



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

www.pilgrimkenmorelcms.org

A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

DECEMBER 2024

PASTOR: Rev. David Walsh

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 6:00 PM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM



*The
Word
became
flesh and made
his dwelling among us.*

John 1:14



Advent. What is this four-week season of the Church year that gets hidden behind an early celebration of Christmas? The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming” or “arrival”. It is a translation of the Greek word *Parousia*, which originally referred to the Second Coming of Christ. While Christmas is a season of celebration for the gift of Christ, Advent is a season of reflection on our need for the gift. Man became holistically corrupt in the fall into sin, and thus we needed Someone to save us from this corruption, Someone who was not corrupt and could counteract that corruption. Christ was and is perfect, so that He could pay the price of death for us. His holistic and divine perfection counteracts our sin, allowing His death to be the substitute for the death we deserve.

We prepare for the celebration of Christmas by starting the Church year with taking some of the more upbeat hymns and liturgical pieces out of the service for the sake of the Advent reflection. However, this season is different from the somber tone of Lent, it is more quiet than it is somber. Think of it this way, if you go for a walk at night during the winter, even in a busy town or city, the coolness of the air being thicker makes it harder for sound to travel and thus it is quieter. It is easier to have reflection, for you are left with your thoughts and the Spirit guides you to reflect on your need for Christ and the reminder that you have this gift.

With it also becoming darker longer, there is a need for lights. In modern times we have many lights to guide us, some to leisure, some to information needful or not, and some lights to distract us. Lutheranism has brought the tradition of the Advent wreath, in which we light candles to guide us in our quiet preparation for Christmas. A candle is lit each week reminding us of the gifts that we receive in Christ: Peace, Hope, Joy and Love.

May the Spirit guide you in your preparation for the gift of Christ.

Christ blessings

Rev. David J. Walsh



SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2024

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

WEEKEND OF	Nov. 30-Dec 1	Dec. 7-8	Dec. 14-15	Dec. 21-22	Dec. 28-29
READER (Sat/Sun)	Doreen Griebel/Donna Vogel	Ruth Whitmer/Rich Loster	Rhonda Mohr/Dianne Wuerch	Ruth Whitmer/Mary Werth	Doreen Griebel/Carolyn Alessi
USHERS	Tim McGuan/Melody Keef	Dooley O'Rourke/Eric Fellner	Mike Wuerch/Tim McGuan	Ed Walsh/Melody Keef	Jim Hartz/Tim McGuan
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Ed Walsh	Mike Wuerch	Jim Hartz	Eric Fellner	Ed Walsh

(If you cannot serve on the day scheduled, please notify Tim McGuan (716) 418-5484, Ed Walsh (585) 747-1503 or Dan Griebel (716) 259-9704. ALSO, PLEASE CALL AMBER SO SHE CAN CORRECTLY PUT THE CHANGE IN THE BULLETIN. Thank you.)



Christmas Adam

Need a fun new tradition to liven up your Christmas celebrations? Then join the growing number of Christians who observe Christmas Adam — the day before Christmas Eve!

In honor of the first human, enjoy some barbecued ribs and an apple salad or dessert. Your family might exchange small gifts on Christmas Adam or do last-minute shopping together. Some people temporarily rename their pets that day, just as Adam named the animals in the Garden.

No matter how you celebrate, have fun on December 23 as you remember why Jesus had to come to earth in the first place!



2024 SUNDAY COUNTERS SCHEDULE Weekly Rotation

If you are unable to count the date you are assigned, please let Dianne Wuerch know.

Date	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Lead Counter	Jim Hartz	Sue Holway	Voters	Mike Wuerch	Carolyn Alessi
Counter	Ruth Whitmer	Janice Vogel	Meeting	Dolores Zeeb	Kathy Farkas

If you are on Vacation or unable to attend Pilgrim's Services,
please consider using the following for your offerings.



Go to Pilgrims web site -
<https://pilgrimkenmorelcms.org>

Or Download the App

Click on green GIVE button!



