

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

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December 10, 2023 ✝ Advent 2



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 85 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✝

Advent 2023

“Stop! Look! Listen!”

**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: 340 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

LSB 340



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the King of
2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot is hu -
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the rul - er
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a tem - ple
5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to Thee; here,



glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing near; The
mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness, His
is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py homes To
set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em - ploy, A -
Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di - vine; Thy



Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion
scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of all our
whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less sun of
dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov - reign
face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To
woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings. To
joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free. To
en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin. To
guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won. E -



God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.
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.

C **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.

C 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.**

(song continues on next page ->)

***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:

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may believe in Him as our Savior from sin, and be enabled to serve You with pure hearts, minds, and lives. 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

Isaiah 40:1-11 (EHV)

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.

Her warfare really is over. Her guilt is fully paid for.

Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice is calling out:

In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD.

In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The rugged ground will become level, and the rough places will become a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh together will see it.

Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

⁶ A voice was saying, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry out?"

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside.

⁷ Grass withers, flowers fade, when the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Yes, the people are grass.

⁸ Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever.

⁹ Get up on a high mountain, O Zion, you herald of good news.

Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, you herald of good news.

Lift it up! Do not be afraid!

Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰ Look, God the LORD will come with strength, and his arm is ruling for him.

Look, his reward is with him. The result of his work is in front of him.

¹¹ Like a shepherd he will care for his flock. With his arm he will gather the lambs.

He will lift them up on his lap. He will gently lead the nursing mothers.

Second Reading

Luke 2:8-14 (NKJV)

[P] The second reading is from Luke 2:8-14.

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

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

[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!

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: 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB 347



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys shall
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall

sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: John 1:29-34 (EHV)

²⁹ The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know who he was, but I came baptizing with water so that he would be revealed to Israel.”

³² John also testified, “I saw the Spirit descend like a dove from heaven and remain on him. ³³ I myself did not recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ I saw this myself and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

Sermon Theme: “Look!”

✠ When we **look** at ourselves in the mirror of God’s holy Law, what do we see?

✠ When we **look** to Jesus what do we see? (**v. 29, 34**)

***♪ 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: 360 All My Heart Again Rejoices

LSB 360



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es As I hear Far and near
2 Hear! The Con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe, Sin and woe,
3 Should we fear our God's dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave
4 See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing To the cross, Suf - f'ring loss,



Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing
Death and hell are bro - ken!" God is man, man to de - liv - er,
His most pre - cious trea - sure? To re - deem us He has giv - en
Full a - tone - ment mak - ing. For our life His own He ten - ders,



Till the air Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.
And the Son Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.
His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.
And His grace All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.

***5. Softly from His lowly manger
Jesus calls One and all,
"You are safe from danger.
Children, from the sins that grieve you
You are freed; All you need
I will surely give you."***

**6. Come, then, banish all your sadness!
 One and all, Great and small,
 Come with songs of gladness.
 We shall live with Him forever
 There on high In that joy
 Which will vanish never.**

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer / Prayer Requests *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 shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



Closing Hymn: 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (please stand for last verse)



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 △ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
 Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621
 Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today:
12/10/23

St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): NO Bible Class
Worship – 10am
Choir/Children's Christmas Eve Practice-11am

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm
NO Bible Class

St. Stephen South (Huntington Beach): Worship – 6:30pm

This Week: Tuesday – **Bible Instruction Class** (Fenton) (Mt. View) – **11:30am**
Wednesday – **Confirmation Class** (Lang) (Mt. View) – **4pm**
Wednesday Evening Advent Worship (Mt. View) – **7pm**
Scripture, Candlelight, Carols, and Cookies
Thursday – **Board of Education** (Mt. View) (Zoom) – **6pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Study – 9am**
Worship – 10am
Choir/Children's Christmas Eve Practice-11am
St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm
Bible Study – 2pm

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

Southern California Advent/Christmas Worship – TONIGHT Sun. 12/10 @ 6:30pm –

Our next Southern California Worship Service and Bible Study will be held **TONIGHT Sunday, December 10th @ 6:30pm**. Our service will have an Advent/Christmas theme including the singing of some familiar Christmas hymns. Seth and Alyssa Hamblin will be hosting it again this year at their residence in Huntington Beach. Their address is:

9842 Hamilton Ave. Apt. 11
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

Note from Alyssa & Seth Regarding Parking: "Park on the street around the corner on St. John Lane to the west of our apartment to avoid having to walk across 4 lanes of traffic."

Wednesday Advent Worship & Christmas Cookies (Mt. View) – THIS Wed. (12/13) -7pm



Please make plans to join us this **Wednesday evening (12/13) at 7pm** for our Advent Worship. We'll gather in the church sanctuary for Christmas songs, Scripture readings, and candle lighting as we prepare our hearts for our coming Savior. After the service we will gather in the fellowship hall for Christmas cookies and fellowship. If you'd like to bring cookies or treats to share please do so!

