



CELIC Newsletter

2022 Aug

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. - Rom10:17

Address : 4F, No.127 Sec.1, Fuxing S. Rd., Da'an Dist., Taipei City 106, Taiwan, ROC Tel: 02-2775-4145 Email:service@celc.org.tw

Christ is a gift to us

By: Pastor Andrew Miao, President of the CELC

It has been nearly twelve years since the reform of the China Evangelical Lutheran Church. As we resume our mission of pioneering and growing the church after the pandemic has eased, I think of Luther's helpful discourse on "Christ as a Gift and an Example" (LW35:119):

"Christ is first a gift and second an example."

Such a concept reminds and exhorts each of our co-workers to first learn to "abide in Christ" and to focus on establishing our own intimate relationship with Christ, so as to receive the grace and power bestowed on us from above. Luther said, "Christ must first be a gift to us" before we can happily imitate Christ in our ministry. If our first step is to "just take Christ as an example", to work hard in various evangelistic ministries, and hope that through our own gifts and efforts, we will be able to prosper the church again, that would be just to satisfy our own ambitions.

Do not forget! The core and foundation of the gospel we believe and preach is that you receive and acknowledge Christ, not as an example, but as a gift from God to you. As servants of God, if we cannot learn to receive the gift of Christ with faith, that is, to listen to and abide in Christ, then in all kinds of gospel ministries, we are not only laboring and burdening in vain, but will be proud of seeing the results of the ministry.

The teachings of Jesus point to two different kinds of servants and their results: a laboring and heavy-duty service that creates despair or proud servants; and a restful and light service that molds the humble who serve in Christ. May we who are co-workers with God all experience the joy and rest of the Lord's presence in our service in Christ. Let's share.

Photo: Erik M. Lunsford / The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

A New Milestone in Mission Evangelism

By: Pastor Joseph Lu, Director of Missions

In 2021, after the CELC spent nearly a whole year completing organizational reorganization and system reconstruction, the Missionary Department has been able to develop and enter a new milestone in 2022. Due to space limitations here, I will share only two major items with readers: evangelism and theological education, please pray for:

1. The personnel establishment of each mission office will gradually be replenished:

Since 2021, the CELC has been on the right track towards "returning to the mission and pastoral care of the church". It has reclaimed the church property and actively invited co-workers to join the ministry of the mission. From July 1, 2022, Pastor Joseph Lu, Director of the Missions Department, will serve or appoint the chief pastor of each mission station, and will work with the resident pastor to carry out missions together:

1.1 SongShan Missionary Center in Taipei ~

Teacher Zhao Danxiang (M. Div.,China Lutheran Theological Seminary/Master of Pathology, National Taiwan University) was transferred from Hsinchu Shengdao Church to Taipei Songshan Missionary Center. Former Songshan resident teacher Huang Youting, resigned at the end of June to pursue a different career.). Teacher Zhao has been serving for many years before joining the CELC, plus three years of service experience in Shengdao Church (formerly Qianjia/Longshan Mission). After transferring to Songshan, he will be responsible for preaching, teaching, visiting and related services.



Teacher Zhao Danxiang's family

1.2 Hsinchu Holy Word Church (originally Qianjia/Longshan Missionary Center, this year changed its name to Holy Word Church).

The worker there, Teacher Zhou Dingtai (Master of Divinity from China Lutheran Theological Seminary / Graduated from National Taiwan University Advanced Management) joined our association when he was a theological student and worked as an intern in Hsinchu Shengdao Church for two consecutive years. After graduating this year, he became a resident teacher of Shengdao Church, and worked with the chief pastor, Pastor Michael Paul. It is expected that it will strengthen the weekly group and fellowship work of the evangelism center, and strive to complete the relocation work, so that the Church of the Holy Word will become self-reliant.



Nantou Holy Trinity Church Mission

1.3 Holy Grace Church Mission Center in Taichung ~

Pastor Aaron Chu, is expected to move towards church independence in 2023 (please refer to the previous newsletter)

for many years and is currently assisting the sisters of Songen Church in Tainan, children, and Guangyao Dormitory in evangelism ministry. Beginning in July, he began going to Holy Trinity Church three days a week to assist the evangelistic ministry of Holy Trinity Church, which is just starting. ✘ The former Tainan co-worker, Brother Bruce Liu, resigned at the end of May due to the consensus on service between husband and wife and family economic factors.

