



**Outreach Ideas**  
English District  
Evangelism Team  
Newsletter

January 2024

# Reaching Out In Different Languages

I was blessed to grow up in the multiethnic core of a large city. Some of you may have also had a similar inner-city experience as a child. When my father grew up in our neighborhood it was predominantly francophone – French-speaking. Over the years it transformed and became known as “Little Italy.” Today, it has a well-established Asian population and has been officially designated as *Chinatown*. The neighborhood is complete with a traditional *paifang*, or royal gate, welcoming visitors to this friendly enclave.

Throughout those passing years, and despite the changing designations assigned to this part of the city, we also had kids in class with us from Laos to Lebanon, from India to Israel – and more. It was a wonderful mix of folks from all around the globe. Today, more than ever, the school down the street from where you live likely looks like this also.

As kids, we picked up words and phrases from our friends at the lunch table at school each day and they in turn became more proficient at English. I found myself doing the same thing with my roommate at Concordia, Ann Arbor, who was from Iran (before the revolution) and who spoke Farsi.

It is nothing short of remarkable to discover all of the people from a variety of different language groups that are right in our midst. What’s even more amazing is hearing how our congregations have been reaching out to their neighbors in love and seeking to share the Good News with each of them. There are three such congregations from our English District mentioned in this newsletter and there are more. Discover how you and your congregation can take part in this exciting venture.



In some ways, all of this gives us a glimpse of what’s to come. As John reports, “After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb” (Revelation 7:9 NIV84).

Sharing the Gospel may feel difficult at times. It’s even more challenging when the one with whom we want to share the Good News of our Savior’s love is still learning English. Thankfully, we are blessed with some of the very best resources ever available to make this joyful task easier. Consider what language groups are in your midst and how you might share with them the Good News of our salvation in Christ.

## From The Field

### Our Pastors and Congregations

“Twenty-three years ago a tall, dark Sudanese man walked into my office and asked for help. The help wasn’t for himself but for his family and tribe (Nuer) that was, at that time, in a refugee camp in Ethiopia. Our congregation considered his request and sent a small group (5) of our members to Ethiopia with him to deliver much needed aid to the camp. During this project his family and tribe began to visit our congregation. Many of them were already followers of Jesus from the Presbyterian denomination in Sudan.



Left to Right: Pastor Matthias Benfey, Pastor Philip Gai, Pastor Terry Hursh, Pastor Derek Mathers, Senior Pastor Jeff Miskus

We began teaching them from the Luther’s Small Catechism so that they could commune with us and become part of our fellowship. Soon they asked if they could hold a worship service in their own language of Nuer. Sunday afternoons were available at our church and so we began training some men to lead worship.

These men began going to the seminary in St. Catharines (about 90 minutes away from our congregation) and St. Louis (through the EIIT program). Within a decade four of the men were ordained Lutheran pastors and had spread out over southwestern Ontario to serve the Sudanese people (speaking Nuer) in Windsor, Kitchener, Hamilton, and Mississauga. Small congregations of Nuer-speaking Lutherans are now worshipping all over the province of Ontario.

This was God’s work. All we did was invite them in and encourage them to be catechized and join our fellowship. God sent them to us, and we are grateful for their fellowship in Christ. I have the pleasure of working side by side with Pastor Philip Gai every day. Philip graduated from St. Louis about 5 years ago and was ordained here at our congregation. Philip is fluent in at least four languages including Nuer, Dinka, Arabic, and English. He is a faithful and devoted Lutheran Pastor that leads our Nuer congregation at St. Marks in worship every Sunday afternoon. I can’t imagine life and ministry without him.”

Pastor Jeff Miskus

The Church of St. Mark Lutheran, Mississauga, ON

For 2023-2024 one of the Dollar for Missions recipients will be Nuer Language Fellowship. For more than 10 years, the Nuer-speaking fellowship has called St. Mark Lutheran Church their home. Many parents are confirmed members of this church, and many children have been baptized and confirmed here.



Martin Luther Chapel, in Pennsauken, New Jersey, has a number of outreach projects underway as they reach out to their neighbors who speak a number of different languages.

Marie Simon, who leads this exciting work, shares that the congregation has been seeking ways to reach out to the Vietnamese community in their midst. This has included obtaining children’s books in their language.

They have created a flyer in Spanish, for their Spanish-speaking neighbors, with a QR code that allows the user to go to the Lutheran Hour Ministries’ Spanish page.

In addition, they have printed and shared a book in Creole for a member. “He was very happy with it and smiled as he read some of it to me. He then looked at me and said, ‘Good Book’ ... We just need to have more of the Creole books printed and bound, which one of the members of the congregation has graciously offered to do for free.”



Pastor Justin Laughridge

Worship at the Church of St. Luke-Lutheran in Toronto, Ontario takes place each week in English and in Farsi. However, their outreach into the community brings them into contact with even more language groups.

Commenting on their multi-lingual mission Pastor Laughridge notes, “One of our favorite times is during a Christmas Eve service when we may at times sing Silent Night in 6-7 languages. That, if that song resounds in Heaven, is what I pray and I know that it sounds like.” With a thankful heart he added, “God reveals the unity that we have in Him when we worship as a people of many tribes, nations, and languages. We can see and we can hear ways that we are uniquely created, while also rejoicing that we are universally loved by this one God who has drawn each of us to Himself.”



