

# ***St. Stephen Lutheran Church***

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

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St. Stephen Lutheran School: Mikkela Hammond (Principal), Julia Bernthal (Administrator)

**School Office: (650) 961-2071**

**School Website: ssls.org**

**May 28, 2023 ✝ Pentecost**

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**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.

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✝ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 51:10-19 (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: 913 O Holy Spirit, Enter In

LSB 913

1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in, And in our hearts  
2 Give to Your Word im - pres - sive pow'r, That in our hearts  
3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, Let Your dear Word,

Your work be - gin, Your dwell - ing place now make us.  
from this good hour As fire it may be glow - ing,  
in doubt and strife, In us be strong - ly burn - ing

Sun of the soul, O Light di - vine, A - round and in  
That in true Chris - tian u - ni - ty We faith - ful wit -  
That we be faith - ful un - to death And live in love

us bright - ly shine, To joy and glad - ness wake us  
ness - es may be, Your glo - ry ev - er show - ing.  
and ho - ly faith, From You true wis - dom learn - ing.

That we may be Tru - ly liv - ing, To You giv - ing  
Hear us, cheer us By Your teach - ing; Let our preach - ing  
Your grace and peace On us show - er; By Your pow - er

Prayer un - ceas - ing And in love be still in - creas - ing.  
And our la - bor Praise You, Lord, and serve our neigh - bor.  
Christ con - fess - ing, Let us see our Sav - ior's bless - ing.

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–73, adapt.; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (st. 2): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 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 Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore we stand in awe of You.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

## **Confession and Absolution**

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

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and gives them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

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

LSB 204



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

**Gloria in Excelsis** *Latin for "Glory to God in the highest."*

LSB 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

**Salutation ("Greeting") and Prayer of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** We pray:

O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and to always rejoice in His holy consolation.

We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## First Reading

**Acts 2:1-13 (EHV)**

*When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the rushing of a violent wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw divided tongues that were like fire resting on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, since the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak fluently.*

*<sup>5</sup> Now there were godly Jewish men from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> When this sound was heard, a crowd came together and was confused, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. <sup>7</sup> They were completely baffled and said to each other, "Look, are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them speaking in his own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, and of Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt, and the parts of Libya around Cyrene; visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring in our own languages the wonderful works of God." <sup>12</sup> They were all amazed and perplexed. They kept saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> But others mocked them and said, "They are full of new wine."*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

**John 16:5-15 (EHV)**

**P** The second reading is from John 16:5-15.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

*<sup>5</sup> "But now I am going away to him who sent me, and not one of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' <sup>6</sup> Yet because I have told you these things, sorrow has filled your heart. <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth: It is good for you that I go away. For if I*

do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.<sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment:<sup>9</sup> about sin, because they do not believe in me;<sup>10</sup> about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me;<sup>11</sup> about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

<sup>12</sup> "I still have many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. For he will not speak on his own, but whatever he hears he will speak. He will also declare to you what is to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> Everything the Father has is mine. This is why I said that he takes from what is mine and will declare it to you.

**P** Here ends our second reading.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205

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



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Article of the Apostle's Creed (with Luther's Explanation from the Catechism)

*Luther's Small Catechism (Sydow - p. 135)*

**C** 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.

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength  
believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel,  
enlightened me with His gifts,  
sanctified and kept me in true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies  
the whole Christian Church on earth  
and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In This Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all sins  
to me and all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead  
and give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life.

This is most certainly true.

### Hymn of the Day: 496 *Holy Spirit, Light Divine*

LSB 496



1 Ho - ly Spir - it, light di - vine, Shine up - on this heart of mine;  
2 Let me see my Sav - ior's face, Let me all His beau - ties trace;  
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, Cleanse this guilt - y heart of mine;  
4 Ho - ly Spir - it, joy di - vine, Cheer this sad - dened heart of mine;  
5 Ho - ly Spir - it, all di - vine, Dwell with - in this heart of mine;



Chase the shades of night a - way, Turn the dark - ness in - to day.  
Show those glo - rious truths to me Which are on - ly known to Thee.  
In Thy mer - cy pit - y me, From sin's bond - age set me free.  
Yield a sa - cred, set - tled peace, Let it grow and still in - crease.  
Cast down ev - 'ry i - dol throne, Reign su - preme, and reign a - lone.

