



identity

A PUBLICATION OF THE
CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN BRETHREN



WHAT IS GOD'S CHURCH?

CALL

What does God say about his Church?

PARTNER

What can we learn from the New Testament Church?

UNLEASH

How does God call you to serve his Church?

MULTIPLY

How is the CLB following God into his Mission?

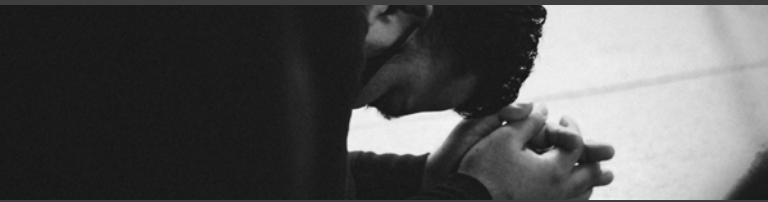


The Church of the Lutheran Brethren is a unique and vital part of the Bride of Christ. We have been entrusted as stewards of a great gift: an intersection of gospel truth by which we are saved and summoned to live and rest in gracious freedom; and a glad and expectant call to be joined to God's Mission in bringing that gospel of Christ to our neighbors, near and among the nations. Indeed, we are a people restful in grace and restless in mission. I ask you to join me as we seek more to be, and renewed as, a *Disciple-Making Church*.

Paul

Pres. Paul Larson
Church of the Lutheran Brethren

1. Call



CALL TO FOLLOW

We are a people called, shaped, and sent under the Word. We must hear this Word again to repent, trust, and follow Christ in sacrificially loving, serving, reconciling, and connecting our neighbors with Jesus, his community, and his mission.

2. Partner



PARTNER IN MISSION

Foster the interdependence of individuals, congregations, regions, and synod in disciple making.

3. Unleash



UNLEASH NEW LEADERS

Call, empower, and support young men and women to lead in making disciples and forming disciple-making communities.

4. Multiply



MULTIPLY NEW DISCIPLES

Mobilize our people and our congregations to disciple neighbors, near and among the nations, so new churches are planted and established congregations are revitalized.

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SPRING // 2023



Ben Duchac / Unsplash

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GOD SAYS...

LUKE KJOLHAUG

What is Church? The answer might seem obvious, especially for those of us who grew up as Christians attending religious services every Sunday. But for more and more people in our increasingly secularized culture, that's not the case. Since fewer and fewer of our neighbors grew up with a Judeo-Christian background, we can no longer assume a common understanding of the word "Church." What's more, within Christian circles we use terms like micro-church, home church, and mega-church to describe a wide variety of Christian communities and gatherings. The sheer number of definitions can be daunting, which brings us back to our initial question: What is Church? Now more than ever we need a solid understanding of what Scripture teaches about this subject.

God Says, Church is Not...

Before we talk about what Church is, let's talk about what it is not. As we examine the pages of Scripture,

we'll discover that many of our own assumptions and expectations about Church are just plain wrong, mainly because the Church is not another man-made institution. So, what is the Church not?

The Church is not a building. Nowhere in Scripture do we see the Church defined in terms of brick, wood, stone, or mortar. The buildings we worship in, which we commonly refer to as "churches," are in fact only church buildings. That's an important distinction. A building is not a church, though a church can (and often does) gather in a building.

The Church is not yours or mine, but God's. Possessive pronouns are dangerous when we're talking about Church because they appeal to our old sin nature. My ministry. His program. Her project. The witness of Scripture tells us that every square inch of the Church is God's. He created it. He died for it. It is his Bride. And "unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1).