DECEMBER

Birthdays

Paul Holway	Dec. 2
George Alessi	Dec. 4
Jeannie Walsh	Dec. 11
David Porter	Dec. 16
Ruth Whitmer	Dec. 25



Aldi Grocery Cards

If you or a family member is experiencing any hardships and would benefit from a grocery gift card, please see Pastor Walsh. He will be distributing them. This is something we have done in the past but really haven't advertised.

Look upon love



Let us then meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify people. Inexpressible majesty will crush them. That is why God took on our human flesh and blood, that God should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor God would console and comfort us.

—Martin Luther



ESTHER CIRCLE

There is no meeting in December. Our next meeting is Monday, January 13, 2025, at 12:30 pm at the church. All women of Pilgrim are welcome to attend.

The LWML Buffalo Zone Event in early November at Trinity Lutheran Church in West Seneca went well. Margaret Walsh and Pastor Knolls spoke about their mission trip with LAMP Ministries to Northern Canada, where they ran a week Vacation Bible School this past August. It was very enlightening! Thank you to those who attended. These events are great fellowship times.

We will be preparing the Christmas bags for our church shut ins and delivering them. Many enjoy the visit, the thought, the gift and the prayers.

The Terri Lynn nut sale is still going on. Check the list of items and prices on the information board and newsletter. We will have items for sale during fellowship on Sundays or you can contact me, Carol Obot 218-349-3397 (c). This fundraiser helps fund mission outreach projects, thank you!

Thank you for the donations that were collected in the month of November for the food pantry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

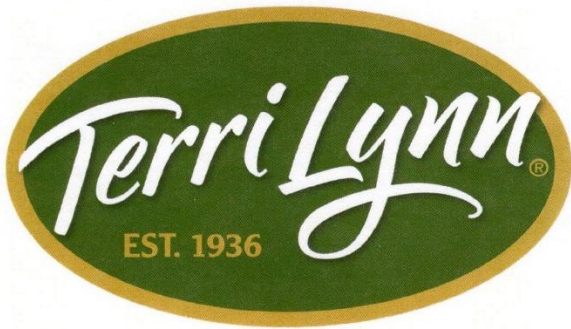
We need hosts for fellowship! December has openings. Please sign up on the list on the information board.

REMINDER: Dash's receipts go to Sue Holway; cancelled stamps to Sharon McGuan and mites to Karen Smith (note: there is a large mite box at the back, near the entrance to the sanctuary to drop your change). We appreciate your support.

It is ADVENT, a time to prepare for the birth of the Christ child, JESUS. As we get the decorations out, do our Christmas shopping, wrap our gifts to others, we should take time to reflect on what the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, born in a manger in that little town of Bethlehem many years ago means to us.

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

Carol Obot



Terrilyn's premium nuts, decadent confections, savory snacks and tempting mixes are unlike anything you will find at your local grocery store. There is a range of 38 products to pick from.

All profits are used to support local charities such as Ken - Ton Meals on Wheels, Local Church Food Pantries, Lutheran Bible Translators, Lutheran Hour Ministries plus many others.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church Terri Lynn's Webstore is contactless, safe, and easy!!

<https://pilgrimsthercircle.terri Lynn.com>



Christmas Sunday School for December 8th

Parents, grandparents and friends of Pilgrim, we welcome the special children in your lives to Sunday school on December 8th to celebrate the Christmas message proclaimed by angels from heaven to earth, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" We will gather at 9:00 a.m. in the Sunday school room for our lesson, craft and mini snack. Miss Sharon looks forward to seeing you there. The adults will meet in the fellowship hall with Pastor Walsh. Please come and celebrate God's Word with us.



Advent Workshop 2024. Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel

On November 23rd, nine young people and fourteen adults attended the Advent Workshop. Special thanks to all who attended, planned the event, or helped at the various stations. We had a wonderful time enjoying fellowship and making Advent wreaths, stained wax windows, nativity ornaments and Christmas cards. But most of all we rejoiced as we sang and learned more about Advent, hearing the Good News: God the Father sent Jesus, the Savior, Emmanuel, God with us, to save us all!

We hope you enjoy the pictures from our special day.







Education page: We encourage you to put this on your fridge. Here's a Bible verse, catechism piece, and hymn we encourage you to memorize. We hope you grow in your faith by seeing the symbol and its meaning and finding ways to learn about the saints and events on the festival and observance days. We hope you better understand what you're seeing and hearing in church. Let's learn about God's Word together!



