

THE WINEPRESS

O taste and see that God is good



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PRAYER FOCUS FOR JANUARY

In 2021, JCC will focus on "Growing Deep in Discipleship". Pray that JCCians will grow as a disciple and be a discipler for others. May more of us choose to touch lives passionately by living out the gospel faithfully, being trained through JC23 and other spiritual pursuits daily.

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PASTOR'S FOREWORD



Pastor Anthony Loh

The Prince of Peace has come!

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." – Luke: 2:14

Greetings to you in Jesus' Name!

We have come to the last month of 2020. It has been a year with many uncertainties and unprecedented events. Many people have been adversely impacted to varying degrees. Still, we give thanks to God for sustaining us through our trials. One thing most precious to us is finding True Peace in the midst of life's challenges. How do we experience this True Peace when facing suffering and distress?

Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (Jn 14:27)

We thank God for Christmas. It is celebrated in late December – an apt time for us to focus on the Prince of Peace.

Let us explore the principles of True Peace from the Prince of Peace:

1) He came for the meek – The ordinary shepherds!

The coming of the Prince of Peace was very much unexpected by many. People were busy with their mundane lives, and most likely having their usual grouches and lamentations over exhausting tasks and battling against crises. The shepherds, an unprivileged class in society, were no exception. They were left on their own to eke out a living working hard in the fields daily.

In our busy city life, our domain of work may not be the open fields of crops and pasture; nevertheless, we are little different from the shepherds in our daily grind of busy exertions to make a living.

The Prince of Peace came to the shepherds through the angelic host. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Lk 2:10-11)

The Prince of Peace knew the shepherds and did not forget them. He knows us and does not forget us!

2) He came at night

The Prince of Peace came while the world was sleeping. It was when most people were already tired from a long day of work. However, some shepherds were still awake, out in the field, keeping watch over their flock. (Lk 2:8)

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No matter whether people were ready to welcome Him, the Prince of Peace came to settle the turbulence that hit at the core of every human soul due to the cancer of sins.

People sleeping in the darkness of sins; people trapped in bondages to the darkness of the world – The Prince of Peace came for them all. His light shines through the darkness!

3) The U-turn – as a result of encountering the Prince of Peace!

The shepherd’s lives were never to be the same again after encountering the Prince of Peace.

Were they still tired? Yes, they were!

Did their busyness suddenly disappear? No, they still had to manage their normal “career” of animal husbandry.

Yet, there was a significant transformation in their demeanour.

“And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.” (Lk 2:20)

No matter how insignificant you are, how desperate you are, how big your crises today, the Prince of Peace came for all!

Our calling today is to join the heavenly host singing praises unto the Living God who has come!

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Lk 2:14)

The real Peace comes from a Person! Nothing in this world can offer that peace that can settle our unsettling hearts! That Person is none other than our Prince of Peace – Jesus Christ, our Lord!

May all of us experience the True Peace from the Prince of Peace as we take time to sit at His feet and choose to go into His Presence and join the heavenly host to sing: Glory to God in the highest heaven!

Amen!

*Blessings,
B. Anthony Loh*



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CHRISTMAS AMIDST A PANDEMIC

By John Lee

Every year when it is Christmas time, there are people filled with merriment and yet there are people who do not find much Christmas cheer in their life experience.

This year, is the Joy of Christmas going to be eclipsed by the pervasive misery around the world due to the Covid-19 pandemic? The answer to this question depends on the definition of Joy.

True Joy of Christmas

If joy is defined in terms advocated by the commercial world, it is akin to the kind of temporal and temporary pleasures full of secular vibes that obviously have nothing to do with the real Joy of Christmas.

When parents rejoice in welcoming a new-born child, the kind of joy carries with it deep emotions and a lot of unflinching devotion with hope and anticipation.

The true Joy of Christmas is also one filled with hope and anticipation when Christians welcome the Christ Child born upon this day. The long line of OT promises of a Redeemer (Gen 3:14-15; Isa 7:14;

etc.) was fulfilled when we ushered in The First Noel

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

– Luke 2:8-14

The new-born has been given a name, Immanuel (Isa 7:14). He is going to be with us henceforth.

This is a gift immeasurably more precious than any beautifully-wrapped presents money can buy. This is Joy immeasurably greater than the ephemeral thrill that any big-bash party can impart.

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“Hopelessness” overcome by Hope

It is humanly unrealistic not to feel the distress of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, instead of displacing the true Joy of Christmas, our sense of “hopelessness” should instead be overcome by the hope of Christmas.

When Isaiah prophesied the coming of the Messiah (Isa 9:6-7), it was not against a backdrop of a trouble-free life for the people. Instead, Judah was in a state of gloom and darkness internally as well as facing external threats. It was in such miserable circumstances that the blessed assurance of salvation through the birth of the Christ Child was emphatically pressed home.

All the destructive occurrences of disasters are the symptom of a sinful world. Disasters, driven by sin, impact relationships between man and God, man and Creation as well as man and man. The famous 17th Century Puritan, Thomas Watson, said, “Sin has turned beauty into deformity.”

