A pastoral conference is scheduled for Jan. 13-15 in Arusha. Missionary Naumann and Paula are scheduled to return to Tanzania on January 9th. 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. And ask the Lord to bless the upcoming pastoral conference.

Nepal (South Asia) – Missionary Ohlmann visited [Nepal in December](#). While in Nepal, he taught the fifteen Kinship supported students enrolled in the Himalayan Lutheran Bible Institute (HLBI). He and Raju also led studies at a regional pastoral conference organized by the HCLCN, with more than fifty pastors, students, and church leaders in attendance. Thank the Lord for blessing the visit and granting safe travels for Missionary Ohlmann to and from the mission field and for those who traveled many kilometers to attend the pastoral training. Thank the Lord for the fifteen men who have dedicated their time and lives to training for the Gospel ministry. Ask for the Lord's continued blessings of the Gospel outreach and ongoing ministry of the HCLC in Nepal.

Pakistan (South Asia) – Pastor G. and the believers in Faisalabad continue to participate in weekly online video classes with Pastor Daub and conduct weekly worship services on the roof of Pastor G's home. The congregation has grown and they need a larger space to meet. Praise and thank the Lord for the growth of this faithful and confessional Lutheran congregation. Ask the Lord to continue to bless these 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 had the privilege of [visiting Liberia](#) in mid-November. While their travels were delayed due to airline issues, delays, and missed connections, and they arrived a few days late, they were able to accomplish most of the goals for their visit. They attended and presented God's word at a four-day pastoral conference and had 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. Thank the Lord for safe travels and a productive visit to Liberia. Pray for God's blessings and provision for spreading the Gospel in Liberia and the developing opportunities among the independent pastors in Liberia and neighboring 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.

Nigeria (West Africa) – The NCLC has recently met its fundraising goal for a building project they have been planning for more than twenty-five years. Their plans have received approval from the local government, and they began brick-making and foundation work in late October. They hope to complete 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 study room, a library/computer room, and an office for faculty. 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!

Kenya (East Africa) – The CLC Kinship-supported schools will soon begin a new school year. Pastor Jasper, who recently graduated from Wittenberg Seminary in Tanzania, will begin daily devotions, Bible study, and Catechism instruction with the students at the school in Moi's Bridge. The Kenya-CLC is currently facing leadership and organizational challenges at St. David's Kinship School in Etago. Please pray that the Lord grants the necessary wisdom, love, patience, diligence, and clear direction as we seek His blessings for the upcoming meetings, correspondence, and crucial decisions that the leaders of the KCLC, CLC Kinship Committee, and CLC Board of Missions need to make.

Uganda (East Africa) – Missionary Naumann and Pastor Andrew Schaller (representing the CLC Board of Doctrine), will visit Uganda in mid-February to conduct the face-to-face colloquy with the leaders of the Confessional Lutheran Synod of Uganda (CLSU). During their time in Uganda, they will also provide pastoral training at a conference held by the Confessional Church of the Reformation in Uganda (CCRU), with which the CLC is already in fellowship. Please pray for safe and smooth travels for Pastor Schaller and Missionary Naumann. Ask the Lord to bless the colloquy that it will reveal a unity of faith and teaching so that we may work together in a God-pleasing way. Pray also for God's blessings on the CCRU conference.

Missionary Peter Evensen (Togo, West Africa) – Missionary Evensen returned to Togo after several months in the U.S. following necessary knee surgery and other medical problems. He has resumed his missionary duties at Mt. Horeb Lutheran Seminary and in the local congregation in Lomé. Thank the Lord for His protection and healing during Missionary Evensen's health issues, and pray that the Lord will bless the doctors and the care he is currently receiving for inflammation in his left eye. Pray also for the evangelism work that the three students are doing as they finish their final months of study so that they may be able to establish congregations and preaching stations to serve.

Missionary Bruce Naumann (Tanzania-East Africa) – Missionary Naumann and Paula were blessed and thankful to spend a few weeks in December and early January visiting family on furlough in the U.S. They returned to Tanzania on January 9th. Following a TZCLC Pastoral Conference, classes at the seminary will begin on January 20th. In mid-February, Missionary Naumann and Paula will travel to Uganda. Pastor Andrew Schaller will meet them there to conduct a colloquy with the Confessional Lutheran Synod of Uganda. You can follow Missionary Naumann's blog at <https://clc-tz.blogspot.com/>. Praise the Lord for all that Missionary Naumann is accomplishing, thank the Lord for the faithful support of His servant

Paula, and ask our Savior to grant wisdom, patience, love, and all that is necessary to continue our Savior's work in East Africa.

Missionary Todd Ohlmann – Missionary Ohlmann will depart on January 14th for a one-month visit with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Bangladesh and the Philippines. He also plans visits to Nigeria, DR Congo, and Zambia in the coming months. 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 sends it.

