

ELS Missions Newsletter

April 2016



Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Board for World Outreach

Ordination in Korea

Rev. Dr. Sung Gyu Choi was ordained at Seoul Lutheran Church on April 10, 2016. Sung Gyu (Sam) came to Mankato from Seoul Lutheran Church, the ELS mission in Korea, intending to learn Lutheran doctrine and return to serve in his homeland. He graduated from Bethany Seminary in 2011, but instead of returning home immediately, he enrolled in a doctoral program at Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN., focusing his study on the ethnic Korean demographic of China's population. He received his PhD in missiology in June of 2015, and has relocated now to Seoul, where he is serving as a vicar. Sam's choice of doctoral study is a blessing, since he will someday assume responsibility for directing the Seoul Theological Institute. Although the Institute's broad goal is to train men for ministry, a specific focus is the training of men to reach out to . . . the Korean-Chinese population, that is, Chinese citizens of Korean ethnic background, whether they are found in Korea or on the mainland.



(L to R) Pastors Young Ha Kim, Sam Choi, Steve Petersen.



Sam Choi received a PhD in missiology. He is shown here with his wife Gehee and daughters Olivia and Jasmin.



Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Board for Home Outreach

Hope - Farmington, Minnesota

After a long winter and patiently waiting for the ground to thaw, the members of Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington, Minnesota are thrilled to see the heavy equipment working on their new building site. If all goes according to plan the congregation will be occupying their new facility mid to late October.



Divine Mercy - Hudson Oaks, Texas

Our youngest home mission is no longer an exploratory mission. On April 3rd the growing congregation of 45 souls officially incorporated. Rev. Dr. Michael Smith, our Board for Home Outreach chairman, and EMC Rev. Larry Wentzlaff were on hand for the event. Rev. Smith preached for the occasion and Rev. Wentzlaff made a Home Mission presentation during Bible Study hour. Divine Mercy will be applying for membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod at the June 2016 Synod Convention. We thank God for this for this great blessing and continue to pray for our mission.



The Divine Mercy congregation on their charter Sunday.