Yet, in the 2000+ years of Church history, Christians have demonstrated their capacity to rise above disasters (E.g. An ancient pandemic called the Antonine Plaque during the Roman Empire; the Black Death in Europe in the 14th Century) because of their faith, their optimism based on a proper spiritual interpretation of the disasters, their courage in grappling with the issues of suffering and death, the Church’s resourcefulness in organising response and support for the needy, etc.

Get those good books

The following are some other relevant quotable quotes attributed to Thomas Watson:

- God sweetens outward pain with inward peace.”
- “A weak faith can lay hold on a strong Christ.”
- “Affliction may be lasting, but it is not everlasting.
- “When you find a chillness upon your souls, and that your former heat begins to abate,

ply yourselves with warm clothes, **get those good books** that may acquaint you with such truths as may warm and affect your hearts.”



Say AYE or YEAH to “**get those good books ...**” in the last of the above quotes.

In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, many are in miserable circumstances – with families separated across international borders, with livelihoods disrupted, with concerns over health matters, etc.

I am included in the “we”, and I know it is hard to keep hope flying high when crises work to pull it down.

Nevertheless, the more the struggle, the greater is the feeling of human “hopelessness” and hence the need to lean on the inscrutable wisdom of God in defining the moments and directions. For who is able to resist God’s will? (Rom 9:19b)

I gain inspiration and strength from “**those good books**” (which must necessarily include the Bible) to stay the course until the storm blows over.

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Sinners' approach to Christmas

“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.”
- 1 Tim 1:15

Obviously, sin and we (sinners) have everything to do with Christmas. Without sin and sinners, there would be no need for a Saviour – no need for Christmas!

How then do we approach Christmas?

The Covid-19 pandemic places a lot of restrictions that put paid to a lot of superficial revelry associated with a commercial Christmas. Perhaps it would be a good thing for Santa Claus to stay home and not fly around with his reindeer and risk the spread of the coronavirus.

Every Christmas season, it used to be that when a festive penny in the cash register rings, the businessman in the shop springs with joy. It is not true Christmas Joy, but simply a festive joy. There is a difference between the two. While businesses will have to settle with less festive joy this season of

Christmas amidst the Covid-19 restrictions on grand celebrations with parties and social gatherings, the true Christmas Joy for Christians can remain intact as we celebrate with Jesus in our hearts even if sans physical meetings.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (a Lutheran theologian) said in “The Coming of Jesus in Our Midst”:

“We have become so accustomed to the idea of divine love and of God’s coming at Christmas that we no longer feel the shiver of fear that God’s coming should arouse in us. We are indifferent to the message, taking only the pleasant and agreeable out of it and forgetting the serious aspect, that the God of the world draws near to the people of our little earth and lays claim to us.”

Our Christmas joy should not be founded only on what “pleasant and agreeable” things we can take out of it. Without discounting “the shiver of fear that God’s coming should arouse in us” that Bonhoeffer mentioned, we recognize the hope we have amidst a pandemic – The birth of the Christ Child, a promise fulfilled, gives us the blessed assurance of salvation that we have in Jesus!

DISCIPLESHIP EDUCATION CLASSES 2021

The new year sees a new round of discipleship opportunities for everyone, from youths to parents to seniors.

We encourage you to come back to JCC in-person, besides participating online. Leaders can likewise take the opportunity to sign up for credit courses offered by LCS’ “Course For Credit” programme.



• BE ONE • MAKE ONE •
• AS ONE •

Dates/Times 

Feb 20 to Apr 10 (Sat), 10.30am-12pm
Mar 20 (Sat), 2-5pm

Classes 

Lutheranism 101: Part 1 (LCS) by Rev Fredric Lee (JCC)
Restorative Parenting Workshop: Children and Youth

Registration opens soon, so block out your calendar now!



A PERFECT DAY

By Martin Cheah

Riddle: When is it perfectly alright for a man to marry his son?

Answer: When the man is Pastor Martin Yee and the groom is his son, Isaac.

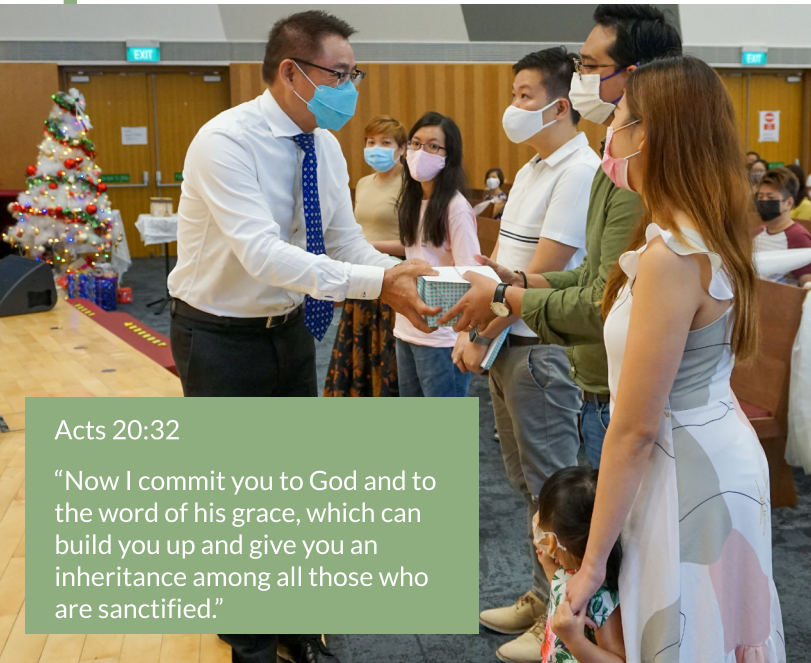
December 5th, 2020. The wedding of Isaac and Xinhui was performed by the groom's dad, Rev Martin Yee amidst a crowd of family members and friends (within the legal guidelines) in JCC's Sanctuary.

