

THANK YOU FROM PNG

14 May 2019

Dear Hope Lutheran Church!

Perhaps your "Easter basket" is now empty and the glow of saying, "He is risen indeed!" has faded. But, the results of the resurrection are still true: ***your sins are forgiven and you have eternal life through Jesus! Alleluia!***

While such truths are also applicable here, the reality is that the "church seasons" don't get that much focus beyond the specific day. One of the reasons may be that specific music for the season is scarce. The church is not new here and the impact of classical hymns has not been that deep. More contemporary music, with its often shallow message, seems to hold more sway. Sad, but true.

The classes at the seminary are going well. I am teaching a course on the Reformation, which has been a fun challenge. I am using the "Faces of the Reformation Series" from the LCMS website as the main content for the course. I am also teaching a class on The Augsburg Confession. For this I am also using a book from the LCMS for the course content. Finally, I am teaching the Gospel of John, for the third time in my 3 school years here.

You should have noticed from our recent newsletter that we will be completing our missionary service in June. The decision was difficult on many levels. For one, teaching is difficult, but so rewarding! Being even a small part in preparing these men for the Holy Ministry is an honor. Secondly, and of little real importance, the weather here is fabulous, although too hot at times. Where else will one have a home that is surrounded by coconut trees? Also, there is no one coming to replace me and that leaves the seminary with a big need. Getting missionaries to serve over here is not easy. Yet, the desire to remain and not experience the aspects of parish ministry I miss, especially weekly preaching, is too much to ignore. Lord willing, I will have a new church to serve by the end of the summer.

Saints at Hope, you have been a faithful and generous supporter! Thank you so very, very much! It brings a smile to our faces to see your name on the list when the monthly support list is delivered to our email. I suspect that the good folks in Mission Advancement or at Mission Central will be asking you if you would continue to support someone else once we are done. I strongly encourage you to do so. But, it is the decision that you will need to make with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Right now our plans are for us to be Michigan in July and August with a few quick trips to Florida, Connecticut and (maybe) Washington state to see our children. If we happen to be any place near you, we may let you know so we can have a cup of coffee or something and thank you personally for your prayers and support.

God's richest blessings in Christ Jesus!

Larry and Tina

Pastor Larry and Tina Matro
LCMS missionaries in Papua New Guinea

"And this is eternal life, that they know You the only True God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." John 17:3