Text: Andrew Reed, 1787–1862, alt. Tune: Orlando Gibbons, 1583–1625 Text and tune: Public domain

## **Sermon Text: Acts 2:14-21 (EHV)**

<sup>14</sup>Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them: “Men of Judea, and all you residents of Jerusalem, understand this, and listen closely to my words. <sup>15</sup>These men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup>On the contrary, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>This is what God says will happen in the last days:

I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions. Your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup>Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>I will show wonders in the sky above, and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and a rising cloud of smoke.

<sup>20</sup>The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup>And this will happen: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

## **Sermon Theme: The Meaning of Pentecost**

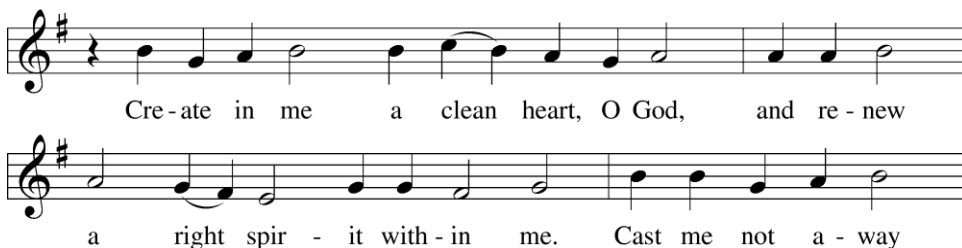
✝ How did Peter answer the peoples’ question? ***“What does this mean?” (Acts 2:12)***  
**(Acts 2:15-16)**

✝ What does Pentecost still mean for us today?

✝ What was/is the greatest Pentecost miracle that the Holy Spirit worked?

## **Offertory**

LSB 956







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.*  
(† *If you have an offering to give today, please place it in the plate in the church entryway.* †)

**Sermon Hymn: 500** *Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid* (please stand for last verse) LSB 500



1 Cre - a - tor Spir - it, by whose aid The world's foun - da - tions  
2 O Source of un - cre - at - ed light, The bear - er of God's  
3 Giv - er of grace, de - scend from high; Your sev'n - fold gifts to  
△ 4 Im - mor - tal hon - or, end - less fame At - tend the al - might - y  
first were laid, Come, vis - it ev - 'ry hum - ble mind; Come,  
gra - cious might, Thrice - ho - ly fount, thrice - ho - ly fire, Our  
us sup - ply; Help us e - ter - nal truths re - ceive And  
Fa - ther's name; The Sav - ior - Son be glo - ri - fied, Who  
pour Your joys on hu - man - kind; From sin and sor - row  
hearts with heav'n - ly love in - spire; Your sa - cred, heal - ing  
prac - tice all that we be - lieve; Give us Your - self that  
for all hu - man - kind has died; To You, O Par - a -  
set us free; May we Your liv - ing tem - ples be.  
mes - sage bring To sanc - ti - fy us as we sing.  
we may see The glo - ry of the Trin - i - ty.  
clete, we raise Un - end - ing songs of thanks and praise.

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

### Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

**C** 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).*

LSB 202

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.



### Closing Hymn: 650 *Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling* (please stand for last verse)

LSB 650

1 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er dwell - ing In the ho - liest  
2 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er liv - ing As the Church's  
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er work - ing Through the Church's

realms of light; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er brood - ing  
ver - y life; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er striv - ing  
min - is - try; Quick - 'ning, strength - 'ning, and ab - solv - ing,

O'er a world of gloom and night; Ho - ly Spir - it,  
Through us in a cease - less strife; Ho - ly Spir - it,  
Set - ting cap - tive sin - ners free; Ho - ly Spir - it,  
ev - er rais - ing Those of earth to thrones on high; Liv - ing,  
ev - er form - ing In the Church the mind of Christ: You we  
ev - er bind - ing Age to age and soul to soul In com -  
life - im - part - ing Spir - it, You we praise and mag - ni - fy.  
praise with end - less wor - ship For Your gifts and fruits un - priced.  
mu - nion nev - er end - ing, You we wor - ship and ex - tol.