December 2024

Happy New Year! Yes, Happy New Year in December! The Church orders its year differently from the rest of the world. The Church year starts with Advent which starts either in late November right after Thanksgiving or very early December. It is the closest Sunday to St. Andrew's Day which is November 30.

Bible verse of the month

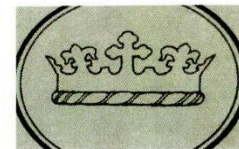
"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." -Luke 2:14

Catechism: The Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods
2. You shall not misuse the Name of the LORD your God
3. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy
4. Honor your father and your mother
5. You shall not murder
6. You shall not commit adultery
7. You shall not steal
8. You shall not bear false testimony against your neighbor
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Liturgical seasons and colors (look on the altar and pastor) for December: Advent-blue and pink Christmas-white.

Christian symbol of the month: Crown- In Advent we are in a time of waiting for the birth of the coming King, Jesus!



Hymn of the month: Savior of the Nations, Come LSB 332 (definitely check out the other verses in the hymnal, for the sake of space we have v. 1 only here)

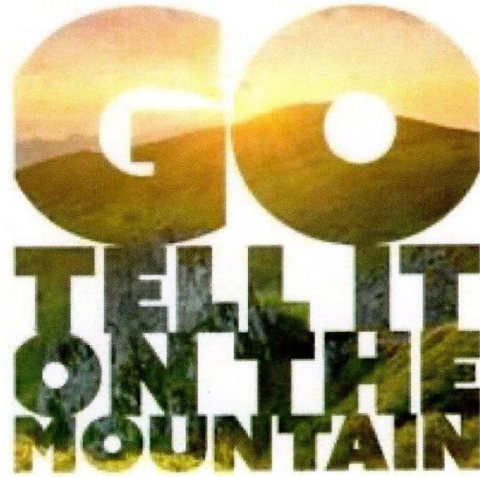
V. 1 Savior of the nations, come Virgin's Son, make here Your home!

Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

Church festivals, observances, Saint Days in December

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 4 th - St. John of Damascus | 13 th - St. Lucia | 20 th -Katharina von Bora Luther |
| 6 th -St. Nicholas of Myra | 17 th -Daniel the prophet | 21 st -St. Thomas Apostle |
| 7 th -St. Ambrose of Milan | 19 th -Adam and Eve | 24/25 th -Nativity of our Lord |
| 27 th -St. John Apostle | 28 th -The Holy Innocents | 26 th - St. Stephen |
| | 29 th -King David | |

Starting next month: A Bible reading plan.



**Experience the beauty of choirs, carols and candlelight at
THE CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT VESPERS**

Sunday, December 15, 2024
4:30 pm Carol Sing / 5:00 pm Vespers
First Trinity Lutheran Church
1570 Niagara Falls Boulevard
Tonawanda, New York 14150

For each of the Vesper's past 67 years, there has been a hymn, anthem, or scripture that has inspired the theme and music selections for the service.

Our 68th service theme, "Go Tell it on the Mountain", is inspired by the beloved carol of the same name, along with Luther's sermon for Christmas Day and Matthew 28:19-20 (the Great Commission). The readings, hymns, anthems and message tell us that the good news of Jesus' incarnation is not to be kept to ourselves.

We are to tell it to others, and we are especially to tell the goodness of His redeeming work for our salvation. God will bless your testimony, and others will learn the good news through you!

Questions? dwerth@FirstTrinity.com (716) 276-8263



660 MASON RIDGE CENTER DRIVE

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141-8557

1-800-876-9880

[Addressing Topical Issues with Biblically Based Answers](#)

God's Word has always been shared most effectively when people openly talk to each other about their hopes, fears, ideas, and struggles. Jesus did, and His people have been striving to do it ever since.

As more people today gravitate to the internet seeking answers to life's most pressing issues, LHM has developed various online platforms around the world that allow staff and volunteers to enter into digital conversations with individuals and provide them with biblically based answers for their lives. **Vivenciar.net** is a bilingual platform that offers relevant content to Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking individuals through downloadable e-books, topical videos, courses, and an opportunity to talk to a team of volunteers throughout Latin America and the United States.

