



## It's a boy! - Again!

What does this mean?! Monica and I, with hearts full of thanksgiving to God, are pleased to announce that we are expecting a baby boy. We will all get to meet little baby, God willing, in October. The pregnancy is progressing well, and the baby seems healthy so far. Please keep Monica and our precious little gem in your prayers!



# VISIT TO THE USA

This summer (July and August) the Naumann family is planning on visiting the USA for what is called 'Home Service' - a time when a missionary returns to reconnect with supporting congregations and individuals. Unfortunately we will not be able to visit every supporting congregation, but we will do our best to come to as many as possible in the short time available, before we need to fly back to Colombo to have the baby in Sri Lanka. Pr. Edward will also be doing a lot of the traveling without Monica and the children, since that would be very difficult for her at that stage in the pregnancy, but this gives Monica's parents in Wisconsin the chance to spend some extra time with the grandkids!

Due to the time difference between Sri Lanka and the USA, and the subsequent difficulty in communicating with the USA, I have asked the LCMS Mission Advancement team to assist me in making appointments, and inform supporters of where I will be giving presentations, so you may be hearing from someone shortly if you have not already (I hope that is okay!). As the schedule begins to solidify, I will send an update with more details of the states and congregations I will be visiting. Feel free, however, to email me directly if you want to know if I will be in your area!

## **Lanka Lutheran Church?**

### **or Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church?**

Although I was sent to Sri Lanka as a theological educator, there have been many ways in which I have been serving in other capacities here, according to the greatest needs of our partner church. Since our partner church, the Lanka Lutheran Church, had no government registration, the LCMS mission, starting with Rev. Roger James, wanted to help the Lutheran church to establish itself with the legal rights and privileges that other registered churches enjoy in Sri Lanka. When I arrived, I gladly helped to further this process, serving on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer of the government-registered Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC), under which we have worked with the Sri Lankan pastors and church leaders to bring the entirety of the Lanka Lutheran Church under the name of the CELC.

I am happy to report that the transition from LLC to CELC is now almost fully complete. After the Sri Lankan pastors joined CELC, all of the congregations and mission stations of the (now former) Lanka Lutheran Church also submitted their applications to join. Effectively, our partner church has now almost completely transitioned to the CELC (All that remains is for the CELC to begin to administer some of the educational programs that were previously administered by the LLC). The difference is that now the situation of our partner church is greatly improved.

Previously the church could not own or purchase land, but now this is possible. Previously the

pastors and church workers had no contracts with the LLC, but as of last week, I can report that the CELC has formal, legal contracts in Sri Lanka, for the employment of the pastors and other church workers, who are paid from the CELC's own bank account. These may seem like tedious and boring administrative details, but for our partner church it means a monumental shift in the expansion of their capacity for professional management of the church.

Although it may take a while for the CELC to gain international recognition from all her partner churches around the world, you can count yourselves among the first to know about these exciting and positive developments, which have injected a good dose of hope into the Sri Lankan church, in a country where it is not always easy for churches to operate, and such hope is desperately needed. I look forward to seeing what further strides the CELC will make in the years to come, by the grace of God!

Thank you to all of you who have shown and continue to show such generous support for the LCMS missionaries in Sri Lanka!

Pastor Edward Naumann

## New Leases in Life



This may look like a picture of an ordinary house, but behind it lies the story of a minor miracle (or the biggest EVER 'coincidence!'). We knew that our lease was running out at the end of June, that we were expecting a baby, meaning that we HAD to move, since we would exceed the maximum occupancy of our current apartment. So we started looking for a new place to live, preferably with a small garden for the children to play in, enough bedrooms, and a place that was safe for the little ones. Also to simplify life, we wanted a

place that was (1) close to the boys' primary school, and (2) close to the office that was not yet rented out, which would also need to be close to the other missionary's residence. The office, however, needed to be rented immediately (beginning of May), while we did not need a new house until the end of June.

So I called a realtor that I had met back in 2016, who showed me an office location close to the school. It needed a bit of fixing up, but it would do just fine. We kept looking for other office locations, but nothing looked very promising. Then I called another realtor, to find a place to live, even though it was a couple of months before we needed to move. The second realtor showed me two places that would not work very well, then took me to a third place, and it just so happened to be at the same address as the office space I had seen with the other realtor. Neither realtor knew that the other place was for rent! I quickly called the other realtor to make sure that the office space was still available, and - to cut a long story short - we now have signed leases for both places - the office location and the 5-bedroom house (with a garden!) that adjoins it - 80/3B and 80/3C. We will be within walking distance to school, and Monica will have the peace of mind of knowing I am working close by, in case I am needed in an emergency.

Please note our new address, as of the end of June:  
80/3B Layard's Road, Colombo 5, 00500, Western Province, Sri Lanka.

## **Pray for Relief from Heavy Rain and Floods**

This week much of southern and western Sri Lanka - including Colombo - has been hit by significant rainfall, causing flooding in many areas.



These photos show floods in the village of Kuliypitiya, affecting members of a congregation that is going through colloquy to join the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Again thank you to all of you for supporting this mission with your prayers and gifts.

In Christ,

Pr. Edward Naumann