The Church is not a country club. In a country club, members pay dues and expect certain benefits. It is exclusive, elite, and its mission is oriented toward pleasing its constituents. God's Church is categorically different in its aim to please God and in its outward posture (see Matthew 28:18-20), inviting the outsiders—the last, the lost, the least—to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

The Church is not a social service organization. Such institutions provide crucial services like clothing, housing, and medicine with the goal of improving people's earthly lives. The Church's ultimate goal, however, is eternal. Our concern is not with bodies alone, but with souls (Matthew 10:28). The Church's mission includes physical welfare, but it also eclipses it. The humanitarian work we do is never an end in itself, but points to a greater spiritual reality: Jesus, the living water (John 4:10) and the bread of life (John 6:35).



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God Says, Church is...

So what is Church? In its simplest form, the word used in the New Testament for Church, *ekklesia*, simply means “called out ones.” Whether it’s the church in Corinth, Philippi, or the seven churches of Asia, a local church is an assembly of people who gather regularly to celebrate God’s promises. One of our foundational documents (the Augsburg Confession) defines the Church as “the assembly of saints in which the gospel is taught purely and the sacraments are administered rightly.” The Apostle Paul, in his greeting to the church at Rome, writes, “To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 1:7, ESV).

First and foremost, then, the Church is God’s beloved, blood-bought children—adopted sons and daughters who trust in Jesus alone for their salvation. Church is not a place but a people. The dwelling place

of the Holy Spirit is no longer limited to the walls of the tabernacle or temple (see Exodus 25:8). Instead, the Spirit is present in God’s people, the Church: “In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:22, ESV).

So the Church is the “called out ones,” but what exactly are we called out for? Jesus’ last words to his disciples give us a clue (Matthew 28:18-20): “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Our mission, should we choose to accept it, is to make disciples.

Here’s what that means: If you are a Christian, then you are God’s missionary. Wherever you live, work, and play—that is your mission field. You don’t have to cross oceans to be a

missionary. All you have to do is enter your local Starbucks to find that God has brought the world to our doorstep. We serve a missionary God with a missionary heart, and he sends us out to proclaim his kingdom in both word and deed. With one hand we point to Jesus, “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29), and with the other we love our neighbors by seeking justice, clothing the poor, and working toward the flourishing of our local communities. God is on a mission to redeem and restore a lost and broken creation, and you and me—aka, the Church—are his primary means of accomplishing that.

AUTHOR

LUKE KJOLHAUG serves as pastor of Elim Lutheran Church, Osakis, MN.



THE BIBLE SAYS...

DANIEL BERGE

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ” (1 Corinthians 12:12).

Are you more of a hand, or a foot? Are you more of an ear, or an eye?

In 1 Corinthians the Apostle Paul helps the early Church see that there is unity in diversity. The Church has always been full of diverse people with different gifts—yet it’s also always been one Body. Some people are better at talking, some people are better at listening. Some people are better with their hands, some people are better with their feet. Regardless, all the different parts of a body are necessary. God works through the Church—his Body—as a whole.

Think about your own body. Which parts don’t you really need? Some of us have learned to get by without certain parts, but we typically don’t want to choose between our feet, hands, ears, or eyes. They’re all important! That’s what Paul is saying when he asks, “If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?” (1 Corinthians 12:17).

If we want to learn something about being the Church from the New Testament, this is a great place to start. The Church is not made up of a bunch of clones. We’re not all the same, and we aren’t all called to do the same things. God has equipped his Body—the Church—with a great

diversity of abilities. We can do different things—and that’s how a real body works.

The Apostle Paul is famous for his travels, evangelism, and writing letters that make up a large part of our New Testament. His role was so important, but there were plenty of other “body parts” in the Church then, too. In the early Church there was one couple, Priscilla and Aquila, who were a very different part of this early body.

Priscilla and Aquila pop up in four different New Testament books, even though we never really hear from them. We first hear about them in Acts 18:2. Paul meets them in Corinth, and since they were tentmakers, Paul stays with them and even starts working with them. Their part in the Body was giving Paul a house and a job!