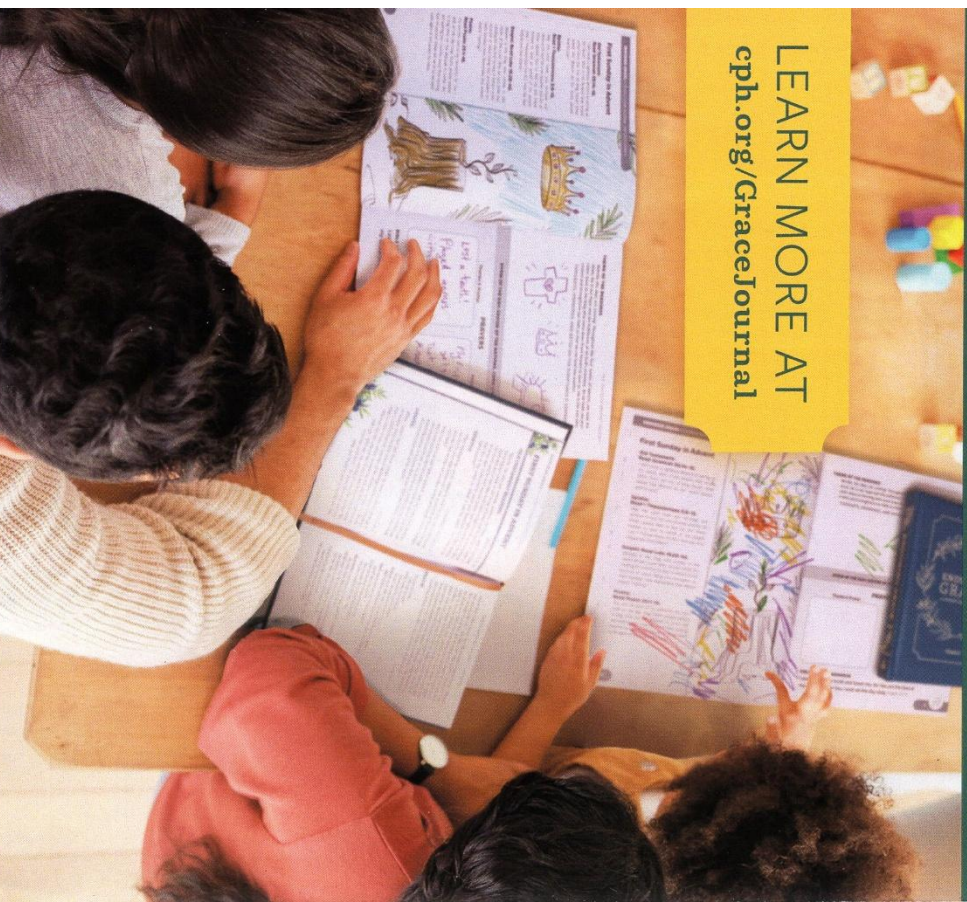
Guadalupe is a young woman who was sad and distressed due to the loneliness she was experiencing. She shared details of her problems with friends, but they began distancing themselves from her for various reasons. She went online for help and discovered Vivenciar.net. She began chatting with one of LHM's volunteers, who calmed Guadalupe down, pointed out the website's content about loneliness, and invited her to download the free e-book on the topic. When Guadalupe asked for prayers, the volunteer explained how finding our best friend in Jesus will help fill the voids in her life. Guadalupe said she appreciated the advice and requested additional materials to learn more about Christ's messages of hope.

María, a 22-year-old student, has been receiving professional treatment for depression for a long time. However, she doesn't feel like it has helped. She began searching online for ways to deal with her depression and came across Vivenciar.net. During her online conversation with the ministry volunteer, she mentioned that she attended church as a child, but no longer does since she feels more "sinful" in that environment. This depresses her even more because she feels like she cannot do what God asks of her. The volunteer conveyed the hopeful message of the Gospel and explained how Maria should focus on the comfort, strength, and peace that only God can provide. While Maria was hesitant to accept a referral to speak with the pastor of the Lutheran church in her town, she agreed to talk with LHM's chaplain pastor through the platform. After several conversations with him, she asked for the Lutheran pastor in her city to contact her. She has started attending services at the church and is participating in a variety of congregational activities as she strengthens her faith.