It was unfortunate that we were unable to witness this memorable event. How relaxed the couple must be because the presiding pastor is the groom's father.



Who then signs the Marriage Certificate as a witness? –The groom's mother, making this certificate rare with 3 signatures from the family.

It was a perfect day with fine weather and we thank God that He blessed this couple. May they have a wonderful journey as they build their lives together.



Acts 20:32

“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”



BAPTISM + TRANSFER

By Martin Cheah

We welcome the following brothers and sisters to the big family of JCC through baptism/transfer of membership on 20th December 2020:

Baptism: Faith Toh Yi Ping, Koh Kwan Chin

Transfer: Pearl Chua Lian Choo, Alexander Christian Zhang

We also welcome **Tan Hung Bak, Ng Ka Hui** and **Rachel** to JCC. They were baptised on 13th December 2020. Their testimonies are published on the next page.

And we also welcome **Phyllis Ho** who was baptised on 24th October 2020 in the chapel.

May we all fulfil God's purpose and plans for us wherever He has placed us to grow His Kingdom here on Earth as it is in Heaven.



THE JOURNEY TO CHRIST

By Tan Hung Bak

BEFORE I trusted Christ

My family and I started attending Sunday service at JCC in 2014. We had previously come for JCC's Christmas Eve service in 2004 or 2005, when Rachel was a toddler.

HOW I trusted Christ

As I got to know more about Christ through church service, Cell Group study, Discipleship Education classes and fellowship meetings, on top of reading God's Word, my direction in life started to change.

My future and life goals were no longer confined to the world's perspective about my fate after death. By the grace of God, I know I have received my salvation; I know my future will be in heaven after my life ends on earth.

AFTER I trusted Christ

I know that by believing and following Jesus, life will not always be smooth sailing. At times, we will face heavy storms and rough seas, but Jesus never forsakes us. I know he is always with me and in me.

Early this February, I went through two major operations on my spinal cord to remove clusters of lesions found during my MRI scan in January. I thank God that the lesions extracted in the operations were benign.

However, the operations came at a cost. I lost sensation in my nerves from the waist down, with loss of control of my bladder and bowel. I am now a paraplegic.

This was a major setback in my life, affecting me not only physically and mentally, but also career-wise and putting a strain on my family.

Having accepted Christ, my perspective had



Left to right: Ng Kah Hui, Tan Hung Bak, Rachel Tan

changed nonetheless. I no longer focused on the challenges and suffering, but focused on the goodness of my Father's plans for me. He is walking through this journey with us.

Without my new-found faith and trust in our Abba Father, I believe I would be terrified, anxious, lost, worried, resentful and bitter—especially the distressing experience of being confined in a hospital for over five months after three operations during the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak.

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Prayers work like a miracle. I felt at peace while waiting in the operating theatre.

I trusted that I was in the good hands of the team of surgeon, doctors and nurses sent by the Lord. During my in-hospital stay, God sent a myriad of caring rehab doctors, nurses, therapists and healthcare workers to support me in my recovery.

I also appreciate the intercessory prayers of my fellow JCCians. With aggressive therapy sessions, I gradually regained some sensation and mobility in my left foot. Though the improvement is minimal, I thank and praise God for His grace and mercy.

Christ has also given me the two most important persons in my life—my wife Ka Hui and my daughter Rachel. They have to bear the task of caregiving for me at home. I am touched that they made great effort to modify and safe-proof the house for my sake.

Just like the song lyrics to "Jesus, Strong and Kind", He satisfies me when I am thirsty, gives me strength when I am weak, shields me when I am fearful and shows me to the Cross when I am lost.

Our God is always good and faithful. I may be physically disabled now, but I trust that God has plans for me. Nothing is impossible for Him and nothing can stop my faith nor keep me from obeying God.

By Ng Kah Hui

BEFORE I trusted Christ

I lived my life in fear and uncertainty. Even though someone shared with me about God and Jesus Christ in my teens, I was still in doubts.

I found it hard to believe that God will love someone who is basically a nobody with no achievements. And He is not expecting anything in return except for us to love Him back wholeheartedly. I also did not have the courage to accept Christ due to the fear of wrath and strong opposition from my family.

