



**Witness Always**

**Rev. Thomas Chryst**

LCMS Missionary to Singapore

### Parish Pastor No More

WOW!! After 13 years as a parish pastor, God has called me to serve as a missionary in Singapore. We'll be spending the next few months ramping up for our big move.



As this process unfolds, I'll be sending you newsletters like these to keep you informed of my activities in this new and exciting field of service.

### A New Relationship

Grace Lutheran Church, Racine, Wisconsin is where I have served as Associate Pastor for 13 years. The people of Grace have been a blessing to me in countless ways, and it's been my privilege to serve as their pastor.



With my acceptance of the call to serve in World Missions, things will certainly change. I'll be moving away, and I won't be one of Grace's pastors any more.

But that doesn't mean that our relationship is over!

Grace has been looking for new ways to reach out with the Gospel, and thinking of engaging in a major mission project. My opportunity is now their opportunity! As Grace continues to support me, not as their pastor, but now as their missionary, they will be helping to bring the Gospel to a far off land. Rather than losing me, they will be helping to send me for this important work planting a brand new congregation in Singapore.

This is the first time the LCMS has ever sent a missionary to this country, which is a small island city-state, but has great strategic importance for the region. It's also a multi-cultural and multi-religious context with many challenges and possibilities for ministry.



### Southern Asia/Oceania

The Southern Asia/Oceania region for LCMS international work includes India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma), Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, East Timor, Australia and New Zealand.

These countries are diverse in culture, economics and language. But they are all fertile ground for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Needless to say, there's plenty of work to do!

**My work will be to plant a Lutheran congregation in Singapore, a strategic hub and the headquarters for LCMS witness and mercy work in the region.**

## Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

Please pray for our family as we spend the next few months tending to personal details about our move – getting passports, selling the house, and the million other things we'll need to do.

Please pray for Grace, Racine, the congregation we are leaving, as they adjust to the new situation and assess their ministry needs for the future.

And pray for the ongoing and future work of LCMS missionaries in South Asia and elsewhere, as we plant churches, work with partner Lutheran churches, and do mercy work with those in need of assistance



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at [www.lcms.org/service](http://www.lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

## Family Update

As you can imagine, the thought of picking up and moving to the other side of the world is a little unsettling, but also very exciting! Our children are especially looking forward to their new adventures in South Asia.

Bailey, our oldest, has been "on board" the longest. Her sense of adventure and love of new cultures seems innate. She's also an avid chess player, and knows that the game is played all over the world, even in South Asia. It should be a great way for her to connect with new friends there.



Helena, the middle kid, took a while to come around to the idea. But her big sister's excitement seems to have rubbed off on her. She's just hoping we go to a place where she can still practice her gymnastics.

Morgan, our youngest, is still a little unsure about everything. But her adventurous eating habits will serve her well in a new country. She's usually the first of her sisters to take the plunge and try a new food. I'm sure she'll have plenty of opportunities.

To support my work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 790089  
St. Louis, MO 63179-0089.

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Thomas Chryst." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [www.lcms.org/Chryst](http://www.lcms.org/Chryst)