They seem to have been pretty well off, and well-traveled! Later, when Paul writes to the church in Rome, he sends greetings to Priscilla and Aquila and the church that met in their house in Rome (16:5). They welcomed a church to meet in their house! A different role than Paul’s, but very important! They seem also, at one time, to have had a house in Ephesus, as Paul, writing from Ephesus, sends greetings to the Corinthians from the church that meets in Priscilla and Aquila’s home. As God was working through Paul to preach the Word, he was also working through Priscilla and Aquila to give people jobs and provide places for house-churches to gather.



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As you think about yourself, remember that you're a part of the Body.

Are you skilled at public speaking? That's an important role in Christ's Body.

Are you great at bringing comfort? That's an important role in Christ's Body.

Are you a hard worker, but prefer to work with your hands? That's an important role in Christ's Body too.

We can learn from the early Church that there's unity in diversity.

So, ignore the temptation to think less of yourself if you aren't called to the role somebody else has. And ignore the temptation to go off and do your own thing. God has called all the parts to live in the one Body. He can use all our gifts together, and he doesn't want to choose between us! God loves every one of us.

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12).

AUTHOR

DANIEL BERGE is Professor of New Testament at Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, MN.



At Lutheran Brethren Seminary, I've come to understand that the church is more than a building—it's the body of Christ. We are his mouth to proclaim the gospel and his hands and feet to bring hope and healing to the world. It's not our mission; it's HIS mission. So, we go out, to our own neighborhoods and to all the world, not to prove that we are Christ's, but because we are.

*Ellie Bourque,
CLB Missionary to Chad*



Learn more
about LBS at
www.LBS.edu



Main photo: Lincoln Elementary School, where the Juhls host a weekly Kids Club.
 Circle photos: Weekly Kids Club.

Credit: Lincoln Elementary School Facebook Page.

GOD CALLS...

EMILY JUHL

How does it feel when someone calls you by name? How does it feel to know family and friends love you? It brings feelings of safety and joy. Yes, the love of our family and friends is nice, but much more than that is the love we receive from God! It is a beautiful thing that the God of the Universe calls us by name. We are known and loved beyond what we can comprehend. Not only are we known and loved by God, but he desires to further his kingdom through us. What a humbling thing!

It is incredibly easy to try to seek comfort above all else in this life. But God has called us as believers to do so much more! He calls us to share the gospel with those we come in contact with. This journey is worth it! Is it hard? Yes. Does it feel lonely at times? Yes. Do we struggle with doubt and confusion? Yes. But God sees us in our struggles. He sees us in our despair. He sees us in our questions. He is a God who is patient with his children. When we are running after comfort and the things of this world, he pursues us. He calls us to something much greater. He calls us to say, "Here I am, Lord. Use me."

When we turn to him with our arms open, he brings into our lives people

with whom we may share Jesus. The Holy Spirit prompts us, and we get a front-row seat to watch God work. God is alive! God is working even when it may be hard to see. God is in the business of working through his children. My husband and I recently moved to Lincoln, North Dakota, to be a part of a church plant. This has been a really exciting experience! I have spent much time seeking the comfort of this world. But the comfort of this world always left me feeling empty and confused. But God saw me. He knew me. He loves me despite my wandering. Psalm 63:3 (ESV) says, "Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you." His love and concern for us is better than all this life can give!

When the CLB called us to plant this church in Lincoln, my husband and I knew it was from God. He was calling us to serve. He is calling you, too! I know your experience and stage of life might be different than mine. I don't know what precisely God is calling you to do or who he has put in your life to reach, but I do know he is calling you! He is pursuing you! He is asking you to be part of his mission.