Hence, I decided to postpone my desire to follow Christ till the passing of my parents. Throughout the years, I struggled with surviving in the mundane world, satisfying others' needs, and searching for the true meaning of life and after.

With each year passing, I grew anxious about my desire to know more about God's love and worrying that I might not have the chance to get to know Him before my life expires. Eventually all the worrying started to take a toll on my physical and mental health.

HOW I trusted Christ

One year, I was on a vacation when I started to feel very unwell. I ended with a severe panic attack and a bad heart palpitation. The veins on my hand turned purplish and my BP rose rapidly.

Out of panic and old habits, I started calling out and praying to all the idols that I had been taught since young. As nothing seemed to happen, I slowly drifted into a deep slumber.

In my dream, I saw a very bright light in front of me and someone coming through the light. That 'someone' was dressed in a white robe with a huge pair of wings behind him. He approached me gradually and I heard a voice telling me 'DO NOT BE AFRAID, I AM HERE'.

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Then I saw a huge hand coming through a thick cloud. Out of desperation, I grabbed hold of the hand. Soon after, I fell asleep.

After I woke up, I realised that I was out of my anxiety and was overwhelmed with a strange feeling. I had not felt such calmness in a long while.

I felt a sense of peace as if someone had lifted my worries and fear from me. And that someone was watching over me, protecting me from harm. It dawned on me then that God was with me! HE had just saved me from the brink of death.

AFTER I trusted Christ

My feeling of hope started to increase as my fear and worries diminished.

My faith started to grow as well after knowing more about God's Word through the bible and attending DE classes.

Even though at times I have to face adversity, I no longer feel that I am alone as I know that God is with me. My attitude towards life and people started to change.

I am more willing to step out of my comfort zone to reach out to people around me. I know that the change did not come from my own effort. It is because I am empowered by the Holy Spirit.

I pray that God will bless me with the work of the Holy Spirit and that I will keep up the effort of walking close to Christ daily.

By Rachel Tan

BEFORE I trusted Christ

I was a playful girl who would sometimes do things to annoy my parents intentionally and I was always irritable towards my peers and friends.

I also developed a bad habit of lying to my parents to get out of trouble. I would also get mad easily if someone said things or did things that displeased me. I would be quick to retaliate against anyone

who attacked me. At times I would also think of ways to make them pay for what they had done to me. Before I trusted Christ, I was also someone who was insecure and fearful. In school, I wanted to gain recognition for the effort that I had put in.

However, I was always looked down by my teachers and peers because of my learning difficulties. I hated everyone who hurt me. There was an incident that traumatised me when I was young. It left a huge scar in my heart.

Since then, I had frequent nightmares and I couldn't trust anyone due to my fear. I thought that there would be no one there for me.



HOW I trusted Christ

My parents brought me to JCC on 5th October 2014. Even though I went to church, I had no clue who Christ was.

I didn't trust God and I just tagged along every Sunday as instructed. I even started serving in ministries, going for cell groups just to make more friends.

However, there were still some worries and doubts. Whenever I was asked this question of "Who is God to you?"

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I would just provide the model textbook answers.

But I never knew who God really is and what he meant to me as I had never felt God's presence in my life; until one day when my friend shared with me that they saw a change in my character and behaviour.

It suddenly occurred to me that it was God who had changed me. I had learnt to forgive and let go. I grew happier each day and I started to place my trust in God.

He showed me what love is all about and how to view people from a different perspective.

AFTER I trusted Christ

My views on people and things changed. I grew more optimistic as I knew that God is with me.

Knowing that God loves me unconditionally gives me the confidence that I lacked. I grew happier as each day passed.

My change also made me more aware of others' feelings and I gradually became a pillar of support

for the people around me. I never knew I could influence and impact people's life. I no longer felt as anxious or fearful when I encountered any setbacks or obstacles, as I began to trust in the power of prayers.

Even though I am unable to see or feel God; like oxygen, I know He is here for me. I have also learnt to forgive and forget about my past and put away my resentment towards the people who hurt me.

God has also given me the wisdom to unravel my strength that I didn't know about.

He helped me overlook my disabilities and make use of my capability to achieve greater heights. He also sends me great friends that I can rely on. I know I am being renewed each day by my faith in Christ.

Thank you, God, for your grace, love and the gift of salvation.



Phyllis Ho



By Phyllis Ho

The year 2020 has been an unprecedented year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

But God has been so gracious to us. Our Heavenly Father has been safeguarding us against the virus.

This year has its ups and downs. But the greatest thing that has happened is that amidst the difficult situation I was able to continue with my baptism.

Also, church activities have been halted but thanks to technological advancements we were still able to continue our meet ups via zoom and were able to continue our Sunday service on live streaming too.

These things would not be possible if not for God's providences. Praise the lord.

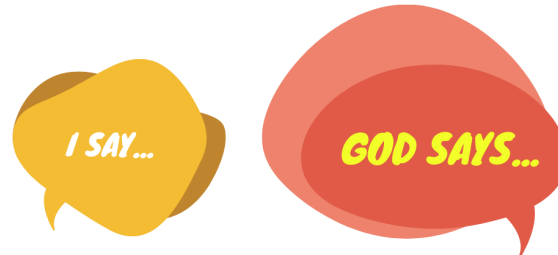
Your story is God's story. He is the author of our lives. How has God written the chapters of yours?

