

Serving Families in the Community

On a Saturday morning in May, families from the community gathered at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Carol Stream, Ill., for the church's monthly Breakfast with Baby event. Our Savior started the outreach in October 2019, and despite the pandemic over 70 families continue to attend.

"We want the whole community to know that Christ has invited them into our home and His home. They are a part of our family and we're here to take care of them as best we can and not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in physical needs," said the Rev. Tom Sanders, vacancy pastor at Our Savior.

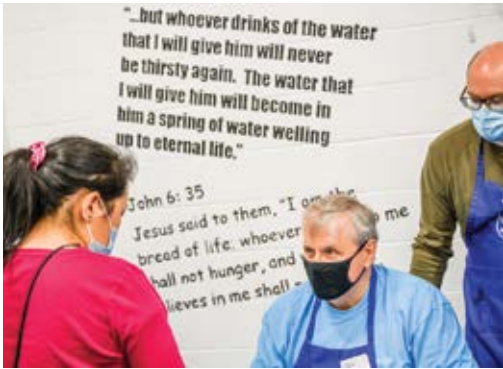
Inside the church's gymnasium, tables and racks displayed piles of children's clothing, while an area of strollers and toys under a large cross attracted children to one end of the room. All items are available for free to those who come, and volunteers were on hand to fulfill requests for bagged meals and diapers. Guests also could leave a prayer request in a box, which was filled by the end of the event.

Lauren Thomas, a wheelchair-bound mother of two with one more on the way, let daughter Viola ride on her lap with a bag of clothing while son Gideon walked behind, carrying another bag of items. Thomas, who has visited several times, said she's thankful for the help from the church.

Our Savior was one of 37 LCMS congregations to receive a grant during Phase 1 of the Synod's 1 John 3 Initiative Million Dollar Life Match, which is providing \$1 million in matching grants to LCMS congregations involved in pro-life efforts. The grants — which are made possible by generous contributions to LCMS World Relief and Human Care — will be awarded in four phases, with Phase 2 recipients chosen this fall. Applications for the third phase will be accepted Nov. 1, 2022, through Jan. 22, 2023, and all LCMS congregations are encouraged to apply. Learn more about the program and the application process at lcms.org/life-grant.

"We want the whole community to know that Christ has invited them into our home and His home."

—Rev. Tom Sanders



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: The Rev. Tom Sanders, vacancy pastor, registers a guest at the Breakfast with Baby event on May 21, 2022, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Carol Stream, Ill. Lauren Thomas and her children, Viola and Gideon, visit the Breakfast with Baby event. A sign welcomes guests to the event.

Give God Glory...

... for Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP), St. Paul, Minn., which is launching the Christian Thought and Leadership Community. The inaugural cohort will discuss Lutheran readings that deepen faith, build community and help students live out their God-given vocations. The program is a partnership between CSP Student Life, the Theology Department and CSP Ministry.

... for Jamielynn (Tinkey) Flores, an LCMS career missionary serving in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Jamielynn



is a registered nurse and is studying theology through the distance deaconess program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. She coordinates life ministry efforts and community education throughout the region, as well as creates resources on the topics of life and death, family, and relationships. Learn more at lcms.org/tinkey.

... for Our Place After School Care, an LCMS Recognized Service Organization in Hastings, Neb. The organization provides after-school care for children ages 13–20 with special needs. Children receive care, academic assistance, and social and life skills training, all with the goal of preparing them to be responsible citizens. Learn more at ourplacecare.org.

One of the priorities of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is to reach out in mercy and compassion to those in need, motivated by Christ and His Gospel, according to the Lutheran confession of the faith. This is accomplished under the familiar name of LCMS World Relief and Human Care, which the Synod uses to describe the mercy work directed by the policies of the Boards for National and International Mission and implemented through the programs of the Offices of National and International Mission.

"Sharing" is the newsletter of LCMS World Relief and Human Care. Published by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295. Contributor services line: 888-930-4438. Website: lcms.org.