Food Donations for Thanksgiving and Christmas – We are collecting non-perishable food items to deliver to the Community Service Agency (CSA) in Mountain View for Thanksgiving and Christmas. There is a large box in the church entry marked "Food Drive."

CLC News - Michaela Winters, lower grade teacher at Messiah Lutheran in Hales Corners, WI *is resigning* at the conclusion of the current school year to spend more time with her infant daughter.

Christmas Season Worship Schedule 2023

Advent Worship Carols & Christmas Cookies – Wed. Dec. 13th - 7pm (Mt. View)

Christmas Eve – Sun. Dec. 24th – 10am (Mt. View) – Christmas Eve Joint Worship
& Children's Program

Christmas Day – Mon. Dec. 25th – 11am (Hayward) Christmas Day Worship



CLC World Missions Prayer List - December 2023

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



India (Southeast Asia) – Cyclone Michaung recently hit South India, bringing with it severe flooding that has caused extensive damage to several BELC church buildings, member houses, and the homes of our BELC leaders. The BELC headquarters and Bible School buildings are being used for temporary shelter for a pastor/district leader forced to evacuate their homes. Thankfully, there have been no injuries reported to BELC members. **Thank the Lord** for his protection of His children. **Pray for the Lord's** ongoing protection and provision as our brothers and sisters in Christ begin the clean-up and recovery from this disaster. **Ask our Heavenly Father** to send His Holy Spirit to give comfort, courage, strength, and hope in His love and plans as they struggle during these trying times.

India (Southeast Asia) – The CLC-India has conducted Christmas outreach programs annually for several years. Due to increased persecution and violence by supporters of the majority Hindu nationalist political party (BJP), Pastor Jyothi is disappointed that the CLCI won't be doing as much outreach this year. **Pray that the Good News** of our Savior will continue to spread, even amid such persecution. **Ask the Lord to thwart the plans** of evil forces that seek to prevent the spread of the Gospel in India and worldwide. **Ask our Savior to grant boldness** and courage in such difficult circumstances.

Tanzania (East Africa) – Severe flooding has hit the northern part of Tanzania, affecting the TZ-CLC congregation in Mbulu. Although no deaths have been reported, Pastor Jeremia states that twenty members are in need of food, blankets, and tents for temporary shelter. Pastor Jeremia has visited the area to evaluate the needs and provide emergency supplies. **Thank the Lord** for keeping Pastor Solomon, his family, and the Mbulu congregation. **Pray for the Lord's blessings** on the recovery efforts, and the Lord will continue to provide for and protect the members of His Mbulu flock.

Pakistan – Pastor Tim Daub recently reported that ten individuals who have completed two years of online theological training and a thorough study of Luther's Small Catechism have recently begun weekly worship services. They are calling their group the Church of the Lutheran Confession of Pakistan. The Board of Missions has authorized Missionary Ohlmann to accompany Pastor Daub on a visit to Pakistan in 2024. With the upcoming elections in Pakistan and due to safety concerns surrounding it, there is some uncertainty about when this trip will occur. **Pray that the Lord will continue to bless** the teaching and learning of His word. **Thank our Savior** for this opportunity and the technology to proclaim the truth of His word in such a way.

Nepal (South Asia) – On December 6th, a graduation ceremony was held for the third class of Himalayan Bible Institute (HBI) students who have completed the two-year course of instruction. Before graduation, Missionary Ohlmann had the opportunity to teach classes at HBI for three days. He reviewed the basic teachings of the Christian faith using the Apostle's Creed as an outline. Pastor Raju has been suffering from partial voice loss for the past few months. Doctors found lesions or nodes on his vocal cords. This prevented him from translating while Missionary Ohlmann was in Nepal. Thankfully, Raju's brother, his father, and an HCLCN pastor were available to translate. Raju's doctor has advised him to rest his voice for at least two months and begin voice therapy to heal and strengthen his vocal cords. Due to this, the beginning of HBI classes is delayed until March or April. Applications for the next session of HBI are being received and reviewed. **Give thanks** to the Lord for the recent graduates of HBI and **ask for His blessings** on their service to Him. **Pray for the Lord's healing** of Raju's vocal cords so that he may continue the important work of proclaiming God's word and training more faithful workers for God's kingdom work in Nepal.

The Philippines (Southeast Asia) – Pastor Andrew Schaller (CLC Bd of Doctrine Secretary) continues the colloquy with Pastor Jordan Palangyos and the Lutheran Autonomous Mission in the Philippines (LAMP) via email correspondence. An early February visit to conduct the face-to-face colloquy is in the works. **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 continue to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ!