Get ready to journal through the Church Year!

Enduring Grace is a new series of lectionary-based journals for both adults and children. Coinciding with the three-year LCMS lectionary, Enduring Grace journals feature Church Year content, Scripture readings, hymn suggestions, and room for journaling—all to support your family's devotional life.

LEARN MORE AT
cph.org/GraceJournal



ENDURING GRACE

Journal for Adults

Whether you already have an established devotional routine or you're looking to start one, Enduring Grace is for you.



This keepsake, hardcover journal will help you

- spend time in God's Word with weekly lectionary readings;
- be in tune with the seasons and festivals of the Church Year with descriptions and hymn texts; and
- reflect on God's enduring grace with room for journaling and prayers.

ENDURING GRACE

JOURNAL FOR KIDS

With the kids' journal, your children can join your Church Year devotional journey with materials made just for them!



With this softcover, lay-flat journal, kids will be eager to

- better understand what they hear and see in church with Church Year content and discussion prompts for the Scripture readings;
- color the black-and-white illustrations to their liking; and
- take ownership of their faith with space for personal reflection and prayers.

LEARN MORE AT cph.org/GraceJournal

2023–2025 Mission Grant #14

Enhancement of Deaf Ministry and Outreach

Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society, U.S.

About This Mission Grant

There are an estimated 500,000 deaf users of American Sign Language (ASL) in the United States, 95% of whom are unchurched. There are 124 local or congregational deaf ministries in the LCMS; however, there is a severe shortage of Lutheran resources and interpreters. Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society (ELMS) is dedicated to serving and supporting the deaf and hard of hearing community with the Gospel.

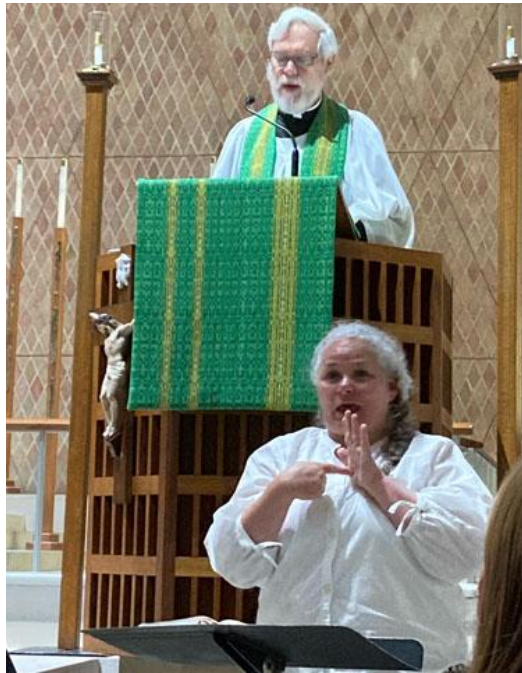
This grant will help provide interpreters and resources to spread the Gospel message to deaf people in the United States by allowing ELMS to expand its Church Interpreter Training Academy to several satellite locations, potentially training more than 100 new interpreters. It will also allow them to continue ASL translation work of the *Lutheran Service Book* settings 1, 2, 4, and Matins for the benefit of all those who are deaf.



ELMS translation of LSB Divine Service Setting III into ASL underway



CITA session



CITA practice in the Concordia Theological Seminary Chapel



ELMS Director Rev. Thomas Dunseth interpreting for LWML Gathering in Michigan in 2022



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September/October 2024

The WORD at WORK

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*Newly confirmed Lutherans
in Russia revive church
that was in ruins*



