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SPECIAL INSTALLATION EDITION



Logo: Safe Harbour Lutheran Church

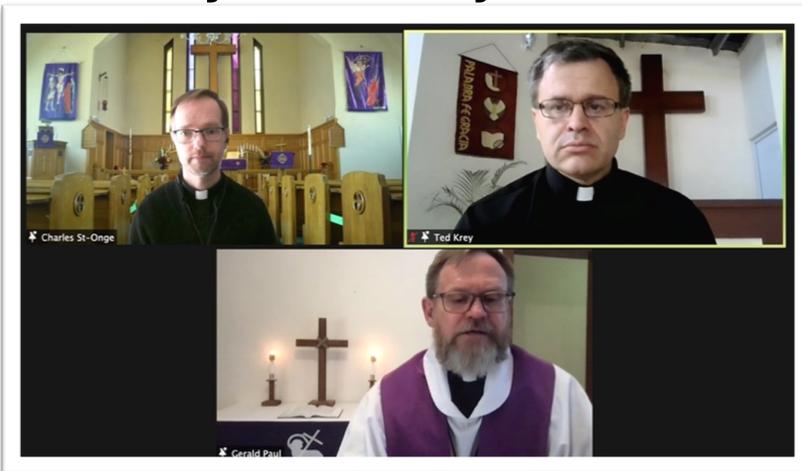
DID YOU KNOW?

- Safe Harbour had been vacant for four years!
- Thanks be to God for the many retired pastors who had given one week to four months of their time to serve Safe Harbour during their 4-year vacancy.
- The people at Safe Harbour had not had the Lord's Supper since March 2020 because of COVID travel restrictions imposed on the retired pastors.
- The bathroom and water situations here are normal and not like what we had experienced in the DR.
- Current favorite Spanish word / phrase: "entonces" – anyway, and then, and so...



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Rev. Dr. Gerald A. Paul installed virtually in the Cayman Islands



March 21, 2021: Rev. Charles StOnge, LAC area facilitator for the Caribbean, officiated, and Rev. Ted Krey, LAC regional director, assisted.

First ever All-Online Installation

It's not ideal. In-person is always better. But what do you do when you're on a small island with travel restrictions preventing officiants from arriving for the occasion? You do the installation online via ZOOM, of course! Thank God for modern technology! That way, Rev. St.Onge could do the installation out of his regular Divine Service in Montreal, Canada, Rev. Krey could assist from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and Gerald could be installed as pastor of Safe Harbour Lutheran Church in his home in George Town, Grand Cayman, while still serving a mandatory post-arrival quarantine! The local parishioners could zoom in along with our family and friends in the USA, Germany and South Africa!



Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021: First Divine Service in Over a Year!



This faithful little group, whose faith the Lord had sustained this past year, were overjoyed at once more being able to receive the Lord's gifts. We heard comments like, "Finally!", "Finally we can receive Christ's Body and Blood!", "So thankful to be here!", and "So good to be here!", the latter two being well-liked island sayings. Just look at all the smiles! It sure is good to be here!



Orienting Ourselves and “Chicken” out Life on the Island

Quarantining for 14 days

When we landed on March 6, we were ushered through customs and the baggage claim area very efficiently. Immediately thereafter a PCR COVID test was done, and monitoring bracelets were affixed to our wrists by officials clad in medical coveralls, caps, booties, glasses, masks, shields and gloves. They were taking no chances! They also gave us monitoring cellphones that communicated with our bracelets and with the people monitoring us. We had to keep it with us at all times otherwise it would beep!



With and without tracking devices!

Early on the day of the installation, we needed to get the final PCR COVID test done, and then hightail it back home to not be late for the installation!

Later the same afternoon, we got the green light to cut off our monitoring devices since we were negative! Freedom at last! First up, we strolled to the beach!

Driving on the left side of the road, right?!

Yes! Since the Cayman Islands used to be a British colony and are now a British protectorate, they’ve always done it this way. Not only do you drive on the left, but you also need to enter traffic roundabouts to the left! What makes it a little more awkward is that the car we are currently using is also left-hand drive. We’re hoping to purchase a right-hand drive vehicle in April.



Jumping in Feet First!

With local elections just a few short weeks away, the community has been humming with political buzz. Three days out of quarantine, still oblivious to the political climate out there, Gerald was asked to say a prayer to open the rally that was held in our neighborhood! What an awesome opportunity to share Christ with the people, introduce himself to the community and meet local leaders! We met the current Prime Minister, as well as three ministers hoping to be elected to the next cabinet.

All stores closed on Sundays

When we first arrived, our luggage had not – and wouldn’t till several days later. We asked a parishioner, who had offered to help, if she could pick up a few toiletries for us. Imagine our surprise when she said she’ll see what she can find since all stores are closed on Sundays! It makes for careful weekend planning! Stores were closed the Easter weekend too.

Wildlife on the Island

Chickens! Chickens have the freedom to roam where they like on the island, giving the term “free-range chickens” a whole new meaning! The first thing we saw when we walked out of the airport building – you guessed it – chickens!



They are everywhere. They truly are an island phenomenon. Kind of like in the Florida Keys. They’re in the neighborhoods, in town outside stores... And yet they are not a source of food for the people. Interestingly, neither do the chickens view humans as a source for food either! I’ve watched them come into our backyard, peck their way across and move on. They even walk AROUND the patio, keeping on the grassy edge. And the patio stays clean! It’s fun to wake up to a good ole “cock-a-doodle-doo” every morning! Montana has bunny rabbits and deer in the neighborhoods, the Cayman Islands have chickens.

Cute chickens in our backyard



More wildlife

We’ve been excited to spot the Cayman Woodpecker, the Green Iguana, and the Cayman Parrot in our neighborhood. The woodpecker likes to peck at its own reflection in our windows, making a knocking sound. At first, we didn’t know what it was. Bad plumbing? Kids in the neighborhood? There never was anyone at the door... How funny to discover that it was this little guy!



Holy Week, Easter and more



Please Pray for:

- More people of Safe Harbour Lutheran Church to return to church.
- For our household goods to arrive sometime in April
- For us as we continue to learn Spanish and continue to orientate ourselves in our roles here.

Give thanks for:

- Resumed Divine Services
- For wonderful Easter celebrations and meeting new people
- That Heidi's ankle is continuing to heal

Praise God for:

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



Maunder Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter morning Divine Service.

Holy Week Services

The crucifix, a gift from the LCMS through the LAC, was blessed for use in Divine Services. A member, glad to be able to serve the church in this manner once more, baked the unleavened bread for the Lord's Supper. Good Friday was observed as part of the Triduum, and on Saturday Gerald was one of six missionaries to take part in the online Latin American Easter vigil. Easter Sunday was such a joyous celebration of Christ's resurrection! We gathered on the parsonage porch since we don't yet have a permanent facility. The community center at which services had been held in the past, is no longer available because it is now used as a covid testing site. Until we can find an air-conditioned space, we'll have to sweat it out here!

Easter Camping on the Beaches

It's tradition on the islands for families to camp on the beach on the 4-day Easter

weekend. It was fun to check out some of the beaches. These tents were pitched directly in front of the governor's mansion!



Continuing with Spanish Classes

We both continue to have 2-hour Spanish lessons every day. We practice with each other and at every opportunity in stores and the community. Two members are of Cuban descent and fortunately don't mind us practicing with them after church.

Till next time,
Soli Deo Gloria.



"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.'" John 11:25-26

It is our prayer that everyone comes to faith in Jesus Christ and have eternal life in Him.

- Your partners in missions,

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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Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Gerald Paul." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on his online giving page at lcms.org/gerald.paul.