Text: Timothy Rees, 1874–1939, alt.  
Tune: Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse . . . Contradanseu, c. 1710, Amsterdam  
Text and tune: Public domain

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Scripture quotations marked EHV are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am**  
**Worship – 10am**

**St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm**  
**Bible Class – 2pm**

This Week: Monday – *Memorial Day* (No school at SSLS)  
Tuesday – **Stockton Worship** (Oakmont) – **2pm**  
**Sacramento Worship** (Forever Easter House) – **4:30pm**  
Wednesday – **Church Council / Elders Meeting** (Mt. View) (Zoom) – **7pm**

Next Sunday: *Trinity Sunday*

6/4/23

**St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**

**Worship w/ Communion– 10am**

**Voter's Teacher Call Meeting – 11am**

**Women's Auxiliary – 11:15am**

**St. Stephen – East Bay** (Hayward): **Worship w/ Communion – 1pm**

**Bible Class – 2pm**

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

**Teacher Call Meeting – Next Sunday – June 4<sup>th</sup> @ 11am** – Because of a generous donation of \$75,000 given to SSLS the Board of Education held a special meeting this past Thursday to discuss the potential use of the donation, including the possibility of calling a 2<sup>nd</sup> teacher to teach kindergarten next school year. As a result of the meeting, the Board of Education has recommended extending a part-time call to teach kindergarten, and potentially lower grades, to Isaac Schmitt (who will be marrying our current teacher, Mikkela Hammond, on July 4<sup>th</sup>). The voters of the congregation are asked to meet for **a call meeting next Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> after the worship service**. The congregation is invited and encouraged to attend.

**SSLS Run-A-Thon Results and Blog Post** – The annual SSLS Run-A-Thon was a great success this past Friday! Thank you so much to all who participated in this year's fundraiser! We were blessed with beautiful weather and many of our school parents and a few of our church members showed up and give their support for our hard-working students! Through our annual Run-A-Thon, our students learn the importance of exercise, as well as raising money for SSLS—and had lots of fun while doing it! In the past, this fundraiser has helped us to purchase extra school items to enhance the students learning and play (such as 9-square, Chromebooks, class pets, and the new playground equipment). This year's Run-A-Thon raised a total of **\$1125!** Praise God! You can read a quick summary of the day's events along with some great pictures on the blog page of our school's website (ssls.org), or by clicking on this link: <https://www.ssls.org/post/st-stephen-lutheran-school-run-a-thon>

**Lutheran Spokesman Subscriptions** - If you are interested in renewing or starting a new subscription to the Lutheran Spokesman devotional magazine please see the sign-up sheet in the entryway. Please sign up by **June 25th** to receive the reduced congregational subscription rate of only **\$14 per year**. Please mark your offering "Lutheran Spokesman." Please speak with Pastor Luke for more info.

**Daily Rest Subscription Renewal** – Our congregation provides each family with a subscription to the *Daily Rest* daily devotions. If you would like an additional subscription for yourself or someone else, please speak with Pastor Luke. Subscriptions are **\$15 per year**.

**CLC News** - Grace Lutheran of Valentine, NE *has called* Noah Ohlmann to be a fulltime assistant for the lower grades of Grace School for the 2023-2024 school year.

### **From CLC Board of Trustees Chairman Tom Lentz: General Budget Fund Deficit –**

Dear Fellow members of the CLC,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to provide some insight into the discussions our boards have been having as it relates to our current budget situation. We hope by now that most of you have seen our monthly bulletin recap, which showed our General Fund balance at -\$187,661. This deficit is the largest in synod history and it is problematic as our fiscal year end is only a few weeks away on June 30. However, we do recognize that our finances are blessed in many ways. First, our reserve fund had an April balance of \$197,675 and second our ILC Operations budget was under spent by \$141,802, but we do anticipate that the ILC underspend will be significantly less than that by fiscal year end. Given all of these circumstances it does appear likely that we will need to use a significant portion of the Reserve Fund. Our ongoing discussions have now turned to next fiscal year and what might have to happen if we continue to run deficits.