1.5 Salvation Church, Chiayi ~

Now a three-person team is formed by Pastor Joseph Lu (principal), Pastor Alex Wu (resident) and Pastor Stephen Wang (assistant) to assist the development of Salvation Church and contribute to the future of Chiayi district pastoral manpower needs. Our evangelism mission started in Chiayi, and the church in Chiayi is in desperate need of revival. In the future, it is estimated that at least four church properties in Chiayi District will be renovated to resume the church's evangelistic mission.



Our teachers Zhou Dingtai and Zheng Huanglan 2022 China Lutheran Seminary Graduation Ceremony

1.7 Guangyao Yao Single Men's Dormitory Gospel Mission ~

Our work is located in the Guang Yao Gospel Center on Datong Road, Tainan. Guang Yao has now transformed into a single men's dormitory for evangelism work. With the active service of Teacher Yang Yuqing and the active assistance of Pastor Yao Zhentao, they are currently in charge of dormitory management and evangelism work.

1.8 Mission station scheduled to open in 2023~

- (1). Canaan Church in Taipei: After renovation from January to April this year, the building has been restored to a usable state. From May, Pastor Lu's family moved in and began to invite Songshan members to have meals during the week to help Songshan Church establish various levels of fellowship and started visiting the surrounding neighborhoods. It is expected to officially become a mission station in March 2023 and begin community ministry in the area.
- (2). General Mission Hall: The small auditorium attached to the General Office was formerly known as the Holy Church Hall, has been renamed the Mission Hall. In 2022, morning





Canaan Church before and after

prayers and evening prayers are being held on Mondays and Fridays. In 2023, depending on the pastoral manpower of our church, we will develop weekly worship and service industry evangelism ministry.

As of July 2022, there are two self-supporting churches under the name of the CELC - Tainan Rong'en Church, Douliu Ling'en Church, five mission stations under development, and two evangelistic missions. In 2023 it is expected that two more mission offices will be established. If together with the future Chiayi District, four more mission stations can be established, the need for pastoral staff will be urgent.

Intercession: May the Lord be merciful and call upon pastoral staff with clean hands and pure hearts, committed to shepherding, upholding the Holy Cause, faithful, active, and loving souls to join the CELC and serve with one heart.

2. Continuing Development of Theological Education:

With the strong support of the LCMS OIM in the United States, beginning with the Sacred Music Lecture in May 2021, the CELC has held theological lectures online with American lecturers once a month to this day. As an on-the-job training for the current pastoral staff, it can cultivate the commitment of the staff and members to the faith and the truth of the Bible.

2.1 Starting from September this year, the CELC will provide three intensive courses per year to in-service pastoral staff and related courses required for pastoral practice. This type of course is different from the basic training provided by the seminary. It focuses on the combination of biblical teaching and pastoral practice. It can be regarded as an advanced training after graduation from the seminary. (Examples: Luke's and Acts' Pastoral Views, The Biblical Foundation and Practice of Baptism, The Further Study and Implementation of the Lord's Supper, the Lutheran Educational View and Teaching Luther's Catechism, The Pastoral Mission and Pastoral Practice in the Book of Concord, etc.)

2.2 From the second half of this year, relevant lectures will also be provided to our members as supplementary teaching for adult Sunday schools in various churches.

When the CELC is "returning to the mission and pastoral care of the church", in addition to prioritizing resources to the church's evangelism and talent cultivation, it will rebuild the orthodox Biblical theology of Luther that has been lost for many years, and return to the period of Reformation 500 years ago. The biblical mission concept based on the Book of Concord is the biggest challenge at present. With the current super-sectarian movement in power, business science and general psychology have gradually replaced the mission of the church based on the Bible. In addition, after 40 years of church stumbling, how to rebuild members and co-workers to "recognize" and "identify" this issue. Recovering this lost truth is especially urgent!

Intercession: Pray for the Lord's mercy, granting always wise arrangements and sharing the precious assets of Lutheranism, so as to encourage co-workers and members to have a deeper understanding and enjoy the spiritual growth and renewal of the church brought about by this precious asset, and then be willing to dedicate to walking and evangelizing together.

Brief Introduction of CELC Hsinchu Church of the Holy Word

Ding-Tai Chou, evangelist

The predecessor of the Church of the Holy Word was Qianjia Mission, which was established with the assistance of teachers from China Lutheran Theological Seminary and the CELC. At first, the vision was formed because friends from the indigenous people left their hometowns to work, so it was difficult to integrate into the church in the city, and it was easy to lose church life over time. At that time, the pastors had the burden of caring and caring for the aboriginal friends living in the city. They began to focus on the Paiwan, Amis, Seediq and Atayal aborigines as the main caring communities, and then in this gated community (Hsinchu Qianjia Aboriginal Settlement) Started church ministry. Pastor Joseph Lu served as the chief pastor, Pastor Michael Paul served as the education pastor, and Evangelist Chen Changlong served as the resident teacher.