We cannot do this mission alone! We need each other! I encourage

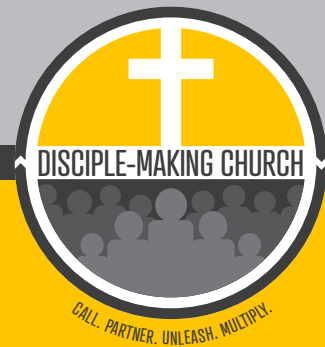
you to get plugged into a local congregation if you aren't already. I encourage you to join a small group or study God's Word with a friend. As it says in Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV), "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Let us do this work together! We are on mission together! There are people in our lives who may feel like outcasts. They feel like no one cares. We get to be the hands and feet of Jesus to them. Why does this matter? It matters because these are people God cares deeply about, who will either be separated from him for eternity or will be saved for eternity. That is why it matters! People matter! Thank you, Jesus, that we get to be a part of bringing this good news to our world!

AUTHOR

EMILY JUHL serves with her husband Carl as a church planter in Lincoln, ND.

CHURCH PLANTING



Church of the Lutheran Brethren

The following are the church plant initiatives of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren. Please keep these church planters in your prayers.



WORD OF LIFE - *New Prague Campus*

NEW PRAGUE, MINNESOTA

Nick & Brittany Olson

GRACE HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kristian & Mary Anderson



THE RIVER

RED DEER, ALBERTA

Harold & Joyce Rust

LINCOLN CHURCH &
COMMUNITY CENTER

LINCOLN, NORTH DAKOTA

Carl & Emily Juhl



NEW HOPE

PARKER, COLORADO

Jason & Savanna Rogness

ISAIAH FELLOWSHIP

REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN

Bob & Melanie Schultz



Watch monthly updates from our church planters on the CLB mobile app and website: www.CLBA.org/churchplanting



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BEING THE CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

ANDREW LARSEN

Do you have that one friend who just brings a whole new level of fun and laughter to your group? For me, that was Jerry. He was hilarious, and everyone had a great time with him. Unfortunately, he transferred to another school district, and I didn't even get a chance to say goodbye. Let me tell you, it was not the same without him.

Have you ever noticed how every brick in a house is dependent on another? Well, the same can be said for us as the Church. The Bible says we are "being built into a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5). We're all designed to be an important part of something bigger than ourselves, so when someone's missing, we feel it. When Jerry left, I thought I would have a closer relationship with my other friend, Sam. But it didn't work out that way. It turns out that there was something only Jerry could bring out in Sam, and with him gone, I had less of Sam too.

It takes a group of friends to know each individual friend more fully. How much more true is that in

our relationship to God? It's easy to think that we can have a meaningful relationship with God without the Church, but that's not what the Bible says. You can't know God by yourself. Philip, a disciple of Jesus, asked a man in Acts 8:30, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The man answered, "How can I unless someone explains it to me?" The Church is God's gift to us so we may all grow in faith.

And this is not just for our own sake, but for the sake of the world too. As the Church, we're called to join in on the work of drawing people into God's kingdom. How do we do that?

One way is to be a good friend. Do you realize that in Christ you have salvation from sin and death, peace with God through the forgiveness of sins, and guidance from the Holy Spirit into all truth? That's a lot! The people around you probably don't describe their desires in this way, but they are desperate for these things you have in abundance. We have plenty to share with those around us, but how?

The story of Peter and John in

chapter 21 of John's Gospel might free us to be good friends. There Jesus tells Peter he is going to die by crucifixion. Yikes! That is hard to take! Peter sees John walking by and asks Jesus, "What about him? How is he going to die?" Part of Jesus' answer is, "What's that to you?" Peter did not need to know what was going to happen to John and you don't need to know God's plan for those around you. That little tidbit frees us from judging, and allows us to trust that Jesus has all things under his control.

Jesus Christ has a plan for every person. You don't know that plan and you don't need to. Jesus goes on to answer Peter's question, saying, "You follow me." May we simply be a loving, caring, compassionate Church redeemed to follow Jesus.

AUTHOR

ANDREW LARSEN serves as Pastor of Ebenezer Lutheran Brethren Church, Minneapolis, MN.



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LBS prepares pastors, chaplains, missionaries, and lay-leaders for a life of ministry in God's mission.