Send your story to jcwinepress@gmail.com
We'll get it ready for an upcoming issue.

[Share your testimony](#)



OPEN TALK WITH GOD



- I want to live a godly life.
- I want a victorious Christian life.
- I want to show others how wonderful it is to believe and trust in Jesus.
- I want to see God in action...saving people, healing sicknesses and diseases and delivering them from bondages.

- My child, I know your heart's desires.
- I have done everything to meet your needs.
- You just need to claim and apply the promises in My word.
- I am waiting and longing for you to seek Me, walk with Me and pray to release My love and power in your daily life.

WHY DOES IT SEEM SO DIFFICULT?

ARE YOU READY?

Here are some simple things you can do **EVERY DAY**.

You can become a **POWER-ball** in God's hands.

- **P**ray in faith – Bring your needs before Him in Jesus' name. He delights in you.
- **O**bey His Word – Study the Bible to discover His Word for you. Join a Cell Group.
- **W**alk in love – Do or say something good to somebody. Avoid grumbling & gossip.
- **E**xalt Jesus – Worship God as you go about your daily life. Sing with joy in your heart.
- **R**ejoice always – Give thanks in every circumstance. God's timing is always perfect.



God's word says:

9 However, as it is written: *"What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" - the things God has prepared for those who love him.*

10 *These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God."*

1 Corinthians 2: 9-10 (NIV)

THE LUTHERAN CONNECTION

Test your knowledge with the following quiz:

1. **A seminal figure in Lutheranism is:**
 - a. Martin Luther King Snr
 - b. Martin Luther King Jnr
 - c. Martin Luther
 - d. St Augustine of Hippo
2. **The confessions of the Lutheran Church are contained in:**
 - a. The Book of Concord
 - b. The Lutheran Handbook
 - c. The Didache
 - d. The Lutheran Liturgy
3. **An indulgence offered for sale by the Roman Catholic Church was:**
 - a. A piece of paper issued by the Pope granting pardon for sins
 - b. A source of gratification granted to faithful parishioners who did good works
 - c. A guarantee of salvation
 - d. None of the above
4. **Which of the following creeds does not belong to the Lutheran Church?**
 - a. The Apostles' Creed
 - b. The Athanasian Creed
 - c. The Nicene Creed
 - d. The Tridentine Creed
5. **This hymn was famously written by Martin Luther:**
 - a. Amazing Grace
 - b. "Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten" (He who allows dear God to rule)
 - c. A Mighty Fortress is our God
 - d. On Faith Alone
6. **The Lutheran Study Bible is:**
 - a. A bible translation commissioned by the Lutheran Church
 - b. A reference resource with useful notes aiding bible study
 - c. A reference resource with a study guide to the Apocrypha
 - d. A Bible that is useful only for Lutherans
7. **Reformation Day falls on:**
 - a. The last day of October every year
 - b. The last Sunday of October every year
 - c. The third Sunday of October every year
 - d. Any Sunday in October decided by the local Lutheran church
8. **Martin Luther was summoned to the Diet of Worms.**
 - a. He was then outlawed.
 - b. He was then excommunicated.
 - c. He was condemned to exile.
 - d. It caused him to suffer greatly from stomach upset.
9. **The Apology of the Augsburg Confession was written by Philipp Melanchthon for the following reason:**
 - a. As a revision to the Augsburg Confession
 - b. Apologise for mistakes in the Augsburg Confession
 - c. Correct mistakes in the Augsburg Confession
 - d. Defend the Augsburg Confession
10. **The following is/are required to constitute a Sacrament:**
 - a. God's institution
 - b. Earthly, visible element(s)
 - c. Impartation of divine grace
 - d. All the above
11. **Holding sacraments as real means of grace (contrast "mere outward signs of an inward grace"), the sacraments in the Lutheran Church are limited to:**
 - a. 2 – Baptism and Holy Communion
 - b. 3 – Baptism, Holy Communion Holy Matrimony
 - c. 4 – Baptism, Holy Communion, Holy Matrimony, Confirmation
 - d. 5 – Baptism, Holy Communion, Holy Matrimony, Confirmation, Ordination
12. **When a pastor says, "The Lord be with you," the typical Lutheran response is:**
 - a. "Thanks be to God!"
 - b. "Hallelujah!"
 - c. "And also with you."
 - d. Amen!
13. **Which of the following is not a watchword of The Reformation?**
 - A. Solus Christus
 - B. Sola Scriptura
 - C. Soli Credo
 - D. Soli Deo Gloria

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14. Martin Luther translated the Bible into:

- A. Greek
- B. German
- C. Latin
- D. English

15. The Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS) is affiliated with:

- A. LCMS (Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)
- B. ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)
- C. LCA (Lutheran Church in America)
- D. The Lutheran Free Church