Each of our boards must consider what they can do to alleviate shortfalls:

The Board of Missions was asked to provide a short description of the effects of a 10% cut in the Missions budget. *What would a \$40,000 cut mean to the work we are currently doing? Here are some effects:*

*The mission field with the largest subsidy is the BELC. The \$100,000+ that is sent to them annually is used primarily for pastor training. The 1000 pastors of that church body come together by district on a regular basis for study and to strengthen the bonds of fellowship. A \$40,000 reduction would mean that almost half of the pastors would not be able to join the study sessions, or that there could be only half the number of sessions.*

*If the cuts were spread out among the more than a dozen various church bodies we are assisting there would be many that would be negatively impacted. The vast majority of the church bodies receive only between \$2500 and \$10,000/year. If these cuts were distributed evenly by percentage the effects would be similar to those in the BELC but among many more groups. Much of the offering money sent over helps to run seminaries, provide books, transportation and stipends for instructors whose full time job it is to teach, and funds the transportation costs for some students to get to the locations where classes are held.*

*The primary focus of the CLC Board of Missions in foreign fields is to help train men for the work of the ministry. The board receives many more requests for funding than it can possibly fulfill. It attempts to distribute the limited funds in as efficient a manner as possible so any cuts required of it means that there will be fewer men in training to spread the gospel. These are not just numbers on paper.*

The Board of Regents would also have great difficulty making cuts, as most of their expenditures are fixed. The only meaningful way to make cuts would be to salary and thus staff, which would mean that our students could be underserved. Finally, the Board of Education and Publication gets such a small subsidy from the synod that a cut would have little impact on the overall budget. The FY 24 budget was recently approved by the Coordinating Council and has been sent out to the congregations. We encourage you to find a copy of the CC and review it. We are blessed in that it looks like we will have several more students than we expected during our fall budgeting process. This blessing has allowed us to reduce our year over year revenue need by almost \$88,000.

We know that with God all things are possible so we do not despair of over budget numbers, but we do ask for your prayers as we all make humble efforts to reduce the current FY23 deficit, thus preserving as much of our Reserve Fund as possible and making it less likely that we will need to make any drastic cuts in spending next year.

In His Service:

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman  
CLC Board of Trustees

### **CLC World Missions Prayer List – May 2023**

**...pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified... 2 Thessalonians 3:1**

**The Philippines** (Southeast Asia) – Pastor Rob Sauers (CLC Bd of Missions) and Missionary Ohlmann recently spent a week in the Philippines to visit Pastor Jordan Palangyos and those he serves. During the visit, they got to know Pastor Palangyos and discussed the ministry of the Lutheran Autonomous Mission of the Philippines (LAMP). They also led informational meetings with several LAMP church leaders and evangelists in two different locations. Pastor Palangyos is an independent Lutheran pastor who serves two congregations and a few preaching stations in the mountains north of Manila. He has been working independently since 2008 when he followed God's Word and his conscience and withdrew from the Lutheran Church of the Philippines. Over the past couple of years, he has completed the first introductory Online Theological Study course based on the CLC Statement of Faith and Purpose and continues regular correspondence with Missionary Ohlmann. They will now begin the official colloquy process after President Wilke appoints a CLC representative to work with Missionary Ohlmann. **Pray** that the Lord will bless the colloquy and that this will lead to a God-pleasing unity of faith and teaching. **Ask the Lord** to provide opportunities and all that is necessary for Pastor Jordan to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ!

**Tanzania and Missionary Naumann** (East Africa) – Missionary Naumann recently reported that the first four weeks of classes at the Wittenberg Lutheran Theological Seminary in Arusha have gone well. He is impressed with the dedication of the seven students and their sincere desire to study and learn God's Word. He has also been active in the ministry at the local congregation in the Arusha area. He has started a Sunday School program for the children of the congregation. You can keep updated on things happening in Tanzania on his blog at: [clc-tz.blogspot.com](http://clc-tz.blogspot.com) seminary/evangelism course. **Ask for the Lord's continued blessings** on these students and those called to teach and train them.