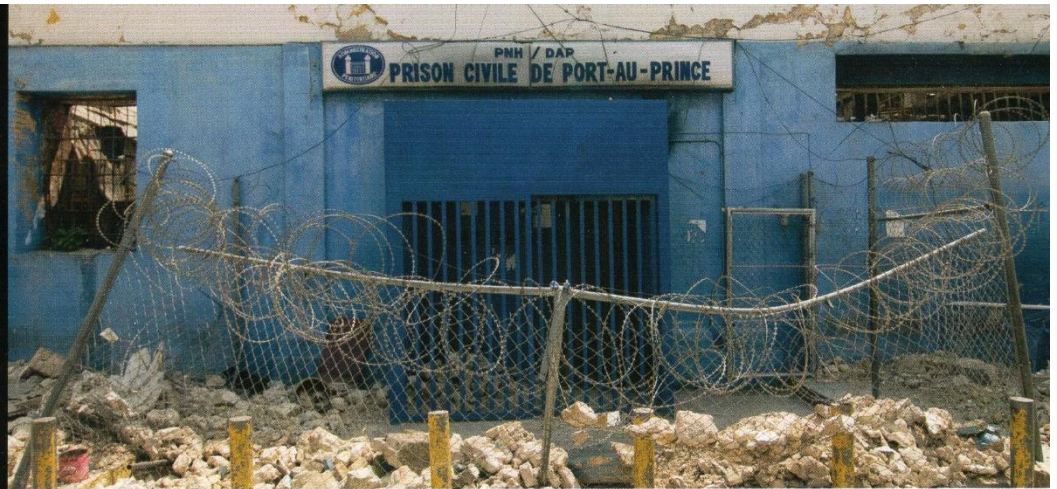
PAGE 3:

*Kolb translations
build Lutheran foundation
in post-Soviet countries*



PAGE 4:

*Somali translator
and family find
safe refuge*



Imprisoned pastor's plea:

“The *Small Catechism* is a need!”

About 10 months ago, Rev. Joseph's* life changed in a drastic way — perhaps forever — as he was hauled before a local judge in Haiti on vague charges, then ordered to be held without bond.

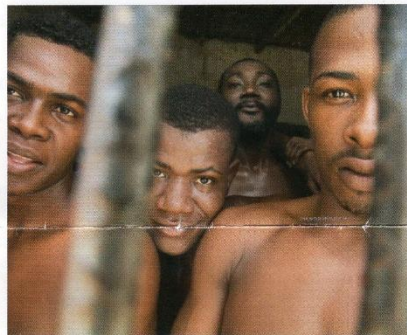
Next he found himself in one of the worst prisons in Haiti, drastically unlike our American prisons. Detainees suffer from a severe lack of food and clean drinking water in over-crowded conditions, while temperatures soar into the upper 80s and 90s and vermin scurry about.

There is little hope that Haiti's justice system will free Rev. Joseph any time soon. Since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021, the legal system has collapsed in Haiti, and violent gangs rule the streets. Now Rev. Joseph has been transferred to yet another prison where he simply waits.

In the midst of this dark and fearsome situation, the hope of Christ shines.

Like Joseph in Pharaoh's prison, today's Rev. Joseph has remained faithful to God. He is showing leadership, gaining the favor of his guards, and most important of all, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with his fellow inmates.

* To protect this pastor's hope for future freedom, his name has been changed in this article.



And the Holy Spirit is working in powerful ways among the lowest of the low in Haiti! Read below a communication from Rev. Joseph to his family:

“Good morning! How are you doing? For my part, God takes good care of me every day. He gives me peace, joy, health and love for others. Today, God

has given me grace. He uses me to preach the Good News of Jesus to the prisoners. 2 Timothy 4:2 - Preach the Word...

“On Sunday mornings, there is a big transformation in the prison. Everyone gets ready to go to church. There are 3 different groups, girls, boys and men. We have already baptized 18 people.”

What strength and courage flows into the lost when the Word of God enters their minds and hearts!

To continue and expand this important pastoral work, Rev. Joseph needs the help of his brothers and sisters in Christ.

On July 12, nearly 8 months after he was first imprisoned, he wrote, “The *Small Catechism* is a need [for continuing the instruction of new

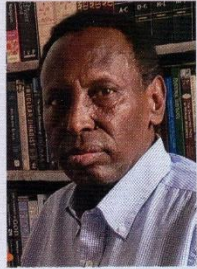
Haiti pastor _____ continued on p. 4

www.LHFmissions.org

MISSION UPDATE:

Somali translator moved to safety, renews outreach

We give thanks that LHF's Somali translator, Rev. Mohamed Gurhan, and his family have safely settled in their new home in Europe.