16. The LCS is also affiliated with:

- A. Lutheran Church of Australia
- B. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria
- C. Lutheran Church in Malaysia
- D. All the above

17. Including JCC, the LCS has ____ congregations across Singapore.

- A. 4
- B. 5
- C. 8
- D. 10

18. Which of the following is not one of the Missions of LCS:

- A. Malaysia Mission
- B. Mongolia Mission
- C. China Mission
- D. Thai Good News Centre

19. Lutherans believe that salvation is:

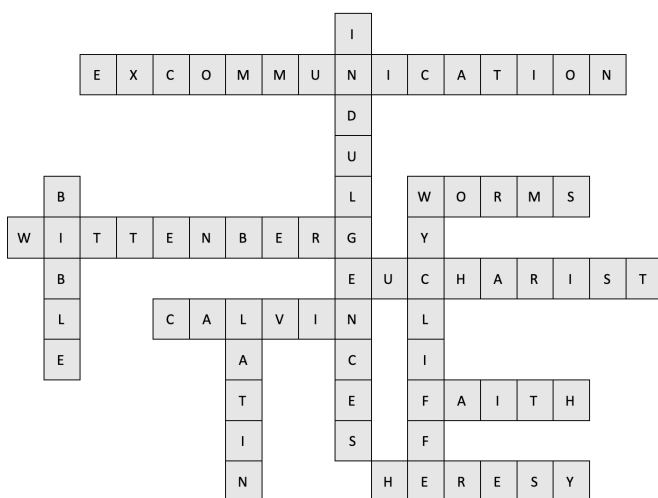
- A. 100% God's work
- B. Mostly God's work and minimally man's work
- C. 50% God's work and 50% man's work
- D. Partly contingent on our faith and partly on our good works

20. Lutherans are well-pleased to be Lutherans because:

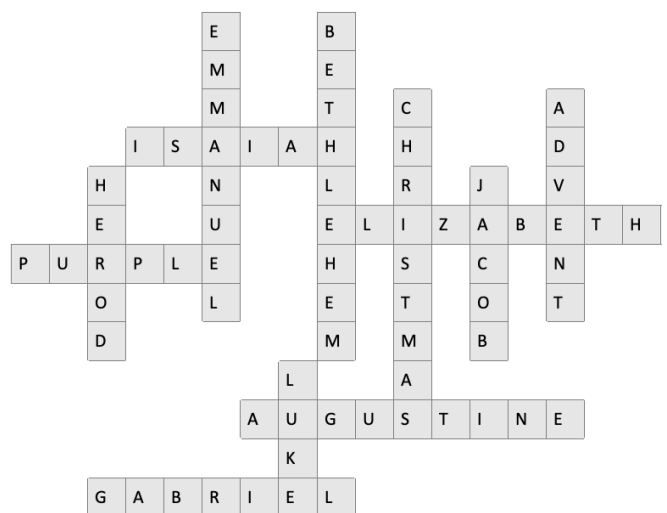
- A. They esteem Martin Luther for his Reformation work.
- B. They have the conviction that Lutheran theology faithfully proclaims the freedom we have in Christ.
- C. They loathe all other denominational traditions.
- D. They believe that the Lutheran Church has the best in everything.

SOLUTIONS TO PAST PUZZLES

October's Reformation Crossword:



November's Advent Crossword:





♥ PLANTING SEEDS, NURTURING MINDS

By June Lim

A chat with Khan Lian, JCC Sunday School Teacher

Lovingly known as “Jie Jie Khan Lian” or “Cher”, Khan Lian has been attending JCC since 1995 and started serving in Sunday School since 2007. It definitely takes a big heart to help shape little minds.

We had a chat with Khan Lian to find out how she stays inspired.

Proverbs 22:6: “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”

1. What do you enjoy most about being a Sunday School teacher?

I love the fact that Sunday School teachers are deeply involved in building a strong Christian foundation for children.

Watching the children grow in faith, and eventually serving in different Ministries as youths bring me immense joy.

2. How did you decide to serve in the Ministry?

I do not have any formal background in teaching or in arts but I decided I could shape my own teaching style—through storytelling, fun activities and prayers to enrich the children’s spiritual growth.

Continued on page 17

3. What is a Biblical story you enjoy sharing with the children and why?

I enjoy sharing about the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23.

It is important to inculcate Christ-like values of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control from a tender age.

Every one of us should work towards bearing fruits and glorifying God’s name.

4. What are some tips for parents raising children in a Christian household?

Both parents need to be good role models and build daily habits to inspire love for Christ.

Parents can start with daily devotions with children before they sleep, pray for them and listen to them sincerely.

5. What is a Biblical verse that always gives you strength?

Psalm 23

1. The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
2. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
3. He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.
4. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.


**THANK YOU
 ISHINE KIDS
 MINISTRY**



My family is very blessed to be a part of JCC. My children are learning many new things that guide their spiritual character.

Even though they cannot meet physically due to this pandemic, the teachers do their best via Zoom. I deeply appreciate all their efforts to prepare the exciting and engaging lessons for the students.