Because the mission outreach principle of the mission is to insist on centering on God's "Word" to attract truth seekers. The mission center started in 2016 with only evening worship services. Later, the number of participants in the meeting reached an average of about 22 people. Therefore, from 2018, the mission of this mission center began to expand to churches for Han Chinese and aboriginal people. In order to meet the needs of the promotion of the Gospel work, we even invited Mr. Zhao Danxiang to join the CELC as a co-worker.

Later, due to the urban planning of the Hsinchu City Government, the original mission community (Qianjia Indigenous Settlement) was included in the planned location of the capital, so it was moved to the current location (the second floor of the Longshan Community Activity Center) for the gathering, except for the maintenance of late. In addition to the worship, morning worship and afternoon Vietnamese worship are added. There are three services on Sunday. Since the evangelistic mission of this mission is to insist on the teaching of the pure word (truth) of God, because



Church of the Holy Word future design drawing

God through his word created and established faith in Christ. We believe that "the grass withers, and the flower fades; but the Word of the Lord endures forever" (1 Peter 1:25).

It is because we attach great importance to "God's Word", so next year we will relocate to a new location (12th Floor, Nano Building, Dongda Road, Hsinchu City), and the name of the church will be changed to "Church of the Holy Word". We believe that hearing is God's presence among us in the Word to minister to us. Hence the conviction of this sermon: "Therefore, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17).

The future new site of the Church of the Holy Word was originally an asset of the Lutheran Church, and it was dormant for many years without construction. Thanks to the Lord for His guidance and preparation, we are currently actively carrying out the decoration design project, and it is expected we will move in after completion in early 2023. In order to cope with the development of the next stage of the gospel ministry, Pastor Micheal Paul served as the lead pastor, and invited this year's seminary graduate (vicarage in Qianjia Missionary Center in 2020) Zhou Dingtai, an evangelist-designate, to serve as a resident preacher.

May the pure word of God take root in the Qianjia Evangelism Center and pass it on from generation to generation to the future Church of the Holy Word. May the Lord keep the Church of the Holy Word continually as a spiritual home for the aborigines and their second generation young people who work in Hsinchu—far away from their hometowns. May God bless Luther's Catechism classes taught by Pastor Paul to continue to produce results, and may God's Word and love be deeply rooted in the hearts of the members. May God's own "Word" attract more seekers of the truth, and may the Holy Spirit lead more seekers to the Church of the Holy Word to save their souls. Amen!



Church of the Holy Word members gathered in the Longshan location.

RestartMILK ~ Long Time No See

Children's Group Teacher
Cynthia Han

MILK.....
Mission In Lutheran Kids



Thank the Lord, we can finally meet face to face, the long-lost Lutheran Children's Summer Camp~

MILK, which starts this summer, is different from the past, and will invite hidden teachers in the church to serve children together. From the MILK camp from 2017 to 2020, the Lutheran Church mainly recruited foreign troops and recruited non-congregation youths to serve. From the camp-style training in the first week of July to the second week. This group of teenagers went to churches and did almost all of the teaching. In the long run, although it does give churches some help in serving attitudes and skills. Beginning in 2019, MILK plans to focus on Lutheran quizzes, and compile lesson plans year by year according to the Ten Commandments, Creeds, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession and Holy Communion, and the Duties of Believers. Later, we began to develop handmade books, which resolved the worries of children being unable to provide complete follow-up review after the summer camp. However, the 2021 epidemic year, which disrupted many arrangements, made Teacher Cynthia think about the necessity and urgency of returning to the pure teaching of Lutheran faith. Therefore, in 2022, we will no longer recruit teachers from the outside world, but will instead encourage the church to be self-sustaining, self-

supporting, and self-teaching, and will always step back to the role of a behind-the-scenes consultant. We look forward to training young people from our church in the future, a true Outreach (outreach mission).

Of course, from March onwards, under the daily updated policy of the Ministry of Health and Services of the People's Republic of China, the mix of MILK's physical or online training this year has also affected the mood of writing lesson plans. Thank the Lord, on June 4th, the North District training was held at the CELC Headquarters Education Building. On June 18, I also went to Tainan Song En Church to conduct training in the southern area. In small Taiwan, being able to face each other has become a matter of prayer.

Thanks to the Lord, from July 18th to July 22nd, Banqiao Peace Church successfully opened a physical MILK summer camp, which has also become a blessing to other churches in the future. Please also continue to pray for the following churches, so that children can come to Jesus and learn the Lord's Prayer happily.