## Toolbox

Ideas, Suggestions and Handy Bits

We are blessed with excellent resources in a variety of languages. We have pastors and congregations reaching out to many different groups right now who can share what they are doing that is effective. As it's noted on the [History](#) page of our English District website we “minister in 29 different languages including: French, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Tigrian, Urdu, Amharic, Nuer, and Sign.”

Have a look at the [LCMS Spanish Resources](#) page for Bible Studies, Disaster Response materials and more.



Our own Concordia Publishing House has an extensive collection of [Spanish resources](#), including books, Sunday School materials, music and more. Luther's Small Catechism is also available in [Vietnamese](#).

The Wisconsin Synod's Northwestern Publishing House also has a remarkable number of [free downloadable tracts in Spanish](#). Their Multi-Language Productions page is also worth a look. It has [free downloadable resources](#) in over 50 languages from Afar Oromo to Yakut.

The popular *Project Connect* series from Lutheran Hour Ministries has a number of their [booklets available in Spanish](#). Audio files in Spanish are also available for many of these booklets.



Check out this new resource from the *Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Confesional*. With support from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, VDMA Project's daily devotion, *La Palabra del Señor Permanece para Siempre* (The Word of the Lord Endures Forever), is now available to download for free.

LHM's excellent 12-part video series, “God Connects: A Course In Christianity,” is available in Spanish. It's called *Dios se revela*. You can also watch it on [Vimeo](#).



If you have vision-impaired Hispanic neighbors you can contact [Lutheran Braille Workers](#). They carry free large-print Spanish materials.

[Lutheran Heritage Foundation](#) has over 1432 publications, by 215 authors, in 150 languages, with 384 in-process. Check out their current [Publications Listing](#) page. LCMS Hispanic Ministry notes, “Lutheran Heritage Foundation offers free Spanish resources for use in your home, church, outreach activities, and mission trips including Bibles, Catechisms, children's books, devotional tracts, and other resources.”



*Cristo Para Todas Las Naciones* (CPTLN - Christ for All Nations) is the Hispanic division of Lutheran Hour Ministries. The Lutheran Hour is broadcast in Spanish as *Para el Camino*. In addition, *Sentido Latino* is a weekly 15-20-minute podcast hosted by Rev. Luciano Vega-Ayala and Deaconess Noemi Guerra.

The [Cristo Para Todas Las Naciones app](#) is available free of charge for Apple, Google and Kindle.



The Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada has a number of excellent resources for reaching out to French Canadian families. This includes



Ministères  
de l'heure  
Luthérienne  
CANADA

audio resources on their website [Lumière sur le chemin](#) as well as Advent and Lenten devotions. PDF copies of Project Connect booklets are available in French through the Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada. Physical booklets can be ordered on a print to order basis. Please [email](#) them for details.

In addition, check out their [Multi-Lingual Resources](#) page for materials available in Chinese, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Oromo. This collection includes seasonal devotionals and much more.

Faith Comes  
By Hearing®

[Faith Comes By Hearing](#) provides free mp3 audio downloads of the New Testament. In partnership with more than 700 organizations they have recorded Scripture in more than 1960 languages. Check to see if the language you are looking for is available in their [Recordings Database](#) and then check out their [free MP3 Downloads Page](#).

"The K-W Foundation for Lutheran Education has been funding production of the Children's Christian Education program *Viens Et Vois Jésus* (an adaptation of Lutheran Church of Australia's *Come And See Jesus* series). A grant from KWFLE has allowed the translation and adaptation of weekly lectionary based handouts based on the Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada children's pages to complement the new program's lessons. In addition to being used in Canada, they are being distributed to rapidly growing Lutheran churches throughout francophone Africa as well as in Haiti and in the Malagasy Lutheran Church." Check out their [website](#) for more information or to apply for funding for an organization or project.



*The Canadian Lutheran*, March/April 2022



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League has a collection of [Bible Studies](#) in Spanish for free download on their site. These were previously published in the Lutheran Church Women's Quarterly and are available for individual or group use.

### Our Synod and District Programs

Materials and Workshops Available For You  
(Have a workshop scheduled? Let us know.)

### Articles, Books and Research

Current Research and Writings



#### EVERY ONE HIS WITNESS

core module kit

is available in Spanish *at no cost*

Tiffany Silverberg noted in an article for *The Reporter*, "Like the English E1HW, the Spanish version makes use of the LASSIE approach to evangelism. In Spanish, LASSIE stands for *Los Escuchamos* (We Listen), *Ahora Preguntamos* (Now We Ask), *Sí Buscamos* (We Look), *Sí Compartimos* (We Share), *Invitamos* (We Invite) and *Entusiasmos* (We Encourage)."

[Request Spanish Materials](#)

Note: While participants using the Spanish core module materials will gain access to this website, the website and context modules uploaded to this site are currently only available in English.



Check out the Summer 2016 edition of [Concordia Journal](#) and the insightful article by [Leopoldo A. Sánchez M.](#) titled, "Hispanic Is Not What You Think: Reimagining Hispanic Identity."

#### Please Contact

[Pastor David Tannahill](#)  
of our Evangelism Team  
with your ideas and input.

Share details  
of what has worked for you  
for upcoming editions.

The collegial sharing of tips  
and ideas is a blessing for our  
brothers and sisters in Christ.