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Another beautiful day dawns under God's grace

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Cayman Islands were originally named Las Tortugas by Christopher Columbus in 1503. Legend says he saw a black beach in the distance "move into the sea". Intrigued, he sailed closer only to realize it had been a huge number of turtles! Hence Las Tortugas, Spanish for The Turtles.
- A member said he can trace his family tree back to the 1700s on Grand Cayman.
- The hotly contested recent elections resulted in new leadership – a new premier and a new cabinet.
- Current favorite Spanish word/phrase: "¿Que mas?" – meaning "What more?". Our Spanish teacher uses this a lot during our lessons to elicit more conversation.



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Weekly Divine Services for Safe Harbour Lutheran Church



Gathering for worship on the parsonage's back porch on the third Sunday of Easter

Back to the repetitive and "boring"

Repetitive, yes, but boring? No. What is boring about receiving God's good and gracious gifts EVERY Sunday? Absolutely nothing. These are the gifts Christ won for us on the cross on Good Friday and sealed for us with His resurrection on Easter morning! Now He freely gives us these gifts through the means by which He had chosen to transport these gifts to us: Word and Sacrament. Hearing the absolution spoken over us by God's servant, the pastor, for the many sins we commit every day, and literally tasting that the Lord is good in the Sacrament when receiving Christ in the bread and wine, strengthens our faith, and seals the promise of Easter for us all over again. Every Sunday. Christ keeps our eyes on the ultimate gift of salvation: eternal life with Him in heaven – every Sunday! This promise is what had kept this little group at Safe Harbour going the last four years of their vacancy, but especially during the last year when COVID had shut them down completely. They really appreciate having the "repetitive and boring" gifts showered on them again EVERY Sunday.

Bible study and kids' Sunday School

Two more "repetitive and boring" activities back up and running again! On Sundays before the service, while Gerald teaches bible study around the dining table, Heidi teaches the kids in the room next door. Here the parents are paying forward to the next generation that which they had received as kids and still are receiving as adults.



"How long will you be here?"

This question, asked with bated breath, clearly illustrates how hard it had been for them to have short-term pastors for so long. The audible release of air upon hearing "at least seven years – the length of the work permit", shows their relief at having a pastor committed to the long term.

Snapshots of happenings on the island



Please Pray for:

- More to return to church
- People's hearts to be opened to the invitation to attend bible study and bring their kids to Sunday school.
- A more fitting worship space
- For our household goods to arrive sometime in May
- For us as we continue to learn Spanish and continue to orientate ourselves in our roles here.

Give thanks for:

- Us being here
- The faithful flock regularly attending the Divine Services
- Bible study and Sunday School being offered again

Praise God for:

- The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us (thank you!)



Gerald shared his birthday celebration with Michele after the service. Traffic reminder... Naseberry, native to the island. And the tunnel to Canada has yet to be found ☺



Still looking for a worship space

We still gather for worship at the parsonage in Snug Harbour because the Community Center, that had previously been used for worship, is still being used as a COVID testing site. We are thankful for the parsonage's screened-in porch that keeps mosquitoes out and can seat about twenty people for worship. However, it already is at its maximum capacity and could not fit many more people, especially when more families with children start attending. Moreover, the hot and humid summer months are starting. This will make worshipping outside a sticky mess. Also, members mentioned that potential members would not necessarily want to worship in a private home. The challenge is to find a budget-friendly space that we can rent long-term. All members are actively helping to find a new place.

Building Relationships

Gerald has been looking up individuals that had attended before to introduce himself and invite them back to church. We have

also been invited by current members to their homes. We are thankful for all opportunities to build relationships.

Marine life



A lost crab at a mall, a washed-up Portuguese Man-o-War, and a beach chicken!

No fishing rod needed



A local fisherman uses a Cuban Ring to fish.

Until next time,
Soli Deo Gloria.

“Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come... and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.” Rev. 1:4-5

Thanks be to God for His gifts won for us on the cross, guaranteed to us by His resurrection and showered on us through Word and Sacrament.

- Your partners in mission,
Gerald and Heidi Paul



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 Gerald and Heidi Paul, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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