1. 8/1-8/5 Heping Church Parenting Class
2. 8/8-8/12 Tainan Song En Church
3. 8/15-8/19 Hsinchu Qianjia Missionary Center
4. 8/22-8/26 Taipei Songshan Missionary Center

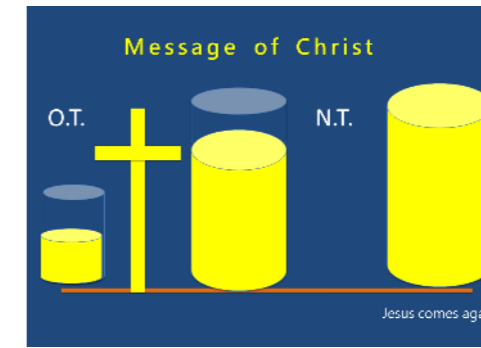
Report of Dr. Barth's Lecture on "The Hermeneutics of the First Testament"

Missions Publishing Group,
Evangelist Sharon Hsieh

CELC held an online lecture "First Testament Hermeneutics". Rev. Dr. Andrew Bartelt, professor of hermeneutics at St. Louis Concordia Theological Seminary, brings us the Old Testament. An Introduction to Hermeneutics.

First, Dr. Bartelt emphasized the importance of the Old Testament, referring to the "Old" Testament as the "first" testament. He believes that pastors do not value the Old Testament for five reasons: First, they are not familiar with the books of the Old Testament. Second, there are many things that are difficult to understand in the Old Testament: brutal killing, ugly adultery, and chaotic government. Third, some people will think that it is the old and must be replaced by the new, such as Marcion in the second century who rejected the God of the Old Testament and accepted only the God of the New. Fourth, they think that the Old Testament is only the law, without knowing that there is also the gospel in it. Fifth, think that the Old Testament is written in Hebrew, which is not easy to understand.

Dr. Bartelt believes that pastors must use the First Testament to preach, and there are five reasons: First, both the Old and New Testaments are the word of God (formal principle) to record a story about salvation (material principle). Second, there are many important messages, stories, philosophies and wisdom. The third is the basis of the New Testament. For example, when Jesus read the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament, if people did not understand the Old Testament, they would not be able to understand what Jesus said, and Matthew and Paul often quoted the Old Testament. Fourth, in the three-lectionary scriptures on the Lord's Day, the Old Testament will always cooperate with the Gospel scriptures to provide more background



information. Fifth, written in Hebrew, there are more precise words and grammar.

Since the message of the Old Testament is so important, how should we interpret it? Dr. Bartelt believes that the Old Testament shares the same hermeneutical principles as the New Testament. First, both covenants are centered on Christ. The Old Testament records the sins of the world,

election, and God's promises. It also records that God overcomes idols, is the only God of the world, is also the judge and savior of the world, and prophesies the world will be saved through the future Christ. Second, both covenants are the Word of God, just as Paul said to Timothy that the Bible is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16). Third, both covenants have the theological truth of "God-Man-Sin-Grace" and God's revealed plan. Fourth, both covenants have the law and the gospel, the law of the Ten Commandments and the rich promises of God's grace in the Old Testament. Fifth, both covenants record the signs of God's charitable presence and God's presence, such as circumcision and the tabernacle. Sixth, both require the use of historical-grammatical exegesis. Dr. Bartelt also mentioned that the Old Testament also has a unique hermeneutic method, especially that God uses many characters, events, institutions, and visible signs to typify God's plan of salvation, and give examples.

Finally, Dr. Barthes concluded that the message of Christ in the Old Testament is like filling a bottle with water, and full of water indicates a complete and clear understanding of Christ. With the development of history in the Old Testament, there is more and more water in the bottle. In the New Testament, the bottle is full of water. Almost full of water, and when Jesus comes again, it will be full of water.

Lutheran Pastoral Course



Luke - Pastoral Theology in Acts

Speaker: Dr. Arthur Just
Class location: China Lutheran Seminary
No. 11, Lane 51, Daxue Road, Hsinchu City
Class Date: 2022/9/13-9/29
Tuesday to Thursday 8:00-17:00

Course Introduction: The author of "Luke's Gospel" and "Acts" is Luke. In this course, the two books are read and taught side by side, pointing out the Christ-centered pastoral view, which is beneficial to those who have church service experience. The missionary co-workers apply what they have learned to pastoral ministry.