DR Congo (Central Africa) – The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has faced several delays in planning for the presidential election scheduled for December 20th. The previous election in 2018 was controversial and has caused unrest and violence in the country. Recently, a high-ranking official of the opposition party was murdered, and violence and deaths are reported daily as a result of the upcoming election. Pastor Yumba has advised that plans for Missionary Ohlmann's visit to the DRC in early 2024 should be on hold. **Pray for peace and civility** as the people of the DRC approach their presidential election. **Pray for the Lord's will to be done** in this election and for the protection, hope, and courage of our brothers and sisters of the CCLC.

Bangladesh (South Asia) – Missionary Ohlmann recently spent three weeks working with Pastor Monotosh and the Bangladesh Lutheran Church Mission (BLCM). Together, they conducted two-day Bible training seminars for hundreds of believers in several BLCM congregations and preaching stations. They also conducted a five-day Church Leader Training seminar that was attended by sixteen men. Pastor Monotosh is asking for the Lord's blessings in providing building funds for a BLCM headquarters, Bible Institute, dormitory, and worship facility on land purchased last year. **Praise and thank the Lord** for the many opportunities He has given the BLCM to proclaim the Gospel in this predominantly Muslim nation. **Ask the Lord to provide** for the much-needed building project of the BLCM **and pray** for His continued blessings on the preaching and teaching His word.

Myanmar (South Asia) – After being under military junta control for almost three years, the civil war in Myanmar is still ongoing. According to Pastor Kham and news reports, the resistance is becoming more organized as local and regional militias join forces with the People's Defense Force (PDF) and prepare for a Spring Revolution Offensive. As the Military Junta has suffered several defeats in recent months, the resistance hopes to overthrow the military rule and reinstate the democratically elected government that was removed by force in February 2021. **Please pray** for the innocent bystanders caught in this conflict, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ of the CLC-Myanmar. **Ask that God's will be done** as this conflict continues and that peace may prevail.

Liberia (West Africa) – Pastor Joseph requests prayers for the Gospel outreach in Liberia, and especially in Guinea. Pastor John Hein continues treatments for thymic cancer. He has been hoping to visit Liberia in January. **Pray for the Lord's** continued blessings and faithfulness on the preaching and teaching of His saving word in Liberia and Guinea. **Pray for the Lord's hand of healing** upon Pastor Hein so that the treatments he is receiving will rid his body of cancer and it will be possible for him to visit Liberia again.

Mission Development Fund – CLC President Mike Wilke writes: "*When the convention approved the calling of our third foreign missionary, it determined that the funding of that missionary would come fully from the MDF for the first year. The cost of funding that missionary is about \$80,000 and has impacted other planned MDF projects. Currently, the balance of the MDF is enough to cover the cost of our third foreign missionary for the rest of this fiscal year and a few other essential projects, but without additional funds, we will not be able to fund other planned projects. We have already put a hold on all other projects, including funding Bibles and other Christian literature, church-building assistance, and many planned outreach projects. Pray that the members of the CLC will remember this work in their prayers and their*

offerings so that we might continue to carry out the work the LORD has set before us and which we have decided to do as a church body."

Missionary Evensen (Togo, West Africa) – Missionary Evensen recently had a kidney stone block his only kidney. He has passed the stones and has recovered well. **Thank the Lord** for delivering him through this painful health incident, and **Ask** the Lord to prevent any further complications.

Kate Sauers (USA) – Kate has responded remarkably well to chemotherapy. Recent visits indicate that her tumors have shrunk. Give thanks to the Lord for blessing the treatments so far. Ask for His continued blessings on the remainder of the treatments she is scheduled to receive.

Missionary Bruce Naumann (Tanzania-East Africa) – Missionary Bruce and Paula Naumann are in the U.S., while the TZ-CLC seminary in Arusha is on break. **Pray** for the Lord to move the hearts of the men in our fellowship in Tanzania to enroll in the seminary for the upcoming school year, which begins on January 15th, 2024. **Pray** for safe travel for both our returning students and our missionary. **Ask for our Savior's** blessing on the pastors and people of the TZ-CLC in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ crucified. Follow their blog at clc-tz.blogspot.com.

Missionary Ohlmann – Missionary Ohlmann is scheduled to return to the United States on December 12th after traveling and working in Asia for several weeks. During his stay in Asia, he visited a congregation in Tokyo, Japan, once in fellowship with the CLC. He also spent about six weeks in Bangladesh and Nepal. In early 2024, he plans to visit and work with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Africa. A visit to the Philippines is also being planned. **Thank the Lord** for safe travels and His faithfulness in blessing the spread of His saving Word. 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