



January 7, 2021



Interior of St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church of Gary, IN

WHO WE ARE: LUTHERAN MISSION – GARY

We envision a city that is attractive, inviting, and thriving, based upon Agape Love In Action (ALIA).

ALIA looks to serve my neighbor, not according to my comfort zone, but according to his or her need.

1. The Gospel
2. Knowledge of Self (Vocation)
3. Recognition of Community
4. Cooperation over Competition
5. Edification over Destruction

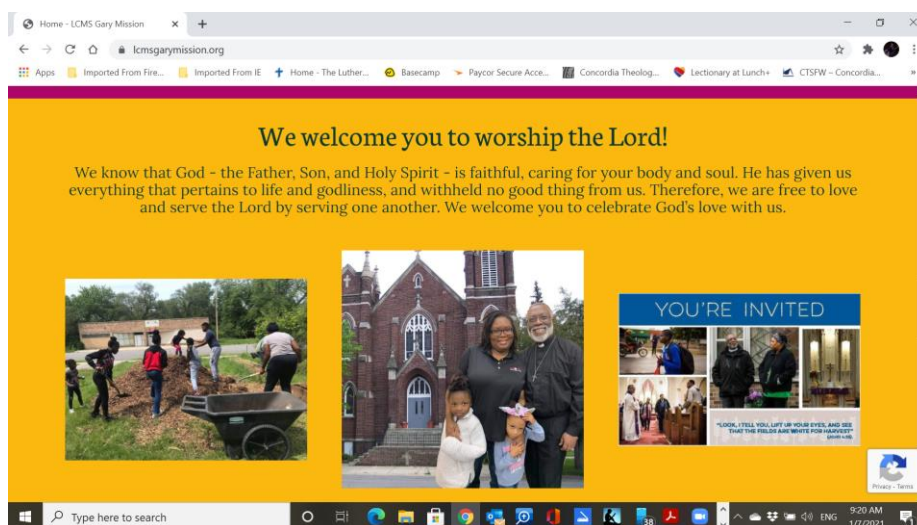
Soli Gloria Dei



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<https://www.facebook.com/MissionGI/>

Witness – Mercy – Life Together gets out of the box



Our new website – lcmsgarymission.org

The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed us to expand our efforts to communicate the pure Gospel. It has also enlarged our territories beyond the local community where we serve those for whom Christ died. Each new venture is a cause for celebration and an opportunity to stretch our resources and skills.

It also gives more people opportunities to participate in the work of ministry. The website is online, but it is far from finished. For it to be all that it should be, it will need the skills and talents of someone who knows more than Lenita or I do about web design or hosting.

I am excited that the Lord has blessed us with this advance, and I look forward to His further blessing “the work of our hands.” I look forward to reaching many more people, both in Gary and in every place, with the Good News of Jesus Christ, “Who was conceived by the

Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary...” and “is the propitiation for our sins.”

You can now get information about what we are doing, contact us with questions or suggestions, and receive news about upcoming Day of Service activities. You can also access our sermon and Bible study videos. Soon, you will be able to donate online as well.

Again, neither Lenita nor I am web experts, so we are taking baby steps. If you know of someone who could help us with this, please let us know. We need all the help we can get from God’s people.

Have a blessed day in the Lord, and may His peace, proclaimed on that first Christmas morning, be yours this year and always.

"It's Christmas! It's Christmas! YAY!!!

It's good to know that their joy is not based on the number of boxes.

This Christmas, we wanted the girls to receive gifts that reflected their interests and showed the relationship between asking and receiving. To accomplish that, we asked them to tell us specifically what they would like.

For about six months we surveyed, researched, and verified. I wanted them to get exactly what they wanted, and I wanted them to learn about being specific in their requests, both to us and to God the Father.

Daniyah wanted a few dolls, but mostly, she wanted apps. Dinah wanted dolls and a guitar. By the time Christmas morning had arrived, we were able, by God's grace, to have everything under the tree that Dani and Dinah had requested and to which we had said "Yes." The key was that there were also things to which we said "No." Those things were not a part of their Christmas, but the things to which we said "Yes" were as certain as the rising and setting of the sun.