Solveig with her father Rev. Nick Mundis.



Solveig with her husband Sawyer, current student at LBS.

THE IMPACT OF LUTHERAN BRETHERN SEMINARY

SOLVEIG BRUNKOW

Two of the most important men in my life have attended Lutheran Brethren Seminary. My dad graduated from LBS the year I was born and has been deeply involved in ministry ever since. Growing up, I was able to watch my dad shepherd his flock. I truly think that one of the biggest ways he served our family was showing us what it looks like to serve the Church. I was able to witness firsthand how his seminary training turned into action as he taught, led, and loved those in our congregation. As a child, seeing my parents serve the Church had a lasting and profound impact on how I came to view the Church and my own relationship to it.

However, the impact that seminary has had on my life stretches even further. Little did I know that one day my future husband would also be called into ministry and attend the same seminary as my dad. Currently, I am walking alongside him as he embarks on the first year of his seminary journey. It has already been

a blessing to me as we've been able to learn together when he processes his class discussions and readings with me. I have also been able to see how God is growing and shaping some of the gifts that he has given my husband. God is using the professors and the study of his Word to give Sawyer greater confidence as he preaches and teaches.

One of the most impactful things I have gleaned from watching both my dad and husband as they live their lives in ministry is the importance of communion with God. Through reading his Word, prayer, confession and forgiveness, God renews our spirits. Psalm 51:12-13 says, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you." Teaching God's Word is an honor and should be done with care, as well as a humble heart. The great news is, God is always eager to forgive and restore us. I have been able to witness

both my dad and my husband be restored to the joy of his salvation, as they seek Christ in their ministries. Not only has it been a gift to them but to those around them as well.

These experiences have given me a unique lens to see how rigorous study of God's Word can shape not only the lives of those who attend LBS, but their congregations and families as well. I am thankful for the ministry of the Lutheran Brethren Seminary and the opportunity it gives men and women to dive into Scripture and use this knowledge "to serve one another in Christian love and share the gospel of Jesus Christ with all people" (Church of the Lutheran Brethren Mission Statement).

AUTHOR

SOLVEIG BRUNKOW attends *Triumph Lutheran Brethren Church, Moorhead, MN* where she serves on the Deacon Team.



BEING THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

MATTHIAS SZOBODY

If you ever think about becoming a missionary, it could be a good idea to take a long-distance plane, then a rugged Land Cruiser, and then a canoe... into the heart of Africa. That's what I did in January.

I've thought about becoming a missionary. So I joined a "vision trip" our Church organizes in order to help us discover the work that we do in faraway countries for the gospel to be heard. But this trip to faraway places can paradoxically lead us to rediscover our own Christian lives that have been in front of us all along. That's because mission isn't just something some of us do sometimes, if we're ambitious. It turns out, it's something that every one of us is already blessed to be a part of, as those who have received Christ's care through his Word and his Church. Let me give an example from the trip.

Chad is an impoverished country with many poor and many hungry people. Their spiritual thirst is great, which is why we send missionaries, but so is their physical thirst. How do our missionaries balance preaching the gospel with caring for physical needs? Bible translation with installing wells? Evangelism with building schools? Nathanael Szobody, who has founded an elementary school in a Muslim village in rural Chad, shared this: "The need for education is so great that we could just go on building school after school, and it would work. Lots of kids would be educated. It's tempting! And of course I have already accepted the village chief's invitation to build one school. But I was also sent here by the Lutheran Brethren as an evangelist..."

This is a tough tension to resolve. But do we, as Christians, need to resolve it? When I read the Gospels,

I find Jesus living in that tension, just like our missionaries do. He gives spiritual food, preaching himself as the bread of life, yet he also gives physical food, multiplying the loaves. He never separates caring for the salvation of souls God created from caring for the bodies that God also created and called good. Behind these different types of care, Jesus shows one and the same compassion. Yes, the Gospels tell us that Jesus preaches, teaches, and sends evangelists out of compassion (Mark 6:34, Matthew 9:36), while he also cares for the sick and hungry out of that same compassion (Matthew 14:14; 15:32).

