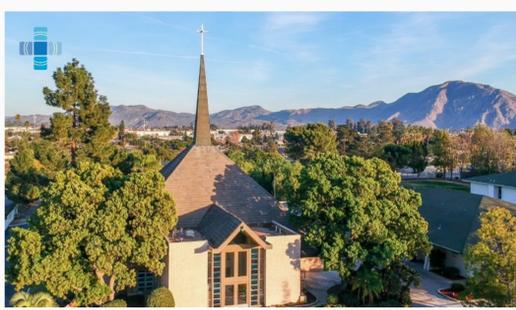


Missions Update December 2020



Across the Streets, Across the States, Across the Seas
What's new on the mission field?

Across the Streets: Luther's Attic Thrift Store, Liz Perez, Board President

What's New: Luther's Attic is open for business and God is blessing the store with volunteers and shoppers. Did you know that 20-25% of the profits go directly to the Good Shepherd Preschool? That equates to over \$10,000 a year to help with purchasing play equipment and making capital repairs and upgrades to the school! Due to a smaller number of volunteers, the store is now open Tuesday through Saturdays, but our shoppers have continued to bless us with about the same monthly revenue. Praise the Lord! You can help by volunteering on Fridays for a 3-hour shift, come on over and shop (we have the best used merchandise around), drop off your previously loved items, or pray for our volunteers to remain healthy enough to work and that the love and message of Jesus is brought to the community through the store. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, contact Lori von Kronemann, Rodger Bronner or Liz Perez and we'd be happy to get you involved. The store is located at 189 E. High Street in Moorpark across from the Metrolink station. I hope we see you there!

Prayer Requests: Please pray for the continued successful operation of Luther's Attic and for the financial support it provides to Good Shepherd Preschool.



[Check out Luther's Attic online!](#)

Across the States: Association Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC) Home Missions (Church Planting) – Pastor Jim Johnson, Home Missions Director



Mission: To advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to help AFLC churches plant new free and living churches, to help free and living Lutheran congregations send out missionary pastors with gifts for planting, and to make disciples in the United States. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Vision: We are praying for a minimum of three new congregational starts every year for the next ten years. We also pray for three missionary planter-pastors whom our congregations can call. We want to offer financial grants and logistical support to these planting congregations as they help birth new free and living Lutheran congregations.

Purpose: To answer the call of Jesus in Matthew 28 by working alongside AFLC churches to plant free and living Lutheran congregations.

In this issue, I'd like to introduce you to **Pastor Matthew Ballmann** and a new Church Plant, Trinity San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1987, being moved by the Spirit of God, a group of 15 people began gathering in Sioux Falls, SD to form what would be Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church. By God's grace, they became a thriving congregation passionate about God's Word, the proclamation of the gospel, reaching the lost, and helping believers mature in their faith.

In 2006 they planted a new church across town (Living Word Free Lutheran Church) and in 2015 planted another church in Rapid City, SD (Shiloh Free Lutheran Church). It was during this time that Pastor Matthew Ballmann was called to serve at Abiding Savior and able to be part of the leadership team that led to the planting of Shiloh. Throughout that time, the Lord was stirring in his and his wife's heart to plant another church. After prayerfully considering several locations around the country, they felt led back to Texas (their home state) to minister to the people of San Antonio. They are excited to be part of what God is doing in forming Trinity San Antonio. Their heart is to see individuals come to a deeper understanding of God's incredible grace, experience the life that only Christ can offer, and live in the freedom of the gospel and love towards others that only the Spirit can give.

This new church plant is very busy, beginning with worship services now being held in a new location at another churches' Family Life Center. They offer nursery care throughout the service and their kid's ministry now has over a dozen kids. Pastor Ballmann's congregation is creating meaningful community with almost every event they have throughout the week, designed to be visitor friendly. This new church is also very busy with family, men's and women's small groups and even hosting a marriage class via Zoom weekly, working through the Art of Marriage course. Additionally, Pastor Matthew has taken over chaplain responsibilities at the local Trail Life troop, and continues to increase his time spent as chaplain at the fire department.

Prayer Requests: Please pray for this new congregation that they will have creativity and energy in making opportunities for relationship building among their church family and their visitors. Pray that all at Trinity will continue to grow in spiritual formation, mutual encouragement, outreach and discipleship in the coming months!

The Ballmann Family



Pastor Matthew Ballmann, along with his wife Natalie and children, Liam, Evelyn, Wesley and Emma. (Pastor Matthew is Christie Friestad's brother)

[Visit https://www.trinitysa.org to learn more!](https://www.trinitysa.org)

Across the Seas: AFLC World Missions, Pastor Earl Korhonen, Director

What's New: The John and Hannah Lee family and the Brent and Emily Raan family are home on deputation. Both families have been graciously welcomed by our AFLC congregations and doing some online services because of COVID-19 concerns. The Raans are praying to return to Uganda in January 2021 and move to a new location-the town of Gulu - 6 hours north of where they have lived for the past two years. They plan to begin a church planting ministry in villages near Gulu. John and Hannah Lee pray that they will have all the necessary support to return to Brazil in March 2021. John is scheduled to teach in the seminary in March, but they need additional supporters before returning. We are praising the Lord for their last two years of learning the Portuguese language and that they are ready to take up their new positions at the Bible school and seminary in Campo Mourao, Brazil.

Prayer Requests: Please pray for the Raans as they begin their church planting ministry, and as they learn the language of the people in Gulu, Uganda. Please pray for the Lees need of monthly supporters, relocation, and new teaching position at the Bible school and seminary in Brazil.

[Visit https://www.aflcworldmissions.org to learn more](https://www.aflcworldmissions.org)



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