**Bangladesh** (Southeast Asia) – Missionary Ohlmann recently returned from a visit to Bangladesh. He was able to visit and share the Gospel at eleven Bangladesh Lutheran Church Mission (BLCM) congregations and preaching stations. He also conducted a four-day pastor and church leader training seminar for sixteen BLCM pastors and church leaders. He also had the opportunity to tour the BLCM land that was recently purchased with a partial grant from CLC Mission Development Fund. You can read his report from the visit at: [missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com](http://missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com). **Thank the Lord** for His abundant blessings on the Gospel ministry as pastors and evangelists are being trained in the truth of God's saving word, as many are being led from Hinduism and Islam to saving faith in Jesus Christ. **Ask the Lord** to continue to bless both the preaching and hearing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by the BLCM. **Pray for the Lord's wisdom and provision** as the BLCM continues to make plans to construct a building.

**Myanmar** (Southeast Asia) – For the past two years since the military coup d'état, Myanmar has been struggling under the harsh rule of the military Junta. This has brought much pain, suffering, economic hardship, and uncertainty. Our brothers and sisters in Christ of the CLC-Myanmar (CLCM) in rural Chin State are struggling to provide for their families. Recent reports indicate that more than two million people have been displaced since the military coup in February of 2021. The CLC Board of Missions recently sent additional Kinship humanitarian funds to assist the leaders of the CLCM in providing basic needs to the more than 400 families suffering in March. **Continue to Pray** for justice and peace for all the people of Myanmar. **Pray** especially for our brothers and sisters in Christ that the Lord will grant them strength, courage, and boldness during these difficult times and that He will provide for all their needs. **Thank the Lord** for moving the hearts of His children to give generously to the needs of others through their offerings to Kinship.

**India** (Southeast Asia) – Immanuel Lutheran Seminary of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLCI) will graduate seventeen men on June 15<sup>th</sup>. These graduates have all successfully completed four years of Biblical seminary training. They will be assigned to both newly established and existing CLCI congregations. Seventeen students graduate from the seminary each year; most go on to serve new congregations. Kinship sponsorship allows these men to continue supporting their families while at the seminary. **Thank the Lord** for these new, faithful, and well-trained pastors, and **ask the Lord to bless** their preaching and teaching of His saving Word.

**Togo and Missionary Evensen** (West Africa) – Missionary Evensen will return to the U.S. in June for some rest, furlough, and to attend the CLC General Pastoral Conference. **Pray that the Lord** will grant him safe and uneventful travels back to the U.S., and **pray for God's blessings** on the time of fellowship and growth during the conference.

**Kenya** (East Africa) – The CLC Bd of Missions (BoM) recently began sending the MDF Grant funds to assist with much-needed classroom repairs and construction at the Kinship-supported schools in Etogo and Moi's Bridge. Construction has begun and is moving along quickly. **Give thanks to the Lord** for the privilege of assisting our brothers and sisters in Christ in training so many young souls through the two schools. **Pray for the Lord's continued blessings** upon the teachers, students, and staffs of St. David's Kinship School and Emmaus Millimani School as they grow in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

**Zambia** (Central Africa) – The leaders of the Zambia-CLC continue the process of registering the church body. This is an important and necessary step as they continue to organize Gospel outreach in three different areas of the country in an orderly way. Having a registered church body will also allow Pastor Ibrahim, originally from Tanzania, to continue his work unimpeded. **Pray for the Lord's blessing** on this registration work and grant the leaders patient persistence.

**CLC Mission Helper Trip to Nepal** (Southeast Asia) – The 2023 CLC Mission Helpers to Nepal are counting down the days until their June 26th departure. This trip will provide eleven CLC volunteers and two trip leaders the opportunity and privilege of proclaiming God's saving word to an estimated 1500 children. Some of these children will be members Himalayan Church of the Lutheran Confession (HCLCN) congregations, but most are not. For many of the children, this will be the first time they have heard a clear and Biblical presentation of the Good News of Jesus Christ as the one who died and rose from the dead for their sins! **Please pray** that the Lord would give love, compassion, patience, wisdom, and safety to the Mission Helpers and to those they go to serve as the Gospel is proclaimed to children in Nepal. **Pray also** for the pastors and church leaders who have spent much time and effort preparing for this Gospel outreach opportunity. You can follow along with the Mission Helpers at: [2023clcmhtnepal.blogspot.com](https://2023clcmhtnepal.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