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison Ext. 1402
President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Christian J. Boehlke Ext. 1311
Interim Executive Director
LCMS Office of International Mission

Deaconess Dr. Tiffany M. Manor Ext. 1085
Interim Managing Director
LCMS Office of National Mission

You Make the Difference through LCMS World Relief and Human Care

You make the ministry described in this newsletter possible! Your prayers and contributions to World Relief and Human Care "Where Needed Most" help deliver our Savior's mercy to people in need. You bolster tightly restricted donations from others to help fully fund important mercy projects, allowing us to report here the impact you are making in Christ's name. The courtesy envelope in this issue allows you to send a future contribution as the Holy Spirit leads, when He leads.



Providing God's Word IN THE Jarai Language

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever” (Isaiah 40:8).

The Rev. J.P. and Aimee Cima and their family have served the LCMS as missionaries to southeast Asia for more than 15 years. They currently serve in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where J.P. teaches and mentors leaders in the Cambodia Lutheran Church and Aimee serves as mercy manager for the LCMS Asia region.

In April, J.P. traveled to Ratanakiri province in northeastern Cambodia to visit with ethnic Jarai church leaders. (Jarai, a Malayo-Polynesian language, is spoken by fewer than 300,000 people in southeast Asia.)

The Jarai pastors shared that one challenge they face in ministry is a lack of Bibles in the Jarai language. Many speakers of Jarai do not have a Bible, and if they do, it might only be a flimsy photocopy of the New Testament.

After asking the pastors a few more questions, Cima learned that there were no Jarai Bibles available in Cambodia. Because the language is spoken by so few people, written

materials in Jarai are limited even under the best circumstances.

Through a contact in the region, Cima arranged to ship Jarai-language Bibles to Phnom

Penh. In late July, while in Phnom Penh for a training seminar, the Jarai pastors received 100 new, high-quality Jarai Bibles that included both the Old and New Testaments. The Bibles were funded by a grant from the LCMS.

Cima said, “The pastors were overjoyed to receive this precious gift. Providing the Jarai pastors and their people with Bibles in their own language enables God’s Word to reach even more homes and hearts, so that all may know that ‘the grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever’” (Isaiah 40:8).



Jarai pastors in Cambodia hold new Jarai-language Bibles provided to them by a grant from the LCMS. On the far left is the Rev. Bun Sopheab, chairman of the Cambodia Lutheran Church (CLC). Khorn Sopha, CLC secretary, crouches in the front, and the Rev. Bun Phanna, CLC board member, is third from the right. Deaconess Neak Mau, who leads women’s ministry for the CLC, is on the right.



God's Mercy Poured Out Upon Us

Remember the great verse from Titus 3 that forever stands in our Small Catechism?

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4–7)

This rich verse teaches us that we are not saved by works, but by God’s mercy in Christ. That mercy comes to us by Word, Baptism and Supper. Paul tells us what Luther believed, “Baptism is the Gospel.” Baptism gives re-birth unto life everlasting. The Holy Spirit is connected with the water in the Word, which is “poured out ... richly” upon us in Baptism. Baptism justifies by grace and makes us heirs of “eternal life.” Wow. I love that Paul tells Titus this is all “according to [God’s] own mercy.”

Some 14 years ago, we dreamed of the possibilities for the Old Latin School in Wittenberg, Germany. Since then, it’s been used for educating new European and Asian pastors, for training global Lutheran leaders, for weekly Lutheran services for locals and visitors, for confirmation and pastors’ retreats. COVID-19 shut it down for a while. Nevertheless, God has blessed the endeavor through all with balanced

budgets and sufficient revenue. And it’s all paid for and has been for many years. But God is a God of surprises.

As a result of the Ukrainian conflict, people — including many Lutherans — have had to flee. Through LCMS World Relief and Human Care, we’ve been able to offer significant aid to many of our European friends in caring for refugees. About 1,000 Ukrainians ended up in Wittenberg, and we were able to open the Old Latin School’s rooms, kitchen, church and gathering space for their use. We’ve also been blessed by having a wonderful Ukrainian pastor, the Rev. Andriy Honcharuk (working via our German partner church), providing catechism instruction, pastoral care and weekly services.

I was in Wittenberg recently when a young Ukrainian girl named Viktoria was baptized at our Old Latin School. What blessed mercy. Luther said it many times: Christians care for body and soul. Because Christ has had mercy upon us, we cannot but serve our neighbor with His own mercy (Baptism!) and love.

Thanks be to God.

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