I also thank Teacher Beng Lay for going out of her

way to invite my kids to her house. They celebrated my youngest daughter’s birthday there! They had so much fun and really enjoyed themselves.

Overall, I thank everyone who conducted the enjoyable outings and lessons for putting in their time to bring the best out of the children. God bless you all.

From Kamala, Ronita and Riona’s mom

**ANNUAL PULSE
CONCENTRATION
CAMP 2020
REFLECTIONS**

By Eunice Tan



Left to right: Malcom and Jian Jing offered to be painted as Shrek and Pikachu during the activities.

Due to Covid-19, this year’s APCC was conducted differently. Instead of our usual 3D2N camp, APCC 2020 was compressed into one eventful day on 12th December. I was heartened to see the youths come together after we had been interacting online for a while. With the groups consisting of youths from different cells, this promoted bonding as a ministry.

I am especially thankful for the workshop session prepared by Jian Rong which consisted of several crucial questions acting as a wake-up call. These questions prompted youths (myself included) to recognise the excuses we have constantly fed ourselves to maintain comfort with our status quo.

Upon coming to terms with our complacency, we considered long-term methods to remedy our half-hearted pursuit of Christ.

Brother Joseph’s workshop also motivated the youths to be more active in responding to God’s love. By outlining God’s love through His laws, Brother Joseph helped the youths appreciate the law and the gospel in driving us towards righteousness and away from sin.

Apart from the valuable lessons, APCC has always been important to me because of the Prayer Walk segment. Each year’s Prayer Walk is a precious getaway where I can wholeheartedly focus on God - this year’s was no different.

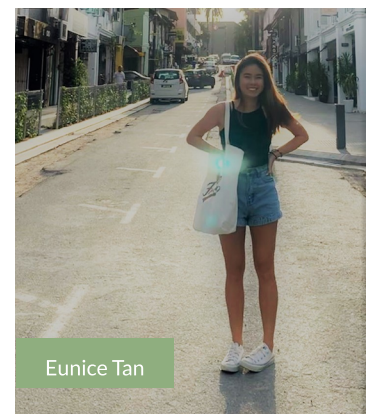
Due to the pandemic, this year’s Prayer Walk required extra effort to abide by the safe distancing guidelines and I truly appreciate the effort in doing so without compromising its meditative nature.

The sharing at the end of the walk also helped my group consolidate the lessons learnt throughout the day. It was a significant activity to bring the camp to a meaningful closure.

The details in all the activities were thoughtful, especially the main games segment which also carried a strong and impactful message.

Coming to the end, our silent prayers for one another and Jian Jing volunteering to pray aloud for us was my favourite moment because it principally marked the start of our commitment to God once again.

Special thanks to the committee led by Clement and the helpers who had worked tirelessly to put together this exciting day despite the extra effort needed to put in place all the Covid-19 safety measures.



Eunice Tan



♥ WORSHIP MINISTRY APPRECIATION

By Wilfred Kao

I was one of the 50 team members who turned up for this event. We were given an appreciation gift of one bottle of honey.

Rev Anthony kicked off the meeting by thanking the team for their dedication to serve.

As a result of the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, many of us were caught unaware and the whole team had worked doubly hard to get the

worship service going.

The Reverend mentioned a special thanks to the AV team for quickly forming a Live Streaming team to do the worship service by streaming so that all JCC members could continue to worship on Sunday at home.

Nathaneal Yeap (right), our Worship Ministry team leader reminded the team on the purpose of the worship ministry and he made a call to give God our best in service and also maintain a personal growing relationship with God even as we serve.

The members were later assigned to their individual areas of service for discussion, feedback and any suggestions for further improvements in the worship ministry.

♥ DIALECT MINISTRY: RECORDING OF HOKKIEN SONGS

By Martin Cheah

In response to the COVID-19 restriction of no singing during worship, the Dialect Ministry gathered together musicians, singers and PA technicians to record some Hokkien songs to be played during the Hokkien Hybrid live service.

The singers recorded the songs a number of times until an acceptable standard of voice, music and recording was achieved. Thanks to their efforts, to date they have 17 recorded songs in their repertoire.

For this Christmas season, we have released two

carols for your listening pleasure and you can use them for praising God in Hokkien or for outreach to your guests this Christmas. Here are the links:

请听天使欢喜的声 **chia thia thi sai hoa hi e sia**
[Listen here](#)

到各山岭去传扬 **kao ko soa teng khi thoan iong**
[Listen here](#)

If you are interested to listen to all 17 songs, please write in to The WinePRESS and we will upload the rest of the songs in some future issue.



Our ABCG Cells – “Spurring one another towards greater works and for the great harvest. Not forgetting to meet together as it is the habit of some. (Hebrews 10: 24-25) “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” (Proverbs 27: 17).