When I travel to a faraway place like Chad and learn that Jesus' mission—and the Church's mission—is about compassionate care, then missionary-like work no longer seems as exotic. If you have received Christ's care, you



Photos

1. Matthias as a child with a friend in Chad.
2. Matthias as a child in Chad.
3. Driving during a recent trip to Chad.
4. On the Chari River during a recent trip to Chad.

are already qualified to share it with others. Christ-like care can take many forms, and one important thing that determines what form it takes is this question:

What are the needs around you?

Responding to those needs may be the mission you get to share with the One who cares for us.

AUTHOR

MATTHIAS SZOBODY is a 2022 graduate of Lutheran Brethren Seminary and currently exploring options in ministry.

INTERESTED in participating in a vision trip to Chad?

CONTACT Dan Venberg
Director of International Mission
dvenberg@clba.org



DID YOU KNOW?



DID YOU KNOW that Lutheran Brethren International Mission has more missionaries in Chad than we have had in three decades?

The vision for ministry in Chad is to recruit, call, and support missionary teams to reach three people groups: the Bagirmi, the Bilala, and the Fulbe.

The desire has been to have at least two LBIM missionary units, with at least two Chadian missionary partner units, in each of the three people groups. This would allow for fellowship, accountability, and support. The realization of this vision has been slow and challenging. For twenty years, our missionaries in Chad have found themselves isolated and alone, without teammates, always praying for others to join.

Now we are full of hope and anticipation. Our veteran missionaries are persevering. And we are adding to their number. **We now have seven families on the ground, with two more hoping to join them.** Just a couple months ago, we brought all our Chad missionary families together for a spiritual retreat, and we filled the conference room at our Welcome Center!

MOST RECENT MISSIONARIES TO CHAD



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The Dan & Claire Rose family.



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*Roger Viksnes
Director of Rooted*



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Photos from the Japanese Ministry at Rock of Ages LB Church, Seattle, WA.

THE CHURCH PARTNERING LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

ALEXA FRASER

Our current church had no obligation to bring me into their community as much as they did.

Our family will soon be sent to Japan as missionaries with Lutheran Brethren International Mission. Because opportunities to study Japanese in our home state of Minnesota were limited, Rock of Ages Lutheran Brethren Church in Seattle, Washington called my husband, Paul, to be the intern pastor for their Japanese congregation. By the time we finally move to Japan we will have been here for nearly two years. We were originally only supposed to be in Seattle from six to eighteen months, while we studied Japanese and got some exposure to Japanese culture.

Our church had no obligation to bring us into their community as they did. They knew we were temporary. They knew that at any given time we could pack up and leave for Japan. Why try to get to know someone who will just be leaving in six months? I even felt this way myself at the beginning of

our time here. But quickly it became apparent that the entire church was interested in making us a part of their community and ministry. Day after day they continued to support us and show us the love of Christ in ways we had never expected. They made it so easy to give back and serve alongside them in the community!

Both the Japanese and English congregations at Rock of Ages have blessed us with lifelong friendships and prayer partners. They have supported our work with Japanese ministries, as they offered prayer, childcare, and emotional support. They took us in, knowing how short our time could be. The church could have easily left us to our studying or encouraged us to be exclusively part of the Japanese events. Yet they took what may be the more painful path of bringing us into many different parts of their community, only to have it hurt when we inevitably leave the country.

Because the church here made the decision to welcome us in, they have effectively joined us in ministry

in Japan. The daily decisions of both the laypeople and pastoral staff have played a huge part in our story, and in the furthering of the kingdom of God in Japan and here in Seattle. Doing life with them has given us more confidence in the call God has given us, and it has provided us further practical experience in what it looks like to be involved in a neighborhood and community that I hope to be able to imitate someday soon in Japan.

