

SERVING THE LORD IN

# FRANKFURT, GERMANY

News from the Teeple Family



January 2026



**Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.**

Isaiah 60:1

## Sign up for our newsletter!

Send an email with your contact information to [gina.teeple@lcms.org](mailto:gina.teeple@lcms.org) or use the QR code below:



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](http://lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

## Epiphany: Drawn In by Christ, Sent Out for the World

*"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you"* (Isaiah 60:1). These are the opening words of the Old Testament reading on the Feast of Epiphany. These words wake us up from the darkness of sleep and call us to the season of light and mission.

Epiphany is the season when God's light breaks into the darkness—not just to be admired, but to be followed. At its heart, Epiphany is about God's mission and the call to share in it.

Throughout this season, the Gospel readings show a clear pattern: God reveals His Son, the Holy Spirit draws people to Christ, and then Jesus sends them out. At Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3:13–17), the heavens open and the Father declares, *"This is my beloved Son."* God reveals who Jesus is—not privately, but publicly—for the sake of the world. Light shines, and a mission begins.

John the Baptist points and says, *"Behold, the Lamb of God"* (John 1:29). Andrew hears, follows, and then immediately brings someone else to Jesus. Epiphany faith is never meant to stop with "come and see." Epiphany faith always leads to "come and follow."

That call becomes even clearer when Jesus walks along the Sea of Galilee and says, *"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men"* (Matthew 4:19). Those first disciples are drawn into Christ's light—and then sent into the world with it. Truth leads to testimony.

Finally, at the end of the Epiphany season, on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–9), the disciples see Jesus in dazzling glory. But they cannot stay there. They must come down the mountain, carrying the light into a broken world. Epiphany always moves us outward.

This is the rhythm of the Church's life: gathered by grace and sent for mission. God draws us in through Word and Sacrament, enlightens us by His Spirit, and then sends us to shine Christ's light wherever darkness remains.

Epiphany asks each of us: Where is God sending you to reflect His light—this week, this season, this life? We would do well to imagine and act on the answers to that question!

*"Arise, shine."* The mission is already underway!

# Thank you for the warm welcome!

## **Hope Lutheran Church**

Kitchener, Ontario, Canada  
[hopelc.ca](http://hopelc.ca)

## **Our Savior Lutheran Church**

Grand Rapids, Michigan  
[oursavior-gr.org](http://oursavior-gr.org)

## **Faith Lutheran Church**

Watertown, Wisconsin  
[faithlutheranwatertown.com](http://faithlutheranwatertown.com)

## **Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

Fort Wayne, Indiana  
[emmanuellutheran.org](http://emmanuellutheran.org)



## We are the Church!

As we prepare to deploy, we are already being sent out to churches here in the United States. Each week, we have the opportunity and privilege of visiting different congregations and groups to share how Christ's light is shining on the mission field. It has been a profound joy to witness the enthusiasm, curiosity, and faith of believers who are eager to hear what God is doing!

When we began this journey, we had no idea how deeply meaningful these visits would be. Meeting brothers and sisters in Christ from so many different congregations has been a beautiful reminder that we are part of the larger Church – not just our local congregations. Even though we may worship and serve in different places, we are united in Christ and joined in His mission.

We are especially grateful knowing these congregations will continue to pray for us as we go out on the mission field. Their encouragement, support, and faithful intercession strengthen us and remind us we are never sent alone. As we prepare to serve, we do so with thankful hearts, confident that we are upheld by these prayers and trusting God to continue His work through all of us.



Our brothers and sisters in Christ at  
Hope Lutheran Church in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada!

## Prayer Requests

The next few months will be a bit more intense for us as we get ready to deploy. Please pray for all the members of our family to have the energy and patience we need to do what needs to be done. And please pray for peace as we face all of the changes that are right around the corner!

# Frequently Asked Questions with Gina



## **Have you been to Germany before?**

We have! We were able to visit Frankfurt for a few days, and it was lovely! We actually learned a lot about the community during that visit, which was very helpful.

## **Do you speak German?**

I am working on it now, but prior to this I did not speak German at all. I did study French in high school and college. I am surprised at how helpful that has been with my German pronunciation. In some cases, German words are pronounced the same. After several weeks of lessons, I can honestly say I am really enjoying learning a new language!

## **What happens to all your stuff?**

Although we have the option to bring our furniture and other things with us via a large shipping container, we have decided to use this as an opportunity to downsize. We will be putting sentimental items and important paperwork we want to keep in a storage unit, then we will be selling or donating the rest.

## **Do you already have a place to live?**

We do! Our new congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church in Frankfurt, is providing a parsonage for us. We will be living in an apartment in Frankfurt or a surrounding community.

## **How long are you going to be over there?**

That is a hard question to answer because we don't really know. We are career missionaries, which means our service time is open-ended. We are planning to stay as long as God wants us there! 😊

## **When are you moving?**

We are deploying on or around June 1st!

We were installed as missionaries at Peace Lutheran Church in Fremont, Indiana on November 23rd.

We give special thanks to Pastor Jared Rudolph from Peace and Bishop Jeffrey Miskus, President of the English District!



From the left: Pastor Jared Rudolph, Jeff, Gina, and Bishop Jeffrey Miskus



# Is 2026 your year to tell them?

*The LCMS offers a variety of short-term mission opportunities for individuals and ministry teams. This is a great way for you to serve alongside LCMS missionaries and Lutheran partners on the mission field to spread the Gospel, plant Lutheran churches, and show mercy! Here are a few of the opportunities available in 2026:*

## **Spring Break Mission Trip – Czech Republic**

You will meet with a number of LCMS missionaries serving in the Czech Republic and Eurasia. You will also participate in the local ministry they are doing, which includes helping local Czech students with their English, hosting after-school events, and visiting Czech families in their homes.

## **Church Upkeep Team – Dominican Republic**

Help Spread the Gospel by updating and beautifying Iglesia Luterana Amigos de Cristo, a Lutheran congregation in the Las Américas community. Your team will focus on fixing up the sanctuary and other buildings, sports court where hundreds of youth play weekly, and grounds. All this work frees up resources for the clear proclamation of Christ for all people.

## **Mission Education Team – Dominican Republic**

Experience and participate in the Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission as you learn and serve alongside missionaries and local leaders. We will strive to match your team members' vocational skills and interests with different aspects of our work in the Dominican Republic.

## **English Bible Camp – Spain**

This camp will teach kids about Jesus, while giving them a chance to practice their English skills. Your team will be in charge of planning the English Bible Camp using the curriculum we provide. English Bible Camp combines fun activities, English practice, and Bible stories.

## **Bible Camp Team – South Africa**

Our partners in the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (LCSA) are excited to host a Bible Camp for the children in their congregations and the community. Your team will help these little ones grow in the Word while having fun!

**To see other opportunities and learn more, visit: [servenow.lcms.org/short-term](https://servenow.lcms.org/short-term)!**

Please prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support our work in Germany! Checks can be made payable to:

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

OR

Mission Central  
40718 Highway E 16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

OR



Please include the words 'Teeple - Germany' on the memo line. You can also give securely using the QR code above, or at [lcms.org/givenow/teeple](https://lcms.org/givenow/teeple). Questions or concerns? Please contact a donor care representative at (888) 930-4438.