Lecture Online



One Heart, One Thriving Church (Part III) ~ Pastor and Presidency in the Bible

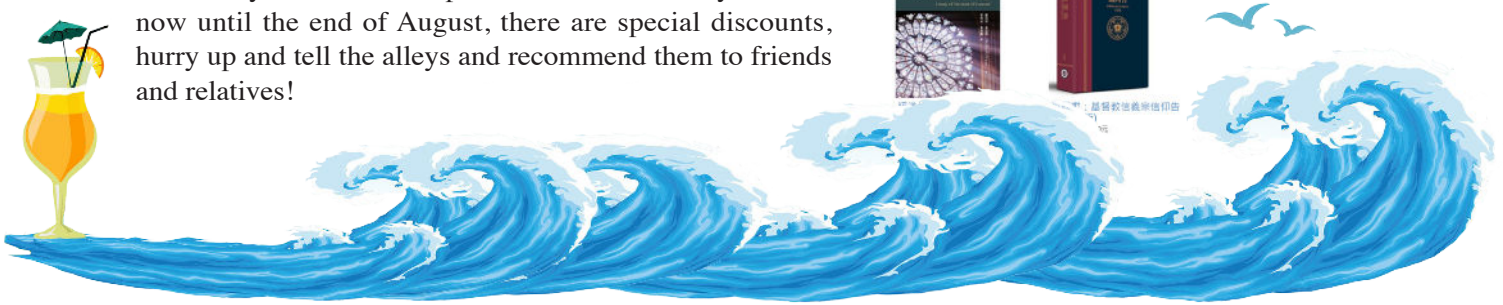
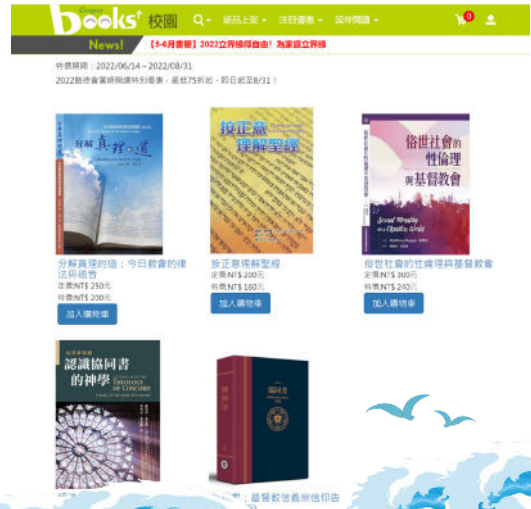
Rev. Dr. Martin Noland
2022/8/29 Monday 9:00-12:00 AM

Following Pastor Randall Golter's explanation of the Bible and longevity (Part I), and Rev. Martin Keller's sharing of the practice of pastoral and longevity relationship (Part II), Pastor Dr. Martin Noland will share the Bible, Book of Concord, Lutheran History, and discuss how to face the tension between church leaders and pastors and the road to one accord and a prosperous church.

This concludes this series of lectures. Welcome to participate!

Lutheran books are available now for online sales!

The publishing team has cooperated with Campus Bookstore Taiwan, and now you can buy excellent books published by Lutheran in the physical bookstore or the online bookstore! If you don't want to go out in the hot summer, you can order books online at home to have good books delivered to your home and spend the summer with you. From now until the end of August, there are special discounts, hurry up and tell the alleys and recommend them to friends and relatives!



Book introduction

introduction Lutheran Faith Booklet— 《Time of Grace》 Series

Closer to personal life! More practical examples! It is a good partner for replenishing spiritual nutrients and helping relatives and friends around you!

Samuel Shih, Publishing Group



This booklet series is from the "Time of Grace" series published by the Wisconsin Synod Lutheran Church in the United States. This set of excellent books has helped many people all over the world to understand the faith. Many of them come from the traditional Lutheran theology and are different from the shallow information that has been diluted. These books are worth reading carefully. Now it has been rewritten and designed by the publishing team, and it is more appropriate to the reading habits of contemporary Chinese society, which means people love it. The first edition is only circulated in Lutheran churches, and exclusive display stands can be seen in each church. Members are welcome to freely read it after Sunday worship. It can also be recommended to relatives and friends or read together, it will become a good evangelism tool. Now that the paper publications are gradually declining, I also urge the congregation to donate to our publication service, and put some change in the offering box by the display, which is both an affirmation and a help for the publication of this association. In addition, you are also welcome to join the FB community of a better life. We will continue to write the guide or reading experience of the booklet, so that everyone can better absorb the content of the application. You are also welcome to share your reading experience or evangelism experience. Let the gospel grow and thrive among us together, and live a beautiful life in line with God's will!