What a blessing it is to be a part of a church willing to take a risk and invest their time and love into those who may be with them only for a short time! I am forever grateful for our experiences here at Rock of Ages and with the other churches, small groups of believers, our families and many more who impacted us and have played a part in God equipping us for what is ahead.

AUTHOR

ALEXA FRASER and her husband Paul have accepted the call to serve as missionaries in Japan.

Japan

RENEWED PARTNERSHIP

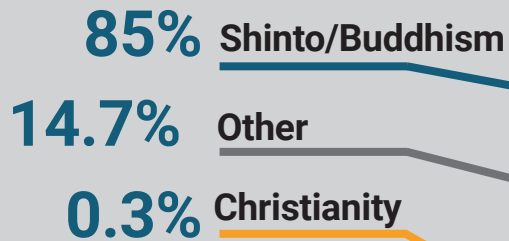
The Church of the Lutheran Brethren has a long history of ministry in Japan, starting in 1948 with Morris and Marion Werdal. Today, there are 28 JLBC congregations. In recent years, a renewed commitment in partnership has resulted in calling Paul and Alexa Fraser as missionaries to Japan!



Did you know that Japan is sometimes referred to as the “graveyard” for missions? There are multi-faceted obstacles (spiritual, cultural, social) that have hindered the gospel in Japan.

But we, together with our Japanese Sister Church, have renewed hope and vision. We are entering into a new mission partnership in Japan! And, we are taking the next steps as we explore what this collaboration will look like.

Religious Affiliation Joshua Project, 2021



Population of Japan
125.7 million

We are very aware of the ongoing spiritual need of Japan. Churches are closing, the Christian population is aging, and “Annual Evangelical Growth Rate” is decreasing (-0.4%) while the global average is rising (+2.6%)

MEET THE FRASER FAMILY

Paul and Alexa Fraser, along with their sons Arthur and Oswald, have accepted a call to serve as missionaries in Japan. They will be deployed to Japan this summer. Alexa has had a heart for Asia since she was a teenager and Paul was part of a vision trip to Japan during his seminary training. They have been serving Rock of Ages LB Church in Seattle, WA, where there is a ministry to the Japanese people of the area. While they have been learning the language and culture during this time, they have also attended a month-long “Compass” training by Mission Training International, providing foundational tools for continuing to learn a new language and adapt to a new cultural context as they move to Japan.



DAN VENBERG
Director, Lutheran Brethren International Mission

There is much to process and prayerfully consider regarding the details going forward. This is a new thing. We seek to be bold, contextual, and innovative in our approach. We ask you to pray for this mission. And we ask you to support this mission. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel.

Watch their story

In this video, Paul and Alexa share their background and their heart for the people of Japan.



www.CLBA.org/lbim

Interested in supporting the Frasers? Give at www.CLBA.org/giving



His name is Abdel. He is a subsistence farmer. He is part of the 47% of Chadians that live below the international poverty line, earning an income of less than \$1.75 per day. Chad is the fourth-least developed country in the world. Thanks to LBIM's micro-finance ministry, Abdel and a cooperative group of farmers are benefiting from a peanut shelling machine that is increasing productivity. Your gifts to LBIM are helping people like Abdel feed and clothe their children.

WHO'S NEXT?

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"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

Romans 10:14-15



The Church of the Lutheran Brethren has identified three people groups in south central Chad: the Bagirmi, the Bilala, and the Fulbe. These people groups do not have a church planted among them and are 99% Muslim. We are looking for missionaries to join those already called to this crucial task. Who's Next?

Contact LBIM at: LBIM@CLBA.org

CHAD



- 16 Million People
- 37% Literacy
- 142 People Groups
- 72 Unreached People Groups
Unreached People: an ethnic group without an indigenous, self-propagating Christian church movement.



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