Prior to their escape, Rev. Gurhan had established a Lutheran outreach to the people of Somalia, a militantly Muslim country

(Somalia and Ethiopia share a border). As LHF reported in earlier this year, the family was forced to flee from Ethiopia when Muslim leaders threatened them with violence and imprisonment.

Now, he will continue his ministry online and to Somali immigrants in Europe, which has already begun.

"We restarted the Somali prayer and Bible study fellowship last Saturday and distributed some literature, particularly the Somali translation of Koehler's *Light From Above*," writes Rev. Gurhan. "We need to reprint some of our Somali translated literature, especially 'Jesus Never Fails,' *Good News About Jesus* and *Understanding Christian Faith*, probably a thousand copies of each.

"Also, is there an Arabic translation of 'Jesus Never Fails?' We also need this version."

Please pray that this Somali Gospel outreach will continue to thrive.

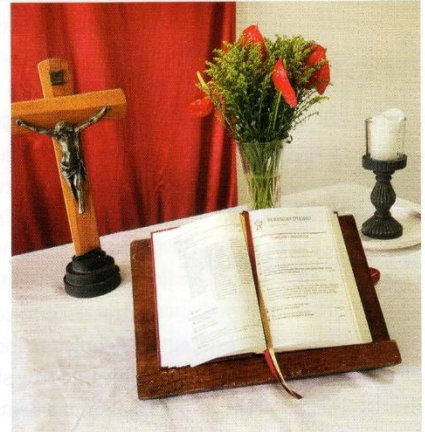


Price reduction for Spanish Hymnal orders

Himnario Luterano, the new Lutheran hymnal used in Spanish-speaking churches throughout North, Central and South America, is now available at a reduced price of \$10 per copy!

Congregations and ministries who previously ordered the first edition of the hymnal at the cost of \$15 per copy may now order the updated 2nd edition copies for only \$5 per book.

Himnario Luterano orders must be placed through the LCMS Office of National Mission at 314-996-1396, or you can order online at <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/national/hispanic-ministry>



Haiti pastor _____ continued from p. 1

believers]...Please, I need your help. Saved to serve, Rev. Joseph."

That's all he requests. Not money, not other luxuries. Just books about Jesus, so he can spread the Gospel and teach.

"For Rev. Joseph [and Haitian Creole-speaking Haiti], there isn't a lot of curriculum produced for teaching the Christian faith," explains Rev. Joseph's sister-in-law. "And if you think about the circumstances for which the catechism was written - for an uneducated population - the situation in Haiti (especially the prisons) is very similar. The catechism is a one-book package that lays out all our teachings systematically. It's a clear, Bible-based way of teaching that's easy to walk through."

LHF has translated and printed the *Small Catechisms* Rev. Joseph needs in the Haitian Creole language. But we need your mission offerings to ship them into Haiti, where Rev. Joseph's family can deliver them to his prison and to other prisons and churches.

Can you help? Each catechism costs only \$5 to print in the Haitian Creole or French languages for Haiti. Send your gift in the enclosed envelope, or give online at www.LHFmissions.org.



LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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("Word at Work" staff: Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise, executive editor; Jennifer Bagnall, managing editor and graphic design; Anna Irwin, staff writer)



CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth.
Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	!	@	#	\$
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
%	^	&	*	()	-	?	>	<	:	;	{

For to us a 3 8 9 # 4 is 2 ^ (%, to us a) ^ %

is 7 9 > 5 %, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful 3 ^ ? %) 5 # ^ ('

\$ 9 7 8 - ; God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the

greatness of his government and & 5 1 3 5 there will be no 5 % 4.

He will reign on David's - 8 (^ % 5 and over his @ 9 % 7 4 ^ \$ '

establishing and upholding it with ! ?) - 9 3 5 and righteousness

from that time on and 6 ^ (5 > 5 (. *Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV*

Answers: child, born, given, Counselor, Mighty, peace, end, throne, kingdom, justice, forever

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER IS DECEMBER 23RD.