♥ MEET ABUNDANCE CELL GROUP 1 & 2

By Tony Koh

Be my Brother's Keeper

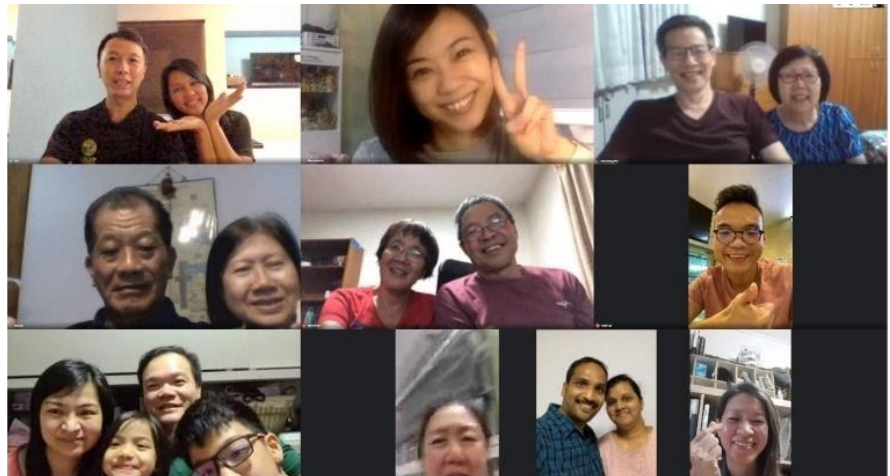
Our Abundance Cell Group's (ABCG) faith journey is long haul and comprises members from diverse backgrounds and personalities; bringing all together beautifully as we walk with our Lord Jesus.

We are able to journey as One Body of Christ to Care, Share, Love and Serve together in JCC. How marvelous and wonderful it is!

We have a generation of pioneer JCC members filled with a “gung ho” spirit; aspiring, with God’s provision and favors, that we were able to multiply and become two cells in December 2019.

I am privileged to serve in ABCG 1 (top) as I took over the shepherding role/leadership from Soon Eong whose shoes were too big to fill and I would not have been able to wear or hold the fort if not for all the old ABCG cell members’ support and encouragement.

I am indeed thankful to God for all that has happened.



Our Thanksgiving for ABCG

We thank God for His ever-timely provision made possible after many prayers and encouragement. Patrick accepted the invitation to lead and be the shepherd of ABCG 2 (above) with the strong support of Samantha, his wife. To God be the glory for the inspirational growth of ABCG 2!

We are thankful to God for enabling Patrick and Samantha to serve and lead ABGC 2. We are highly encouraged by their commitment to Care, Love, Share and Serve in JCC; sowing the Gospel seeds and living out the Christ-like life.

Let's Persevere, Keep Faith

With the formation of the Core Teams, we are just as thankful that we can see great potential in the Core Team Members. We will persevere, press on and forge together, to know Christ and make Christ known and to live up to the life of abundance that He has given to us. (John 10:10).

♥ ABCG: OUR JOURNEY THROUGH 2020

By Joyce Tan

The year 2020 is an unprecedented year for all of us in Singapore and the rest of the world. We have been warned to expect the unexpected.

However this COVID-19 Pandemic revealed that many of us are not ready to react when such times hit us and only to wake us up to the reality that we are not prepared. The new normal brought us to our senses and the basic instinct of survival i.e. our basic needs.

John 16:33 – “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

For Abundance Cell Groups 1 & 2, the respective leaders and our Core teams came together online and in-person (only when permissible) frequently to pray and encourage one another to stay steadfast in our God who is the Maker of heaven and earth. We plan, pray, listen, pray for what we can and need to do.

Psalms 121: 1, 2 – “I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

In our sharing, it was evident that God is good and through Him, He made all things possible. He brought ABCG 1 & 2 together and saw the respective CGs through various activities online and in-person visitations to families when we could.

This is our Christmas story, our thanks to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour who made all things possible even during times of uncertainty.

Hebrews 10: 24, 25 – “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Lessons By Swee Leong

ABCG 1 & 2 deeply appreciate Swee Leong's dedication to teach.

Topics we have covered:

- Am I Really a Christian?
- The Lord's Supper, Lutheran Perspective
- Vocation: A Lutheran Perspective
- Liturgical Worship
- The Augsburg Confession
- Martin Luther, His Life and His Thoughts
- The Lutheran Confessions
- Martin Luther—Thoughts and Theology





CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (SPECIAL ITEM)

By Alicia Wong

2019 ended with a promise of what 2020 might come.

As the year unfolded, it brought us things that went beyond anyone's expectations.

In early November, I woke up with a clear concept in mind, being called to dance for God.

To show how He broke me from the sin and madness (symbolised by the choice of black in our attires) in my life...the chains I cannot see...to Him

setting me free (me running among the rows of white cloth).

2020 has been a year of darkness so it did not seem right to do a jazzy upbeat piece. Hence, the song for this piece is a little on the dark side with short, simple lyrics.

I hope that through our piece, we show that with God's protection and leading, the people who walk in darkness will see light.

*Song (Cover):
Obsession by Delirious*

*What can I do with my
obsession?
With the things I cannot
see
And I'm so filthy with my
sin
I carry pride like a disease
You wrap around me like a
winter coat
You come and free me like a
bird*

*And my heart burns for You
And my heart burns for You*

Missed the special item during service? Watch it below.