God deals with us this way as well. God commands us to ask. Matthew 7:7 (ESV) says,

⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.



Daniyah and Dinah celebrating Christmas Day, the day of our Lord's birth.

James tells us in his epistle, James 4:2–3 (ESV):

² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

During the Christmas shopping season, our families are subjected to a bombardment of things to covet. Everything that we see is offered as if it is the key to contentment, the hallmark of happiness, or the thing that all the cool kids have. In addition, thanks to the pandemic, we are also exhorted to remember that it is our duty to support businesses. It takes self-discipline to train our children, and ourselves, to avoid the rocky shores of covetousness and false guilt is not easy during "the most wonderful time of the year." It is especially important for those of us who are given the gift of being His witnesses that we do not confuse the message given by the angelic host with the message given by Madison Ave. It is also important that we model the joy of giving and receiving. Jesus said that "it is more blessed to give than to receive;" He didn't say that there is no joy in receiving.

So I hope that you have found joy in this season. Though it might not have been everything that you would have wished or hoped for, nevertheless, it is the season to celebrate Christ's love for you.

WORKING ON THAT NEXT LEVEL DEGREE

Back in May, 2020, I started working on a Ph.D. in Missiology at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. I have taken eight classes so far, and have passed all my classes, with a cumulative GPA of 3.95. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. This was my DMS 971 Class - Seminar in Missiology, taught by Rev. Dr. Robert H. Bennett. The program is based on intensives. Each one is either one or two weeks, and we are in class for 8 hours per day. When I finish this, I will be able to finally write that book we've been talking about (LOL).





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Removal of the Pestilence
- Strength for the journey
- Faithful financial support

GIVE THANKS FOR:

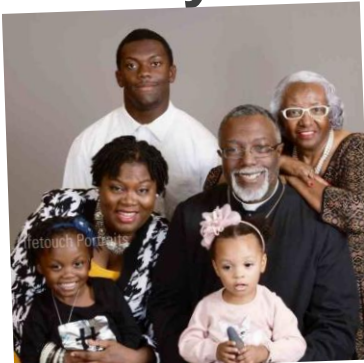
- Those who have been healed from the COVID-19 virus
- Every opportunity to preach the pure Gospel.
- Health, strength, and the presence of God in His gifts for us.

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us



Ministry or Family Update



This Christmas was a very special Christmas!

This was the first Christmas where D2 was in full adult mode. I'm still getting used to it all. It seems that Dinah tried to fill the void...

WATCHING YOUR BOY TURN INTO A MAN

He goes to school every day and goes to work every evening. That was life with D2 during the fall. Then we had the COVID-19 spike and he was on lockdown, at least, as far as Purdue Northwest was concerned.

Apparently, being a homebody was the last thing that our son wanted, so he grabbed another job – delivering and baking pizzas at Domino's Pizza. I don't know how he does it, but like that little train, he just keeps chugging along.

DANI AND DINAH ARE REALLY GROWING

Not just physically, either. Dani has become quite a techie. Not content to just play video games, she has begun learning how to do coding. Who knows, perhaps you might one day be watching your kids playing one of Dani's games! Dinah seems to be following in me and Delwyn II's musical footsteps. Every day she gets up and plays on the piano. For Christmas, she asked for a guitar. Since she is 5 years old, we got her a smaller guitar, but still one with 6 strings. Every night I can hear her strumming away, trying to keep up with her brother, who has become surprisingly good plying the guitar and mandolin.

HAVE PEN, WILL TRAVEL

There is a new entrepreneur in town! Lenita is now the CEO of "Nita Notary, LLC." She completed her coursework and is now a notary public and licensed signing agent. We are so excited; I think that Lenita has always wanted to have her own business. Praise God for His gifts!

It's cold outside, so this picture is more of a wish than a present reality. Nevertheless, it's good to know that, wherever we are, Jesus is with us and for us, just like He is with you and for you. Be encouraged, even now, and know that He has neither left us nor forsaken us.

- Del and Lenita



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

To support the LCMS through the work of Delwyn and Lenita Campbell, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Delwyn and Lenita Campbell." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/Campbell.